



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6320
September 5, 2023
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6320: National Preparedness Month Proclamation, No. 313	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 313 proclaiming September 2023 National Preparedness Month in Mercer Island.	

DEPARTMENT:	Police
STAFF:	Amanda Keverkamp, Emergency Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 313
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

September is National Preparedness Month. Recognizing the importance of emergency preparedness each September helps remind the Mercer Island community to prepare for disasters, not just in September, but throughout the entire year.

BACKGROUND

It is not a question of if, but when, a disaster will happen. The mission of Mercer Island’s emergency preparedness program is to prepare Mercer Island to be self-sufficient for 7- to 14-days following a major disaster, when public safety and emergency medical services are most overwhelmed. This mission includes residents, businesses, schools, the faith community, and City staff.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Every year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) names a theme for National Preparedness Month. The theme for 2023 is: *Preparing for Older Adults*.

Mercer Island is home to 25,000 residents, with 20 percent of the population who are 65-years and over. Older adults may have specific needs and face greater risks during and after a disaster. Mercer Island Emergency Management works with local long-term care facilities and provides a number of opportunities to

the community to engage with personnel and volunteers, learning skills to survive during and thrive after a disaster.

During National Preparedness Month, the community is reminded to take important steps to ensure that they, their families, and their neighborhoods are ready for emergencies of all kinds by:

- **Preparing for Disasters.** Understand the hazards Mercer Island and the Puget Sound may be vulnerable to by visiting www.mercerisland.gov/emergencyprep.
- **Creating a Plan.** Build a plan for your family. Visit www.mercerisland.gov/familyemergencyplan to get started.
 - For older adults, it is important to create a support network of family, friends, neighbors, and others who can assist you during an emergency. Talk to your healthcare provider about their emergency plans and identify back-up service providers. Know what shelters will accept pets or service animals or identify a friend or family member who could help with your animals.
- **Building a Kit.** Gather supplies that will last for 7-14 days after a disaster strikes.
 - For older adults, it is important to take special needs into consideration as you build your kit including keeping extra medications and medical supplies on hand, storing extra mobility aids and assistive devices with your supplies, and keeping supplies for pets or service animals.
- **Discussing and Practicing your Plan.** Creating the plan is the first step. Make sure the entire family understands the plan is the next step.
 - For older adults, share your plan with your support network. Make sure everyone knows how you plan to evacuate your home or workplace and where you will go in case of a disaster. Identify a trusted person in your support network who you can trust with an extra key to your home.

For more ideas and suggestions on how to help older adults prepare, visit <https://www.ready.gov/older-adults>.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 313 proclaiming September 2023 National Preparedness Month in Mercer Island.