



## ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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### AGENDA

#### REGULAR SESSION

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 1:00 p.m.  
Commissioners Hearing Room B102  
Coupeville Annex Building

Meetings are available remotely. Those interested in attending the meetings by computer, tablet, or smartphone may use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/IslandCountyBOH> or by telephone: 1-323-433-2396 Meeting ID 971 2319 5885 Pass code: 626749

***Call to Order:*** October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Session of the Island County Board of Health

***Additions or Changes to the Agenda:***

***Approval of the Minutes:***

- September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, *Minutes*

***Public Input/Comments:*** The Board values the public's input. This time is set aside to hear from the public on subjects of a health-related nature, not on the scheduled agenda. All information given is taken under advisement. Unless emergent in nature no action is taken. To ensure proper recording of comments, state your name and address clearly into the microphone. Limit your comment to two minutes. The Board may entertain public comment on specific agenda items when discussed.

***Presentation:***

- Overview of Voluntary Guardian Ad Litem (VGAL) program, presented by Cheryl Duncan, Island County VGAL Program Coordinator – *20 minutes*

A review of the VGAL program and opportunities to strengthen partnerships with Public Health, Human Services, and other referral networks – *Attachment*

***Presentation:***

- Communications and Social Media Project Update, presented by Cecily Doyle, President of Blueprint Media, Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director of Public Health, and Melissa Overbury-Howland, Public Health Office Lead – *20 minutes*

A review of the metrics and progress related to social media outreach and communications for Public Health and Human Services. – *Attachment*

***Presentation:***

- Winter Storm Readiness, presented by Eric Brooks, Director of Emergency Management – *15 minutes*

Resources and Q&A information for the board and the public to consider as we approach the cold season– *Attachment*

***Presentation:***

- Impact Report Draft, presented by Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director of Public Health— *15 minutes*

Review of the draft of the 2023-2024 Impact Report for Public Health. This report includes metrics shared with the Board of Health in July, and also maps metrics back to the priorities set in the Public Health Strategic Vision report. — *Attachment*

***Public Health Updates:***

- Debrief and general discussion of the Board of Health WSALPHO training from earlier this month — *5 minutes*
- Update on South Whidbey Care-a-Van
- Health Officer Update

***Board Announcements:***

- Cancellation of the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board of Health Regular Session.

***Adjourn:*** The next regular session of the Island County Board of Health will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room (B102) in the Coupeville Annex Building.



# **ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF**

## **HEALTH**

### **MINUTES**

#### **REGULAR SESSION**

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Island County Board of Health met in Regular Session on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room (Room #102B), Annex Building, 1 N.E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Coupeville, Washington.

#### **Members present:**

Commissioner Melanie Bacon, Chair  
Commissioner Jill Johnson  
Commissioner Ron Wallin  
Capt. Lund

#### **Member present by video:**

Mayor Ronnie Wright  
Commissioner Janet St. Clair

#### **Members Excused:**

#### **Others present:**

Taylor Lawson  
Melissa Overbury-Howland  
Melissa Hartmann  
Megan Roorda

Dr. Howard Leibrand (Online)  
Jaime Hamilton  
Lynda Austin  
Heather Kortuem

#### **Call to order:**

Commissioner Bacon called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and welcomed Capt. Lund.

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was approved.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

By unanimous vote, the June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Session Minutes and the July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Session Minutes were approved.

#### **Public Input or Comment:**

No Public Comment

#### **Presentation:**

The Island County Assessment Team presented on the 2024 Island County Community Health Needs Assessment. This included an overview of highlights from the Community Health Assessment report, intending to provide insight into key findings, as well as demonstrate the design and content organization of the full report.



# **ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

## **REGULAR SESSION**

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **Presentation:**

Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director of Public Health, gave a presentation on the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHA) Dissemination and Outreach Plan. This detailed the continuation of the CHA GANTT Chart outlining outreach activities to take place between September and December 2024. The next step will be to begin CHIP activities in January 2025.

### **CHAB Nomination:**

Taylor Lawson presented Chris Geiger to the board as a Community Health Advisory Board nominee.

ACTION TAKEN: By unanimous vote, the Island County Board of Health accepted the nomination.

### **Public Health Updates:**

- Marian Myszkowski gave an update from the CHAB.
- Public Health Officer Dr. Leibrand reemphasized that COVID-19 boosters are available.

### **Board Member Comments and Announcements:**

The Regular Session adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

The next *Regular Session* of the Island County Board of Health will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room (B102) in the Coupeville Annex Building.

SUBMITTED BY:

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Taylor Lawson, Public Health Deputy Director

Approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

BOARD OF HEALTH  
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Melanie Bacon, Chair



# Introduction to the Island County VGAL Program

Cheryl Duncan, VGAL Program Coordinator



# Dependency in Island County by the numbers

- Currently 25 children in dependency in Island County
- 12 VGALs represent 23 children
- In 2023 there were 34 children in dependency
- Dependency Court is a specialized docket of the Island County Superior Court
- As of mid-year, 4,971 children in Washington State were in out-of-home care.

Birth-5	6-12	12+
14	6	5
In County	Out of IC	With family or fictive kin
6	19	10

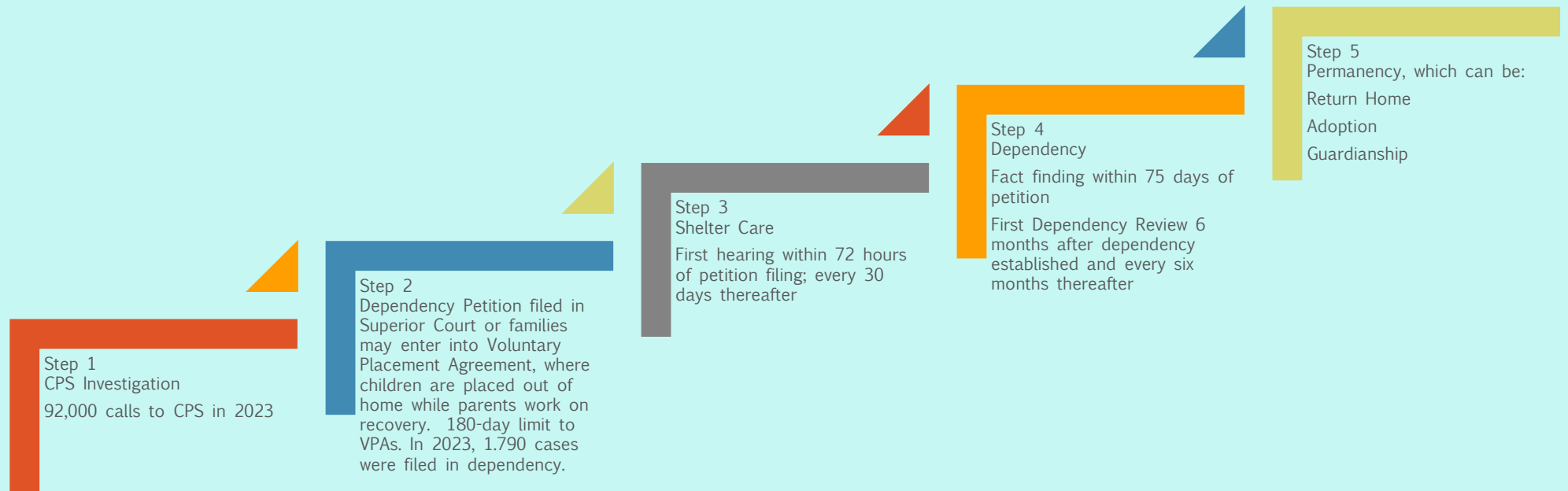


# Why are children removed from their home?

- New standard from **Keeping Families Together Act**: Children are removed from home only where there is an **imminent safety threat to the child**. The conditions in the home must have a **causal relationship** to the imminent physical harm.
- Things that do not support removal, without a causal connection to imminent harm: poverty, inadequate housing, substance abuse, mental illness, disability of parent or child, nonconforming social behavior.
- SB 6109 modifies the above by allowing courts to give great weight to presence of opioids in the home when considering removal.
- There must be a determination that the danger of imminent physical harm to the child **outweighs** the harm of removal.
- The Keeping Families Together Act was enacted due to 1. the overrepresentation of BIPOC children in the child welfare system; and 2. the acknowledgement that, even in cases of abuse and neglect, forcibly removing children from home is inherently traumatic.
- Prior standard was much less rigorous: probable cause of harm to child without removal.

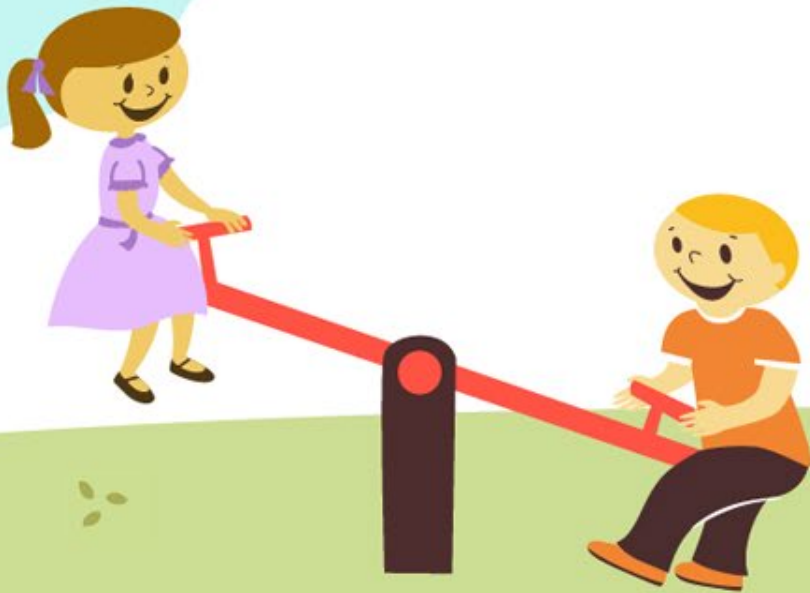


# Dependency Timeline-When allegations of abuse or neglect are made...



# What is a Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem?

A specially trained citizen appointed by a Juvenile Court judge to represent a child removed from home in cases of abuse and neglect in dependency court.



# What is the role of a VGAL in dependency court?

A VGAL's role in dependency proceedings is to present the court with an informed and objective perspective regarding what is in the best interest of the child. Some have called VGALs the "eyes and ears of the court."



# The Island County Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (VGAL) Program

- Part of Juvenile Court Services
- In place since 1987
- Formerly known as the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Program





# The History of Child Advocacy in Washington State

- 1976: Judge David Soukup of King County Superior Court founded Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers were members of the community given the job of representing children in dependency court and speaking for the child's best interests.
- Before the creation of CASA, children in dependency had no one representing their best interests. As Judge Soukup said, "Judges need CASA volunteers in their courts and they really need to be a party to the action, because there's no one else in that courtroom whose only function is to address the child's needs. Everyone else has some other role."





- Island County CASA was part of the National CASA, but no longer is
- Now Island County is part of the Washington Association of Child Advocate Programs, or WACAP.
- WACAP represents both CASA and VGAL programs in Washington State.
- Washington State has over 1,500 volunteers in the CASA and VGAL programs, serving almost 5,000 children in dependency.

What's the difference between a CASA and a VGAL?

Absolutely nothing...the duties are identical.



# What do VGALs do to advocate for the best interests of children in dependency?

## Investigate facts

- Meet with child at least monthly
- Meet with caregivers
- Meet with parents
- Meet with teachers, family members
- Review medical and therapeutic records
- Attend meetings involving child

## Recommend a course of action to the court

- How often should the parents visit with the child (it's required!)
- Should these visits be unsupervised, or is there a safety reason why they should be supervised or monitored?
- What services does the child need? Counseling, medical, educational, therapeutic?
- What services do the parents need? Substance use disorder assessments, treatments, mental health assessments, counseling, etc.
- Where should the child be placed while the parents are working to remedy their parental deficiencies?



# What do VGALs do to advocate for the best interests of children in dependency? (continued)

## Facilitate the resolution of problems

- VGALs are trained to be familiar with programs for children, parents, and caregivers and are knowledgeable of community resources.
- Whatever the issue, a VGAL is trained to investigate and offer solutions.
- The VGAL can ask the court to take action on behalf of the child.

## Monitor progress towards establishing permanency for the child

- Reunification with parents is always the main goal. Study after study show that children do better with their parents long-term.
- Main question: Is there an imminent safety threat to child if returned home to parent? If the answer is no, then child should be returned to parents.
- Things that are not to be considered in reunification analysis: Parents' lack of financial resources, instability of housing, fact that foster parents may on paper seem to offer child more stable life or financial security.



If reunification is not available, due to parent's inability to remedy the parental deficiencies that have led to the dependency, the VGAL will make one of the following recommendations:

### Adoption

- By foster parents, relatives, or a family looking to adopt (doesn't have to be foster placement).
- Parental rights must be terminated or relinquished first before adoption can happen.
- Child is legal part of new family, parent's rights are extinguished.

### Title 13 Guardianship

- By relatives or fictive kin.
- Parental rights are not terminated, physical custody and right to make decisions for child rest with guardian.
- Guardianship ends when child is 18.
- Can be undone by court if in the best interests of the child.



