

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Are you ready?

For many years, we've been talking about the importance of being prepared for 72 hours. This is a good start, and helpful in the event of short-term power outages or temporary evacuation. But a large earthquake and tsunami will leave much of the area's transportation routes destroyed. Oregonians will have to count on each other in the community, in the workplace and at home in order to be safe until responders can reach you.

Oregon's Office of Emergency Management encourages people to be prepared to be on their own for a minimum of two weeks. This lessens the strain on emergency responders who need to focus limited resources on injured and other vulnerable populations immediately following a disaster.

What does two weeks look like?

There is no one correct way to put together two weeks' worth of supplies since everyone has individual dietary and medical needs. If your family includes children, seniors or pets, you will have additional needs. Everyone's kit will look different but for a basic starting point, see the list of items on page 7 of the American Red Cross Cascade Region Prepare! guide.

Our 2 Weeks Ready Facebook page suggests activities or items to include in your preparedness kit. You probably have many 2 Weeks Ready items around the house.

You're more prepared than you think.

Being prepared to be self-sufficient for two weeks is an achievable goal. Many of the standard preparedness kit items such as flashlights, gloves, hand-crank radios, trash bags and a first-aid kit are already in your 72-hour kit. These handy, colorful and easy-to-read brochures will help you to think about how to be 2 Weeks Ready in a variety of ways.

Creating a Prepared Community

Preparing for disasters can be done over time. The usual three-day supply is a good start. It is helpful in the event of short-term power outages or temporary evacuation. But a large earthquake and tsunami will leave much of the area's transportation routes destroyed. This will make it difficult or impossible to deliver assistance and supplies. Oregonians will have to count on each other in the community, in the workplace and at home in order to be safe until responders can

2 WEEKS READY

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<https://www.facebook.com/2WeeksReady>

reach them. It is recommended that families, neighborhoods and communities strive to be self-sufficient for two weeks. We all are responsible for at least a small part. There is a lot that individuals and neighborhoods can do to get prepared. Communities have a role in supporting individual preparedness and to provide support in planning on a larger scale. First responders, such as police and fire, do a good job during disasters, but they can't do it alone. When you move to a new town or community, engage with the first responders and emergency management agencies. Both will have opportunities for eager volunteer to become involved, whether it's through Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Medical Reserves, amateur radio courses, and many others.

You can look to other types of programs, such as community gardens, food banks, or elder care groups if that is more to your liking. It all adds to a community's ability to recover from disaster quickly. No matter your interests, you can be a valuable asset to your community's preparedness efforts. Start by contacting your city administrative office, or county if you live in a rural area, to get contact information. Then jump in with both feet and make a difference in your community. It is through the efforts of the people who live, work, and play in the community that is will become resilient. You cannot rely just on others. What are some of the ways that an individual can help a community?

Volunteer

- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- After school program/ work with kids to teach safety/preparedness
- First responder volunteer

Start a nonprofit to address a community issue

- Food security/ neighborhood gardens
- Bicycle transport
- Elder networking

Take some time to reach out to your community leaders and volunteer to help. Most likely, there are several ways you could become a part of the preparedness process in your community. Nearly all towns, cities or counties have councils, commissions, and committees to help plan the day to day operations and plan for the future. These are most often staffed by volunteers who want to help their community. Consider checking out the websites of your town, city, or county to see where you can volunteer. Or consider running for office to truly influence how your community prepares for disasters.

Credits

Oregon Office of Emergency Management Ashland Fire & Rescue
 Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries Hood River County

For more information:
www.Oregon.gov/OEM www.Ready.gov

2 minutes
 Drop, Cover and Hold on

2 hours
 Check your immediate surroundings Evacuate, if necessary
 Follow your plan
 1EQText: Your Out-of-State contact

2 days
 Use resources in preparedness kit
 Check with neighbors & community

2 weeks
 Organize community members
www.facebook.com/2WeeksReady
 On Twitter @2WeeksReady

Preparedness-Minded Youth Sought for FEMA Youth Council

Are you a student in grades 8-11 who is interested in community service and looking to build a resume? FEMA Region 10 (Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska) is establishing a new Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) and looking for a representative from Oregon.

