



# Fox Island *Ready*

Fox Island Emergency Preparedness  
is a Standing Committee of FICRA

## FOX ISLAND BLOCK COORDINATOR MANUAL

Revised 4/21/24

### Block Coordinator Response in an emergency

1. **CONFIRM THE EMERGENCY** by checking your phone & e-mail for Pierce County Alert advisory, and/or, tuning in FM 89.9, or 105.7 to get the latest information on Fox Island. Or, go to the [FacebookFoxIslandFICRA](#) Facebook page.
2. **SECURE YOUR FAMILY AND HOME SITUATION.**
3. **CHECK YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD** house by house (your map on page 2), to see if anyone is in need of medical help. The vulnerable (e.g. elderly and infirm) should be first priority.
4. Once you have a feel for the needs in your neighborhood, **LEAVE YOUR MESSAGE AT THE AGREED TO COMMUNICATION SITE** (see your map on page 2 for the location of that site) so the Emergency Response organization (Emergency Patrol assigned to your area) can pick up your needs information on their tour.

Note that trying to contact the Emergency Response group will not be possible as those personnel will be getting the response system up and running. As soon as they have personnel available, the Emergency Patrol's first action will be to gather your message at **your COMMUNICATION SITE**. The Response Group will then, if you have indicated a need, contact you by visiting you at your home, or coming to the address you leave on your communication.

5. **Continue to help your neighborhood help itself** using the resources you have identified in Section 2, Preparation.

# NOTICE

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS VOLUNTEERS AND FOX ISLAND RESIDENTS

### FIEP is a volunteer organization.

Fox Island's Emergency Preparedness (FIEP) Team is under the purview of the FICRA Building Trust (FICRA) a non-profit entity under the laws of the State of Washington. FICRA's Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for approving the charter for FIEP and for the actions of FIEP. FIEP is protected by FICRA's 501(c)3 status and FICRA's insurance. The FIEP Team has developed this manual and website ([fi-ready.org](http://fi-ready.org)) to facilitate and assist Fox Island residents in preparing for, and responding to, a major catastrophe.

### The FICRA Building Trust is not a government agency.

Volunteers of FIEP, without compensation, or the expectation of compensation, will render emergency assistance, or participate in the rendering of such emergency assistance as FIEP determines the need. The FICRA Building Trust provides these recommendations and the assistance to Fox Island residents based on the advice from Pierce County Department of Emergency Management and other County, State, and Federal government agencies. The FICRA Building Trust accepts no responsibility to provide materials, services, or direction to, Fox Island residents.

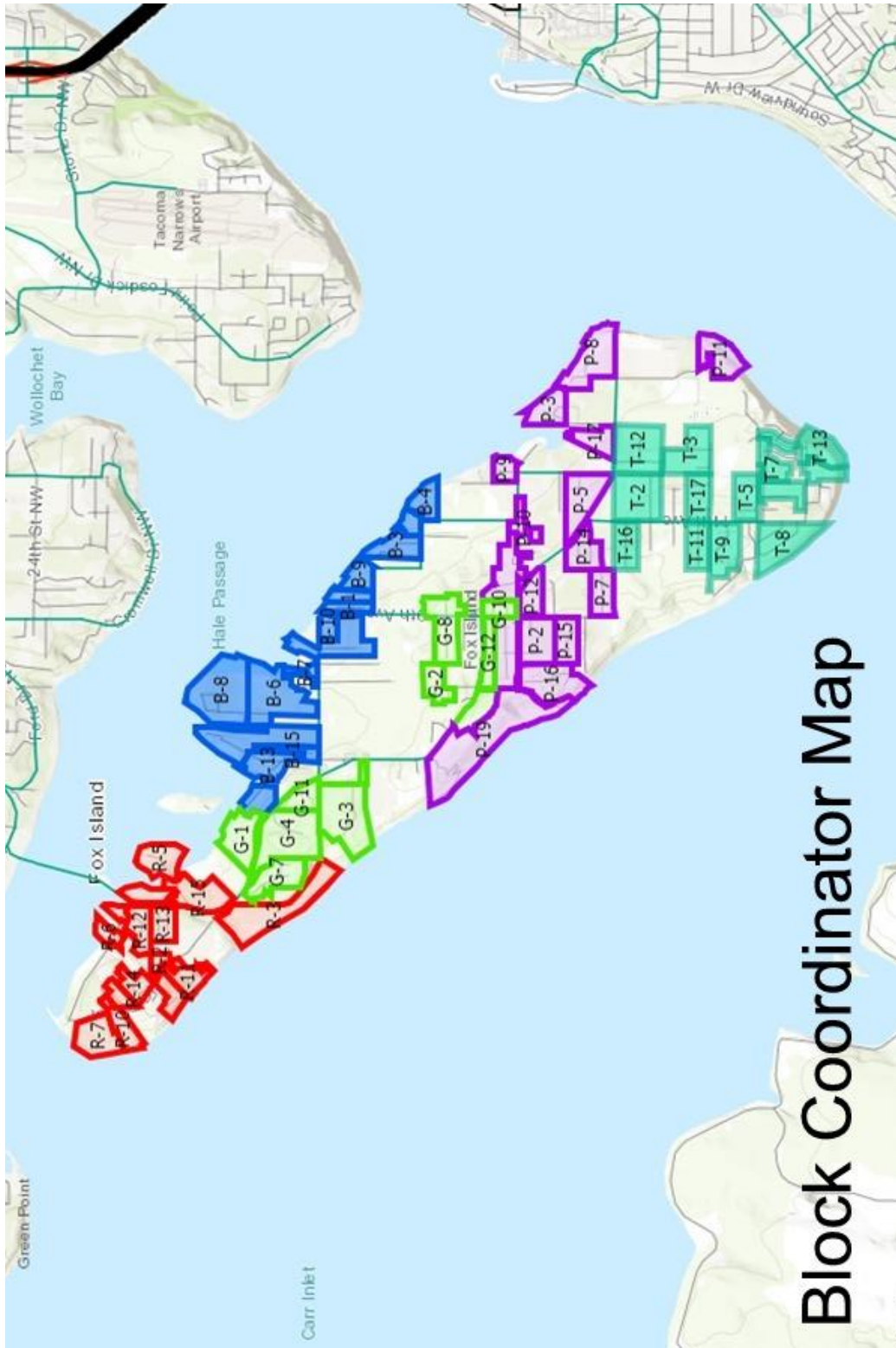
Please understand - even with the preparation and response work that has been done by the FIEP Team, every family needs to plan to be YOYO (you're on your own) in a major event.

