



NEWS SPLASH

Autumn 2007

ARE YOU READY?

As the cloudy, rainy days return, our thoughts may return to last year's wild winter weather. Are you ready to face another stormy season? What about other emergencies, such as an earthquake? We live in Earthquake Country, so it's a good idea to be prepared! Here are some tips to help you prepare an emergency kit, no matter what your emergency might be! You can customize your kit to fit your needs.

- Water: 1 gallon per person per day. Especially important for a major emergency such as an earthquake, where extended power outages could cause problems with well operation.
- Food: Include non-perishable canned and dry goods, such as soups or stews (don't forget the can opener!) granola bars, protein bars, and important "comfort" foods like cookies and candy. Don't forget the pet food!
- Battery powered or hand crank radio. A radio can provide information on the status of power outages and shelter locations. In addition, a NOAA Weather Radio can keep you updated on the current weather conditions.
- Plenty of batteries. D batteries were very difficult to find during last year's power outage! Stock up now on the sizes you need.
- Extra set of clothes with sturdy shoes or boots.
- Flashlight. It is advisable to have several on

hand, including larger flashlights that can light up a room if necessary. A headlamp can keep your hands free for working.

- Whistle. A good whistle can attract the attention of others for help.
- First Aid kit, including a three-day supply of any prescription drugs you might need.
- Entertainment items, like a deck of cards, or good old fashioned games! Games can be very useful when your television and video games don't work for a week.
- Cash: ATMs won't operate if the power is out, so it is helpful to have some cash on hand.
- Shelter-in-Place supplies like duct tape and plastic. One can never have too much duct tape on hand!



The material in this article was adapted from information provided by the King County Office of Emergency Services.

STORING EMERGENCY WATER

To be prepared for a drinking water emergency, the American Red Cross and the Washington Department of Health recommend the following:

- Store one gallon of water per person per day. Keep at least a three day supply of water per person.
- Use proper storage containers. You can reuse jugs previously used for milk, juice or other food grade items. Be sure to clean containers thoroughly prior to use. **Never** use jugs previously used for storing chemicals, bleach, pesticides, solvents, antifreeze, etc. You can purchase 5 gallon water containers at most hardware or sporting goods stores. Be sure to change out water every two to six months to keep it fresh.
- Storing bottled water is a good option. If you store bottled water, be sure to change it out annually.



If a safe supply of water is not available, such as during a prolonged emergency or a contamination incident, it should be treated before being used for drinking, cooking or brushing teeth. The two primary ways of cleaning water are boiling or adding bleach. If the water is cloudy, it should be filtered first.

Boiling:

Boiling is the best way to purify water that is unsafe because of the presence of protozoan parasites or

bacteria. Boiling should not be used when toxic metals or chemicals have contaminated the water.

- Place the water in a clean metal or glass container and bring to a full boil.
- Continue boiling for three to five minutes.
- Cover boiled water while cooling, then transfer to the appropriate storage container.
- Keep a propane stove, such as a camping stove, handy for boiling water. Remember that your usual source of energy may not be available during an emergency.

Purifying by Adding Liquid Chlorine Bleach:

If boiling is not possible, you can use household liquid bleach to kill microorganisms.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

The Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District has posted signs throughout our service area since 2001 to keep our customers informed of our water supply situation and the need to conserve water or restrict water use. The signs, which have in the past been posted from April to October, will now be posted throughout the year and will serve a dual purpose. In addition to providing the current status of the water supply, the signs will also be used to inform the public about emergency events, such as boil water notices, road closures, water main breaks, or where to find assistance during a major power outage. Communicating with customers during an emergency is part of the District's Emergency Preparedness plan, and the District is posting the signs in partnership with the City of Sammamish.



Kendra Krieg in Customer Service contributed to the information provided in this article.

- Use only regular household liquid bleach that contains 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. Do not use scented bleaches, color safe bleaches or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Add 16 drops of bleach per gallon of water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes. If the water does not have a slight bleach odor, repeat the dosage and let stand another 15 minutes.

Please note: The treatments described above work only in situations where the water is unsafe because of the presence of bacteria. If you suspect the water is unsafe because of chemicals, oils, poisonous substances, sewage, etc. do not use the water for drinking.

WINTERIZATION QUICK TIPS

Disconnect and drain all hoses

Cover all hose spigots with protective covering

Insulate all pipes in unheated crawl spaces

Turn off and drain or blow out irrigation systems

