

RCW 18.20.525 Disaster preparedness plan. (1) Each assisted living facility shall develop and maintain a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan to be followed in the event of a disaster or emergency, including fires, earthquakes, floods, extreme heat, extreme cold, infectious disease outbreaks, loss of power or water, and other events that may require sheltering in place, evacuations, or other emergency measures to protect the health and safety of residents. The facility shall review the comprehensive disaster preparedness plan annually, update the plan as needed, and train all employees when they begin work in the facility on the comprehensive disaster preparedness plan and related staff procedures.

(2) The department shall adopt rules governing the comprehensive disaster preparedness plan. At a minimum, the rules must address: Timely communication with the residents' emergency contacts; timely communication with state and local agencies, long-term care ombuds, and developmental disabilities ombuds; contacting and requesting emergency assistance; on-duty employees' responsibilities; meeting residents' essential needs; procedures to identify and locate residents; and procedures to provide emergency information to provide for the health and safety of residents. In addition, the rules shall establish standards for maintaining personal protective equipment and infection control capabilities, as well as department inspection procedures with respect to the plans.

(3) For assisted living facilities certified as memory care facilities or memory care units under RCW 18.20.540, comprehensive disaster preparedness plans must specifically consider the needs of residents with dementia. [2025 c 187 s 9; 2021 c 159 s 5.]

Findings—Intent—Construction—Application—Requirements of chapter 70.129 RCW—2025 c 187: See notes following RCW 18.20.540.

Findings—2021 c 159: See note following RCW 18.20.520.