



Resolution #3 – Disaster Emergency Preparedness

WHEREAS, Washington state has experienced, and is at risk for additional major environmental events such as mudslides, windstorms, floods and wildfires, threatening lives and property, and is at risk for experiencing major disasters including tsunamis, and earthquakes, and,

WHEREAS, scientific evidence has identified that the Seattle-Puget Sound area and the coastal communities of Washington state are at significant risk for a large scale major destructive earthquake with citizens at high risk for injury, and loss of life, with access to health care facilities and hospitals severely compromised or non-existent, depending on location and severity of the event, and

WHEREAS, emergency management, firefighters, police, hospitals, and the National Guard will respond according to their respective missions and responsibilities, but will not be the primary agencies that will attend immediately to those injured and that care for injured citizens will likely be provided in temporary facilities, requiring volunteers for a multitude of support services, and

WHEREAS, should any one of these disasters happen, citizens of our state are willing to respond immediately to help, but potential delay in deploying assistance without a systematic way of communicating with, coordinating and directing of volunteers by on site emergency personnel will interfere with rescue and assistance efforts, risking unnecessary loss of life, and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Emergency Management consists of multiple agencies with different purposes, and the current system to apply as a volunteer is unnecessarily burdensome for citizens and professionals to register.

BE IT THEREFORE,

RESOLVED, that WSNA offer to assist the Washington State Department of Emergency Management to improve and streamline the volunteer registry and refine the application process to promote accessibility and a user-friendly registration process; and,

RESOLVED, that WSNA's Professional Nursing and Health Care Council and Occupational-Environmental Health and Safety Committee update and develop additional educational opportunities and resources that focus on informing WSNA members about emergency volunteer registration processes (city, county, state, federal) the legal and ethical issues in relation to volunteer response and the RN Scope of Practice, how to respond to all types of emergencies and disasters, and how to plan and personally prepare; and be it further

RESOLVED, that WSNA assess opportunities for member participation in select emergency management disaster planning meetings (city, county, state, and federal) to assist and inform WSNA members, colleagues, and families about opportunities to participate in a response effort.

Submitted by Professional Nursing & Health Care Council October 24, 2018

Updated May 2, 2019