

WERE YOU READY IN OCTOBER? HOW ABOUT NOW?

Come to the Be Ready Disaster Preparedness Expo to share your preparedness actions taken in response to the Oct. 15 Severe Wind Warning issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) in Portland.

There has been some media criticism that NWS overreacted, but Category II hurricane force winds passed by Florence 30 miles to the west, according to Chris Nation, NBC Weather Forecaster in Eugene.

In his worst-case scenario forecast, this typhoon remnant could have intensified, similar to the typhoon Frieda remnant that devastated the Pacific Northwest with Category V hurricane force



winds on Oct. 12, 1962.

After you consider the steps you took to prep for the storm — checking your gutters, boarding up windows, stocking up on fuel, food and necessities — take a

moment to view the trees located in the southwest quadrant of your home and/or business.

None of the trees, which attracted so many of us to the Florence area, have root systems

that would keep the trees from falling during Category II hurricane force winds.

The NWS calculates the frequency rate for these “severe wind events” as occurring on a 10-year average. Consider your trees. Are these trees more important than your personal safety and the ability to “shelter in place” (in your own home) when the next storm comes ashore?

These severe wind events are the highest probability disaster which we must be prepared for.

By definition, disaster means that so many of your neighbors will be affected and available motel rooms will be filled. Many will have to endure survival in a shelter for as much as 2-3 weeks before electricity is restored and debris has been cleared.



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