The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has experienced natural and man-made disasters in the past, and scientific evidence indicates the state remains vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters in the future; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of our state need to prepare themselves to be self-sufficient for at least three days following a natural or man-made disaster; and

WHEREAS, the loss of life and property damage can be greatly reduced if appropriate disaster preparedness measures as presented in the "PREPARE…BECAUSE YOU CARE" campaign, are taken before, during and after a disaster; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and state employees should be prepared so they can continue to provide essential public services after a disaster, and support the state's disaster response and recovery mission; and

WHEREAS, the importance of practicing preparedness will be highlighted during the month of April as the state Military Department, Emergency Management Division, and city and county emergency management agencies throughout the state promote awareness of disaster planning; and

WHEREAS, National Public Safety Telecommunications Week will be April 11-17, 2004, and a Statewide Earthquake Drill will occur April 22, 2004;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 2004 as

Disaster Preparedness Month

in Washington State, and I encourage all citizens to increase their knowledge and awareness of proper safety measures to follow before, during, and after a natural or man-made disaster.

Signed on this 11th day of December, 2003

Governor Gary Locke