



THE MONITOR

NEWS FROM WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

Proudly serving the communities of Lakewood, University Place & Steilacoom

www.westpierce.org



VIRTUAL CLASSROOM NOW AVAILABLE

When COVID-19 changed the way we conducted business on every level, one component we did not want to miss was education among our community's youth.

Community risk reduction programs are a vital part of the community's success. At West Pierce Fire & Rescue, our Prevention Division focuses on a variety of fire and injury prevention programs. This type of education provides families with the knowledge to make educated choices about fire and life safety risks. The most successful community risk reduction programs at WPFR are those taught in

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VIRTUAL CLASSROOM NOW AVAILABLE, CON'T.

the elementary schools. Students who attend schools in Lakewood and University Place have the opportunity to take part in these programs.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, only five of the 20 elementary schools were able to have an in-person visit from WPFR educators before schools closed in the spring of 2020. Since then, public educators have yet to be able to return to the classroom. As an alternative, WPFR educators created video lessons for teachers and parents to use to educate students about safety.

In addition to these videos, WPFR has created a virtual classroom for teachers and parents to use to help their child and family learn about vital life safety lessons. An array of educational tools are available through the classroom and are being updated as needed. The topics covered are based on grade level.

In Kindergarten, the focus is on general fire safety and teaching children that firefighters are friends who want to help them. Additional topics include creating a fire escape plan and knowing what to do if they hear a smoke alarm.

Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. First grade students learn about child passenger safety and the

importance of booster seats to stay safe in cars. Fire safety topics are reinforced once again in second grade to include the science behind fires. This program teaches children about the fire triangle and tips for preventing fires in the home.

In third grade, emergency preparedness starts early so families can work together to prepare themselves and their home. In fourth grade, the focus is wheeled sports, such as skateboards, scooters and bikes. Topics include how to properly fit a bike helmet, rules of riding your bike on the road or sidewalk and wearing bright colors so drivers can see you.

In fifth grade, the first aid program focuses on personal safety and when to call 9-1-1 or an adult for help. It also addresses basic first aid skills, such as assisting someone who is choking and how to control bleeding.

The education students receive from these programs at each grade level are experiences that can stay with them for a lifetime and make a real difference. The more families reached with these programs, the stronger, safer and more resilient our community becomes. WPFR values the strong relationships with local schools and looks forward to partnering with teachers and administrators throughout the school year.

PREPARE IN A YEAR

Preparedness is key for any disaster. Are you ready if a disaster were to strike tomorrow? The Prepare in a Year series breaks down disaster preparedness tasks into monthly tasks, making it easier to handle. Below are two tasks to complete to make sure your family is prepared for a disaster, no matter when it may strike.

May - Important Documents

After a disaster, you may need to access to important documents. To prepare, you can scan your documents or use your cell phone's camera to take pictures of your documents and put them on an encrypted flash drive or a password locked file.

You should make copies of:

- property insurance papers
- health insurance papers
- financial papers
- will(s)
- power of attorney
- estate papers

You might also consider taking pictures or videos of your valuables as documentation for insurance claims. Other important documents may include: anything to help identify people in your home, children, and your pets, anything to help you request insurance and disaster assistance, medical documents, emergency contact information, and valuables.

Prep tip: For the physical copies of your documents, they should be stored in a safe deposit box, or a fireproof box.

June - Get Two Weeks Ready

When a large disaster happens, it could take up to two weeks for resources to assist us. It is important that you are prepared to take care of you and your family for at least two weeks. You can be two weeks ready by preparing beforehand. Gather lighting supplies like flashlights, camping lanterns, light sticks, or solar lights.

