

Herron Island Emergency Guidelines

ARE YOU READY? ARE YOU PREPARED?

If this is an emergency, call 911; tell the dispatcher you're on Herron Island, off the Key Peninsula, in Pierce County – they don't always know where the island is located.

Be prepared to take care of yourself, family, and pets for 7 to 10 days minimum with food, water, medicine, and basic disaster supplies. Get training, make a kit, and maintain it. Practice and maintain a plan. Have a communication plan to friends and family off island and out of state. Purchase and maintain a wind-up radio. Make sure that your home, other structures, and vehicles are not close to a tree or heavy branch that may fall on them. If you can afford it, purchase a standby generator and have it professionally installed and maintained, or at least a portable gas-operated generator. Never bring a generator into a home; the gas fumes will result in death or severe illness. Keep extra "blue ice" in your freezer; this will help keep your food cold in case of a power outage. Sign up for medical helicopter evacuation through Airlift Northwest: 1-888-835-1599; www.airliftnw.org; membership@airliftnw.org (Note they will only fly to Herron Island upon request of Fire Department personnel). It's also recommended that you install the PulsePoint app and a first aid app on your phone. If you have experienced a major emergency or disaster, but you still have a signal on your landline or cellphone, change your outgoing voicemail to state your location, where you may be headed later, and the state of your health. If you live alone, consider wearing a medical alert device with fall detection and/or a watch that can detect falls and can call 911 if your cellphone is nearby.

PURPOSE:

To inform residents of the hazards and solutions involved in emergencies on Herron Island. These guidelines include procedures to follow to minimize any danger.

SCOPE:

These guidelines are designed to be flexible to accommodate contingencies of various types. They apply to all residents and guests, and all buildings and grounds owned, operated, and maintained by HMC Management and HMC Water Department.

DEFINITIONS:

A. MINOR EMERGENCY: Any incident or potential incident which would not seriously affect Herron Island, HMC, residents, and/or guests.

B. MAJOR EMERGENCY: Any incident which seriously affects all of Herron Island, HMC, residents, and/or guests. Outside emergency services will probably be required, as well as major efforts from others.

C. DISASTER: Any incident which seriously impairs Herron Island, HMC, residents, and/or guests. In some cases, this might involve mass casualties and severe property damage. The coordinated effort of all Island wide resources is required to effectively control the situation. If possible, an Emergency Control Center will be activated at the Community Center, designated and trained volunteers will report to their assigned stations, and decisions will be made about appropriate support and assignments.

PROCEDURES:

This section outlines the procedures to be followed during specific types of emergencies. The procedures should always be followed to the best of one's ability, in sequence, unless conditions dictate otherwise. When reporting emergencies call 911 first. While talking on the telephone, stay calm and carefully explain the problem and location to the 911 Operator. **(Tell them you are on Herron Island, off of the Key Pensinsula, in Pierce County).** DO NOT HANG UP UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.

FIRES:

A fire is the most likely disaster that may affect Herron Island and it is perhaps the deadliest one. The following measures should be reviewed and used in the event there is a fire at any location on Herron Island. There are basically two types of fires: Minor fires, which can be extinguished with a fire extinguisher, and major fires, with a call to 911 and require assistance from the Key Peninsula Fire Department. Both types call for calm and immediate action by the person discovering the fire.

Purchase a fire blanket (available from Amazon) and fire extinguisher for your kitchen. Keep a fire extinguisher in each vehicle, and make sure to shake them occasionally. Keep vegetation around your trees, home, stairs, shed, and other structures trimmed back.

It takes a minimum of 30 minutes after your 911 call to get the Fire Department from the mainland to the island. The Fire Department would rather be called and canceled if not needed than delayed with no call. The call can save lives and property. DO NOT HANG UP UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO. When you call 911, the Ferry Crew will automatically be notified and spring into action.

If you smell smoke or have any other indication of fire: alert other building occupants in the immediate area to prepare for evacuation.

If flames are observed:

Small fire: Call 911; evacuate the building or vehicle; one person should immediately use a fire extinguisher on the fire. NEVER use water on an oil fire.

Large fire: Call 911; evacuate the building or vehicle. Contact one of the persons trained on the use of the hose cart and request immediate assistance.