The FIEP emergency assistance is not a hospital, not a source of food, nor a hotel. This plan is absolutely dependent on individual family preparation in the form of 30 days' supply of food and meds plus storage of water and fuel.

Further, It may take hours, a day, or more, to get the FIEP Response Team and the Emergency Operations Center (Nichols Community Center) up and running (see the organization chart). For example, the EP Response Team will work to provide first aid and triage at the Nichols Community Center (NCC), but that may be less than needed depending on volunteers available and the extent of medical help needed.

# Block Coordinator Response in an emergency

Check your neighborhood residents using the map you made (below or on a separate page) of your assigned neighborhood with names, phone numbers, vulnerable persons, pets, and leave your neighborhood needs at the **COMMUNICATION SITE** located on this map.





## NEIGHBORHOOD PREPARATION

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In emergencies, such as severe weather conditions or major earthquakes, that interrupt basic functions (electricity, water, ability to use the bridge) for Fox Island residents for an extended period of time (more than 8 hours), or major fire that puts neighborhoods at risk, may be cause for **Block Coordinators (BC's)** to react and begin their emergency response duties.

In preparation for such emergencies, **Block Coordinators will be assigned neighborhood groups of roughly 15 residences.** They will contact, list, and map (Section 1, page 2) the residents in the neighborhood, identifying special needs (eg. elderly and infirm) and neighborhood resources (eg. tools and special vehicles).

In an emergency, Block Coordinators will **coordinate neighborhood actions** and provide communication to the **Emergency Response Team (at the NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNICATION SITE** located on the neighborhood map in Section 1, page 2).

Assistance such as triage and transportation will eventually be available from the Fox Island Emergency Response organization. And, shelter facilities will, in time, be available through the Fox Island Emergency Preparedness (FIEP) organization.

# **NEIGHBORHOOD PREPARATION**

## **BLOCK COORDINATOR (BC) PREPARATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. **Sign up for Pierce County ALERT** so that you are on the list Pierce County will advise by phone, text, e-mail, etc. of an emergency that will impact you (see brochure in the Appendix Section). See also 5. below.
2. **Make a map of your designated neighborhood** showing names, addresses, phone numbers, location of vulnerable persons/pets, and location of the **communication site** (contact [fiblockcoord@gmail.com](mailto:fiblockcoord@gmail.com) for advising of, or help in setting, this location). Place that map/data in Section1, pages 2&3.
3. **Make contact with each neighbor explaining your responsibility, and theirs** (see following pages), in preparation for, and during, a major emergency. Holding a neighborhood group meeting is a very good way of doing this.
4. **Encourage your neighbors to sign up for Pierce County ALERT.** (This is important for their notification in an emergency!)
5. **Have the neighbors keep a battery or crank operated radio, and tune in for news updates** FM 89.9 & 105.7 (KGHP) - or - 88.5 (KNKX-NPR), 94.9 (KUOW), 97.3 (KIRO), or 97.7FM, 1000AM (KOMO).
6. **Identify neighborhood resources (major tools, trucks, etc.)** that may be important in an emergency and locate them on your neighborhood map.
7. **Pass along to your neighborhood members the information that the Emergency Preparation Team makes available.** Note that you will be keeping neighborhood information confidential to the neighborhood.
8. **Establish backups for you, with binders, to act in your absence.**

# NEIGHBORHOOD PREPARATION

## NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

(The BC should confirm all residents have the Family Emergency Manual.)

