

Community Conversation recap

Emergency Preparedness (3/9) – notes by Jan B

Appointed in 2017, Andrew Stevens, and now Emergency Manager for Eastside Fire and Rescue with Sammamish his primary jurisdiction, reported that additional emergency management employees will be added to the fire district this year that will expand coverage beyond our city.

Covid: Sammamish experience with 6,560 cases to date, 89 hospitalized, and 23 deaths. King County Public health reports that the vaccination rate for Sammamish is over 95%; King County, overall, 9% of all cases were ages 60+, though 84% of the deaths are of individuals over age 60. The Disaster Declaration for Covid will go through July 2022. New Variant is probable - continue to be vigilant and wear a mask to protect yourself. After the mandate lifts, it's your choice to protect yourself and others.

City Hall: opening soon with some events on the calendar. City staff will be returning to City Hall next month.

Cascadia Rising: Statewide/Multi State Emergency Preparedness Drill in June 2022

In 2016, Sammamish did not participate in the CR16 drill, a prime reason Sammamish first hired an Emergency Manager, as a lack of an emergency management program gained public attention. The Cascadia Rising Exercise is designed to expose capabilities and vulnerabilities. The CR22 exercise will be scaled back from the CR16 Exercise due to increasing wildfire hazards in the region. CR22 will be a tabletop EOC exercise in Sammamish and a functional sheltering exercise using Advanced Community Emergency Response Team volunteers (ACERTs)

Earthquake - The Big One! The off-shore Cascadia Subduction zone “breaks” on average between every 200 – 300 years. The last one was in 1700, making us overdue for the earthquake. The resulting earthquake has the potential to be 30 times more powerful than the San Andreas fault as it generates a catastrophic tsunami. It will immediately affect 8 million people up and down the coast to 100 miles inland and many more in the long-term. The prediction is 15,000 deaths, 2.4 million people displaced, and 3.5 million will need mass care/feeding/sheltering.

- The Cascadia Subduction zone is a 600-mile fault that runs from northern California up to British Columbia and is about 70-100 miles off the Pacific coast shoreline. There have been 41 earthquakes in the last 10,000 years within this fault that have occurred as few as 190 years or as much as 1,200 years apart.
- In comparison, the San Andreas fault is a continental transform fault that extends roughly 750 miles through California - the tectonic boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate, and its motion is right-lateral strike-slip (horizontal). The fault divides into three segments, each with different characteristics and a different degree of earthquake risk.
- Effect on Sammamish from The Big One: Sammamish will have damage to houses although we are a “newer” community and homes are built to the most up-to-date earthquake codes. Homes will have brick and chimney damage, window breakage, and anything not tied down will move and/or fall. There will be much infrastructure damage to power, water, and transportation.
- Cities within 100 miles of the coast (Seattle, Tacoma....) will have blackouts for weeks if not months of no power, no internet, no cell service.

- Transportation – Rt.101 will have high damage to the entire route and I-5 will suffer severe damage on about 50% of its route. Affected transportation will include 16,000 miles of highways, 7,000 highway bridges, 6,000 rail lines, 100 rail bridges, 100 airports, 700 port facilities. A major portion of these will be damaged and unable to be used.
- Additional Impacts: Safety & Security, Food/Water/Sheltering, Health & Medical (hospitals damaged), Energy (power/fuel), Communications, Hazardous materials (refineries, wastewater, etc.), 77% of wastewater & 88% of potable water will suffer medium to high damage

”Shaky House” Earthquake Simulator (an 8.0 shaking for about 10 seconds): Sammamish will be purchasing a simulator to be demonstrated at schools and at Sammamish city events. Events may include the return of The 4th on the Plateau, National Night Out, and the Emergency Preparedness Fair.

Responses to questions:

- We need to be personally prepared. Andrew has relationships with surrounding cities and the county to provide additional resources.
- In the CEMP (Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan), continuity of government and continuity of operations is spelled out.
- Preparing our neighborhoods: Sammamish has a 5-steps to neighborhood preparedness program – see website <https://www.sammamish.us/media/2167/5-step-program-guide.pdf>
- Northeast Sammamish Water District has an early warning system to be able to shut down the water system about 10 seconds before the earthquake hits.
- Sammamish Plateau Sewer & Water District has stored water
- In case of potable water needs, CPOD (Community Points of Distribution) will be utilized to distribute water.
- Sammamish has 4 or 5 large water filtration systems.
- City of Sammamish AM 540 radio has been revamped and will be able to instruct citizens in an emergency. (Consider purchasing a radio with a handcrank.)
- HAM radio frequencies published - there are many, many HAMs in Sammamish. Andrew will look into publishing a frequency/multiple frequencies for use. However, many HAM radio operators can communicate through standard simplex frequencies. Sammamish has several deployable HAM radio kits.
- Evacuation Modeling with so few access/egress points and probably compromised, how long would it take to get everyone off the plateau - a study in progress
- Wildfire Mitigation - EFR to start wildfire mitigation program, which will include community planning and outreach and training for citizens to mitigate wildfire on their property. One of the new employees in emergency management at EFR will be handling this.
- Excessive Heat – Regional cities are working with the NWS to expand upon excessive heat emergency planning. One factor for determining the need to activating cooling centers includes expected duration of event, continuity of power in the community, and number of 911 calls of distressed people – heat exhaustion, etc.
- Investigate a solar-powered generator (could the city order these at a bulk rate for residents to purchase)

OVERALL: We residents are still under 5% prepared. Wouldn't it be nice if the city budget allowed for 1% to go to Disaster Mitigation like other jurisdictions have designated 1% for the arts?

SESSION SLIDES: contact sammamishseniors@gmail.com for Andrew's presentation slides

LINKS:

- Washington State's 24-page resource material: <https://mil.wa.gov/asset/5f171cc0a935f>
- City of Sammamish Emergency Preparedness Guide: <https://www.sammamish.us/media/2069/sammamish-emergency-preparedness-guide.pdf>
- Sammamish Emergency Preparedness: <https://www.sammamish.us/government/departments/emergency-management/emergency-preparedness-resources/>