# How does the VGAL let the court know what is in the child's best interest?

## Attends all hearings involving the child

- Hearings happen at dependency court on Thursday morning at 9:30.
- VGAL on occasion may have to file a motion on behalf of the child to require the state to take some action.

## Prepares and files court reports containing recommendations

- Generally, court reports are required every six months for dependency review hearings.
- If there is a fact finding to determine if the state has met its burden as to whether the child should be a dependent, the VGAL files a fact-finding report and may be called as a witness.
- If there is a trial to terminate parental rights, the VGAL files a fact-finding report and may be called as a witness.



# How do VGALs differ from:

## Social Workers

- Social workers have many cases at a time, sometimes dozens.
- Social workers must consider the interests of the department, parents, as well as the child. They are also bound by DCYF policies.
- VGALs typically represent only one or two children, which allows them to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the child's needs and unique circumstances.
- The VGAL does not replace the social worker, but instead is an independent appointee of the court.

## Attorneys

- The VGAL does not provide legal representation in the courtroom, which is the role of an attorney.
- VGALs inform the court of the child's wishes, but but speak to the child's best interests.
- Attorneys are required to take direction from their client and advocate for their wishes and desires, whether or not it is in the best interests of interests of the child.
- There are also GALs in divorce and custody cases. **In a child custody case, a GAL is someone who investigates the parties' parenting-related allegations and makes recommendations to the judge, such as recommending which party should receive custody (primary care). The judge usually follows the recommendations.**



# What is required to become a VGAL?

## Who can be a VGAL?

- No special skills required, such as a background in social work or education
- Must be 21 years old
- Must make a minimum commitment of 2 years

## What training is required?

- Each VGAL must complete a comprehensive 30-hour Core Training
- Each VGAL must complete an 8-hour local training, including an observation of dependency court
- Each VGAL must pass a background check, including fingerprinting, annually.
- Each VGAL must earn 12 hours of continuing education training annually





# Are the VGAL on their own in carrying out their duties? What is the Program Coordinator's role in all of this?

- Conducts monthly trainings
- Advises VGALs and goes to court with them
- Assists with report writing
- Represents the VGAL Program at the county and state level
- Files motions on behalf of VGAL, if necessary
- Recruits and trains new volunteers
- Reviews all recommendations of VGALs
- Attends meetings with VGALs (Shared Planning Meetings and Family Time Decision Meetings)
- Generally there for whatever the VGALs need-research, sounding board, strategy sessions, filing motions.





# What benefits do VGALs provide the children they represent?

- Independent research shows that children assigned to an advocate have better outcomes than children who are not. They receive more court-ordered services and are more likely to end up in a permanent home.
- Children with an advocate generally spend less time in the court system, less time in foster care, and have a better chance at a safe, stable home.
- In many cases, the VGAL is the one consistent adult in the life of a child, who has already lost so much by the time he or she enters dependency.
- VGALs offer children trust and advocacy, they can explain to the child the events that are happening, the reasons they are in court, and the roles the judge, lawyers and social workers play.



# Program Needs

## Volunteers

- VGALs: Estimate 12-15 hours per month after initial training
- Parent supports in recovery, such as Parent 4 Parent group (parent allies who have been through dependency), Recovery Navigators, etc.

## Foster Parents

- Only nine foster parent homes in Island County
- Only two homes accepting children
- Need homes for more than just infants, especially Behavior Support Homes



Questions? Feel free to reach  
out. Cheryl Duncan, Program  
Coordinator

[c.duncan@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:c.duncan@islandcountywa.gov)





# Communications Update

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Looking at Social Media and Communications  
for Island County Public Health and Human Services



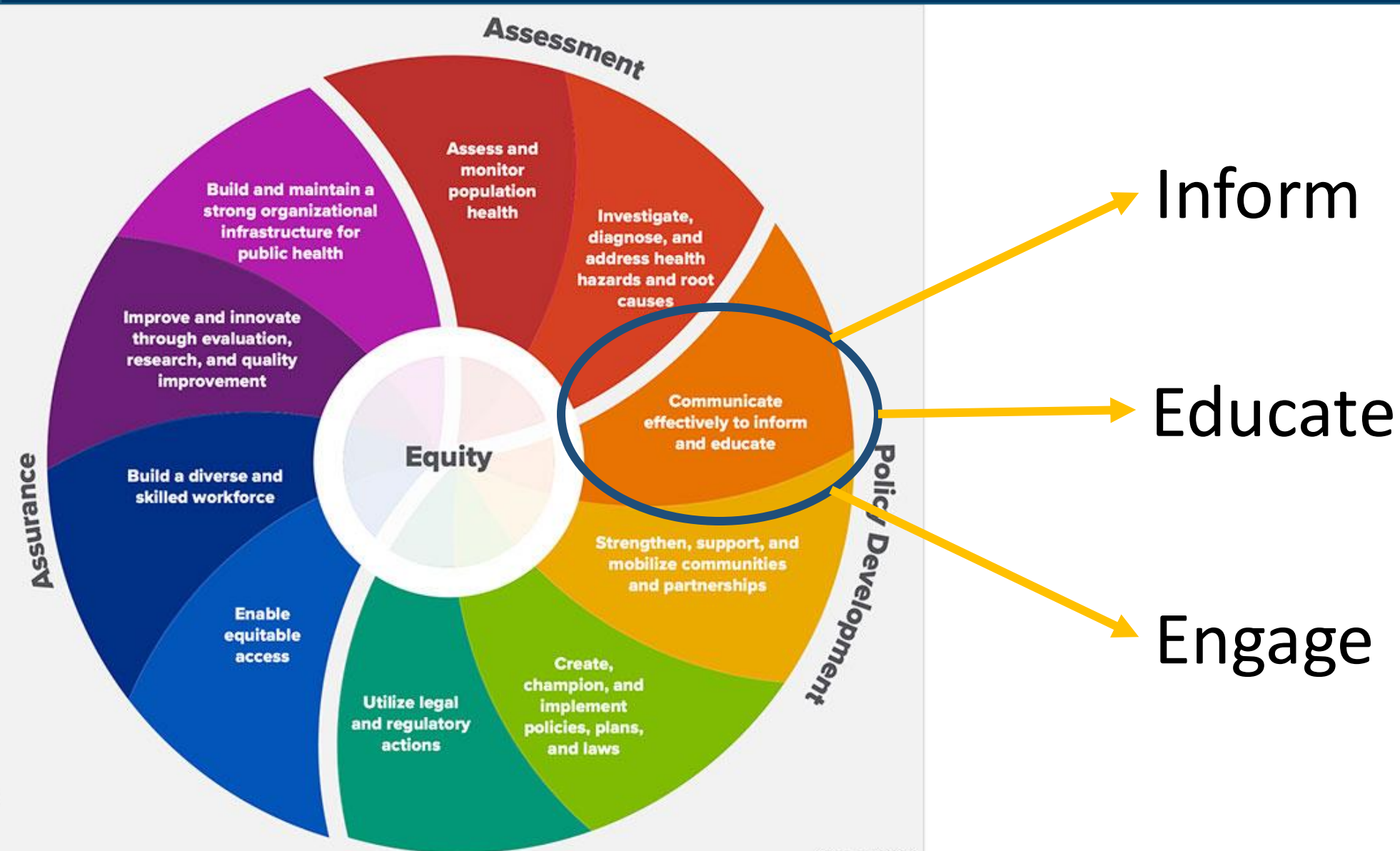
As of 2024,  
over **70%** of the **US population**  
**regularly** use some form of **Social Media**.

