



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6980
September 1, 2026
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6980: National Preparedness Month, Proclamation No. 394	☐ Discussion Only ☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 394 proclaiming September 2026 National Preparedness Month on Mercer Island.	

DEPARTMENT:	Police
STAFF:	Jeff Magnan, Acting Police Chief Amanda Keverkamp, Emergency Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 394
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to proclaim September as National Preparedness Month with Proclamation No. 394 (Exhibit 1). 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. This year's theme is "Prepared Neighbors."

BACKGROUND

It is not a matter of if a disaster will happen, but rather when a disaster will happen.

While Mercer Island may face similar hazards as neighboring jurisdictions, our response and recovery will be more complex due to challenges unique to island-life.

The mission of Mercer Island's emergency preparedness program is to prepare all Islanders to be self-sufficient for 14 days following a major disaster, when public safety and emergency medical services are most overwhelmed. This follows the recommendation from state officials to be [2-weeks ready](#).

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Post-disaster studies have shown that individuals and communities with strong neighborly connections have higher survival rates and recover faster after a disaster.

To emphasize the importance of building strong connections between neighbors, this year, Mercer Island is joining with King County and partners across the region in focusing on a singular theme for National Preparedness Month: “Prepared Neighbors.”

In this digital age, people are more connected than ever yet know very little about the people living next door. According to a [2025 Pew Research survey](#), just 26% of American adults said that they know all or most of their neighbors.

Getting to know your neighbors before an emergency is key to building a more resilient Mercer Island. During an emergency, City and regional resources will be stretched thin and may be delayed, focused on restoring infrastructure and responding to critical needs. There will not be enough first responders or trained volunteers to help everyone who will likely need it. Neighbors will be helping neighbors after a disaster. It is for this reason that it is essential to get to know and build trust with your neighbors before disaster strikes.

Throughout National Preparedness Month, the Mercer Island community is encouraged to get to know their neighbors through these four steps:

- 1. Take the first step, meet your neighbors.**

Start small: introduce yourself, set up a neighborhood group chat, or choose a trusted neighbor to be your emergency contact.

- 2. Know who you can turn to nearby.**

During major disasters, first responders including fire, EMS, and law enforcement response may be delayed. Your neighbors will be your quickest source of help after a disaster. Knowing what skills and resources your neighbors have and sharing yours with them will create a more resilient community.

- 3. Answer the questions: “Who depends on you? Who do you depend on?”**

Building trust before a disaster makes it easier to ask for help (and to offer it) when it’s needed most. Identify those in your neighborhood may be able to help you with pets, childcare, or if you live alone and could use an extra hand during an emergency.

- 4. Know your neighborhood’s hazards.**

Understand the hazards Mercer Island and the Puget Sound may be vulnerable to by visiting www.mercerisland.gov/emergencyprep.

To help the community in this endeavor, Mercer Island Emergency Management provides a program called [Map Your Neighborhood \(MYN\)](#) free of charge to the Mercer Island community that helps neighborhoods prepare together for disasters. Emergency Management also provides regular trainings and outreach opportunities to the community.

NEXT STEPS

Helping the Mercer Island community prepare for disasters of all kinds is the role of Mercer Island Emergency Management. Throughout National Preparedness Month, Emergency Management is hosting outreach events, trainings, and exercises, including:

- Outreach Booth at the [Farmers Market](#) | September 13, 10am – 2pm
- [Stop the Bleed Class](#) | September 16, 6:30 – 8:00pm
- [Emergency Preparedness Workshop](#) | September 30, 5:30 – 7:00pm
- [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Training](#) | October 1-3
- [Map Your Neighborhood program](#) | ongoing and as requested

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 394 proclaiming September 2026 National Preparedness Month on Mercer Island.