Keep roads and hydrants clear for emergency vehicles and personnel.

MEDICAL AND FIRST AID:

Minor injury or illness: Provide First Aid care; use sterile First Aid materials if possible.

Serious injury or illness:

Call 911, give your name, and describe the nature and the severity of the medical problem and location. (**Tell them you are on Herron Island, off the Key Peninsula, in Pierce County.**) Do not hang up until advised to do so. It takes at least 30 minutes after your 911 call to get the Fire Department from the mainland to the island. **Your call to 911 activates the ferry crew.** The Fire Department would rather be called and canceled if not needed than delayed with no call.

If more than one person is available, one person should stay with the patient; the other person should **immediately call 911** and then contact emergency volunteers on the island and/or go for help.

a. Keep the patient still and comfortable. DO NOT move the patient unless there is danger to you and/or them or you need to perform CPR. Moving a patient can cause additional broken bones.

b. Say, "Hello my name is _____ I'm here to help you."

c. Ask the patient, "Are you okay?" "What is your name? Can you tell me what happened?"

d. Check pulse and breathing. If there's no pulse or breathing, perform CPR from the patient's side, compressing the chest about an inch for adults, at the rate of about one compression per second, using both hands. Artificial respiration is optional, but do not stop CPR for more than two seconds. Trade off with another person if possible, every two minutes. If you are trained on the use of an AED (defibrillator), remove the person's upper clothing and body hair (using a razor that may be with the device; or sticky

tape on extra paddles, if any; or use duct tape), place paddles, make sure no one is touching any part of the patient, and provide electrical charge. Modern AEDs will verbally provide instructions. There are also instructions on the PulsePoint app (and you may be able to find the location of AEDs on Herron Island). Remember, if there is no pulse or breathing, the patient is technically dead; you cannot hurt them--you can only resuscitate them. (Your compressions might result in breakage of the sternum and ribs). If the patient is a baby, use two fingers for CPR; the paddles go in front and on the back.

e. Control serious bleeding by direct pressure to the wound. If the wound is on a limb, elevate the limb. Use fingers, teeshirts, etc. to stop the bleeding and hold until a paramedic takes over.

f. Continue to assist the patient until paramedics arrive and take over. If appropriate, elevate their feet, cover them to stay warm, and keep them awake.

g. Look for Emergency Medical ID. Question any witnesses and give all information to the paramedics.

h. If possible, record the time CPR started, incident occurred, etc. The goal is to keep records that may be helpful to paramedics and/or other health care personnel.

EARTHQUAKES:

Washington State sits over a fault in the earth and minor tremors occur daily, although they are not detected by most residents. Bookcases in a Herron Island home fell over in the 2001 earthquake, almost injuring one resident. It is important that bookcases, water heaters, and other heavy objects be secured in advance of an earthquake. Power, water, and communications could be “down” if a serious earthquake occurs.

If an earthquake occurs:

a. DO NOT PANIC. The motion of the earth is frightening; but, unless it shakes something down on top of you, it is harmless.

b. If the earthquake catches you indoors, stay indoors. Take cover under a desk, table, bench, or in doorways or halls and against inside walls. Stay away from glass.

c. DO NOT use candles, matches or other open flames during or after the tremors as gas may be in the air due to gas leaks.

d. If the earthquake occurs while you are outdoors, move away from buildings and utility wires. Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

e. DO NOT run through or near buildings. The greatest danger from falling debris is just outside doorways and close to outer walls.

f. If you are in an automobile when an earthquake occurs, stop the vehicle in a clear area and remain in the vehicle.