...**81%** for ages  
49 and under

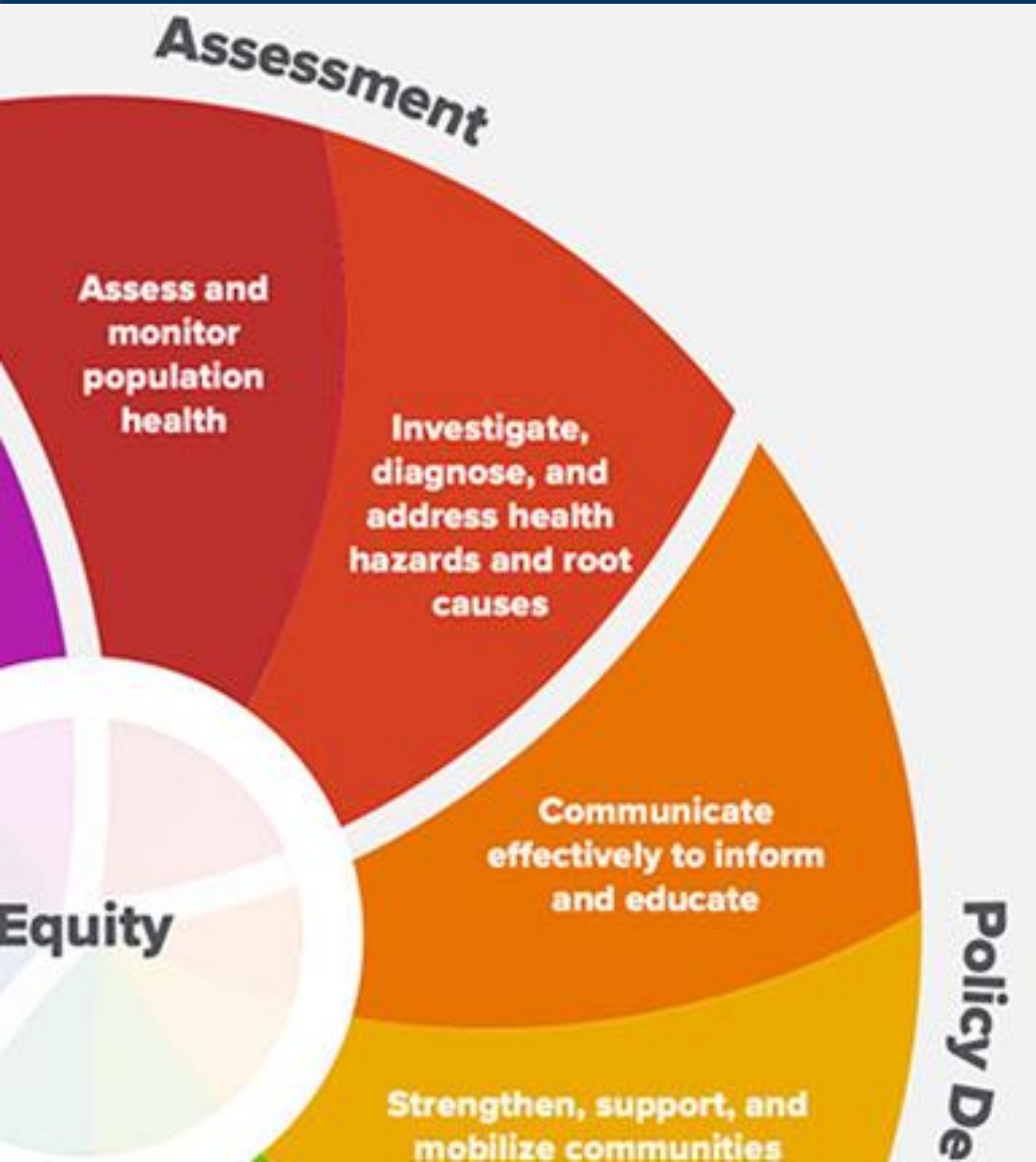
...**45%** for ages  
65 and over



# The 10 Essentials of Public Health Services



# Public Health Communications



**Effective**

**Timely**

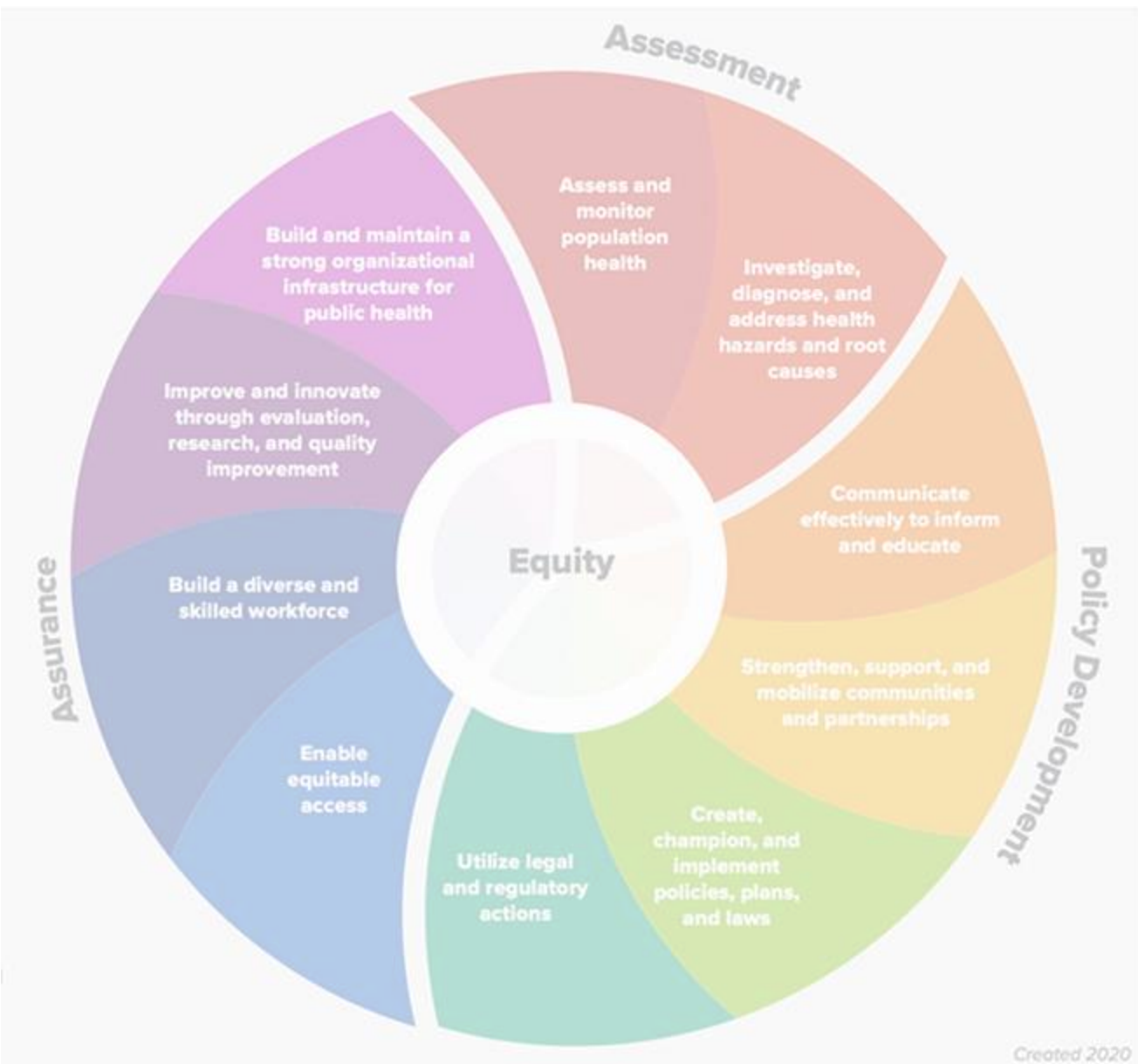
**Accessible**

**Engaging**

**Trusted**

**Varied**





To be effective and more equitable, public health communication efforts need to be responsive to the dynamic and evolving nature of the digital environment including different online behaviors and social media use patterns of diverse demographic groups.

*Boston University School of Public Health*



- PRINTED MATERIAL TO PUBLIC AND PARTNERS

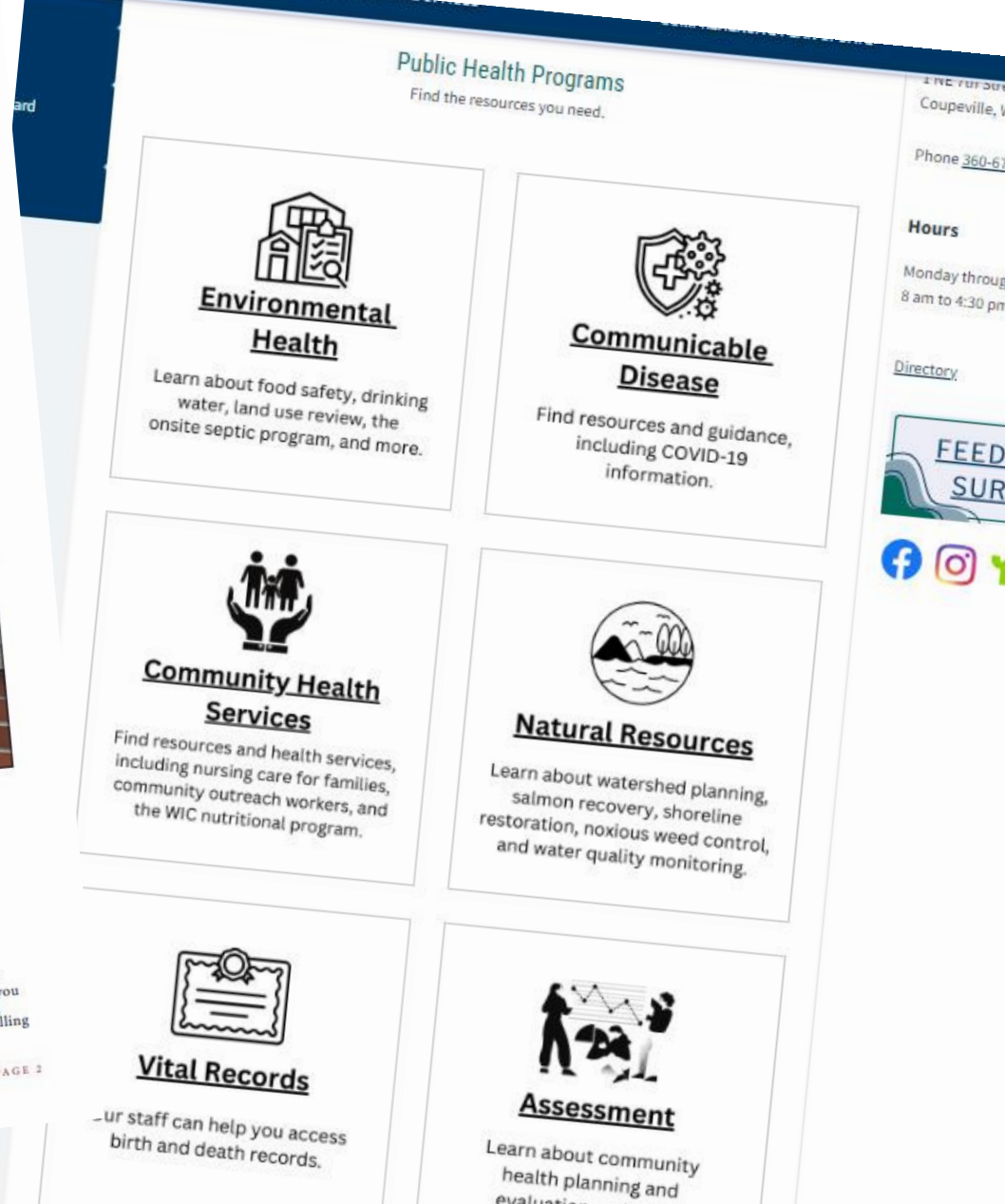
- OUTREACH AT EVENTS





- NEWSLETTERS

- PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WEBPAGES AND RESOURCE HUBS





## Social Media Communications

- Staff post about their programs
- Contract with Blueprint Agencies and Vibrant Media
- Focus on Facebook, Instagram, and NextDoor.



### Island County Public Health

4.6K followers • 224 following





Since January 2024



Net Follows

**258**

30.2%

4.8K Followers

Content Interactions

**4K**

26.9%

Reach

**2.2K**

145%

Content Interactions

**705**

100%





Since January 2024



## **768 Link Clicks**

That's 768 people who accessed health information through our county website or our local and state partners...







# Informing the Public: our most popular posts...



Reach 12,574



Reach 13,318



Reach 11,365

## Public Alert Bat tested positive for rabies on Whidbey Island

### Please take precautions:

- Do not touch or handle wild animals, especially bats
- Have your children tell an adult if they find a bat.
- Report wildlife observations
- Do not feed wild animals or try to keep them as pets
- Bat-proof your home
- Protect your pets by vaccinating against rabies





# Listening to Our Community



Would you please consider offering this on Camano too? We have plenty of new parents who can use encouragement and connection.

3d Like Reply Send message Hide

Can you offer something like that for postpartum moms who have lost their babies? 🥺

2d Like Reply Send message Hide



# A Focus on Equity



## National Depression Screening Day

**Don't wait** — take a moment to prioritize your mental well-being. Share this with friends and family, because mental health matters.


## Día Nacional de Detección de la Depresión

¡No lo dejes para después! Tómame un momento para cuidar tu bienestar mental. Comparte este mensaje con amigos y familiares, porque la salud mental es fundamental.

Si tú o alguien que conoces está en crisis, llama o envía un mensaje de texto al **988**.



## Be Prepared.



**Learn your hazards.**  
Understand the risks in your area. Knowing what could happen is the first step in being prepared.



**Have a plan.**  
Create a family disaster plan. Decide on meeting locations and identify an out-of-area contact.



**Build a kit.**  
Prepare a "2 Weeks Ready" kit for your home and smaller kits for work, school, and vehicles.

For more information about emergency planning visit the Department of Emergency Management page on the Island County website.

## Prepárate.



**Identifica los peligros.**  
Comprende los riesgos en tu área. Conocer lo que podría suceder es el primer paso para estar preparado.



**Ten un plan.**  
Crea un plan familiar de emergencia. Decide los lugares de encuentro e identifica un contacto fuera de la zona.



**Arma un kit**  
Prepara un kit de "Listo para 2 Semanas" para tu hogar y kits más pequeños para el trabajo, la escuela y los vehículos.

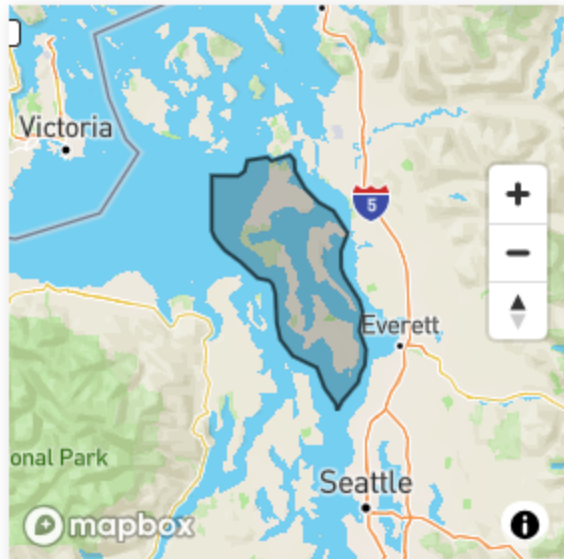
Para más información sobre la planificación de emergencias, visita la página del "Department of







# nextdoor :A Community Celebrating



**Island County Public Health**  
28,825 members  
19,636 claimed households  
143 neighborhoods

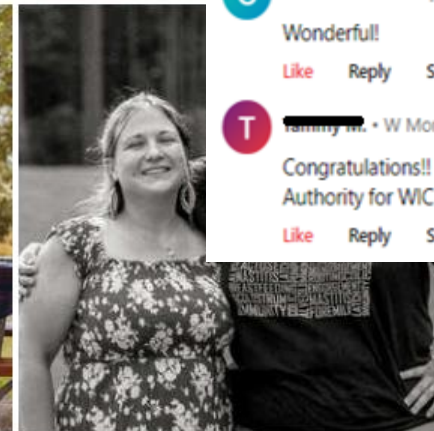
[Invite](#)



**Island County Public Health** ✓

Community Health Public Health • 6 Aug

WOW! Our Island County Public Health WIC Team has received the 2024 WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence from the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. [See more](#)



T

• S Smugglers Cove • 7w

Bravo!

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

...

1

K

• Scatchet Head • 7w

Congratulations and thanks!

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

...

1

C

• Coupeville • 7w

Wonderful!

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

...

1

T

• W Monticello Dr • 7w

Congratulations!! This is great, I know, because I was a BPC and a Professional Authority for WIC in Alaska.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

...

