

September is National Preparedness Month!

A message from Chief of Police Matt Haney: Are You Prepared?

At the City of Bainbridge Island, emergency preparedness is an ongoing priority. Long before Hurricane Katrina reminded us how important it is to be ready for "what if", City staff were putting systems in place to allow us to respond quickly and efficiently, minimizing threats to life, the economy, and the environment.

The city's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which provides a blueprint for response to a variety of scenarios, is updated annually through the city's participation

in the Federal Government's National Incident Management System. Our staff conduct regular trainings and exercises, which also involve personnel from the Fire Department, Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management (KCDEM), the School District, and regional agencies like Kitsap Transit and Kitsap County Health District.

As last winter's storms showed us, emergencies come in a range of shapes and sizes. In a major event, the City staff, Police and Fire Departments convene an

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which allows them to marshal all available resources and prioritize community needs for a coordinated response. In a lesser event, key city staff and first responders are on alert and in frequent communication by phone and radio. Agencies like the School District may be included as needed.

Many Island residents were unaware that, during last December's storm and the subsequent power outage, Island Police and Fire opened

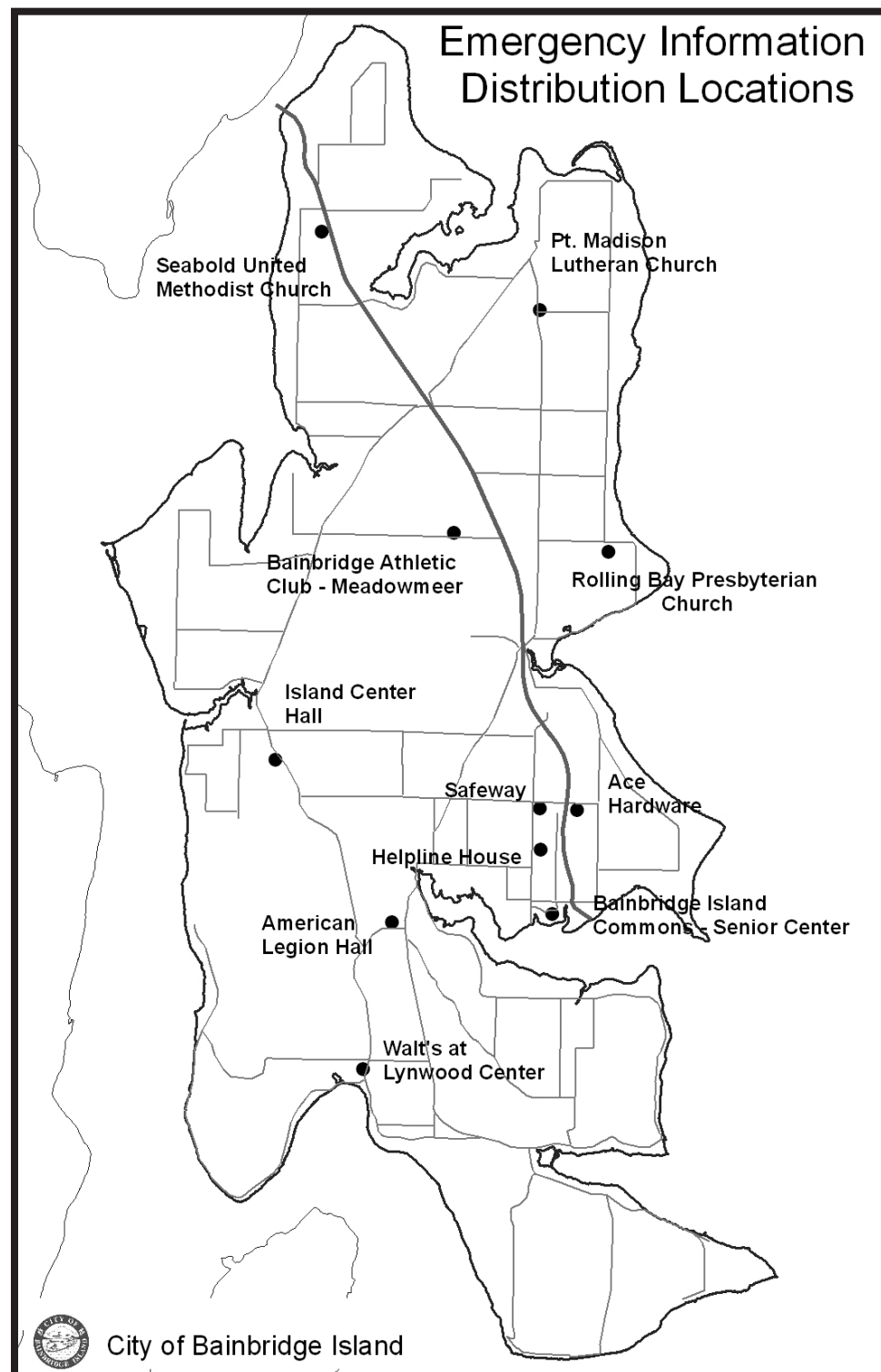
an EOC at the Phelps Road Fire Station, tracking incoming 911 calls, prioritizing responses, and mapping events and community needs across the Island.

