



HAT ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 27

Self-Assessment Safety Checklist

*“When you can predict an unsafe condition, you can prevent it or reduce its effect on you.”
The more boxes are checked, the safer you will be.*

EVERY OWNER:

- Knows their neighbors, their neighbor’s property, and keeps an eye out.
- Understands how to access emergency services for medical, fire, police and island services. Information is posted and easily found by visitors. See the “How To Get Help” flyer at the Island Office or at the Fire Station.
- Vehicles, golf carts, and ATV’s are plainly marked with your lot number.
- Understands that the speed limit is 10 to 15 miles per hour or when no dust, whichever is less.
- Understands that no street vehicles are allowed on the beaches AND ATVs are not allowed on beaches and other areas that are signed.
- Has a plan and keeps a supply for food, water, shelter, medication and heat when unable to leave the island for 72 hours or a power outage for up to 72 hours. Update your supplies every 6 months. Including:
 - Gallon water per day per person
 - Battery-operated lights and radio
 - If you have a pet, have food and medication to last 72 hours.
- Enables their cell phone to receive emergency notifications including severe weather alerts.
- Understands that outdoor burning is closely regulated. Recreational fires are allowed when there is **not** a burn ban: fuel pile is no larger than 2 feet high and 2 feet wide, no burnable material outside of the fire, shovel and hose with water is there, adult is present, wind is less than 15 mph or no white caps on the water and fire is dead-out meaning cold to the touch. Beach fires are always prohibited. Larger fires are allowed after getting a permit from the Island Office.
- Knows that when the sirens sound continuously and do not stop for many minutes, this is an island-wide emergency. If a fire is seen, evacuate to the marina. Any other emergency, move to high ground and come to the fire station.

- Understands that the lot owner is responsible for the actions of their guests, whether or not the owner is on the island. Therefore, guests are taught about the island's rules.

YOUR HOUSE:

- Is marked with the Division and Lot number with 4 to 6 inch high letters in contrasting color. [The test: Can a first responder find you in the dark on a rainy night?]
- Gutters are clean of debris to ensure proper drainage.
- Decks and stairs are clear of leaves and water drains away. [Prevent slip and falls.]
- Hard and smooth surfaces are treated or maintained so these are not slippery.
- At night, there is adequate lighting on pathways.
- The fireplace chimney was cleaned in the last five years.
- Has a smoke detector AND the batteries in the smoke detector were changed in the last 6 months.
- Has a carbon monoxide detector that is less than 10 years old.
- Exhaust from outdoor burning, BBQ or generator are kept away from the inside. [Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning]
- For bluff property, the edge of safety is plainly marked and will protect animals and small children from going over the edge.
- Have a large fire extinguisher that is easily accessible to stop a fire in the kitchen.
- Gasoline and propane are stored away from ignition sources.
- Water is turned off at the meter when off the island.

FIRE AND YOUR PROPERTY:

Fire is the single largest threat to the island. When there is a forest fire, planning can be the difference between a house that is defensible by the Fire Department and one that is not and may be allowed to burn. These are the considerations made by the Fire Department in determining if a structure is defensible during a fire. The more boxes you check, the more likely, though not a guarantee, that your structure will survive a forest fire.

- My driveway or if my road is very narrow, is not a dead-end and shorter than 200 feet. [During a fire, the Fire Department may choose to not send engines and first responders to locations that are dangerous to get out of.]
- Lots of tree branches do not overhang my driveway.
- There are not lots of down, dead and dried fuels that line my driveway.
- My roof is not made of asphalt or wood shingles.

- There are not lots of trees that overhang my roof line.
- There are not lots of trees and dried brush that are very close to the house.
- Vehicles are not parked close to the house.
- A slope of more than 20% is not within 30 feet of a structure.
- My deck is enclosed and underneath is not lots of dried fuels.
- Firewood and other fuels are not stored next to the structure.
- Gutters are clear of burnable material.

MEDICAL:

- Use the Fire Department's trained Emergency Medical Technicians by calling 911. See the "How To Get Help" flyer available at the Office, the fire station and on-line.
- Have a membership to Airlift Northwest for helicopter evacuation coverage for emergencies. Their website: <https://www.uwmedicine.org/airliftnw/membership>
- Pre-arrange with two "buddy boaters" who could take you off the island when the ferry is not available for a non-emergency medical event for you or your pet. Back-up plan: ask the office staff who could help.
- Have A substantial first aid kit that is easy to get to and can quickly stop severe bleeding.
- For life-threatening allergies or conditions, have readily accessible medication and instructions for those who could help.
- Have back-up essential medication on-hand.
- Complete the short courses in first aid, CPR and AED. Contact the fire department for more information.

IF YOU HAVE A BOAT:

- Wear your PFD when near the water.
- Have a PFD for every potential passenger AND there is a throwable device. All are easy to get to.
- Understand that if you fall into the water, you lose the control of fine motor skills (fingers and hands) in 10 minutes and you may likely die after an hour due to the cold. Therefore, stay out of cold water. If someone is in the water and in trouble, use this strategy: REACH, THROW, ROW.
- Have visual distress signal devices.
- Have a VHF marine radio with digital selective calling that is on and monitoring channel 16 when underway.
- Carry a fire extinguisher, with the label, "Marine Type USCG and type B-1 or B-2"

- Keep the fuel tank at least 25% full.
- Recently checked that the bilge pump.
- Pass a courtesy inspection by the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the last 24 months. This is available at the island's Community Safety Day.
- Before leaving, always check the weather and conditions and operate the boat within your comfort zone.
- The wake you make when overtaking a boat is the most dangerous. Slow pass with lots of space.
- Never, ever use your hands, arms, feet or legs to fend off a boat.
- Never jump from the boat onto the dock.
- Give your new passengers a safety briefing before leaving the dock that includes what to expect during the trip and what to do.

At The Marina:

- Know where the closest fire extinguisher is, where the AED is at the Island Office, where a life ring is located and where the nearest water exit ladder is.
- Understand that departing boats have right-of-way.
- Use your horn near the opening of the breakwater to signal your presence to oncoming boats.
- Understand that when approaching the marina, slow down early to prevent your wake from going into the marina AND sound a horn to warn oncoming boaters.
- Understand that in the marina go only idle speed or 4 knots.
- Be aware of the condition of other boats around you and report concerns to the island staff.
- Understand that spilling fuel in the water requires action. 2 cups of oil can spread into 1-acre oil slick that is larger than a football field (source: EPA). Most spills start in the bilge, the lowest part of the boat. Put oil absorbent pads under the engine. Every day you use the boat, look at the engine and look for fuel and oil leaks.

Because most boat fires are caused by electrical problems:

- If the shore power socket in the pedestal is charred or loose, report the issue immediately.
- Is your shore power cord labeled as NEMA approved?
- Is your shore power cord is rated for the same amperage or more as the circuit breaker on the power pedestal? Typically, 30 amp.
- Is your power cord connection on the boat a Smart Plug or is clean, dry and tight?