1

Posted to **Subscribers of Island County Public Health**

[Add a comment...](#)

6,455 Impressions [♥ 49](#) [💬 14](#) [➦](#)



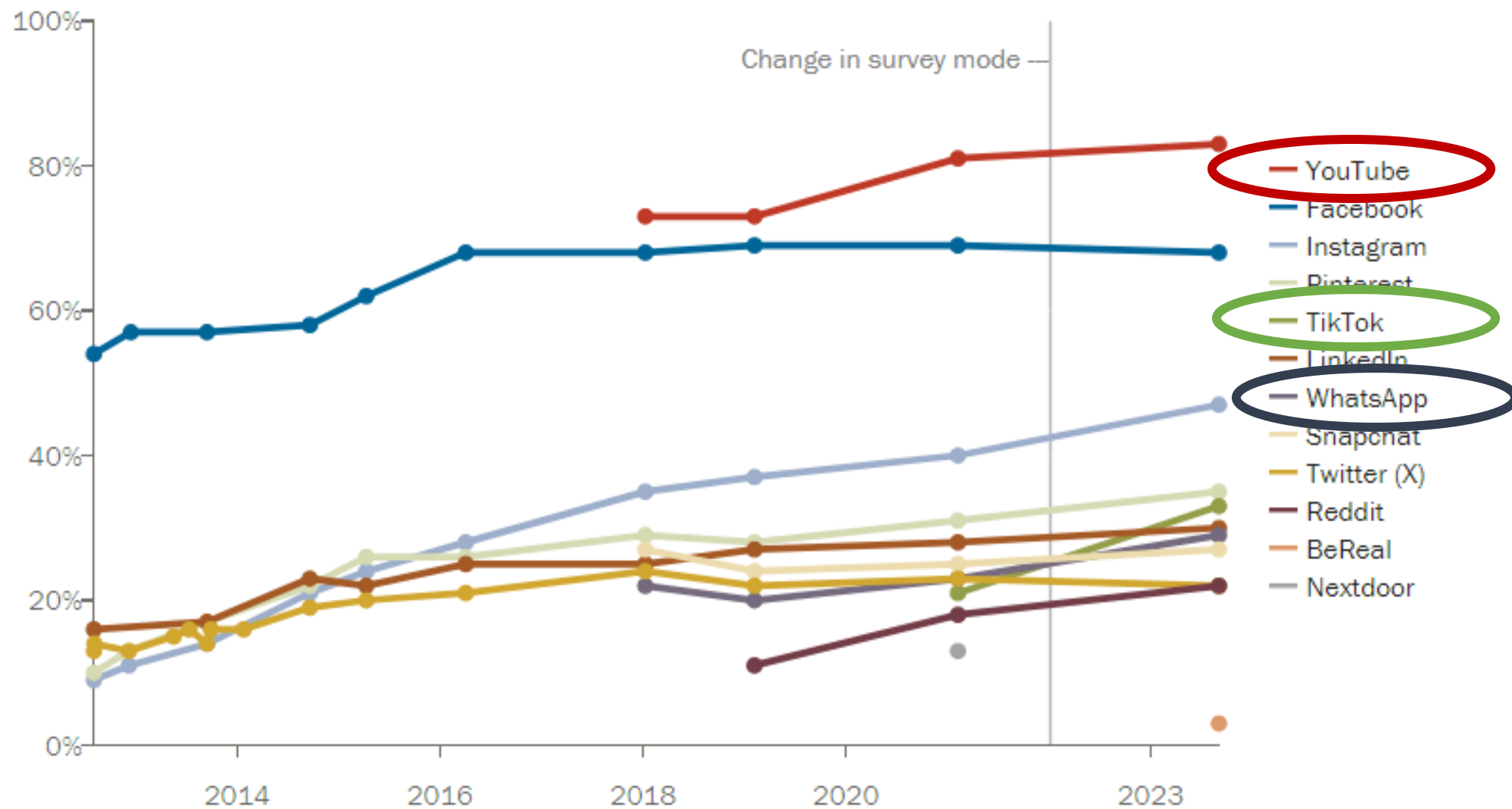
# Why expand our Public Health Social Media Communications?

The average social media user has accounts on  
**6.6**  
different platforms...



# Which social media platforms are most popular

% of U.S. adults who say they ever use ...



# In terms of health-related uses of social media...

- the most popular activity was watching **health-related YouTube videos (41%)**
- followed by **sharing health information on social networking sites (17%)**

- *Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)*

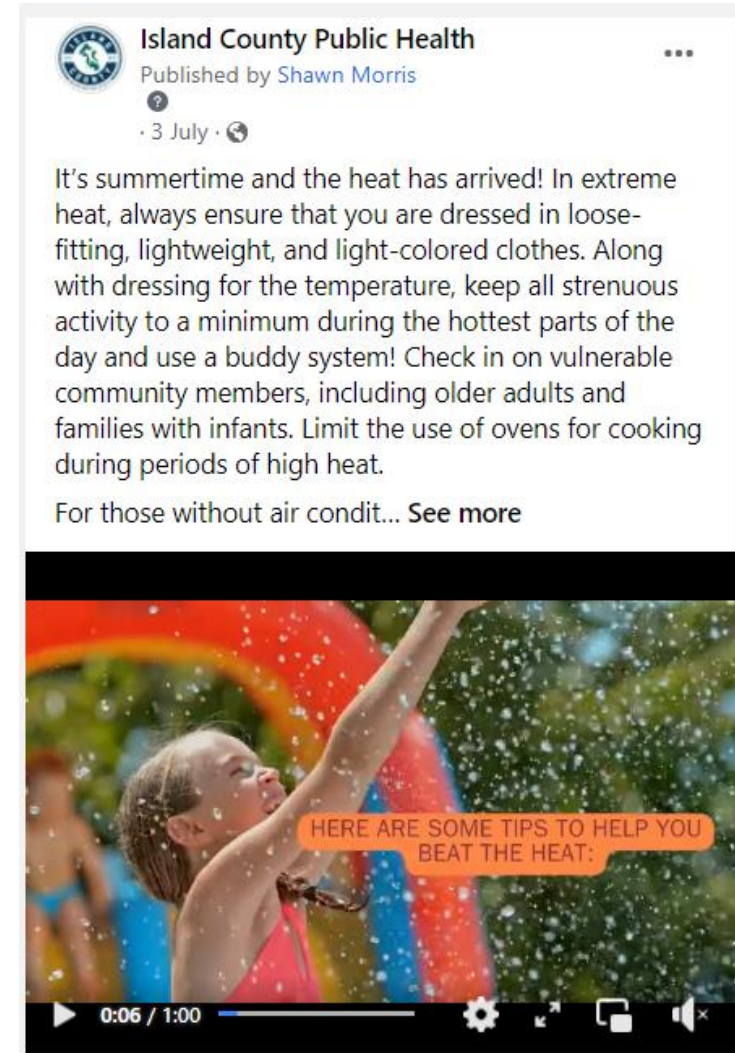




# Where can we go from here?

## Expand to Popular and Upcoming Apps

- Create **video content**
- Improve equity/ reach **minority populations** via WhatsApp and partnering with Vibrand Media





# Where can we go from here?

## **‘Plug and Play’ Templates**

- Can be used by staff for **easy material publication**

## **Complete Website Audit**



# Where can we go from here?

## Public Health and Human Services Resource Navigator

- **Location specific** to Island County
- Unlike print material, service information can be **updated immediately**
- Easy, **any-time access** on your mobile





# Let's Communicate...

## Any Questions?





# **Preparing for Winter Weather**

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Eric Brooks, Director

Island County Department of Emergency Management



# Forecast

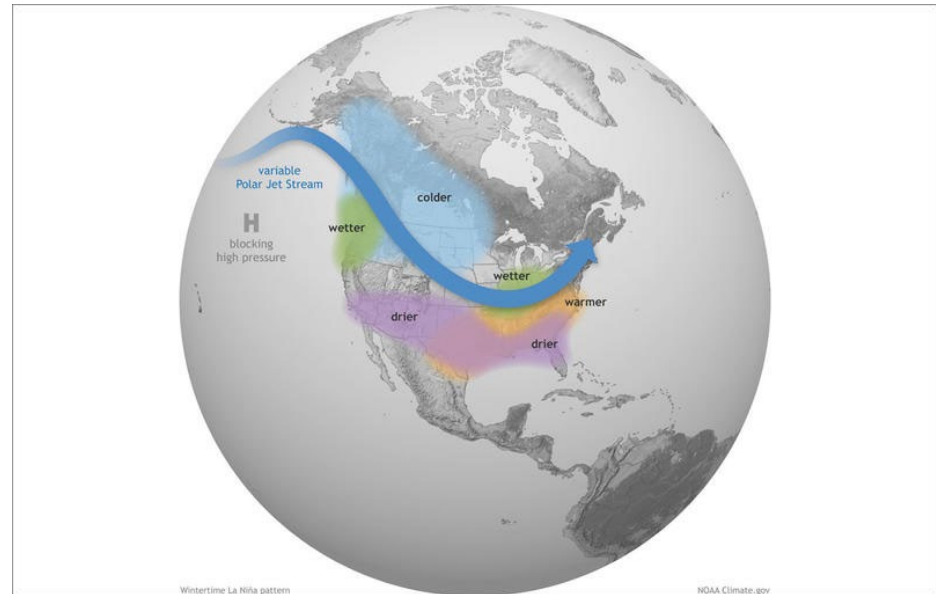
## La Niña Watch

La Niña conditions favored to develop this Fall & Winter

- **Wetter** than average
- **Cooler** than average

Chances for La Niña will gradually increase

- 71% Sep-Oct-Nov
- 82% Nov-Dec-Jan

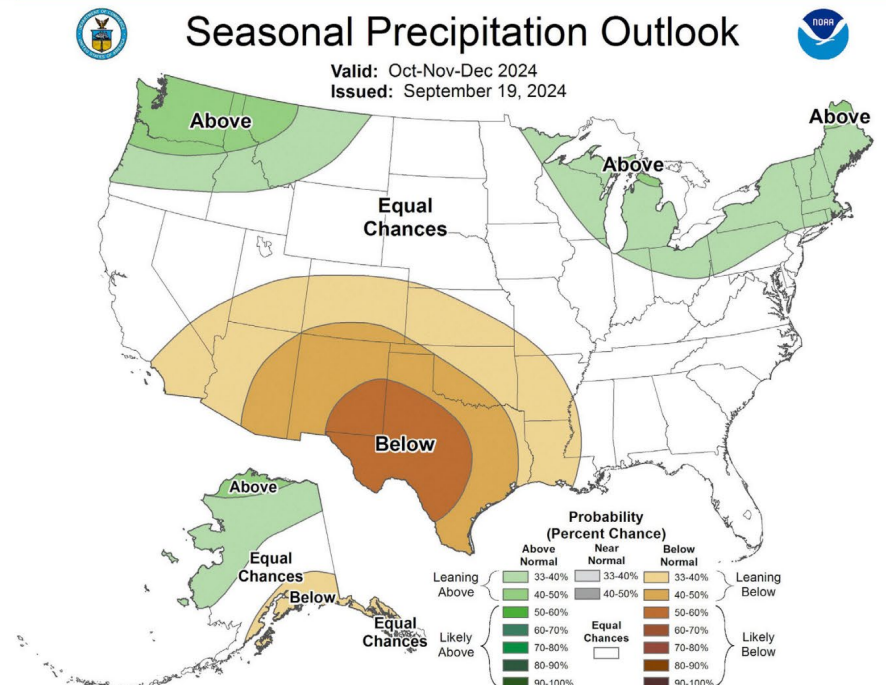
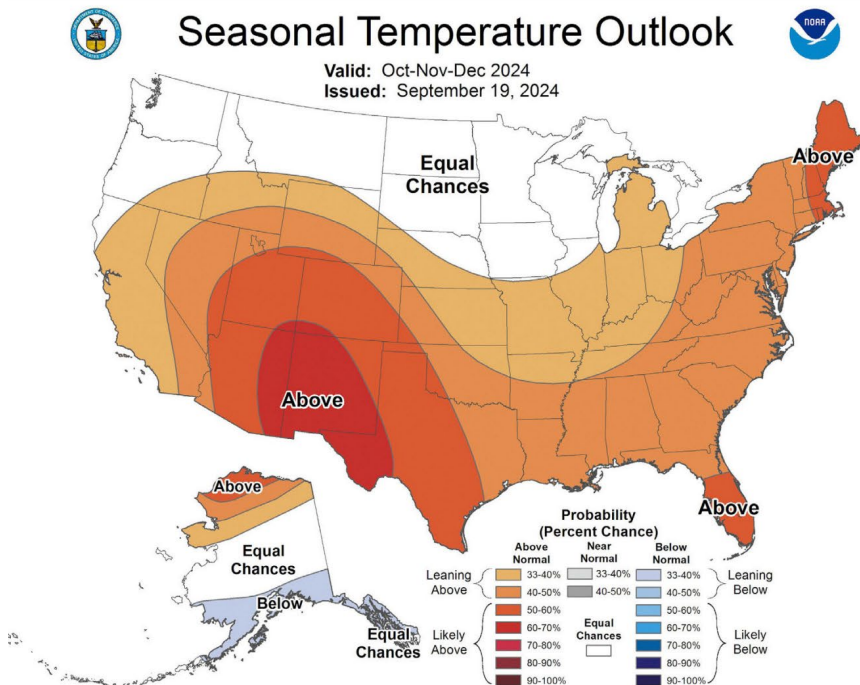