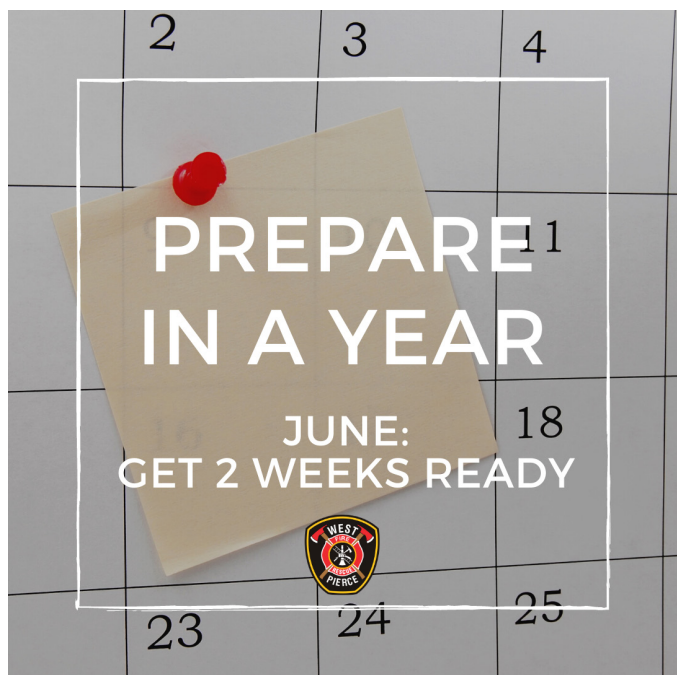
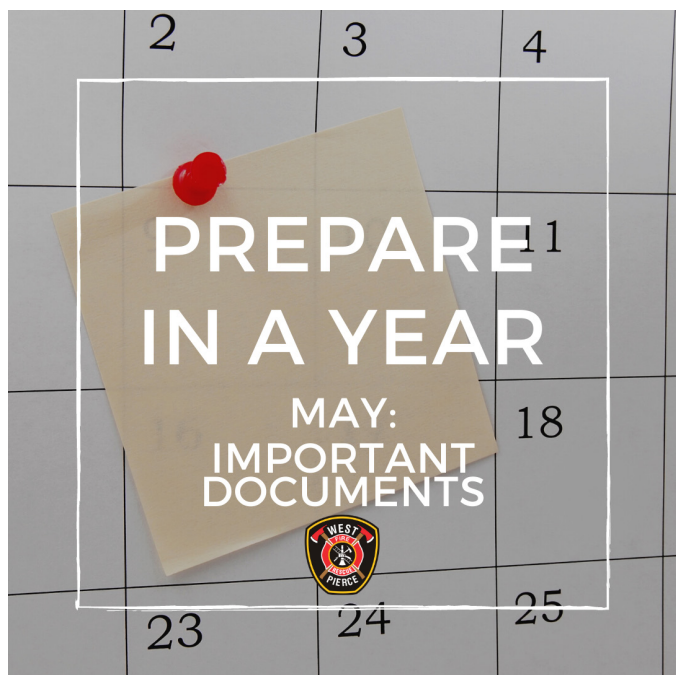
For cooking during the two weeks, you can store a camp stove, butane stove, or even a barbecue. It is important to never use a camp stove or burn charcoal indoors because it could cause carbon monoxide poisoning. Consider adding disposable utensils, cups and plates to your kit since washing dishes might be difficult.

Having an alternate means of shelter could also be useful. Storing a tent or waterproof tarp, sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, rain gear, and emergency blankets will be useful if you do not want to sleep in your home after a major disaster.

You may already have most of the supplies that you need at home. For supplies that you do need, gather things over multiple trips and slowly grow your 2 weeks ready kit.

Prep tip: most of the items you need can be bought at dollar or discount stores.

For more information about the Prepare in a Year program or for this month's focus, please see this helpful guide, available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).





**DON'T JUST
PACK IT.
WEAR YOUR
LIFE JACKET.**



**KNOW THE
WATER.**

**KNOW THE
LIMITS.**

**WEAR A
LIFE JACKET.**

Even strong swimmers can't sustain cold water for long.

Be sure to wear a life jacket if you're on or near water.

Need a low-cost, custom-fit life jacket? Contact us! We can help!

[Request an appointment online today!](#)

**CONNECT
WITH US**



FACEBOOK

Follow us on Facebook to see what's happening in our community. Facebook is where we share safety tips, showcase community partnerships, advertise for events and classes, and much more.

facebook.com/westpierce



TWITTER

Follow us on Twitter for real time updates during large incidents. Twitter is our direct link to the local media, so it can be delivered to your feed instantly.

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INSTAGRAM

Follow us on Instagram to see all things West Pierce. From incidents to safety tips to behind the scenes, our Instagram feed and stories have a little bit of everything.

[@westpiercefir](https://www.instagram.com/westpiercefir)

**3631 DREXLER DRIVE W
UNIVERSITY PLACE 98466**

**253.564.1623
www.westpierce.org**