



### **Article 3: Preparedness Corner**

It is up to YOU to ensure that you and your family are adequately prepared to survive a disaster. Imagine that you and your family are just minutes away from the vacation of a lifetime. You have made sure the suitcases are packed with the right clothing. You have all the medications, sunscreen and snacks for the exciting journey to come. The last day at work has passed and somehow you have crammed two week's worth of work into 24-hours. The kids are about to burst with excitement and the dogs are off to the kennel. The next two weeks are going to be flawless because of the time you took to prepare. Now, imagine that the vacation you had prepared for was actually a catastrophic disaster. Are you prepared to care for yourself and your family in such an event?

Unlike a vacation, disasters generally occur unannounced. If a major event such as an earthquake or harsh winter storm were to strike the region, it is very likely that emergency responders will be overwhelmed and it may be days or weeks until professionals will be able to help you. Water, gas and electricity may be cut off to your neighborhood and you might not have access to local food markets. The freeways and highways may become inaccessible and getting fuel or gas may prove to be a challenge. Once a disaster strikes, it will be too late to adequately prepare.

There are several online resources that can assist you in getting prepared for an emergency or disaster. The Department of Homeland Security's website, [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov), is an excellent resource that provides simple steps and checklists for emergency preparedness. King County's Office of Emergency Management provides the "3 Days, 3 Ways" method so that you and your family can survive three days in your home following a disaster. On the website (<http://www.govlink.org/3days3ways>) you can get ideas of how to "Make a Plan, Make a Kit and Get Involved." In addition, the City's website includes an extensive list of resources, forms and brochures (<http://www.ci.woodinville.wa.us/Live/DisasterPreparedness.asp>). Included on this site is a link to a "24-Week Calendar" that can assist you to build an emergency kit in a simple week-by-week process. There is no better time than NOW to become self-sufficient for a disaster.

Subsequent articles will address how you can bring emergency preparedness to include not only your family but your neighbors as well.

For other printed emergency preparedness information, please visit City Hall. The Emergency Preparedness Commission meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, at 17301 133<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE.