

Media Advisory – Sept. 3, 2008

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Reardon urges disaster preparation in September

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon urged residents this week to ready themselves for natural and manmade disasters by declaring September National Preparedness Month.

The county continues to prepare for such events so as to provide essential public services following a disaster. But it's important for individuals to prepare themselves and their families by taking simple steps such as assembling an emergency supply kit, making a personal preparedness plan and becoming more informed about different threats.

“Snohomish County is ready to respond in the event of a disaster,” Reardon said. “But any step citizens take to be prepared only enhances our ability to serve them.”

For more information on what to include in an emergency kit or how to better prepare, residents can go to www.ready.gov and www.citizencorps.gov.

National Preparedness Month also is a good time to recognize and pay tribute to Snohomish County's first responders, law-enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency service personnel and others who put themselves at risk for the safety of the community.

Citizens also can help first responders during a disaster by finding ways now to make their community safer.

“I encourage all residents to share their gratitude with the men and women on our frontlines,” Reardon said. “I also strongly suggest that Snohomish County citizens work together to make sure we prevent disasters when possible and are prepared if they occur.”

Finally, with the fall and winter months approaching, now is an opportunity to remove objects and debris that can be propelled and cause damage during windstorms. Homeowners also should check trees for limbs likely to break or fall and remove them before they can cause damage. An excellent source of tips for windstorm preparedness ideas can be found at

www.emd.wa.gov/publications/pubed/windstorm_children_brochure.pdf.

For more information on disaster preparedness, go to the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management Web site at

www.snoco.org/departments/emergency_management.