

Now, you can view road conditions in real time

A new online tool will allow the public to view road closures or restrictions due to downed trees, debris, landslides or flooding in near real-time on county-maintained roads.

The tool, called Storm Road Tracker, has been used by Lane County staff to report and track issues for the last year. It was developed by Lane County's Geographic Information Services (GIS) Department in partnership with Road Maintenance staff.

"It has been a great tool for our crews to use in the field," said Lane County Road Maintenance Manager Orin Schumacher. "It allows us to be more efficient in how we dispatch staff and creates a record we can use to report on damage."

"Our hope is that the public can use the tracker to see what's going on around them, as well as report issues if they don't see them on the map."

The tracker allows users to look for incidents on a County-wide map, or to search by address and road name.

The Storm Road Tracker is available at www.lcmaps.lane

county.org/stormroadtracker. It can also be accessed by visiting www.lanecounty.org and selecting "Know Your Route" under the "Emergency Preparedness" tab.

"We are still in the development phase," said Melissa Crane, GIS program manager. "We were scheduled to roll this out later this year, but with the new storm approaching we wanted to provide residents with as much information as possible."

"It's also a good opportunity to test the Storm Road Tracker."

Feedback is welcome at gis@co.lane.or.us. Information from the public will be used to continue improving the tool.

People using the tracker should remember that it only includes county-maintained roads and issues that have been reported.

If they know of an issue that is not on the map, they should report it to Public Works at 541-682-6900 during business hours and to the Sheriff's Office non-emergency dispatch line at 541-682-4150 after hours.

DISASTER PREP

By DAVE ROBINSON
Special to the Siuslaw News

Preparedness tips: Part 2

Last week, I started a series on my 10 Principles of Disaster Preparedness. It is my sincere belief that your efforts to prepare should follow a plan. Being prepared is more than a full pantry of Spam, rice and beans. Preparedness begins with a mindset that says, "No matter what happens, we're going to get through any disaster thrown at us!"

Accumulating extra stores and planning ahead is all part of the overall picture, but there should be some guiding principles behind how you prepare and for what reasons. In case you missed the first three principles, see last week's column or check it out on my blog (www.disasterprepdave.blogspot.com).

4. *There is value in redundancy.* An old joke among government employees is that somewhere deep in the bureaucracy swamp known as Washington, there is an agency known as the Department of Redundancy Department. This principle sounds a bit like No. 3, "Always Have A Plan B," but if you only have one way of purifying water, then two ways is even better. If you have one case of toilet paper, two is better.

The more you have stored, the more you have available for barter or charity. Equally as important are the qualities

of versatility and flexibility. Disasters don't follow a rigid design, so it's best if you design your plan with a certain adaptability factor as well.

5. *Don't make preparations out of fear.* Several months ago, we held a class at our church on Disaster Preparedness. There were about 25 people in attendance. We discussed some of the reasons for prepping including the possibility of a mega-earthquake. After the class one of the attendees went home, gathered her children and pitched a tent out in the middle of a field in fear of an earthquake destroying her house.

That wasn't exactly what we had in mind. I carry a spare tire in my car, not out of fear of a flat tire, but just in case.

I have Band-aids in my wallet, just in case. The story is told of an 80 year old woman confronted by police. It was found she had two handguns in her purse, one in her glovebox and a shotgun under the seat. The officer asked, "Ma'am, just what is it you are afraid of?"

Her reply, "Nothing!"

When you lay in extra stores, do so with the posture of "just in case." Not because you're afraid of what might happen.

6. *Beware of "Style Over Substance!"* Politicians are fond of

making laws, usually with great pomp and volume, that are long on publicity and short on actual effectiveness. We all know of products that don't live up to their billing. Not everything labelled "survival" will be of benefit when actually put to the test. I am convinced that much so-called "survival" gear was designed by the P.T. Barnum School of Marketing. You'll recall their motto, I'm sure: "There's a sucker born every minute!"

When making a purchase for your preparations, do your research and think it through. First ask yourself if you know how to use it. Then try to determine the probability of necessity if there is a disaster.

Make smart, well informed purchases before you invest. It's not only your money at stake, your life may depend on this thing.

Next week we'll continue with more of my Ten Principles.

