

Attention Tribal Members:

2007 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

- Sunday, April 1 — Eugene
Valley River Inn, Willamette Room
1000 Valley River Way
- Sunday, May 6 — Grand Ronde

NOTE THAT ALL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS START AT 11 A.M.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, April 11	5 p.m.
Wednesday, April 25	5 p.m.

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed. Please call Dakota Whitecloud, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator at 503-879-1309 to confirm.

Be Prepared At Home In Case of Emergency

By Sgt. Nate Goldberg,
Polk Co. Sheriff's Office
Grand Ronde Substation



Sgt. Nate Goldberg

Photo by Toby McClary

In my last article we talked about vehicle safety. Some of the people I spoke with afterwards commented they were happy to find out they had been doing many of the things I suggested already. However, I am always surprised to see how many people do not plan very well, if at all, for safety in the most important place, the home.

We spend much of our lives in our homes. It is vital that we are prepared to deal with a number of emergencies, both natural and man-made. This is not a difficult task and can be done in an afternoon. You would be surprised how much better you feel after doing a little planning.

The first issue we will talk about is the natural emergencies. They do not have to be disasters to cause you a real problem. Being prepared ahead of time will save you a lot of problems.

One of the most common problems is a loss of power. Not only is it hard to see, but you have to worry about your refrigerator and/or freezer. You should have a few flashlights on hand with plenty of spare batteries. I prefer a battery powered lantern; it provides for a better dispersal of light. Candles are all right, but can be a fire hazard if not properly used and watched.

I also recommend keeping a couple of bags of spare ice in your freezer, and a cooler nearby. You can throw your perishables in it until the power comes back on. Also, keep a few canned goods on hand in case the power is going to be out for a while. Prepare foods such as ravioli or spaghetti. They may not be the healthiest choice, but they don't require much preparation. If you need to cook something, a small camp stove can be a cheap and easy solution. Just remember not to use it indoors.

Make an emergency plan with your family. Decide on a couple of places to meet if you cannot meet at your house. Have a home evacuation plan in place that has at least two ways out of the residence. Know where your fuse box is, and make sure it is properly labeled.

So, you are prepared for the loss of power, but are you prepared for the loss of your property? Residential burglaries are one of the most frequent crimes committed. You should start with trying to prevent yourself from becoming a victim. Law enforcement calls this "target hardening." If a burglar really wants in your home, he/she will get in. Burglars generally want an easy target and will move on if your residence looks to difficult to get into.

Make sure you have good locks on all your exterior doors. They should be deadbolts. Also, make sure your windows have good locks on them. If you have valuables inside your residence that you want to secure, use a floor mounted lockbox or safe.

In the event a burglar does get in, you can take some steps to increase the chances of getting your property back. Take pictures of your belongings. If it is jewelry, get a close up. If possible, make them digital pictures because it's easier to send them to your insurance company and the police.

You should also engrave your property with your driver license number. Put an "OR" before the number and a "DL" after it. This makes it more difficult for the would be thief to alter it. Record the serial number somewhere safe. Law Enforcement can enter the serial number into a nationwide database, and no matter where your property ends up, if a police officer finds it, they can get it back to you.

If you are going to be gone for an extended period, prepare ahead of time. If you get the paper, have a friend or neighbor pick it up daily, or have it stopped. Have someone turn different lights on and off, to make it appear as if you are still there. The idea is not to have it look like you have left.

It's an old but true saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." I can tell you from my experience that truer words have never been spoken.

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

The following Committees and/or Special Event Boards have vacancies:

- Fish & Wildlife Committee — 1 Vacancy**
- Health Committee — 1 Vacancy**
- Timber Committee — 2 Vacancies**

For more information contact Dakota Whitecloud at 503-879-1309 or dakota.whitecloud@grandronde.org

Smoke Signals

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347
1-800-422-0232, FAX: 503-879-2173

www.grandronde.org



DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Thursday, April 5	APRIL 15
Friday, April 20	MAY 1
Friday, May 4	MAY 15
Friday, May 18	JUNE 1

SIOBHAN TAYLOR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR
503-879-1920
siobhan.taylor@grandronde.org

TERI MERCIER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECRETARY
503-879-1418
teri.mercier@grandronde.org

JUSTIN PHILLIPS
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
503-879-2190
justin.phillips@grandronde.org

RON KARTEN
STAFF WRITER
503-879-4663
ron.karten@grandronde.org

TOBY MCCLARY
PHOTOJOURNALIST
503-879-1358
toby.mcclary@grandronde.org

GEORGE VALDEZ
PRODUCTION
ASSISTANT
503-879-1416
george.valdez@grandronde.org

SHELLY KENT
CENTRAL PHONES
503-879-5211
shelly.kent@grandronde.org

KRISTEN RAVIA
PUBLICATIONS
SECRETARY
503-879-1453
kristen.ravia@grandronde.org

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2007 Tribal Council

1-800-422-0232 — council@grandronde.org

■ **Chris Mercier**
Tribal Chair
— ext. 2305
chris.mercier@grandronde.org

■ **Wesley "Buddy" West**
— ext. 2353
wesley.west@grandronde.org

■ **Angie Blackwell**
Tribal Vice Chair
— ext. 2300
angie.blackwell@grandronde.org

■ **Wink Soderberg**
— ext. 1444
wink.soderberg@grandronde.org

■ **Jack Giffen, Jr.**
Tribal Secretary
— ext. 2306
jack.giffen@grandronde.org

■ **Kathleen Tom**
— ext. 1777
kathleen.tom@grandronde.org

■ **Reyn Leno**
— ext. 2399
reyn.leno@grandronde.org

■ **Cheryle Kennedy**
— ext. 2352
cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org

■ **Valorie Sheker**
— ext. 2355
val.sheker@grandronde.org