# 3 Month Outlook: Oct-Nov-Dec

## Outlook Favors

No Significant Temperature Signal

Above Normal Precipitation



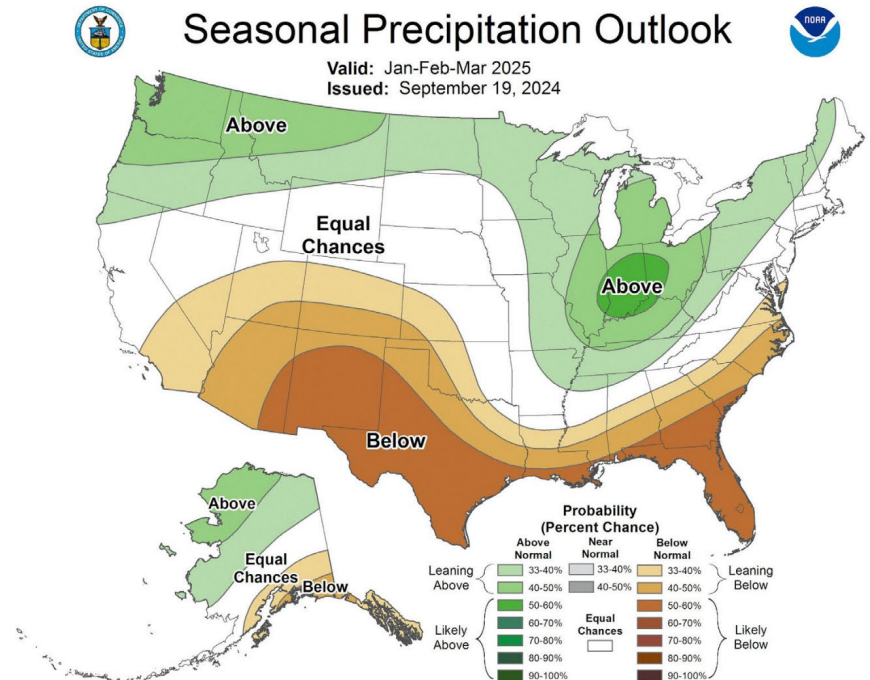
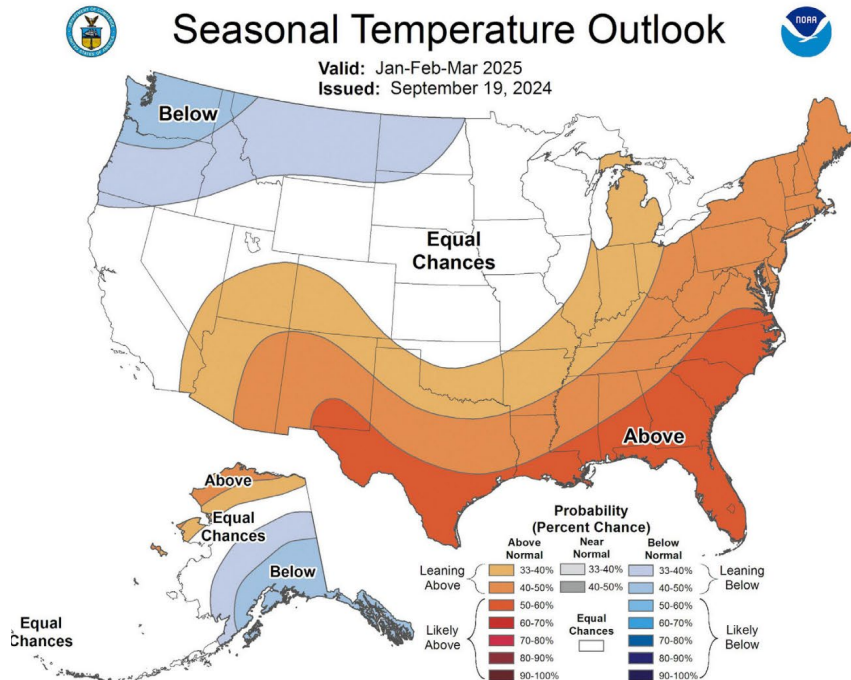


# 3 Month Outlook: Jan-Feb-Mar

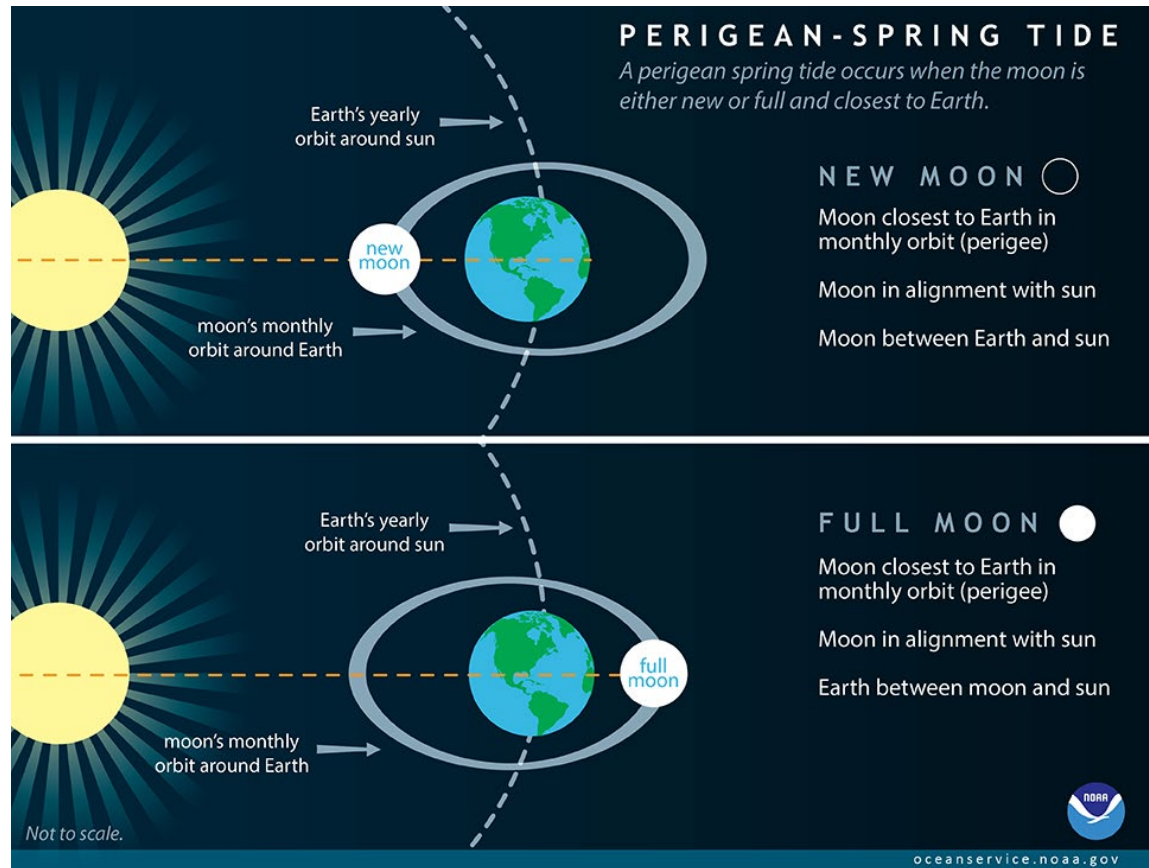
## Outlook Favors

Below Normal Temperatures

Above Normal Precipitation



# Perigean Spring Tide/King Tide





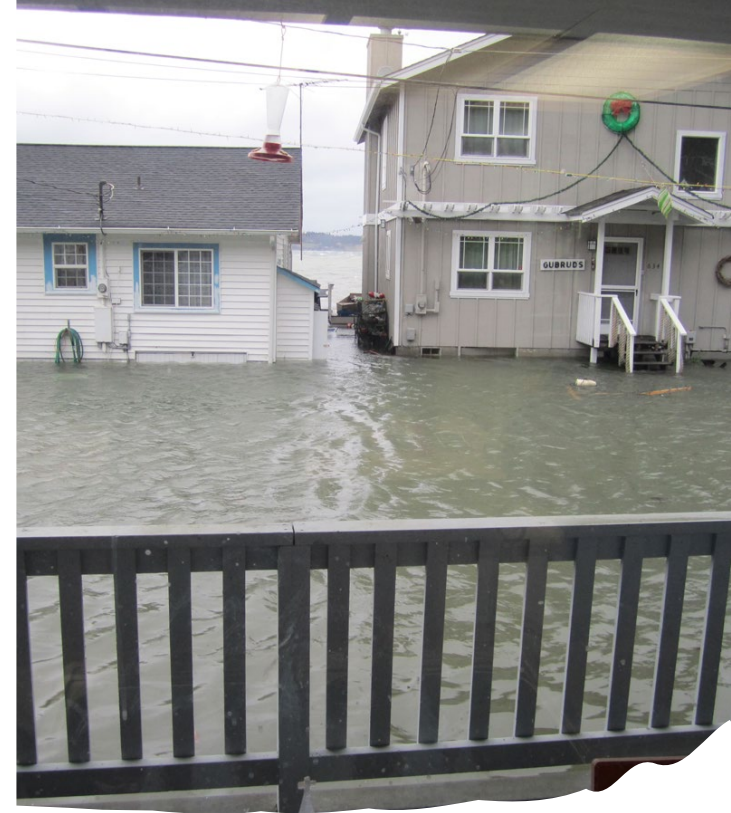
# Perigean Spring Tide/King Tide

## Impacts

Minor coastal/high tide flooding can occur with a perigean spring tide.

Major coastal flooding typically occurs in response to a strong onshore winds and low atmospheric pressure.

# Days of Concern: Inner Coast/Strait	
November	7
December	16
January	20
February	3
March	1



High Tides and Low  
Pressure Creating  
Coastal Flooding



Perigean Spring Tides with Low Pressure and High Winds





# Winter Supplies

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***Conditions may be such that you are unable to get to the store. Deliveries to stores may also be delayed due to weather conditions. Don't be caught without what you need!***







# Keeping Warm

***When the temperature dips, be ready to keep warm in your home even if the you lose power. Remember that infants lose body heat quicker than adults. Also, older adults generate less body heat due to slower metabolism and less physical activity.***



# Prepare For Your Medical Needs

***People with chronic medical conditions need to make special preparations for winter storms and power outages to avoid having them turn into emergencies.***





## **Stranded In Your Car**

*It is often safest to stay in your car if you become stranded during a winter when roads are unsafe and visibility is poor. Here are some tips to stay safe when if you become stranded.*





**Questions?**

**[WWW.Islandcountywa.gov/DEM](http://WWW.Islandcountywa.gov/DEM)**





# WINTER Safe

Information About Future Winter Storm Prevention

A publication of FEMA and the Washington State Military Department - Emergency Management Division

## Helpful Contacts:

Washington Emergency Mgmt. Division  
[www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov) 800-562-6108

Washington State Insurance Commissioner  
800-562-6900

Washington State Department of Health  
[www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)

Federal Emergency Management  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

## More Information:

National Weather Service (NWS)  
[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

For Flood Information:  
[www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov)

The National Arbor Day Foundation  
[www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.)  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) 800-438-4318

FEMA for Kids  
[www.fema.gov/kids](http://www.fema.gov/kids)

Ready Kids  
[www.ready.gov/kids](http://www.ready.gov/kids)

Free FEMA Publications:  
800-480-2520  
(Order by title or number)

## WinterSafe

This publication was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Washington State Military Department - Emergency Management Division



# FEMA



Washington Military Department  
Emergency Management Division

## The Evergreen State

It is no coincidence that Washington State is nicknamed "The Evergreen State." The majestic evergreens cover a large portion of the state and play a crucial role in inspiring that "Pacific Northwest" feel that most of us know and love. Unfortunately, winter storms sometimes cause these stately trees to fall, frequently causing damage to life and property. Through evaluation, maintenance and preparedness homeowners can limit both loss of life and property.

It is best to assess your trees before the winter storm season to avoid the post-storm "rush" and inflated tree maintenance cost. When evaluating your trees consider contacting a certified arborist, who can identify hazardous trees. Signs to look for include disease, shallow roots and abnormal leaning or branch damage. Also, consider the tree's distance and height regarding surrounding buildings and utility lines. It may also be appropriate, to contact your local utility company and ask if they offer any tree maintenance programs. Remember, your tree may be the one that devastates a neighborhood power line, creating a loss of heat during and after the winter storm. Moreover, a falling tree can also damage your home's roof, structure, gutters, pool or spa, and outdoor furniture.

Sometimes healthy trees can be just as hazardous as diseased or leaning ones. Homeowners may be concerned about healthy trees because of their proximity to their house or a neighbor's home. Tree removal companies can quote several hundred to a few



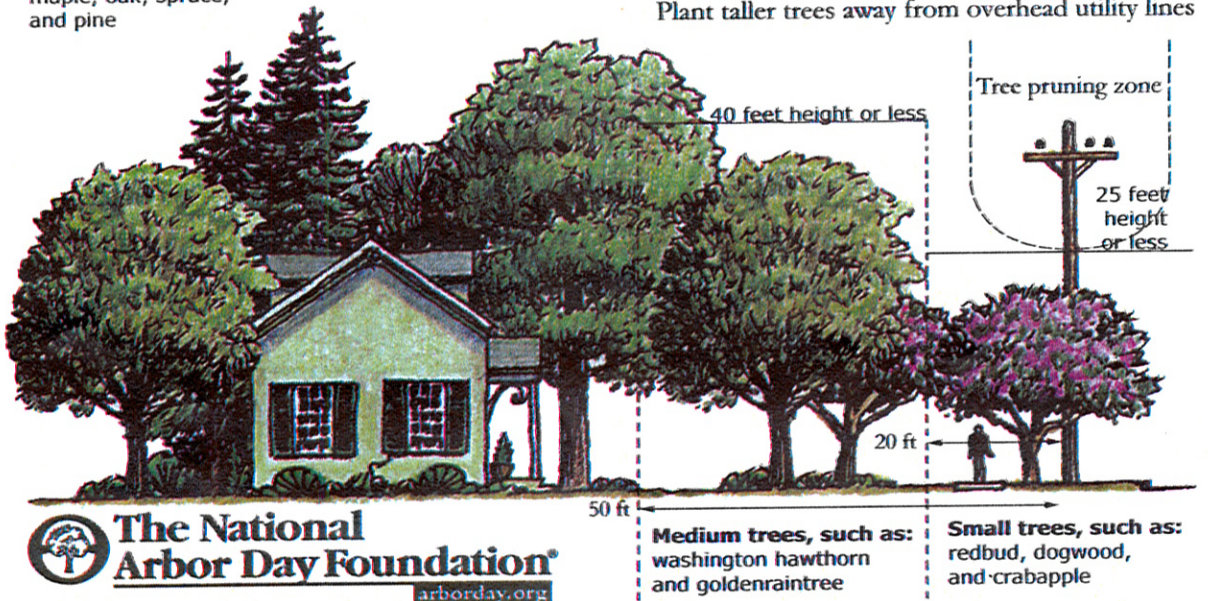
ANNE WALKER - FEMA

thousand dollars depending on size, location and other factors. One of the "other factors" is whether a crane is needed to remove the tree. Removing a tree after a storm can be much more costly than pre-storm preventative maintenance.