1. **Sign up for Pierce County Alert** to receive advisory information on an emergency that could impact you.  
<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/921/Pierce-County-ALERT>.  
Have a handy battery radio set to FM 89.9 or 105.7 for KGHP information. Consider getting **the PulsePoint app**, too, for accurate incident location.
2. **Provide your Block Coordinator with the information needed for making contact with your residence** in an emergency.
3. **Be prepared with a minimum of 30 days of food and medicines, and keep your water and fuel inventories up.** See the Bucket List in appendix for help on this.
4. **Make a plan for contacting and for meeting your family members in an emergency** (use the Fox Island Bridge out of service as your base case). Use the form on Section 1, Page 3.
5. **Install a File of Life pocket onto your refrigerator** so any emergency response personnel can be aware of important health info on family members. Keep your **“HELP/OK” sign** readily available, too.
6. **Read The Plan**, (Section 2, page 4) which describes the Fox Island Emergency Response Team’s assistance process in a major emergency.
7. **Go to our website [fi-ready.org](http://fi-ready.org)** for a wealth of information and resources on preparation.

**FICRA BUILDING TRUST'S**  
**FOX ISLAND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN**  
**'THE PLAN' - 2024 UPDATE r-2**

**BACKGROUND:** The Fox Island Emergency Preparedness (FIEP) Team and the Emergency Response Plan (THE PLAN) was conceived in 2013 over concern that the Fox Island Bridge might be rendered impassable by an event like a major earthquake. Studies subsequently extended concerns to our being prepared to deal with wildfires, heavy freezes and catastrophic windstorms. The Team has worked with government and non-government sources to develop this Plan which covers both preparations to deal with emergency situations, and, responding to them.

**THE FOUNDATION OF THE PLAN IS INDIVIDUAL FAMILY PREPAREDNESS.** All residents should know that government emergency services response to an emergency could be delayed, or not be forthcoming at all, depending on the scale of an event. Also, your Emergency Response Team has no food, nor water, and will need some time, maybe days for some functions, to assemble its volunteers to implement response assistance. That means YOYO (you're on your own) for an undetermined period of time – hence the recommendation for each family having **30 days of food and meds, and as much water as can be stored.** We have also learned about the importance of neighborhood preparedness and response to a catastrophic event. **Having neighborhoods working as units is now recognized as an important step to help us survive an extended isolation.**

So you can see that surviving a major catastrophe is very much dependent on you.

On our new **Emergency Planning website (FI-Ready.org)**, you will find links to videos on preparation, to maps of Fox Island 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** – Our Fox Island Family Emergency Manual and new website (fi-ready.org) have a wealth of information to help individual families develop their preparation for, and response to, a major incident. Every family should have a manual which can be requested for delivery at our website: fi-ready.org.

**-NEIGHBORHOOD TEAMS** – We have developed manuals for the neighborhood Block Coordinators as quick guides for reacting to an emergency and preparing their neighborhood residents to work as a team. The Block Coordinator program is a high priority for acquiring volunteers.



**-COMMUNICATION TEAM** – Communication is one of the most important elements of managing emergency response. We now have the Fox Island Amateur Radio Club with over 30 members. We are working to get more certified amateur radio operators to participate in emergency response. We are continuing to improve the communication system hardware so the Communications Center at the Nichols Community Center EOC (Emergency Operations Center) will be optimized for island coverage and contact with the authorities. We have established alternative means of communication as well to help ensure the rapid establishment and operation of the emergency response organization.

**-MEDICAL TEAM** – Fox Island has several medical professionals (physicians, PA's, NPA's, etc) that have volunteered to participate in an emergency. We also have storage of medical triage equipment on-island in multiple locations, to ensure supplies are available for use at the Nichols Community Center medical triage room and field deployment.

**-SHELTER TEAM** – We have an off-site storage facility with cots and bedding available to temporary shelters (the Heart Church and United Church of Christ). However, we have no food stored for those shelters.

**- NEIGHORHOOD WATCH (EMERGENCY PATROL)** – Some of our Neighborhood Watch volunteers will be scanning neighborhoods in an emergency and relaying neighborhood information/needs to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). They will also help provide emergency transport.

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

**-INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM** – We are fortunate to have resident licensed Civil Engineers to evaluate structures before entering, post-event. We have volunteers for clearing roads and posting 'danger zones', and we are partnered with Fox Island Mutual Water Association on water delivery.

Ten plus years into **THE PLAN** we are still learning. We are an operation respected by the authorities and are asked to make presentations to other communities on our program. We have secured, and spent, grants from the County and State for support materials. We will continue working to acquire resources as needed to improve our capability.

### **Volunteer?**

And, of course, our response teams (Neighborhood, Communication, Medical, Shelter, Patrol, Marine, and Infrastructure) are always looking for more volunteers. Volunteering is easy. Go to our website, [fi-ready.org](http://fi-ready.org) (or [FICRA'S ficra.org](http://FICRA'S ficra.org)) where you will find a link for volunteering.

FICRA EMERGENCY PREPARATION/EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATION

ICS Communication Chart (using radios and Signal cell phone app)

