



Latah County Idaho  
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# JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

**CERT MEETINGS:** First meeting of 2025 on future of Latah CERT will be January 15th (Wednesday), 2025 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Latah County Fairgrounds Classroom.



## ARE YOU READY? HAZARDS AND PROTECTIVE ACTIONS

We spend a lot of time in these newsletters detailing the different ways to be prepared in case of an emergency. One of the first steps is always to make a plan but do you know what you are planning for? Its important that you understand the risks you and your household may face. Most communities face many types of hazards. The most important benefits of planning ahead for disasters and emergencies are staying safe and helping yourself and your community recover.

Most of this newsletter will be from FEMA's *Are You Ready? – An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness* (P-2064 | September 2020). A digital copy of this comprehensive 26-page guide will be attached to the newsletter email and will be available on our website. If you want a paper copy of the guide, you can call the FEMA Publication Warehouse at 1-800-480-2520 and ask for a free copy of publication P-2064.

### HOW TO PREPARE FOR DISASTERS



**1. Know Your Risks** – It is important to learn the risks specific to your home and the ways to assess your risks if you are away from home.



**2. Make a Plan** – Make a communications plan and prepare for both evacuating and sheltering.



**3. Take Action** – Put your plan into action so you are ready to face emergencies and disasters no matter where you are and when they occur.

A key first step in disaster preparedness is understanding the types of hazards prevalent in your community. To do this, visit your state and local government's emergency management websites to look for more information about the common types of disasters and whether disaster plans exist in your area. Sign up for community alert and warning systems.

## Determine Your Risks

There are many different types of disasters and hazards. Your risk of becoming affected by each type depends on the **possibility** of an event and your **vulnerability** to it.



**Hazard**

A source of danger



**Vulnerability**

Being open to attack or damage



**Risk**

Possibility of loss or injury

**HAZARDS:** Earthquakes, Tornados, Wildfire, Hurricanes, Flood, Landslide, Avalanche, Thunderstorm, Lightning, Hail, Volcano, Tsunami, Winter Storm, Pandemics, Power Outage, Nuclear Explosion, Extreme Heat, Financial Crisis, Cyberattack, Active Shooter

## Basic Protective Actions for all Disasters

There are proven measures or “protective actions” that you can take to protect your family and property before, during, and after a disaster. The better we understand these measures, the more lives we can protect and save.

These important actions will help keep you prepared for all disasters:

- Have the skills to assess the situation quickly and to take effective action to protect yourself.
- Get involved with preparedness training and volunteer programs.
- Put together an emergency fund of cash and supplies.
- Decrease the potential impacts of hazards.
- Prepare a family disaster plan and practice the plan. Remember to be inclusive in your disaster planning and consider the needs of children, the elderly, and those with disabilities or access and functional needs.

Many disasters happen with little or no warning. You need to be ready with the appropriate skills and knowledge to act immediately – often before you have instructions from authorities. After an event, it is important to first assess the situation before deciding to stay or change your location.

### 1. Assess the Situation



When something happens without warning, it is important to take a few seconds to figure out your most effective next steps. This includes identifying the type of event that occurred and whether there is immediate danger, such as damaged buildings or downed power lines. The goal is to be safe and stay out of harm's way.

### 2. Decide to Stay or Change Location



The next step is to decide whether it is safe to stay in your current location. In some situations, you should stay where you are, while in others the safest option is to change locations. For example, if you are inside when a tornado occurs, you must stay indoors. In contrast, in an active shooter situation, you can try to run to another location.

### Protective actions

may include such actions as sheltering, evacuation, relocation, keeping software up to date, run/hide/fight, or drop/cover/roll or hold on.

EXAMPLES OF COMMON HAZARDS AND PROTECTIVE ACTIONS. More can be found in *the Are You Ready?* booklet.



### Flood

- When you come across flooded roadways: **Turn Around, Don't Drown®**. Six inches of moving water may be enough to knock you off your feet. As little as 12 inches of moving water may lift a small vehicle. Flood water depth is hard to determine and may contain hidden, dangerous debris
- Find out the type of flood risk(s) likely for your area. Depending on the specific location and type of flooding, plan for your evacuation, shelter, or move to a higher location nearby.



### Power Outage

- Take an inventory now of the items you need that rely on electricity. Make backup plans, including relocation plans, if you have medical equipment or assistive technology devices that are dependent on power for life-sustaining purposes.
- Plan for batteries and other alternatives to meet your needs when the power goes out.

**Run, Hide, or Fight.** Run – getting away from the shoot(s) is the top priority. Hide – if you cannot get away safely, find a place to hide. Fight – as a last resort, defend yourself.



### Cyberattack

- Keep software and operating systems up-to-date.
- Use strong passwords and two-factor authentication.
- Watch for suspicious activity. This could be any message that asks you to complete a task immediately, offers something that seems too good to be true, or asks for personal information.
- Use encrypted (secure) internet communications.
- Have antivirus and firewall solutions to block malware and other threats.



### Active Shooter

Source: “Are you Ready?” – FEMA (September 2020) at Ready.gov  
Prepared by V. Lawrence – Latah CERT