During the December 2006 Hanukkah Eve Wind Storm, thousands of trees fell throughout the Olympic Peninsula with four incidents resulting in fatalities. Many of those trees were healthy but because the soil was already saturated from rain, the excessive winds were disastrous. Taking steps before the storm to limit your exposure to tree-related hazards will lessen potential risk and damage to your family and home.

Tall trees, such as:  
maple, oak, spruce,  
and pine

**Plant the right tree in the right place**  
Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



**The National Arbor Day Foundation®**  
[arborday.org](http://arborday.org)

Medium trees, such as:  
Washington hawthorn  
and goldenrain tree

Small trees, such as:  
redbud, dogwood,  
and crabapple

COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION



# SAFETY

## Carbon Monoxide Can Be Deadly



You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned without enough air for

complete combustion. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of CO produced is usually not hazardous. However, if appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result. Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances.

Know the symptoms of CO poisoning:

**Headaches, fatigue, dizziness, weakness, confusion and nausea**

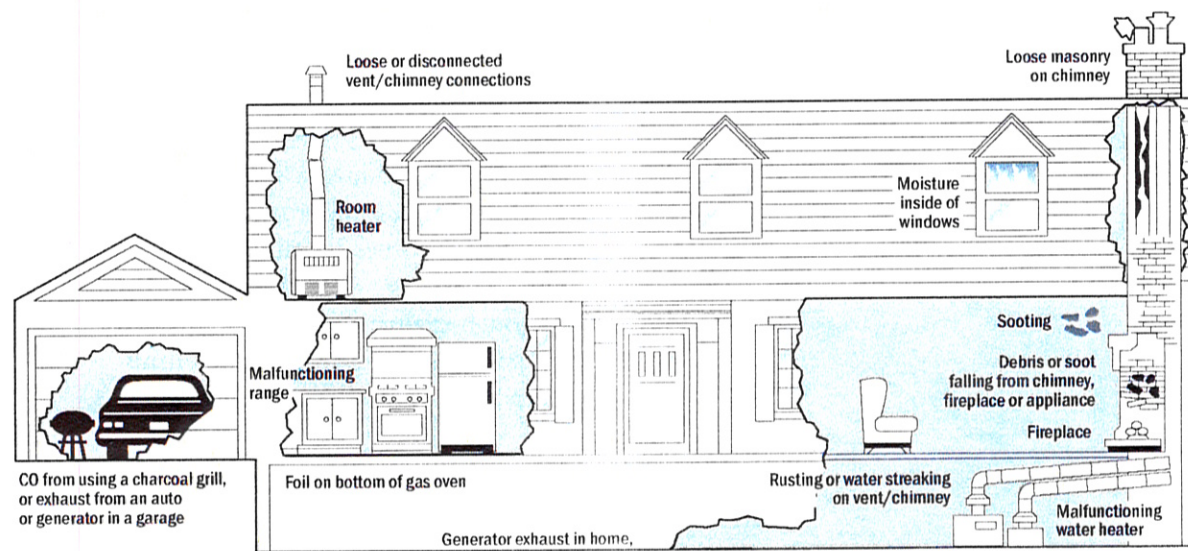
Many of these symptoms are similar to those of the flu, food poisoning, or other illnesses.

If you experience symptoms that you think could be from CO poisoning:

- Get fresh air immediately. Open doors and windows, turn off combustion appliances and leave the house.
- Go to an emergency room and tell the physician you suspect CO poisoning.

If CO poisoning has occurred, it can often be diagnosed by a blood test done soon after exposure.

Information from "Protect your family and yourself from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning", available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean from the E.P.A. Indoor Air Quality at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) or by calling 800-438-4318.



Sources of and Clues to a Possible Carbon Monoxide (CO) Problem

## Using Your Generator Safely

Power outages can cause a number of safety concerns, as residents seek heat from alternatives sources.

A generator can be an effective energy source during a power outage, but using it safely requires your attention. **Always read the directions that come with the device.**

### NEVER use a portable generator indoors

- NEVER use a portable generator in a garage, carport, basement, crawlspace or other enclosed or partially-enclosed area, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide (CO) buildup in the home.
- Incorrect generator use can lead to CO poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution and fire.

- Install home CO alarms that are battery-operated or have battery back-up. Test batteries frequently and replace when needed.

### Using your generator outdoors

- Place the generator away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to travel indoors.
- To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry. Do not use in rain or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure. Make sure your hands are dry before touching the generator.

### Use and store generator fuel safely

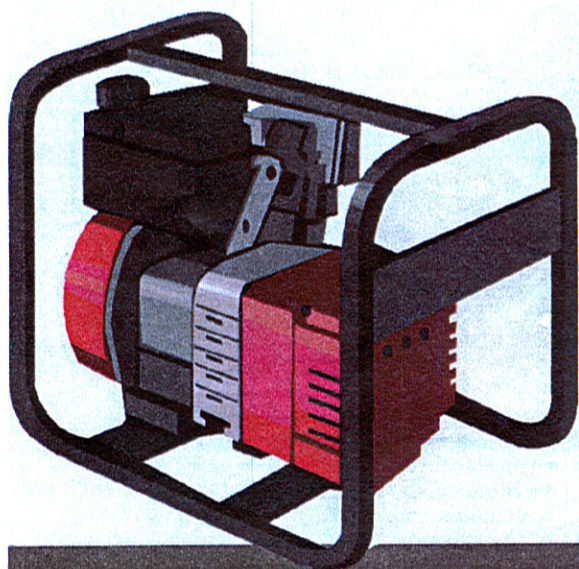
- Turn the generator off and let it cool before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Store generator fuel in an approved safety can outside of living areas. Local laws may restrict use or storage of fuel. Ask your local fire department for information.
- If you spill fuel, or do not seal its container properly, invisible vapors can travel along the ground and be ignited by an appliance's pilot light or arcs from electric switches in the appliance.
  - Use only the type of fuel recommended in the generator instructions or on its label.

### Don't overload your generator

- Determine the amount of power you will need. Light bulb wattage indicates the power needed. Appliance and equipment labels indicate their power requirements. If you can't determine the amount of power you will need, ask an electrician.
- Make sure your generator produces more power than will be drawn by the objects you connect to the generator including the initial surge when it is turned on.
- If your equipment draws more power than the generator can produce, you may blow a fuse on the generator or worse yet, damage the connected equipment!

### Connect your generator correctly

- Plug appliances directly into the generator, or use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads.
- Never try to power your house by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "back feeding." It can lead to the electrocution of utility workers or neighbors served by the same utility transformer.
- The only safe way to connect a generator to house wiring is to have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch.





# How to Protect Your Family during a Winter Storm

A major winter storm can last for several days, even weeks. People can become trapped at home, without power and other utilities for some time. Having emergency supplies, especially enough food and water, is necessary for survival.

## Protect your Household

- Prepare your Disaster Kit.
- Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, covering the head, feet and hands.
- Use hot water sparingly. Most water heaters are insulated and will keep water hot for up to three days, depending on how much you use.
- In most cases, food should be safe for a short period of time if refrigerators and freezers remain closed while the power is out. When in doubt, throw it out.
- To avoid damage, unplug your computer and other electronic devices to avoid power surges.
- Remember that cordless phones do not work without power; keep a corded phone available for emergencies.

## Protect Your Property

- Maintain smoke alarms.
- If your power goes out, check your main switch for a blown fuse or an open breaker. Learn how to reset the circuit breaker or safely change a fuse, and keep proper spares.
- Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.

- Drain outside faucets and protect them by insulating them with rags or foam covers.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinets to keep water pipes warm.
- Pipes in exposed or unheated areas (attics, basements and garages) should be wrapped with tape and insulating materials, available at local hardware stores.
- Wrap water pipes in insulation or layers of old newspapers. Cover the newspapers with plastic to keep out moisture.
- Let inside faucets drip a little to avoid freezing.

## If the pipes freeze:

- Remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes.
- A hand-held hair dryer, used with caution to prevent overheating, also works well.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes.
- If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if it is not accessible, or you can not thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- If a water pipe breaks, immediately close the main shut-off valve to stop excessive flooding.



## FAMILY Scavenger Hunt

### ✓ Disaster Preparedness Kit for a Winter Storm



KIDS-see how many points you can get by putting a check in the box next to each item you find in your house or garage.

- ☐ Dry or canned food for each person for 14 days (10 points)
- ☐ High energy foods like peanut butter, crackers and trail mix (5 points)
- ☐ Stored drinking water for each person for 14 days (10 points)
- ☐ A warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots for each person (5 points)
- ☐ Extra blankets and extra changes of warm clothing (5 points)
- ☐ A family disaster plan (15 points)
- ☐ Can opener (1 point)
- ☐ First aid supplies and first aid book (5 points)
- ☐ Copies of important documents, such as birth certificates, licenses and insurance policies (Ask your parents for help on this one!) (10 points)
- ☐ Battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries (1 point)
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries (1 point)
- ☐ Wind-up clock (1 point)
- ☐ Whistle (1 point)
- ☐ Waterproof matches (1 point)
- ☐ Extra house keys and car keys (3 points)
- ☐ List of contact names and phone numbers (Ask your parents for help on this one!) (1 point)
- ☐ Food, water and supplies for pets (5 points)
- ☐ Pliers (1 point)
- ☐ Duct tape (1 point)
- ☐ Needle and thread (1 point)
- ☐ Toilet paper (1 point)
- ☐ Soap (1 point)
- ☐ Chlorine bleach for disinfecting (1 point)
- ☐ Plastic bucket with a tight lid (1 point)

**Total:**

More Fun and Games:

FEMA for Kids: <http://www.fema.gov/kids/>

Ready Kids: <http://www.ready.gov/kids/>



STEVEN VELAZQUEZ - FEMA

# Hanukkah Eve Wind Storm of 2006

In the winter season of 2006-2007, Washington State suffered the effects of damaging wind. Beginning the night of December 14, 2006, a strong Pacific Ocean rain and wind storm struck the state and continued through the morning of December 15, 2006. The National Weather Service recorded a new single-day record rain amount for the city of Seattle at 2.17 inches.

Following the Hanukkah Eve Wind Storm of 2006, there was damage to 19 counties with falling trees causing power outages for more than 3 million people lasting from one to eleven days, and costing millions in damage to structures and homes. As a result of this storm there were fourteen fatalities. Four deaths resulted from wind debris, one drowning from urban flooding and one electrocution from downed power lines. Eight deaths occurred from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and one house fire caused by improper candle usage. In addition, over 300 people were hospitalized for carbon monoxide poisoning.

The National Weather Service conducted a "Name the Wind Storm" contest with over 6,000 submissions from the NWS Seattle web

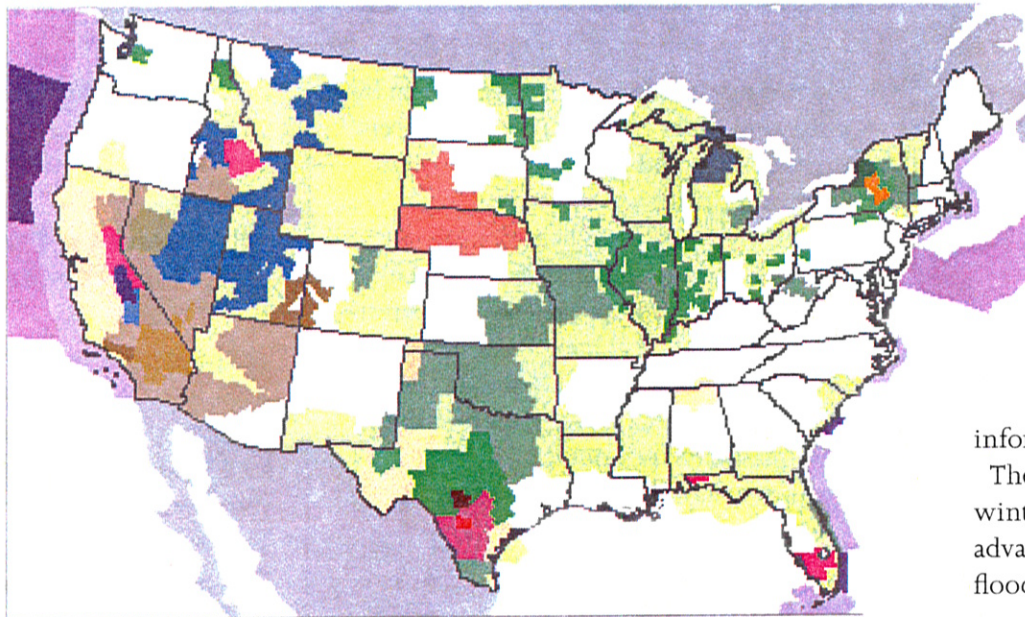
site. The wind storm name "Hanukkah Eve Wind Storm of 2006" was chosen since it best met the date of the event and reflected the major impact of the storm.

