



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 10, 2009

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Now's the Time to Prepare for Severe Weather

Bainbridge Island, WA, February 10, 2009 – Weather forecasts for today and tomorrow predict continuing cold temperatures and rain, with the possibility of snow. “While current predictions vary in terms of the severity of weather expected, we urge community members to take this opportunity to refresh their emergency supplies and ensure that their family has the resources to stay safe and comfortable during a possible power outage,” said Deputy Police Chief Jon Fehlman.

A few simple steps toward preparedness:

- 1) Buy fuel for vehicles and generators now. Don't just fill the generator tank, but stock additional fuel in case your generator needs to run for a longer period of time. Remember to always store gasoline outside, not in the house or garage. Remember, in a power outage, gas pumps may not work.
- 2) Check supplies now, and re-stock food, water and batteries. Storm conditions lead to long lines and limited supplies at the store. Review what you have on hand, how long your supplies will last, and what you need to replace.
- 3) Know your neighbors. There are people right next door who can help you in an emergency, and vice versa. Work with your neighbors to identify a designated meeting place, with an alternative heat source, for those in need of heat or assistance, and arrange to check on senior citizens and other vulnerable neighbors. Emergency preparedness in its most basic form is neighbor helping neighbor. For information on the Map Your Neighborhood program, contact the Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management at (360)307-5870, or email smay@co.kitsap.wa.us.
- 4) Make sure all family members know where supplies are and what your emergency plan is. This is a great time to schedule a family get-together to review your emergency plan, answer questions and calm fears.
- 5) Washington State Patrol and the Washington State Department of Transportation are urging motorists to avoid travel unless absolutely necessary. Make sure your car is equipped with extra food, water and warm clothing or a sleeping bag. Motorists who find themselves stranded are urged to stay sheltered in their vehicles to avoid the elements and the risk of being hit by other vehicles.

The Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management has activated a Severe Weather Shelter, which will be open tonight from 6 pm to 8 am, at the Comminutas Building, 920 Park Ave., Bremerton. For more information, call 211 or Kitsap Coummunity Resources, (360)473-2047.

For storm updates and more preparation tips, road closures and additional information on preparing yourself and your family, visit www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us. Look for the Emergency Preparedness link on the left.

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