

DISASTER RESILIENCE RESOURCES

IF YOU DON'T KNOW
WHERE TO START,
START HERE.

Keys to PREPARE: Education and Planning

Learning and Training Opportunities

There are many free and low-cost training opportunities to help you and other community residents prepare for disaster. Here are a few places to start:

- [Washington Emergency Management Division](#) offers training for emergency managers and others, including courses specifically for rural communities.
- [FEMA's National Preparedness Course Catalog](#) offers a wide array of online courses addressing all hazards as well as going deeper on specific hazards.
- [American Red Cross](#) offers CPR, First Aid, and Basic Life Support Classes in Washington.
- There are also many great websites with personal preparedness information that you can access anytime, including [Emergency Preparedness Tips from the Red Cross](#), [Be 2 Weeks Ready](#), and [Ready.gov](#).

Some training helps in any emergency. Additional workshops may be targeted to a particular hazard such as wildfire or flooding. Choose training opportunities that match your community's needs and likely hazards. You could also consider setting up a [Community Emergency Response Team](#) (CERT). CERT is a FEMA-sponsored, state-run program that trains volunteers in disaster preparedness, basic first aid, fire suppression, and light search and rescue. CERT helps you develop a group of people who are interested in building these skills over time.

Assessing Risk and Planning

What types of threats or hazards are most likely to impact your community? It makes sense to think through which hazards are the biggest threats for your community, balancing the likelihood of the event and the severity if it happens. Is loss of life likely? What is the potential economic impact? Once you have identified the biggest threats to your community, you can begin to plan.

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There are several different types of emergency plans, including:

- **Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)** – A plan for an organization to keep its most important services operating during an emergency.
- **Continuity of Government Plan (COG)** – Continuity of Government (COG) plans ensure that essential government functions can continue during an emergency. A COG lays out lines of succession, alternate facilities, redundant communications, and plans for communicating with community members.

You don't have to start from scratch. [MSRC's Local Government Emergency Planning](#) resources are a great place to find information about legal requirements and sample plans from other jurisdictions.

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