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## Whatcom County Fire District #11



Neighborhoods that are prepared for emergencies and disaster situations save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma, and reduce property damage.

### Disaster Ready Washington

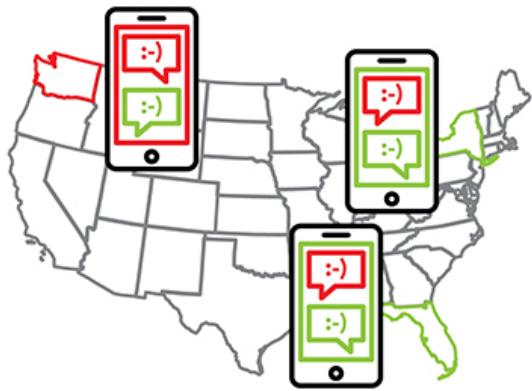


Kiana Kabanje

Disaster Preparedness Outreach Program Manager  
Washington State Emergency Management

Being prepared for disasters is everyone's job, including YOU. Be creative as you prepare your family to be 2 Weeks Ready. Together, we can build a disaster resilient Washington! One step a month for the next year

our recommended emergency kit list for years. That's why Washington State Emergency Management (WSEM) is launching a refresh of the **Prepare in a Year guide** in multiple languages, geared to help you take one step a month for the next 12 months to get you prepared. WSEM knows things are tough and money is tight. So, it makes sense that the first step in their plan is FREE. Get together and start talking to your family. Create an actual communications plan on what would happen if you were separated. During this pandemic, we have been six feet apart, but still together. During an earthquake, your entire family might be separated by school, work or on the road. By crafting solutions now, you can ensure calm and understanding later. Everyone will know what to do. [Download the English version here.](#)



## Out of Area Contact

As a family, choose a friend or relative who lives outside of the Pacific Northwest and ask them to be your out-of-area contact. In a disaster, you may be unable to make phone calls due to service outages or overwhelmed cell towers. Instead of trying to call, text your out-of-area contact where you are and if you are okay or need help. This person can serve as a relay between you and your family, sharing important messages and each other's locations. [Download our contact card](#) to fill out and keep in a safe place, like your disaster kits.

## Tie a Green Ribbon!

Lance Jones, brings out his disaster survival "go-bag" and explains the contents. Along with his survival plan for his family, Lance developed a really clever use of colored plastic ribbons for family member location communication - have a watch.





Lance Jones  
Former Green Beret Medic



## MYN Emergency Radio System (MERS) Project Update

### Findings and Conclusions

The DP Division conducted a study of the island's MYN Emergency Radio System over the past year. At present the system is utilized by over 20 MYN Leaders who have been provided with MERS (formerly called MURS) radios to be operated during emergencies when no other form of communication is available. Our study concluded the need for increased island radio coverage, improved operator training and a ongoing testing program to assess radio operators ability to send, receive, connect and communicate effectively during an emergency.

### Technical Committee and Sector Divisions

With the help of extremely talented island volunteers we were able to create a Technical Committee which will spearhead a 2021 initiative to achieve these goals and go on to manage MERS for the future. These volunteers will have dual roles:

materials and developing a revised system-wide operational testing program.

Tom Pawlak – DP Division Communications Liason

Dave Lapof – DP Division Coordinator

Jim Ross – **North** Island

Brad Maher – **East** Island

Paul Upton – **South** Island

Mike Skehan – **West** Island

**2. Sector Leader** - The Island MERS network will be divided into four geographical sectors. This role will include responsibility to assist with station set-ups, ongoing training and ensure operational readiness of all stations within the sector.

#### **Activity is already underway**

If you are a MYN Lead you can expect an introductory call from your Sector Leader over the next 60 days as new Training Materials are released and MERS radios undergo inventory. Also MYN Leads can expect to see a new testing program in the second quarter of 2021. This is all part of the plan to keep our fellow islanders safe and secure.

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## **Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) News**

Map Your Neighborhood provides a simple plan to help residents and their neighbors during the important first hours after a disaster until emergency services can reach them. While MYN was a result of physical disasters (hurricane, flood, earthquake) it is an excellent program for ANY disruption in our daily lives such as the current pandemic.

Thank you to our neighbors who have recently stepped up to form MYN groups; we are getting closer to full coverage of the island!

**We are still looking for volunteers to form small MYN groups for the following areas:**

**North End:** Beeman's Lane, Harmoney Lane, Legoe Bay.

**Scenic Estates:** Beach Avenue, Hales Passage, Dogwood Terrace, Rosewood Terrace, Scenic Avenue.

If you know of someone who might be willing to take on a MYN Lead role in one of the above areas, please let us know.



**for volunteering to make your neighborhood a  
safer place!**

MYN Co-Leads  
Leslie Dempsey & Joan Moye

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## **Public Alert Sign-up**

Whenever a significant incident occurs in Whatcom County,

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a messaging system called **AlertSense** provided by MyStateUSA. AlertSense allows WUEM to send a message to an email address, as a text message to a phone, and/or as a voice message to a phone. Click on this phone image to sign up.



## Resources:

[Lummi Island Survival In Isolation Brochure](#)

[Public Alert Sign-up](#)

[Lummi Island Tsunami Evacuation Brochure](#)

[WA Emergency Management Emergency Preparedness Guide](#)

[Preparing Homes For Wildfire](#)

[A Guide To Firewise Principles](#)

[Island MYN / MURS Map](#)

[Scenic Estates MYN Map](#)

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