

Lisa Clausen

From: Lisa Clausen on behalf of Burien
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 4:57 PM
To: 'P Levine'
Subject: RE: Public Safety

Thank you for your message. It will be provided to appropriate staff and included in the Correspondence for the Record for an upcoming City Council meeting.

L. Clausen
City Manager's Office

-----Original Message-----

From: P Levine [<mailto:levinepr@comcast.net>]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 3:55 PM
To: Burien
Subject: Public Safety

Good Afternoon,

In the aftermath of the terrible earthquakes and tsunami being experienced in Japan, there has been considerable discussion of "Could the Puget Sound area experience such an event?" and "Would this region be as prepared as Japan was?" According to what I have been hearing on NPR, the answer to the first question is "yes" and the answer to the following question is "no".

Since the first item appearing on your "mission list" has to do with safety, I wondered how the City of Burien might help all residents with earthquake preparedness as well as linking up with the nearby cities to share response plans. Perhaps there are already preparedness plans in place. If so, this would be a "teachable moment" to inform the public. If not, I think it would be an "organizational moment", to help people have a reason to get to know the neighbors and resources that would be available.

During that part of the "cold war", when downtown Seattle was identifying bomb shelters and holding "duck and cover" activities, my family and I lived in Rainier Vista, low-income housing. When I inquired about what residents of the "housing projects" should do in the event of an attack, no one knew the answer. I finally got the attention of the Office of Civil Defense and they held several informational meetings for residents. It was still up to us as individuals and neighbors as to what action we could take. What I learned from this experience was that the further away one lives from the seat of power in a municipality, the less attention or consideration one can come to expect, especially if one is poor.

One of the privileges I now enjoy as a Burien resident is accessibility to the City Council and the attention given to individual and group concerns. Thank you for all your efforts make this a great place to live now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Rachael Levine
430 S. 124th St.
Burien, WA 998168

CFTR:03/28/11

Lisa Clausen

From: Karen Ferreira
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 2:10 PM
To: 'levinepr@comcast.net'
Cc: Lisa Clausen
Subject: Public Safety in Burien

Rachel,

You are correct in that the Pacific Northwest has seismic conditions similar to Japan. However, for a country and population as prepared as Japan and the Japanese, the consequences of such a disaster are beyond anyone's ability to manage.

Because of our hazards, Puget Sound communities recognized years back that none of us can do it alone. The City is part of a larger emergency management community where folks regularly come together to share plans, problem solve, drill, and incorporate best practices into emergency plans, procedures and practices. Although, these and other activities do not take the place of personal preparedness. Every person, family, and business is to be prepared for three days of self-sufficiency. There are numerous sources of information to help in this process. I will provide websites at the end of this email.

Burien will take every action to keep the community informed during emergencies and disasters. As we see in Japan, people want and need information, information on the type and degree of disaster, resources, dispensing points, assembly areas, and anticipated arrival of aid. The list is endless. For information dissemination, the City has a reversed 9-1-1 system. Registration for this service is on the City's website (www.burienwa.gov) and click BurienALERT. The City has a radio station, Radio Free Burien AM 540 for broadcasting City government and emergency information, and the City's website and Channel 21 will have needed information. Local television and radio stations are also good sources.

City personnel are expected to have themselves and families prepared for these same three days of self-sufficiency. The City has trained personnel to staff the emergency operations center to coordinate emergency response and recovery operations with fire services, law enforcement, public health, public works, utilities and school districts to name a few.

Websites with guidelines on preparedness and other emergency actions are:

www.emd.wa.gov

www.seattleredcross.org

www.ready.gov

www.citizencorps.gov

I appreciate you taking the time to ask such important questions. It is never too late to start the process of being prepared. Hopefully we will never experience the same devastation experienced in Japan and other places around the world. More frequently, we can count on winter storms, rains, mudslides, and extended power failures to disrupt our lives to some degree.

Respectfully,

Karen Ferreira
Emergency Management and Safety Coordinator
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CFTR: 03/28/11