



TogetherWE Prepare Workplace

National Preparedness Month: It's Up to Us to Save Us!

With natural and human-made disasters in the headlines everyday, we shouldn't be in denial about inevitable emergencies and unthinkable events, but we are. While most of us are concerned about our security in the face of such threats as terrorism and such calamities as earthquakes, we have a low level of preparedness in our communities, especially at work. We assume we will "call for help" from supervisors, co-workers, or 9-1-1 emergency services, to help us handle whatever happens. "We'll just use common sense," most of us think.

At the Red Cross, we know common sense is not so common in emergencies. In any emergency, your structured response will save you, your employees and your customers, and could minimize injuries and damage in your workplace. Emergency preparedness makes good business sense, and requires your focus and its inclusion in your business plan. Our TogetherWE Prepare initiative provides tools for business to organize and strengthen their readiness for all sizes and types of emergencies, starting with some basic steps:

Make a Plan. Build a Kit, Get Trained. Volunteer. Give Blood.

Think about what would happen at your business if a customer fell, an employee keeled over in their cubicle, or the Seattle Fault decided to shake us all up:

1. **Make a Plan:** What is yours for emergency response, including specific communication procedures? Do employees know how to call 9-1-1, and what to do until help arrives?
2. **Build/Buy Kits:** What emergency supplies do you stock? Do employees know where they are and what provisions of their own they're expected to keep at their work stations?



3. **Get Trained:** How many on each shift, at every site, know First Aid and CPR? How are they identified, so people can access their help quickly? How do you want staff to manage a customer emergency in your store or restaurant? Common sense won't be common – you need to train your employees!

During September, which is **National Preparedness Month**, we have partnered with the Department of Homeland Security to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and to sponsor business activities that advance readiness. Take a proactive position for your business. It may be up to you to save you, or your customer!

For Red Cross training and other resources to support your business preparedness, contact us at 206 323-2345. TogetherWE Prepare!

Looking for great holiday gift ideas?

The Red Cross has First Aid and Disaster Preparedness Kits available for families and businesses.

In King County please call (206) 726-3531 for more information or visit www.seattleredcross.org.

In Kitsap County please call the West Sound Service Center at 360-377-3761.