

**FICRA BUILDING TRUST'S  
FOX ISLAND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN  
'THE PLAN' - 2021 UPDATE**

**Background:** The origin of the Fox Island Emergency Preparedness Team and the Emergency Response Plan (THE PLAN) was developed eight years ago over concern that the Fox Island Bridge might be rendered impassable by an event like a major earthquake. Studies subsequently extended concerns to wildfires, heavy freezes and catastrophic windstorms. The Team has worked with government and non-government sources to develop this Plan which covers both preparation to deal with emergency situations and emergency response.

**The foundation of the plan is individual family preparedness.** We have also learned about the importance of neighborhood preparedness and response to a catastrophic event. All residents should know that government emergency services response to an emergency could be delayed, or not be forthcoming at all, depending on the scope of an event. Also, your Emergency Response Team will need some time, maybe days for some functions, to assemble its volunteers to implement response. That means that your neighborhood would be on its own for an undetermined period of time – hence the recommendation for **30 days of food, meds, fuel, and as much water as can be stored.**

On [foxislandficra.org](http://foxislandficra.org) (our website) we post tips on safety and preparedness. The concern of wildfires is our typical “Poster Issue” for the summer. Go to [foxislandficra.org](http://foxislandficra.org), click on “Programs” and then “Emergency Planning”. You will find, there, links to videos on preparation, to maps of Fox Island, including one showing the coverage of Block Coordinators on the island (Take a look to see if your neighborhood has its Block Coordinator, and who your Coordinator is). Also there are instructions on signing up for PC Alert an important connection you can set up for government alerting you of, and advising you of the status of things during an emergency

**COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN**

**-SELF SUFFICIENCY –** We have made, and published on Facebook and our website ([foxislandficra.org](http://foxislandficra.org)), access to information as well as videos that help individual families realize the importance of, and acquire instructions on, emergency preparedness. These short videos help families learn what resources are available for preparation and response to a major event.

**-NEIGHBORHOOD TEAMS –** We have developed response guidebooks for the neighborhood Block Coordinators as quick guides for reacting to an emergency and preparing their neighborhood residents to work as a team. The Neighborhood Team is working, still, to complete the filling of Block Coordinator positions. One can learn about this important position, and volunteer, by contacting [fiblockcoord@gmail.com](mailto:fiblockcoord@gmail.com) (or go to [foxislandficra.org](http://foxislandficra.org) – click on Programs then Emergency Planning).

**-COMMUNICATION TEAM–** Communications is one of the most critical elements of managing emergency response. We now have the Fox Island Amateur Radio Club with some 30 members. We are working to get more certified radio operators volunteering to participate in emergency response. We are continuing to improve the communication system hardware so the Communications Center at the Nichols Community Center (NCC) will be optimized for island coverage and contact with the authorities.

**-MEDICAL TEAM –** We have storage of medical triage equipment to ensure supplies are available for use at the Community Center EOC (Emergency Operations Command) and in the field.

**-SHELTER TEAM –** A new storage facility will permit more cots and bedding being available to temporary shelters (the Alliance Church and United Church of Christ). Its location will permit ready transport that will not be interfered with by what may be congestion around the Command Center (NCC).

**- EMERGENCY PATROL TEAM –** Some of our Citizens' Patrol members are emergency volunteers for scanning neighborhoods and reporting back conditions from the neighborhoods, and they will help provide emergency transport.

**-MARINE TEAM -** The Fox Island Yacht Club is working with us to streamline the use of volunteer boaters for emergency medical evacuation and marine transport.

**-INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM –** We are fortunate to have resident licensed Civil Engineers on the team to evaluate structures before entering, post-event. In addition to time-of-incident volunteers, our Fox Island Mutual Water Association is prepared for emergency response and has equipment that could assist in clearing roads and posting danger zones.

Eight years into THE PLAN we are still learning and sharing, but we are an operation respected by the authorities and are asked to make presentations to other communities on our program.

So, in summary, your response teams (Neighborhood, Communication, Medical, Shelter, Patrol, and Infrastructure) are always looking for more volunteers to ensure coverage being available in an emergency. You are the beneficiary of this effort. So, go to [foxislandficra.org](http://foxislandficra.org) to sign up to help out where you think best. You can also contact [fiblockcoord@gmail.com](mailto:fiblockcoord@gmail.com) to directly learn about being a coordinator for your neighborhood.

And lastly, if you want to make a difference, but currently don't wish to join one of the Response Teams, please consider donating time for project help, or funds. We have already secured, and spent, grants from the County and State and we will continue working to secure more resources.