

Prepare in a Year – July 2010

This is the seventh of a series of short action articles that will enable you, over the next 12 months, to better take care of your family, friends, neighbors, and yourself in times of disaster. There is about a 33% chance that a disaster will occur when you are in the dark and in bed. Be prepared day or night with an under-the-bed stash of critical items. Minimum supplies would be a pair of sturdy shoes for every resident, work gloves (preferably leather,) a hard hat, and a flashlight. It would be a good idea to place these items in a large sealed plastic bag in case, after the disaster event, there is broken glass in the area. If you missed any of the prior articles or want to expedite your preparedness efforts; please see more information at: http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_personal_preparedness.shtml If you have been acting upon these preparation articles; you are well on your way to mitigating the consequences of disasters that will affect your family.

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This is the eighth of a series of short action articles that will enable you, over the next 12 months, to better take care of your family, friends, neighbors, and yourself in times of disaster. So you survived the disaster; wouldn't it be a shame to have someone injured because of a lack of utility safety? Every family member should know where and how to turn off the natural or propane gas, water, and electricity. The gas shutoff, requiring a small wrench, is normally on an outside wall near the meter. Do not turn off the gas unless you hear or smell a gas leak as it requires a visit from Puget Sound Energy to safely restore service. The water supply could be contaminated due to a burst pipe; therefore, you will want to isolate the pure drinkable water within your residence. In addition to the curbside shutoff; there is normally a hand shutoff valve in a closet or garage. For your safety, when turning off the electricity at the breaker box; turn off individual circuits first before main switch. If you have been acting upon these preparation articles; you are well on your way to mitigating the consequences of disasters that will affect your family.