

THE AUGUST 2016 UPDATE OF THE FOX ISLAND EMERGENCY PREPARATION PLAN

Three years ago a few of the FICRA Building Trust volunteers embarked on development of an Emergency Preparation Plan (The Plan) for Fox Island. We had heard from Pierce County that the Fox Island Bridge was vulnerable to a major earthquake or a collision on the bridge. That report was the genesis of getting prepared for an emergency on Fox Island like a major fire or freezing weather power outage.

That small group has grown to include over 100 volunteers (The Team) with varied skills who contribute their time and talent for the safety of Fox Island residents. Some of their many accomplishments during this past year are as follows:

- The Communications Team constructed a radio room at the Nichols Community Center (NCC) supported by a new radio tower and basic communications equipment, including hand held radios for use by your Citizen Patrol units.
- The Medical Team obtained a trailer of medical supplies from the County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), an AED (automated external defibrillator) from Fire District 5, and special cots for the medical treatment center at the NCC.
- The Neighborhood Team has recruited over 70 neighborhood block captains (BC's), some have been trained in CPR/First Aid by the County's Department of Emergency Management (DEM) through the Red Cross.
- The Team was invited by Pierce County to participate in Cascadia Rising, a multi-state emergency preparation exercise, where we confirmed our main objectives of communicating on island and with Fire District 5 and radio station KGHP (FM 89.3, 89.9 & 105.7) (residents should get familiar with that station) which will broadcast information on the status of Fox Island during an emergency (they broadcast 24/7).
- The Team has improved getting information out on The Plan through monthly postings on ficra.org, and FICRA's electronic & paper newsletters.

Our volunteers are prepared to respond whenever a major event occurs; however, SELF-SUFFICIENCY is the cornerstone of managing a major emergency. THAT IS WHERE YOU COME IN. The most important part is for each household to plan for an emergency and to participate in their neighborhood preparation. You can access resources on, and off, the Island that will help you prepare (your BC can help). Become familiar with the support provided by the DEM (253-798-6595, www.piercecountywa.org/dem). The Peninsula Emergency Preparation Coalition (PEP-C) is another on-line source. Those include materials and training. The Fox Island FICRA Fair will have booths with information, too.

Other agencies serving Fox Island (Fire Station, Fox Island Mutual Water Company, and Peninsula Light) have their own plans for responding to an emergency. Our Plan supplements their efforts.

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The major components of Fox Island's Emergency Preparation Plan are:

COMMUNICATIONS: A central Communications Center is located at the NCC (690 9th Avenue). That center will be responsible for all communications within and off the island, including contact with Fire District 5 and radio station KGHP. Communications Central will receive input from BC's through the Citizen's Patrol units by radio and then direct resources to where they are needed most.

NEIGHBORHOODS: Your neighborhood will be coordinated by a Block Captain (BC). The BC will gather information needed (and that will be held confidential). The BC is a primary source for your getting information on household preparation and where training in CPR/First Aid can be obtained. The BC will be the contact person for the Citizen's Patrol to obtain information on the neighborhood's status and to request assistance or transport.

CITIZEN PATROL: They are identified by signs on the side of their vehicle. They will patrol the island during a major event, communicate between the BC and Communication Central, and respond whenever help or transport is needed. Prior to the transport of an injured person there will be an assessment of the condition of the injured by the Medical Team. Movement will be either to NCC for treatment, one of the shelters, or, to a marine evacuation site supported by the Yacht Club volunteers.

MEDICAL TEAM: Headquartered at the NCC and staffed by available medical volunteers. The Medical Team will have supplies, as provided by the Medical Reserve Corps, to treat minor injuries, but their initial responsibility will be to evaluate the condition of ill and injured persons to determine appropriate action (local treatment, movement, or evacuation).

EMERGENCY SHELTERS: Red Cross certified shelter will be available at either the Alliance Church and/or the UCC once the site is confirmed as structurally safe. Cots and blankets are in storage and available. Food and water will be available – but may be delayed depending on general conditions. Again, the need for self-sufficiency in food, med's, and water to the extent possible.

EVACUATION: A list of boaters, who will attempt to assist as needed, has been compiled. Under the direction of our Operations Team, and in conjunction with the Fox Island Yacht Club, points of departure and landing will be established. These may change with tide and weather.

The FICRA Building Trust Board of Directors, and the many volunteers, have made getting to this stage possible. **WE NEED YOUR HELP** to maintain the PLAN. Please consider volunteering for one of our teams. Visit the Emergency Planning booth at the Fox Island Fair or visit our website ficra.org. Address your questions to any of the Trust officers.

DONATIONS TO HELP DEFRAY OUR COSTS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED. Mail donations to the FICRA Building Trust, P.O. Box 25, Fox Island 98333. The Trust is a 501(c)(3) under the IRS Code and, as such, your donations are tax deductible (always check with your tax advisor). Donations of \$250 or more will be provided a tax receipt.

RK/JB 8-11-2016