While the City fine tunes its preparedness programs, we must remember that **our community's success in handling an emergency lies with each of us as individuals.**

In an emergency, first responders are focused on immediate threats to life and safety, and may not be available to assist with less critical needs –

or, they may be unable to access parts of the Island quickly due to blocked or damaged roadways. **Each of us should be ready to remain self-sufficient for at least five days.** With a few simple steps, you, your family, and your neighbors can start preparing TODAY to stay safe, solve problems together, and recover quickly from an emergency.

Matt Haney
Chief of Police



Get Prepared!



ED CALL (pictured with Mayor Darlene Kordonowy) is the City's Emergency Preparedness consultant.

This summer, the City hired an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to help our community prepare. Since June, consultant Ed Call has been meeting with neighborhood associations and other community organizations, and coordinating strategies with the School District, Fire Department, American Red Cross and Kitsap County Department of Community Management (KCDEM).

"Map Your Neighborhood"

We're taught to call 911 in an emergency. But what if all circuits are busy? What if available ambulances, fire and rescue units, or law enforcement officials have already been dispatched to other emergencies? How can you help yourself, your family, or your neighbors?

Ed is bringing **Map Your Neighborhood**, a new state program for disaster preparedness, to the Island community. In just two months, Ed has presented this program to over 80 neighborhoods. Many are already busy preparing contact lists, inventorying resources, skills and equipment, and identifying residents with special needs who may need help. This information could save their lives. Knowing who could help you could save yours.

To schedule a free **Map Your Neighborhood** training for you and your neighbors, call Ed at 473-7818, e-mail ecall@comcast.net, or attend an Emergency Safety Presentation at City Hall. Presentations are scheduled from 7-9 pm on September 20, October 9 and 23, or November 13 and 29.

Prepare for Five Days

In case of a major earthquake, storm, or security incident, the ferries and bridge may be shut down. **All Island residents should be prepared for at least five days on their own.** Take some time this weekend to sit down with your family and put together your own Emergency Preparedness Kit. Use the list BELOW as a starting point.

Online Resources

Visit the Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management (KCDEM) website, www.kitsapdem.org, for a wealth of resources to help individuals, schools, and businesses to improve their emergency preparedness. Recent additions include five short Emergency Preparedness Streaming Videos which offer step-by-step directions on preparing your home for any disaster. Additional online resources include:

- City of Bainbridge Island -- www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us
- State of Washington Emergency Management Division -- www.emd.wa.gov
- Federal Emergency Management Agency -- www.fema.gov
- American Red Cross -- www.redcross.org
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration -- www.nws.noaa.gov

Stay Informed:

Many emergencies, like the storms we experienced last winter, involve a power outage. In these cases, it's more important than ever that neighborhoods and our community as a whole have effective alternative ways of communicating. One system the City has put in place to help ensure this is the distribution of printed Incident Updates at

designated locations around the Island. During last winter's storms, updates were distributed almost daily to keep residents apprised of changes in shelter availability, home safety tips and other information. Look for updates at these locations during the next major emergency incident – find the Information Distribution Center nearest you on the map ABOVE.

Other information sources:

Kitsap County Dept. of Emergency Management Email Alerts:– register at www.kitsapdem.org.
City Emergency Update phone line: 842-7633.
Radio: KITZ 1400, KOMO 1000, KIRO 710, NOAA 053035.

The Map Your Neighborhood Program When Disaster Strikes

1. Take care of your loved ones.
2. Protect your head, feet and hands.
3. Check your propane supply for damage.
4. Shut off water at house main if there is damage to pipes.
5. Place your "OK" or "HELP" sign in plain view.
6. Place your fire extinguisher outdoors, in an accessible location.
7. Go to your neighborhood's gathering site.
8. Join your emergency response team:
 - Gather current incident information (by radio, bulletin or phone)
 - Check on neighbors who are elderly, disabled or young children who may be alone.
 - Conduct damage assessment and begin safety measures.
 - Check on homes with a "HELP" card or no card displayed.
9. Return to neighborhood gathering site for reassessment.

Want to know how this can work for your neighborhood? Contact Ed Call today to schedule a free consultation call 473-7818, or email ecall@comcast.net.

Emergency Preparedness Kit

What's in your kit? This list is merely a good place to start. Your kit should have the things you will need and those that are essential for your family members and pets.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Water (1 gallon per person per day) <input type="checkbox"/> Food (non-perishable) <input type="checkbox"/> Can opener – manual operation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothes <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy shoes <input type="checkbox"/> Head protection <input type="checkbox"/> Leather gloves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bags <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit <input type="checkbox"/> Medications <input type="checkbox"/> Spare glasses <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries <input type="checkbox"/> Battery operated radio <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Credit/ATM cards <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (if the power is out, ATM's won't work) <input type="checkbox"/> Spare car/house keys <input type="checkbox"/> List of medical history <input type="checkbox"/> List of physicians/contact information <input type="checkbox"/> Special needs items for children <input type="checkbox"/> Special needs items for disabled <input type="checkbox"/> Special needs items for elderly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Food for pets <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency contact information for family |
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Visit the City's website at www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us for more preparedness tips.

