

Life on Bainbridge Island after a Major Earthquake

1. If Bainbridge Island suffers heavy damage, the same will be true for the greater Seattle area and the rest of Kitsap County, and the island will be competing with these other, more populous areas for limited emergency response and humanitarian assistance resources.
2. The Agate Pass Bridge is down (worst case scenario) or closed until its structural integrity can be assured – days to weeks to months.
3. Routine ferry service to the island is stopped (assumption is that the State will take over the ferry system and use it to deliver emergency services throughout Puget Sound) – days to weeks; ferry facilities throughout Puget Sound damaged making any service problematic – days to weeks to months.
4. You are separated from your loved ones – everyone on island: hours to a day or more; one or more members off island: hours to days to a week or more.
5. You or a loved one is injured and trapped in your home, another building, a car and are awaiting rescue by very limited and over taxed search and rescue resources – hours to a day or more.
6. Electricity is out of service, especially if the bridge collapses – days to weeks to months.
7. City water and sewer systems are down – days to weeks to months.
8. Well water, sewage systems, and/or gas lines are damaged – days to weeks to months.
9. Roads are damaged and blocked by fallen trees – days to weeks to months.
10. Schools are damaged and closed; if not, they will serve as emergency shelters for the newly homeless – days to weeks to months.
11. Gas stations are damaged; if not, there will be no gasoline available when existing stocks of gasoline are exhausted – days to weeks.
12. No propane deliveries – days to weeks.
13. Banks are closed and ATMs out of service (I.e., no access to your money) – hours to days to weeks.
14. Widespread damage to residential and commercial structures; many uninhabitable – days to weeks to months to a year or more.
15. Emergency shelters are overwhelmed and poorly equipped – hours to days to a week or more.
16. Uncontrolled structural fires – days.
17. Supermarkets closed – days to weeks.
18. Restaurants closed – days to weeks to months

19. Hundreds to thousands injured/dead.
20. Medical facilities damaged; if not, they will be quickly overrun by the demand for services, and the rapid exhaustion of medical supplies – days to weeks.
21. Bainbridge Disposal services stopped; once they begin, they will be overwhelmed by the volume of refuse and no place to dispose of collected items – days to weeks to months.
22. Telephone and cell phone services interrupted – days to weeks to months.
23. Limited heavy lift equipment, loading and unloading docks, and staging area space available on Bainbridge Island – days to weeks.
24. Everyone we are counting on to help rescue us from the above will be a victim too, and will be taking care of themselves and their families first before coming to help us.
25. A significant number of fire, police, and city personnel live off island, and will have considerable difficulty reporting for work – days to weeks.
26. Civil unrest a distinct possibility.