

YIR *from A1*

counties in our office helping us."

In response to the carnage, emergency services became inundated with calls and incidents.

From Monday to Thursday the week of the storm, calls totaled at 44 welfare checks, 60 fire or medical and 10 burglary alarm responses. In all, 328 emergency and 875 non-emergency calls came in, bloating the phone lines to two or three times the normal amount.

Power companies scrambled to respond to a high volume of inquiries and outage reports. By the morning of Feb. 25, Cottage Grove was completely without power save for those with generators. The city's main electricity provider, Pacific Power, reported more than 3,300 Cottage Grove customers affected by the power outages and 44,000 throughout its coverage area, though the company's power was fully restored by the end of the week.

City officials have been pleased with public and private responses to the emergency so far.

"I'd like to say good job to the city staff who have been working through this," said Mayor Jeff Gowling. "For those of us who've been here since '69, I haven't seen anything worse until this one. It's not as bad as that one, but pretty close."

Buch hoped to see greater emergency preparedness grow from this event.

"This is a great learning lesson for not only the county but all communities throughout the affected areas," she said. "To go back to the table and say, 'This is where we did great. This is where we need im-

provement and let's move through those steps because this could be much, much worse in the future and we need to be ready."

Flooding prompts area evacuations

(Originally printed April 10, 2019)

Level 3 evacuation notices were issued Sunday evening to residents within the 100-year floodplains of the Row River and Coast Fork of the Willamette as intense rainfall over the weekend increased fears of area flooding.

The Level 3 notices warn that danger is current or imminent and citizens should evacuate immediately.

"If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand that emergency services may not be available to assist you further," the Lane County Sheriff's Office wrote in a Facebook post. "DO NOT delay leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home."

Historic rates of water were released from Dorena Reservoir Sunday night to prevent overflow of the reservoir. By midnight, the reservoir was reportedly releasing 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), matching the amount released in Cottage Grove's last major flood in 1996.

As rainfall tapered through Monday, the release rate was slated to drop to 7,500 cfs, though concerns of snow melts had threatened to put that number at a record-breaking 10,000 cfs.

While Cottage Grove experienced some flooding in areas within city limits, heavier inundation occurred around the edges of the city and outlying areas.

Riverstone Mobile Home Park, a community of residents 55 or older, received



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Community members raised the first wall of the tiny house project into position last April.

an evacuation notice from South Lane County Fire and Rescue Sunday night as flooding crept through the park's streets and up to homes.

Community managers hurried to notify residents with the help of the fire department.

"We went door-to-door to every home," said manager Lee Wege of the 125-unit park. "We're extremely grateful to the fire department."

Shoreview Meadows Cooperative, a resident-run community along the Row River, received the Level 3 evacuation notice Sunday night.

"On the spaces that are bordering the river, it's lapping at their doorstep," said resident Janice Scanlon, who moved to Cottage Grove a year ago.

In response to the notice, Scanlon helped organize an

evacuation. She estimated about 65 or 70 residents were impacted or forced to evacuate their homes Sunday night, though they were given no instruction on where to go as shelters had not been fully established.

By 10 p.m. Sunday night, American Red Cross received notice and began setting up a shelter at the Cottage Grove Community Center, housing about 40 people through the night.

The flooding makes for the second natural disaster to shake the Cottage Grove area in five weeks, prompting some renewed talk of emergency preparedness.

"After the snowstorm, we started talking about making a list of those who are medically vulnerable," said Joi Adair, another resident of Shoreview Meadows Cooperative. "And so kind of putting together a list

of who can help and who needs help."

For her part, Scanlon has found the past month eye-opening.

"Personally, I need a better go-kit," Scanlon said. "If I'm going to live by a river, I need to be better prepared."

Walls raised on first tiny house

(Originally printed May 1, 2019)

Members of Presbyterian Women helped hoist the first wall in Cottage Village last week, marking a new milestone in the tiny house project at 1430 E. Madison Ave.

"This isn't the answer to our housing crisis, but it's definitely a start," said

See TINY 7A

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