



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **DISASTER PLANNING WORKSHOP SCHEDULED IN COVINGTON**

Residents of Covington and surrounding areas are encouraged to attend a public workshop and open house designed to help raise awareness about the risks associated with natural hazards in the City of Covington. The workshop, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Covington City Hall Council Chambers will include a 45-minute presentation beginning at 7 p.m. followed by an open house session.

In addition to the presentation, which details the results of a study examining Covington's vulnerabilities to natural hazards, information will be provided about how residents can prepare their homes and families before disaster strikes. City of Covington emergency management staff and representatives from City of Kent Office of Emergency Management and Citizen Emergency Response Training (OEM/CERT), the Covington Home Depot, and the LDS Church Ham Radio Emergency Network will be present to answer questions.

The vulnerability study is part of the steps involved in developing the city's first Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan will guide the City in planning mitigation projects that will help reduce the impact of hazards before they happen, and enable us to recover more quickly once they occur. It will also give residents an understanding of the extent that they and their homes are vulnerable to a variety of potential hazards.

The City wants to learn about what hazards – such as earthquake, severe weather, or flood – residents are most worried about and what precautions they are willing to take to reduce their vulnerability to injury or damage. The public's assistance is requested to help identify and plan for future natural disasters with an emphasis on identifying projects that will reduce/avoid future loss. The process is entirely anonymous and should take less than five minutes to complete. To take the survey visit: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/Covingtonhazard](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Covingtonhazard).

For more information or questions, please contact Shellie Bates of the Covington Public Works Department at 253-480-2463 or visit [www.covingtonwa.gov/hazardmitigation/index.html](http://www.covingtonwa.gov/hazardmitigation/index.html).

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