The primary purpose of selecting a name for this storm was so residents would more easily remember this storm for years and decades to come, much like other major wind storms such as the Columbus Day Storm of 1962, the Hood Canal Bridge Wind Storm of 1979 and the 1993 Inauguration Day Wind Storm. Remembering these storms helps people better prepare for future events.

Windstorms usually occur in the Pacific Northwest each fall and winter season, producing strong winds to 60 mph and causing power outages and property damage. Approximately once every 10 years, storms with winds of 70 mph or more pound the region and cause significant damage. These storms last an average of three to six hours of prolonged winds in one area before the storm moves on.

Because a storm with winds in excess of 70 mph can happen often, preparedness and awareness are needed to avoid its disastrous effects.





## Tracking a Winter Storm online

Check the National Weather Service (NWS) for forecasts by weather radio or online at

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/> to stay informed of severe weather phenomena. The local offices issue other watches (flood, winter weather, etc.) 12 to 36 hours in advance of possible hazardous weather or flooding event.

## Urban Flooding: It Can Happen in a Flash!

In Washington, flooding is generally the result of excessive precipitation coupled with snow melt and river flooding. Urban flooding happens quickly and without warning. Streets can become swift moving rivers and basements death traps as they fill with water.

Public awareness was increased after an urban flooding-related death in Seattle in December 2006.

The worst flooding occurs after prolonged rainfall when the soil is saturated and the water levels in the creeks elevated. During an urban flood, the land's capacity to carry water is reduced while drainage systems and sewers may become blocked with rubbish. If there is intense rain, flooding may occur with little or no warning.

### Here is what you can do:

- Install and maintain "check" valves for sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Maintain drainage systems. Don't put grass clippings, leaves or other debris into drains, ditches, creeks, culverts, gutters or ravines.
- Maintain gutters and downspouts. Clean your gutters and the drainage downspouts attached to your roof twice a year. Direct downspouts away from your home, without discharging flows to adjacent properties.
- Check the condition of drainage and retaining walls if you live at the base of a hill or a cliff.
- Inspect your roof for leaks or damage to rain gutters that could cause a flat roof to flood.
- Assess your yard. The area within 10 feet of your home should slope away from your house
  - Know where your shut offs are. If flooding occurs, you'll need to know how to shut off electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves.

Information obtained from [www.seattle.gov](http://www.seattle.gov)

### Preventative planting

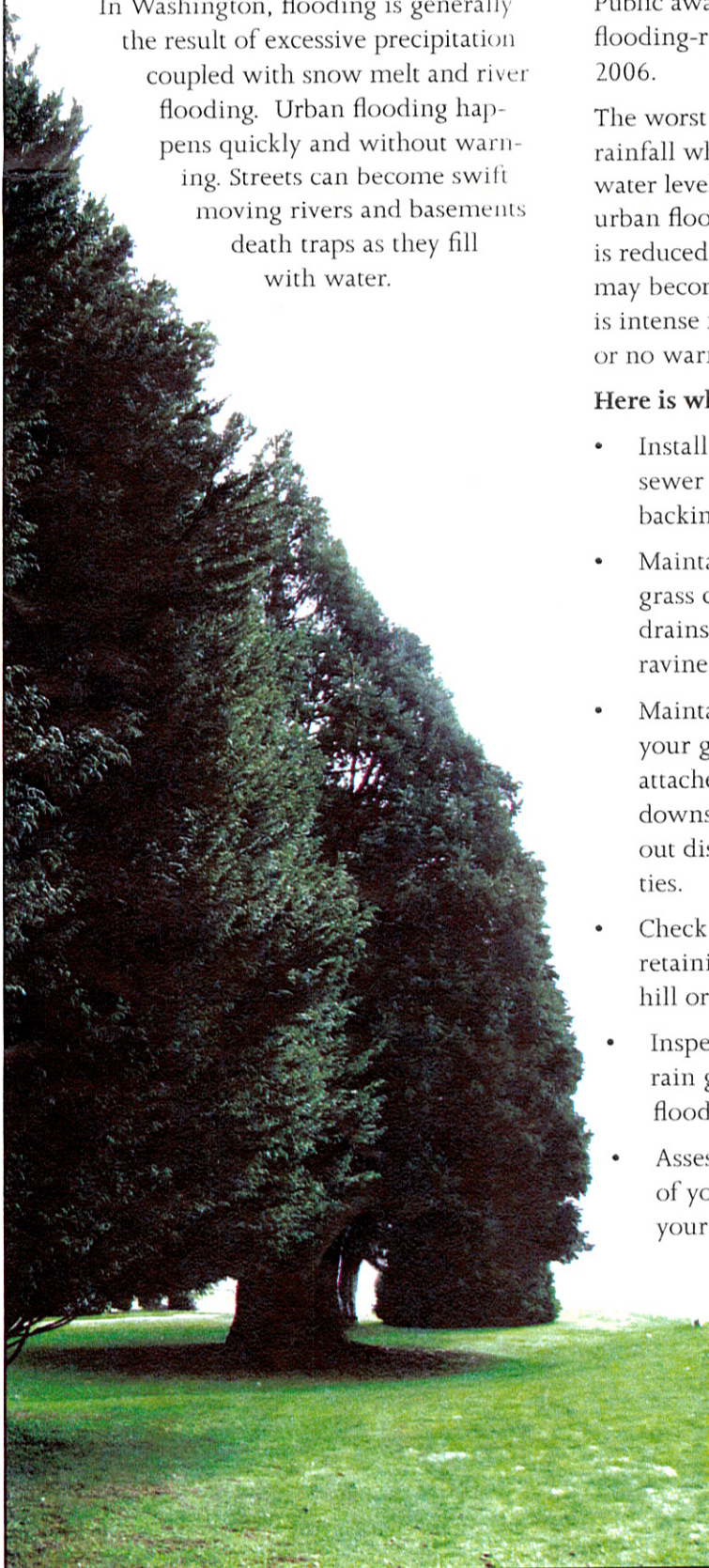
Preventative planting can also reduce the chance of flooding. According to Jeanne McNeil, horticulturist and Executive Director of the Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association, "Both evergreen plants and some mulches can help prevent flooding." Evergreen plants capture precipitation in their numerous leaves, needles, or scales before the moisture reaches the soil. They prevent erosion of the soil and the more completely they cover it, the more they can protect it. Evergreen plants may also help prevent certain types of slides if the plants are deep rooted and form a protective mat over the soil.

Trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and grassy plants may all be used successfully if they are selected for hardiness in their location. Plants with non-invasive characteristics re-charge the groundwater with the precipitation they capture and can help reduce slides and flooding.

### Low Impact Development

Urban flooding can be reduced, or mitigated, by using techniques referred to as low-impact development. Such techniques include diverting water from the foundations of buildings, constructing small retention ponds, and taking advantage of natural absorption in vegetated swales to reduce the amount of water handled by storm drains and sewer systems.

For more information about Low Impact Development (LID) visit: <http://www.psat.wa.gov/Programs/LID.htm>





# BE PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE

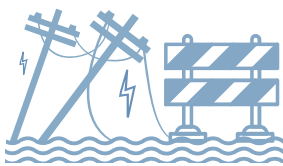
Extended power outages may impact the whole community and the economy.



FEMA

FEMA V-1008/May 2018

A power outage is when the electrical power goes out unexpectedly.



May disrupt communications, water, transportation



May close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks, and other services



Can cause food spoilage, water contamination



Can prevent use of medical devices

## PROTECT YOURSELF DURING A POWER OUTAGE

Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.



Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.

Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.



Use alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or power-dependent medical devices.

Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.



If safe, go to an alternate location for heat or cooling.



Check on neighbors.



# HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A POWER OUTAGE THREATENS

## Prepare NOW

**Take an inventory now** of the items you need that rely on electricity.

**Talk to your medical provider** about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity and refrigerated medicines. Find out how long medication can be stored at higher temperatures and get specific guidance for any medications that are critical for life.

**Plan for batteries and other alternatives** to meet your needs when the power goes out.

**Sign up for local alerts and warning systems.** Monitor weather reports.

**Install carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup** in central locations on every level of your home.

**Determine whether your home phone will work in a power outage** and how long battery backup will last.

**Review the supplies that are available in case of no power.** Have flashlights with extra batteries for every household member. Have enough nonperishable food and water.

**Use a thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer** so that you can know the temperature when the power is restored.

**Keep mobile phones and other electric equipment charged and gas tanks full.**

## Survive DURING

**Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.** The refrigerator will keep food cold for **about four hours**. A full freezer will keep the temperature for **about 48 hours**. Use coolers with ice if necessary. Monitor temperatures with a thermometer.

**Use food supplies that do not require refrigeration.**

**Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.** Generators, camp stoves, or charcoal grills should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home.

**Check on your neighbors.** Older adults and young children are especially vulnerable to extreme temperatures.

**Go to a community location with power** if heat or cold is extreme.

**Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment, or electronics.** Power may return with momentary “surges” or “spikes” that can cause damage.

## Be Safe AFTER

**When in doubt, throw it out!** Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.

**If the power is out for more than a day, discard any medication that should be refrigerated,** unless the drug’s label says otherwise. If a life depends on the refrigerated drugs, consult a doctor or pharmacist and use medicine only until a new supply is available.

## Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **Ready.gov** and search for **power outage**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **power outage**.



**FEMA**

FEMA V-1008  
Catalog No. 17233-9



full tank of gas



first aid kit



cellphone charger



flashlight



water/snacks



ice scraper/  
snow brush



boots/gloves/  
warm clothes



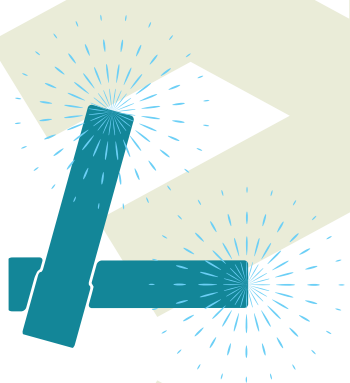
music/games



Because  
you never know  
when you will  
encounter  
winter weather  
or emergency  
road closure



jumper cables

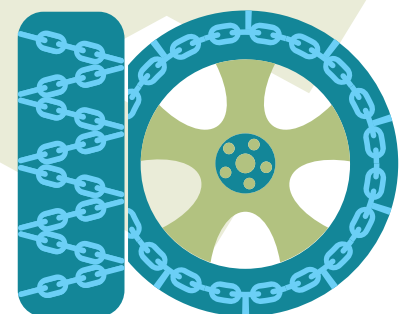


flares



Know before you go

[wsdot.com/traffic](http://wsdot.com/traffic)



tire chains

## GET OUR MOBILE APP

Our Android and iPhone apps include statewide traffic cameras, travel alerts, mountain pass reports, ferry schedules and alerts, northbound Canadian border wait times and more.

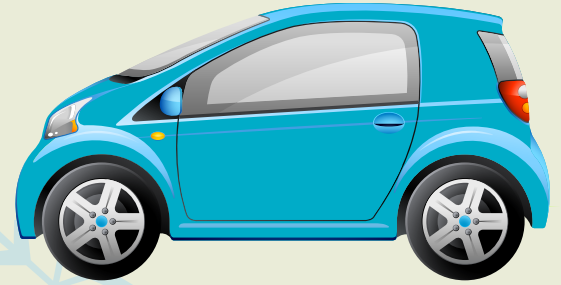
Android



iPhone



# Winter Driving Supply Checklist



Accidents, pass closures and other winter events can mean unexpected time in your car. Be prepared. Pick up these items on your next shopping run and then pack them into your vehicle.

Pick up shopping

Packed in car

☐
☐

Flashlight

☐
☐

Extra batteries

☐
☐

Blanket

☐
☐

Nonperishable food/  
snacks

☐
☐

Water

☐
☐

Gloves

☐
☐

Boots

☐
☐

First aid kit

Pick up shopping

Packed in car

☐
☐

Cell phone charger/  
battery booster

☐
☐

Tire chains

☐
☐

Ice scraper/snowbrush  
(a small shovel comes  
in handy too)

☐
☐

Jumper cables

☐
☐

Flares/warning triangle

☐
☐

Kitty litter or sand to  
help with traction

☐
☐

Whistle to signal for help

If you find yourself stuck or stranded, stay in your car, put on your flashers, call for help and wait until it arrives.





# Public Health Impact Report

JUNE 2023- JUNE 2024







# Introduction

Over the past year, the Island County Public Health Department has demonstrated resilience and innovation, while working to enhance the health and well-being of our unique island communities. We are proud to present our annual impact report, highlighting achievements, ongoing efforts, and future goals. In 2023, we expanded outreach approaches, provided a wide variety of essential services, share information guide community decision-making, and implemented key process improvements. Moving forward, departmental goals focus on continuous improvement in our engagement efforts, assessment activities, and service delivery, while responding to emerging challenges and applying a climate and equity lens.



## Expanding Engagement and Focusing on Quality

Our commitment to community well-being has driven us to expand outreach approaches, strengthen service provision, and implement a variety of process improvements. From communicable disease outreach to addressing social and environmental health factors, we've worked diligently to ensure equitable access to services while strengthening available supports. Our team has a renewed emphasis on building trusted relationships with the communities we serve. We've embraced community-driven approaches, working to create an inclusive vision for a healthier future.