The Region 10 Council brings together youth leaders who are highly engaged in advocating preparedness and making a difference in their communities. The Council members are selected based on their commitment to public service, their efforts in making a difference in their communities, and their potential to expand their impact as advocates for youth preparedness. FEMA Region 10 is committed to building an inclusive and diverse Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council.

"This is a unique opportunity for youth leaders to serve on a regional council, to complete youth preparedness projects, to voice their opinions on youth disaster preparedness with FEMA Region 10 leadership and partner organizations, and to participate in the Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council Summit," says Andrew Phelps, director

of Oregon's Office of Emergency Management.

Serving on the Region 10 YPC is a significant responsibility that requires dedication and time-management skills so that members balance school, extracurricular activities and their involvement in the Council. Region 10 YPC members are expected to participate in bi-monthly Regional YPC conference calls and complete one team and one individual preparedness-related project annually that benefits their community. A Council Summit is scheduled for Aug 14-15, 2018, in Lynnwood, WA., and is mandatory meeting for council members.

Applicants must submit a complete application including the application form, one letter of recommendation, academic records and any optional supplemental materials by June 14, 2018 to public.info@state.or.us.

Application form and additional information on YPC is on the OEM website home page: www.oregon.gov/oem.

Is your home at risk from wildfire?

More people are living in what is known as the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), where homes and other structures are built in or near woodland settings or forests. While residents enjoy the beauty of the environment, they also face the very real danger of wildfire. They can be ignited by escaped debris burning, the careless tossing of a cigarette, an unattended campfire, or from natural causes like lightning, and they spread fast. Several wildfire preparedness programs are available to help prevent casualties and property loss by wildfires.

Fire season requires residents to be at a heightened awareness for the dangers of wildfire. Your local fire agency takes every precaution to help protect you and your property from fire. However, during a large wildfire, there may not be enough fire engines or firefighters to defend every home. Successful preparation requires you to take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family from the dangers of wildfire.

Ready- Be ready

Be Firewise. Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your home is ready in case of a wildfire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and protect your home with fire-safe materials. Assem-

ble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those living in your home know your wildfire action plan.

Set- Be prepared

Put together a "go kit" and pack your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, your local fire and police agencies.

Go- Act early

Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Get yourself and your family to safety. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.

Yard Debris Removal Safety Tips

Recycle yard debris. Chip, compost, or haul debris to a recycling center.

Call before you burn yard debris.

Check with your local fire agency or air protection authority to learn if there are any burning restrictions and if a permit is required.

Know the weather forecast.

Never burn on dry or windy days because it is easy for burning to spread out of control.

Burn only yard debris.

State regulations prohibit the open burning of any material that creates dense smoke or

noxious odors.

Keep your burn pile small or use a burn barrel.

Clear at least a 15-foot radius around a barrel and at least a 25-foot radius around your burn pile, and make sure there are no tree branches or power lines above. Wet down the surrounding area before and during the burn.

Always have water and fire tools on site.

Keep a water-charged hose, a bucket of water, a shovel, and dirt or sand nearby to extinguish the fire.

Stay with the fire.

Oregon law requires that you monitor a debris burn continually from start to finish until completely out.

Extinguish the fire.

Drown the burn pile with water, stir the coals, and drown again. Repeat until the fire is completely out.

Recheck the fire.

Go back and recheck old burn piles, as they can retain heat for several weeks and rekindle when the weather warms and the wind begins to blow.

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PUT TOGETHER A PLAN

Make sure all the pieces are in place to render you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest weather information, and follow all evacuation directions and suggestions.
- Keep a stock of non-perishable food items as well as bottled water on hand inside your home.
- Keep a 72 Hour Kit on hand inside your home that is easy to get to in the event of a disaster.

For more information and tips on disaster response and preparedness, contact your local emergency services center.
 South Lane Fire & Rescue • 233 Harrison Ave, Cottage Grove 541-942-4493 • 55 South 1st Street, Creswell 541-895-2506



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