



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Joe Sanford, Fire Chief
Pattijean Hooper, Emergency Manager
Erin Tramontozzi, Preparedness Coordinator

Date: August 4, 2016

Subject: StormReady Presentation

BACKGROUND:

The National Weather Service created the StormReady program to better prepare communities to respond to their increasing vulnerabilities to severe weather and water events. According to the National Weather Service, 98 percent of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly \$15 billion in damage. Being a StormReady community means a community is able to mitigate and/or prevent the effects of such severe weather through communication and safety measures that prevent loss of life and property.

To be officially StormReady, a community must:

- ❖ **Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center**
 - NORCOM is Kirkland's 24-hour warning point. In addition, Kirkland has instituted "Code Red" alerting capabilities to citizens by designated geographical areas and/or to city employees by group or as a whole. The City has established a dedicated emergency operations center as part of the renovations to City Hall.
- ❖ **Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public**
 - Kirkland has seven (7) different means of receiving pertinent weather information including NOAA weather radios and NOAA Weather Wire (email), and is able to notify the public via radio, internet, cable tv, fire station reader boards and email alerts (E-bulletins). The City can also use Code Red (through King County) to make emergency calls to some or all Kirkland residents if the situation matches the Code Red criteria.
- ❖ **Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally**
 - The city uses stream and river gauges, Doppler radar and flood level notifications from King County to monitor local weather conditions.

- ❖ **Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars**
 - Both the Emergency Manager and the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator engage in routine outreach to the public to promote preparedness for weather-related events.
- ❖ **Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.**
 - The city's plan for hazardous weather is part of the 2015 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), which outlines the city's commitment to providing weather preparedness and response-related training and exercises.

In April, the City of Kirkland was certified as a StormReady community by the National Weather Service- Seattle, having met the above requirements, and making the city one of only eight jurisdictions in King County to have such a designation. A representative of the Seattle National Weather Service office will formally acknowledge Kirkland's achievement during the Council meeting on August 16.