



Port Ludlow Emergency Management Committee

Are you interested in being a Block Captain?

The Port Ludlow Emergency Management (PLEM) committee is a disaster response group for the village. Officially a part of the Port Ludlow Village Council, PLEM serves three critical functions: (1) to educate residents on how to prepare for a disaster; (2) in case of an emergency, to serve as a communications vehicle between the community and Jefferson County; and (3) to help prepare for and organize self-help efforts in case of disaster.

To this end, the group has established 35 response neighborhoods, four Communication Centers and has about 100 volunteer Block Captains (BC) equipped with radios to help communicate community needs. Neighborhoods have been broken down into smaller Response Areas (RAs) of about 10 to 20 homes, each one with a BC. There are a lot of uncovered RAs in the village, so we desperately need more help! The BC Rosters are on the PLVC.org website under [Emergency Management](#). [North Bay is here](#) and [South Bay is here](#).

Prospective BCs attend one training class that usually takes between two and three hours, depending on the size of the class. Participants are given a BC Orientation Manual, a reflective vest and a radio. Being a Block Captain does not involve any financial commitment on your part, however, as you prepare yourself and begin to assist your neighbors to prepare for an emergency, you may choose to invest in additional safety items (for example, a safety helmet, boots, a small backpack to carry your emergency things, a clipboard, a whistle, etc). We hope that PLVC can one day supply all our Block Captains with these additional items. They are not required.

In your training, we suggest ways that you can approach your neighbors to educate them on the importance of emergency preparedness. You will ask them to fill out a (voluntary) questionnaire that has information on it that's pertinent to a post-disaster recovery (for example, are there small children or pets in the home, do they have medical or mobility issues, are they First Aid trained, etc). BCs keep a confidential spreadsheet of this information.



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After a disaster, you would first take care of yourself, your family and your home. Once the danger of the event has subsided, you would survey the neighborhood and fill out an assessment form, noting injuries and needs. Then BCs participate in the Roll Call with the Radio Operators at the Communications Centers. The assessment survey information will eventually be transmitted to the county's Emergency Operations Center, once that is up and running. BCs may be asked to do several different types of assessments over the course of a longer-term event.

The PLEM committee requests some additional things of the BCs. First, please reply to any email requesting such from a PLEM committee member. We ask that you participate in the Great Washington Shakeout every October. This is a chance to practice our response in the event of a major earthquake. If a Radio Drill is established, we'd like you to take part in that as well. (Note: For both the Shakeout and Radio Drill, if you are out of town or ill, please communicate that to us. Doing so will be considered participation.) Finally, it is your responsibility to let us know if you are no longer able to be a BC. We ask that you return your manual, vest and radio to us. If your email or phone number changes, we need to know that as well. Our primary way of contacting BCs is through email.

If this seems like a way that you would like to help your neighbors and, indeed, the entire village, please let us know at PEM.98365@gmail.com.

The PLEM committee is also in need of Radio Operators. If you are a HAM or have an FCC license or interest in this, please contact Rick Schurman at richardhschurman@gmail.com.