Once the tremors have ceased:

a. Check for injuries. DO NOT attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Moving an injured person can cause further injury, including breakage of bones. If emergency help is necessary, dial 911. **(Tell them you are on Herron Island, off of the Key Peninsula, in Pierce County).** DO NOT HANG UP UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.

b. Check your utilities; but do not turn them on. Each movement may have cracked water, propane, stove oil, electric, and similar tanks, wires, and conduits. Turn off your propane if you smell gas (usually done on the outside tank).

c. If the water pipes are damaged, shut off the supply if possible, and notify the HMC Water Department at 253-884-9350 and/or NW Water Systems (888-881-0958).

d. If electrical wiring is shorting out, shut off the current at the breaker or fuse box.

e. Evacuate the building immediately. Walk to the nearest exit and ask others to do the same.

f. Assist others in exiting the building. DO NOT PANIC.

g. Once outside the building, move to a clear area at least 100 feet away from the affected building(s). Stay out of severely damaged buildings. Aftershocks can shake them down.

h. Check on neighbors if possible but do not jeopardize your own safety.

i. DO NOT heed or spread rumors. They often do great harm following disasters. Stay off the telephone except to report an emergency.

k. Turn on your wind-up radio to hear any updates and emergency bulletins. You may also be able to receive radio updates inside your vehicle.

Propane Gas Leak:

Cease all operations. DO NOT switch on lights or any electrical equipment. Remember that electrical arcing can trigger an explosion. Exit the building

and proceed to your propane tank to shut it off if safe to do so. Do not re-enter the building; leave that to Fire Department personnel.

SEVERE STORMS:

Every year, Herron Island experiences winds of 50 – 60 mph; On December 18, 2018, a tornado severely damaged homes in Port Orchard, not far from Herron Island. Although rare, 18 inches of snow has fallen on Herron Island, blocking roads and limiting ferry trips.

- a. Prepare for power and phone outages. Have your flashlights and battery lanterns ready.
- b. Charge your cell phone.
- c. Have your battery /hand crank radio ready.
- d. Check your food supply.
- e. Check your generator and fuel supply.
- f. Check your yard and home's exterior for trees and heavy branches that could cause damage if they fall. Check for unsecured items which could become flying hazards.
- g. Remain indoors in the safest place in your home, away from windows and skylights. Falling trees and branches have damaged and destroyed Herron Island roofs, structures, and vehicles.
- h. Turn off unneeded electrical items and pre-heat your home. Close doors and cover windows to retain heat.
- i. In case of heavy snow, look for and release "snow dams" on your roof and elsewhere, but only if you are able to do so safely; always work in teams.

Utility failure/Power outages:

If you come across a downed utility wire of any kind, always do the following:

Assume it's energized and stay as far away as you can. Energized lines can charge the ground near the point of contact and may electrocute you. If you come upon a downed line of any kind, stay at least 35 feet away. Do not attempt to rescue a person or pet.

Call 911 or Peninsula Light Co. (253-857-5950) Outage line 253-853-1388. Leave everything to utility professionals and emergency personnel.

- a. Do not drive over downed power lines. Even if they're not energized, downed wires can get entangled with your vehicle and cause damage.
- b. Stay in your car if a power line falls on your vehicle while you're inside; do not exit until you know for sure that the line is de-energized. If you must evacuate, jump away and land with both feet together.

- c. Do not touch the vehicle while stepping on the ground, as this can create a path for electricity to run through you. Shuffle away to safety.

Keep your feet together and take small, shuffling steps until you're at least 35 feet away. Taking larger steps can also create a path for electricity to run through you.

Emergency Numbers

In case of an emergency dial 911; let the dispatcher/operator know you are on Herron Island, off the Key Peninsula, in Pierce County.

Pierce Co. Sheriff Dept. Peninsula Detachment

606 133rd St. NW. Gig Harbor, WA. 98332 (253-798-4940)

Key Peninsula Fire Department, PCFD # 16

8911 Key Peninsula Hwy KPN. Lakebay, WA. 98349 (253-884-2222)

Peninsula Light Co.

13315 Goodnough Dr. NW. Gig Harbor, WA. 98332 (253-857-5950, Outage line 253-853-1388)

Ferry captain cell phone (253-691-1457) (Call 911 in case of an emergency; the ferry crew will automatically be activated).

HMC Office (253-884-9350, Fax 253-884-5047)

Water Problems: Call the HMC Office at 253-884-9350 and/or NW Water Systems 888-881-0958. If you need to turn off water to a toilet, turn the valve below the toilet. Most houses have an inside valve to turn off water to the whole house. You can also turn off water to the whole house inside the water meter box on the road, using a simple wrench if you don't have a water tool.