## Effective Resource Utilization

Our focus on effective resource management led to prioritizing investments in existing programs, collaborative partnerships, and developing sustainable approaches. Our workforce is the cornerstone of our programs, and we're committed to fostering professional growth while delivering core public health capacities and creating a culture of wellness. By aligning with our community's needs and engaging in meaningful partnerships, we ensure responsible stewardship of public resources. We have intentionally woven foundational public health services (FPHS) with existing revenue streams - elevating service delivery, partnerships, and organizational design.





# A Year of Accomplishments & Growth

In 2023, the Public Health Department achieved significant milestones in various areas, making a lasting impact on the community's well-being. A selection of key accomplishments and activities are outlined here:

- ✓ COVID-19 outreach services supported access to immunizations, testing, and treatment, while ensuring that community members and organizations received timely information for informed decision-making.
- ✓ The Department embarked on the community health assessment (CHA), effectively leading a community driven and data-informed approach while aligning with the Comprehensive Plan process and integrating a climate justice lens.
- ✓ The Natural Resources division navigated change while continuing to expand core programs focused on salmon recovery, community engagement, shoreline restoration, surface water quality monitoring, and the conservation futures fund.
- ✓ WIC staff, outreach workers, and nurses worked to improve access to social drivers of health through service delivery, outreach, and care coordination, addressing critical needs exacerbated by the pandemic.
- ✓ We effectively delivered a range of Environmental Health services, including onsite sewage services, land use review, food safety, and drinking water review, increasing our focus on consistency, outreach, and efficiency.
- ✓ We improved our approach to workforce development by creating comprehensive on-boarding plans, while implementing process improvements for public policy meetings, outreach, communications, and the contracts process.

# Key Remarks from Community Health Manager

## COMMUNITY HEALTH

### Megan Works

This past year, the Community Health team has worked hard in the areas of disease prevention and investigation, nutrition, and maternal/child health. We had several successes this year, such as the fruit and vegetable RX program, a more streamlined tuberculosis response and support program, the successful launch of the Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) program, and an award for our WIC team for being a center of breastfeeding excellence. These are just a few of examples of the accomplishments of our incredible Community Health team.



### Plans for 2025

For 2025, our team will continue to build on the successes of the past year. We have one of the strongest and most cohesive groups of people that I have ever had the pleasure to work with, and I am so honored to serve the Island County community along side them.





# Key Remarks from Environmental Health Manager

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### Heather Kortuem

The Environmental Public Health Team is composed of a multitude of dedicated scientists working to ensure the natural resources of our islands are considered and protected in development activities. I am incredibly proud of the work product coming from our collective efforts. I am particularly impressed with the staff's willingness to de-silo and be true team-minded players. This gives me much hope for a cleaner, better future for our island ecosystems.



### Plans for 2025

For 2025, our goal is to continue program improvement with an eye to partnerships with other departments, community organizations, and industry professionals. Each of our programs will be focused on educational outreach in addition to our permitting and regulatory work.



# Key Remarks from Natural Resources Manager

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Jen Schmitz

The Division of Natural Resources is a non-regulatory, science-based team committed to protecting, monitoring, and restoring our unique and finite island resources to ensure equitable access to Island County's natural ecosystems for all current and future generations. Our incredible staff use the data collected to educate, inform, and advise our elected officials, the public, and our colleagues throughout the County in critical decision-making for the health and wellbeing of our communities. I am consistently inspired by the dedication they have to their roles and for their commitment to collaboration with so many people and organizations to protect our natural resources and the people who live here.



### Plans for 2025

In 2025, we are eager to expand on our core programs, including embarking on a new Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) grant we recently secured to augment our surface water quality monitoring, and to provide more outreach opportunities to the citizens of Island County.

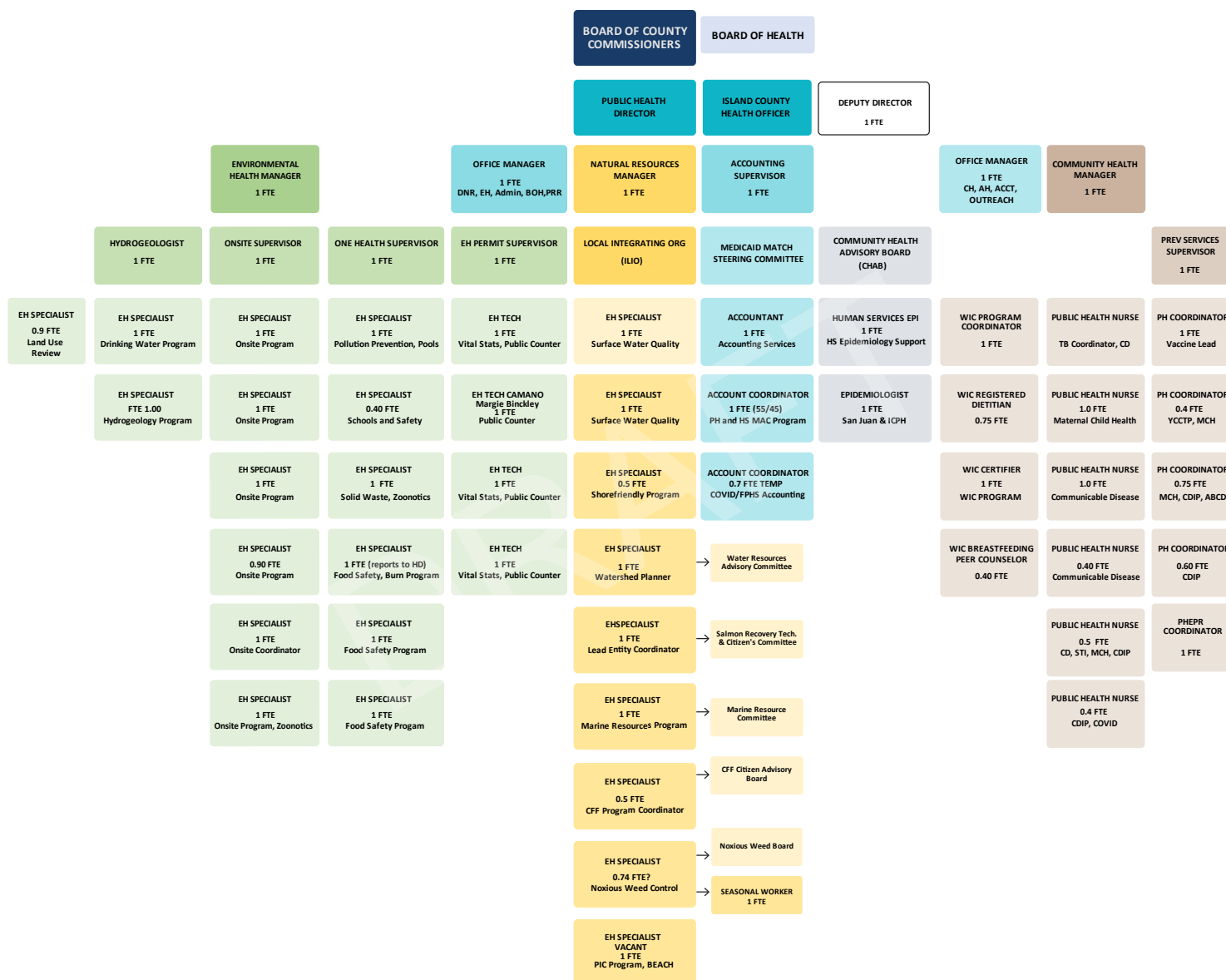




# Island County Organization Chart 2024

## STRUCTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

We promote the health and well-being of our unique island communities. Our team delivers essential services, engages in outreach, and plans health improvement, working in partnership with the communities we serve.



## Always Working for Healthier Communities

For more information visit: [www.islandcountywa.gov/174/PublicHealth](http://www.islandcountywa.gov/174/PublicHealth)



## Priority 1

### Optimal Health Systems and Workforce Support

#### VISION

A responsive public health system that integrates community voice into policy and practice, while promoting transparency, engagement, and trust. Our teams are made up of a diverse and skilled workforce equipped with the tools, support, and knowledge to effectively address public health challenges and drive equity.

MORE THAN

15



**Outbreaks managed in different non-congregate and congregate settings**

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH

### Communicable Diseases

MORE THAN

100



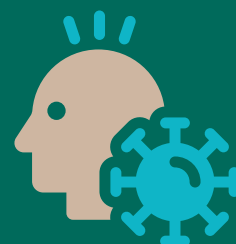
**Calls received and support provided**

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### Zoonotics

MORE THAN

100



**Calls received and support provided**

#### ADMIN/ACCOUNTING

72



**Contracts reviewed & processed**

- Retention rate of 78%
- Successfully passed the 2022-2024 fiscal monitoring review completed in May 2024 with no findings from the Washington State Department of Health.

## Priority 2

### Vibrant Ecosystems and Healthy Built Environments

#### VISION

We support vibrant ecosystems and healthy built environments by planning initiatives, guiding policy, and delivering programs and services that achieve optimal outcomes for human, animal, and ecosystem well-being, recognizing our increasingly interconnected environments.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

##### On-site Septic Program

# 689

Liquid Waste  
permits issued

123 liquid waste licenses issued



# 444



#### Food Service establishment licenses issued

- 209 Temporary Event Permits issues
- 82 Food Safety complaints investigated
- More than 500 corrective action follow-up inspections

#### SCHOOLS

# 23

Schools  
Inspected



- 1 new school & 1 new park plan review in progress

#### OUTDOOR BURNING

- 323 permits issued
- 6 code-enforcement cases managed

#### DRINKING WATER

- 319 WAV's issued
- 21 well site inspections performed
- More than 500 technical assistance calls or visits were completed

# 21



#### Pools inspected and licensed

- Up to 12 swim beaches monitored seasonally

#### HYDROGEOLOGY

- Creation and maintenance of dashboard for public use and permit review



#### SURFACE WATER QUALITY WY-23 report (OCT 22- SEPT 23)

- Over 450 water samples collected & analyzed

#### CONSERVATION FUTURES PROGRAM

- Monthly Citizens Advisory Board meetings and recruitment of new CAB members

#### MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC) AND SHORE FRIENDLY PROGRAMS

- Ongoing aquatic vegetation surveys.

## Priority 3

# Thriving Communities Across the Lifespan

### VISION

We practice innovative disease prevention and deliver essential health services to address critical gaps. We work across sectors to ensure community members have access to the vital conditions needed to thrive, including healthcare access, nutritious foods, health guidance, supportive housing, recreational opportunities, and other social drivers of health.

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH

### New Baby, New Family

# 109

Families served



#### WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN (WIC)

# 770

**Avg. monthly client caseload**

- WIC support families with over one million dollars in food benefits
- Provided an additional \$6,552 towards produce purchases at local farmers markets through the [Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#).

#### MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

- 41 clients served

#### CHRONIC DISEASE

- 2500 Fruit & Veggie vouchers distributed

#### YOUTH CANNABIS & COMMERCIAL TOBACCO PROGRAM

- Visited 4 local cannabis retailers to isited 4 local cannabis retails to promote safe storage practices to prevent underage use
- Helped collect 11+ pounds of medication during SW Drug Take Back during the April 2024 South Whidbey Safe Disposal event
- Provided small businesses with no smoking signs

#### HUMAN SERVICES EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Analyzed data from Julota to produce quarterly reports that monitor service deliver in Human Services programs

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- 1083 Birth Certificates issued
- 2005 Death Certificates issued

#### PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Provided numerous workshops, library events, tours, after-school programs, and educational booths at festivals, fairs, and community centers, curated information for both adults and young children.

#### INJURY PREVENTION

# 40



#### Preventative exercises classes

- Established Falls Prevention Coalition, meeting quarterly





## Priority 4

### Engaged Assessment and Emergency Response

#### VISION

Our communities have the information needed to advance health equity and outcomes. Community voice guides our assessment strategies and policy process. We proactively cultivate meaningful, trusted relationships with diverse populations. We envision a trained and coordinated team well-positioned to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.

#### ASSESSMENT

### Public Health Emergency Response Program

Monthly meetings to collaborate with Island County Department of Emergency Management



#### COMMUNITY HEALTH

Participated in a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) focused on measles and how our public health department would respond in the event of an outbreak.

#### ASSESSMENT

### Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB) & Board of Health (BOH)

- Commitment to Health in All Policies (HiAP)
- Engaged and supported Community Health Assessment (CHA) activities

5 

Focus groups  
with 50+ participants

23 

Key leader interviews

#### ASSESSMENT

### Community Health Assessment

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Surveys collected

# Looking to the Horizon

Local public health plays an essential role in developing collaborative, creative, and community-centered solutions to complex challenges. In all our efforts, we are committed to working in partnership with the communities we serve. Our teams live and work in our communities, and we are guided by a shared desire to make a difference for current and future generations. As we work to build trust, support our teams, enhance services, and improve health outcomes, we commit to acting with care, transparency, and inclusivity.





**We are always working for  
safer and healthier communities**

Learn more at: [www.islandcountywa.gov](http://www.islandcountywa.gov)

