

Washington State Emergency Prep

When Washington state is experiencing unhealthy air and emergency evacuations, it is important to be ready to find a place to shelter. Whether that is at home or in an emergency shelter, we must make sure that we are taking care of ourselves and our loved ones. And we must know what to do and where to go when an emergency arises.

Washington state has designated emergency shelters for a variety of needs, whether that is wildfire, smoke, earthquake or any other natural disaster. When an emergency shelter is needed, everyone should be aware of where to go, how to get there and what to expect when they are there. These shelters are announced at the beginning of evacuations. Follow your local governmental organizations on social media or go to your region's websites to find recommendations and information for emergency situations and evacuations.

Where to find information about events near you:

- Fire: [Watch Duty Wildfire Map.](#)
- Smoke: [Washington Smoke Information.](#)
- Tsunami: [Tsunami Warning Centers.](#)
- Volcano: [Protective Actions.](#)
- Earthquake: [https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes.](https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes)

Disasters affect everybody, but not everybody is affected in the same way. All Washingtonians should prepare before disaster strikes, including individuals with access and functional needs. Some quick tips to help you prepare for emergency situations from Emergency Management Division, FEMA, the Department of Health, and the Red Cross:

1. **Washington State:**

Emergency Management Division:

- a. [Access and Functional Needs.](#)
- b. [Disaster Ready Washington:](#) Pack an emergency “go-kit” with important items (food, water, clothing, documents.)
- c. Or prepare to shelter-in-place (stay where you are) [Preparedness.](#)
- d. Sign up for your local emergency alerts: [Alert & Notification Warnings.](#)

Department of Health:

- a. Check the website at your local public health office: [WA State Local Health Jurisdictions.](#)

- b. [Be Prepared, Be Safe | Washington State Department of Health.](#)
- 2. **FEMA:** Check the website at your local emergency management agency: [WA State Local Emergency Management Agencies.](#)
- 3. **American Red Cross:** Check your local Red Cross office [Northwest Region | American Red Cross.](#)

If you must evacuate, limit how long you are on the roads, and be prepared to evacuate before the mandatory evacuation order is given. Roads may be congested so you may need to walk or find alternative transportation.

The evacuation processes can be frightening, so limit the stress and uncertainty of the evacuation by being prepared with required documentation, (e.g. mortgage/lease, photo ID, medical records, etc.).

Download the National Preparedness Month message from the **Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning** [here](#).