Dave Robinson is the postmaster in Bandon, Ore., and author of "Disaster Prep for the Rest of Us." He may be contacted at disasterprep.dave@gmail.com. Visit his website for more disaster preparedness tips, www.disasterprepdave.blogspot.com.

Parents: learn how to recognize, end cyber-bullying

Bullies are nothing new, but Internet accessibility has given rise to another type of bully. It has created cyber-bullies who bully others via electronic devices. Cyber-bullies use email, instant messages, blogs, chat rooms and social networking sites as well as cell phone text messages and photos to harass their victims.

Cyber-bullies utilize the Internet for the following:

- Send insulting messages
- Spread rumors
- Post embarrassing photos
- Pose as someone else and send messages supposedly from the victim

- Share someone's secrets online
- Threaten the victim and make him or her live in fear
- Exclude their victim from an online group

Who is most often affected by cyber-bullying?

Middle- and high-school aged students are the most likely to be affected. Your child may be a victim and not tell you. Or, your child may be a cyber-bully.

Why do kids cyber-bully?

Children become cyber-bullies for the same reasons they bully in person. It makes them feel important. But unlike bullies, cyber-bullies can hide behind anonymity on the computer and be just as mean or meaner to others.

What are the dangers of cyber-bullying?

Victims of cyber-bullying can get so upset and/or depressed that they attempt suicide or hurt others. While bullies my threaten children at school, cyber-bullies "invade" your home so that there's no escape from them.

Hurtful messages or pictures can be emailed, posted online

or forwarded via cell phones, making the bullying widespread and long lasting.

What are some warning signs a child is being cyber-bullied?

Warning signs may include; unexplained anxiety, anger, sadness, or fear, especially after using the computer or cell phone. Falling grades, lack of interest in friends, school or other activities, trouble sleeping, more or less interest in the computer or cell phone.

What can parents and guardians do about cyber-bullying?

- Talk to your children. Tell them to let you know if anyone is being a cyber-bully. If someone is, have your child save all communications from that person, including emails, Internet Messages (IMs), and text messages.
- Report incidents to the

Internet or cell phone provider, your child's school and/or police if you fear your child is in danger.

- Find out how to block the cyber-bully's email address or phone number, or change your child's online information.

• Note that filtering software cannot prevent cyber-bullying.

What can your children do?

- If one of your children receives a hurtful message, he or she needs to tell you about it, but not send a message back. Responding negatively to the cyber-bully, or forwarding the hurtful message on to others, makes your child a cyber-bully as well.

- Avoid websites where cyber-bullying occurs.

- To keep others from being hurt, your children should report any instances of someone they know being cyber-bullied.

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240 HOURS

Is your family prepared?

If an emergency happens in our community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 240 hours.

Get your emergency kit started with these essentials:

- Battery powered radio
- First aid kit an manual
- Sleeping bags and blankets (wool or thermal)
- Manual can opener
- Waterproof/windproof matches
- Water storage (1 gallon/person/day)
- Water purification tablets
- Non-Perishable Food
- Utility knife
- Emergency candles
- Extra eyeglasses and contact lenses
- Essential medications



This message brought to you by the West Lane Emergency Operations Group. www.wleog.org

IDENTIFY • PREPARE • SURVIVE

PTA seeks participants for new multi-cultural event

The Florence Community PTA is putting the pieces in place to hold a multi-cultural celebration on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Siuslaw Middle School. The

event is a first of its kind for the PTA and open to the public with no admission charge.

The goal of the event, titled "Around the World in a Day," is designed to bring students,

parents and community members together to provide education on cultures from around the world, while building social connections with the schools and our community.

While a handful of participants have already signed up, the PTA planning committee is currently looking for additional individuals and groups who

would like to showcase their ethnicity through music, storytelling, art, games, or other activities.

Individuals, groups, and local businesses are invited to participate and can reach Diane McCalmont at 541-999-9692 with questions, ideas, or to sign up.

C.R.O.W. presents:

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& Many more surprises!
Saturday, February 11th 6:30 PM
Three Rivers Casino Showroom
\$22 pp/\$40 couple if purchased in advance
\$25 pp/\$45 couple at door (if available)
Tix: www.crowkids.com or (866) 967-8167
DBD is a fundraiser for C.R.O.W. - nonprofit youth theatre
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