

Contents of emergency barrels are a source of concern for authorities

Barrels from Page 1A

While the barrels ensure that supplies would be available to their owners during a disaster, those who don't have barrels — including tourists — could become belligerent, Kucera said.

“When there is a disaster, and no one is there to keep order, what happens? A have and have-not situation can get ugly very quickly,” he said.

Schermerhorn said the police learned about guns packed in the barrels when the owner of a barrel broken into at the Tolovana site reported a missing gun. The gun has never been found. Cash also was taken.

“There’s a lot to be said for everyone having the same things,” Schermerhorn said.

Only three police officers live in Cannon Beach, he noted. If a 9.0 earthquake occurred and a tsunami washed over the town, it could take days before there was a police presence at the assembly points.

“After one or two days, people are going to be hungry,” Schermerhorn said. “There will be things that people want that they won’t have access to, and they won’t have law enforcement to protect them.”

Stacy Burr, the city’s emergency management consultant, said it is the city’s responsibility to ensure that everyone is cared for and must approach emergency preparedness on a “whole community” basis. That means providing access to supplies to all who need them, she said.

When Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in 2005, Burr noted, there was a “huge difference between the wealthy and the poor and disabled in how they received resources.”

In addition, Burr said, the city cannot reimburse residents whose barrels are broken into or damaged.

If the personal barrels are removed from the shipping containers, the expectation that people seeking refuge from a disaster would eventually gather at the container sites also would be changed.

Instead, people would gather at the 10 assembly areas that have been mapped out, and city emergency crews would bring supplies to them.

City supplies also would be available in natural disasters other than tsunamis, such as a windstorm like the one that downed thousands of trees on the North Coast, disrupted communication systems and caused power outages lasting six days in December 2007.

The emergency preparedness committee members agreed that discontinuing the personal barrels should be considered, but they also expressed some concerns.

“I don’t see any problem with it. But I wonder if the city has resources to provide everything,” said committee Vice Chairman Bob Mushen.

Burr said she would apply for available grants to purchase the necessary materials.

Committee Chairwoman Karolyn Adamson said the barrels were established because “people can’t carry everything they need. The city’s supplies, she said, “should be based on what people cannot carry.”

Cannon Beach’s older population should be considered when supplies are stored for the community, said committee member Paula Vetter. The city should also have supplies in place before the barrels are returned to their owners, she said.



ERICK BENGEL PHOTO

In 2014, downtown Cannon Beach was packed with Fourth of July revelers out to see the floats, such as this one with an Uncle Sam mannequin sitting in a canoe being escorted by a red, white and blue walking contingent.

Parade: ‘Pure Americana’

Parade from Page 1A

then back down Hemlock. The march concludes at the Legion, where hot dogs will be waiting.

The parade began in 1993, inspired by Bob Teagle who, instead of lamenting the city’s lack of a Independence Day parade, started his own. At first it was just Teagle and his wife, marching with flags in hand. Quickly, neighbors fell in behind them.

“Unfortunately Bob is no longer with is,” O’Reilly said. “He was a very strong community guy and this parade is just a total expression of celebration.”

After Teagle’s passing, the parade continued to grow. This year O’Reilly said he expects more than 75 participants, including traditional floats, fire trucks, police cars, hot rods, riders on horseback, children on bicycles, local businesses, the fabled Jack-

son Street Chair Clacking Brigade and more.

“You’ll see people with bags of taffy throwing them, kids scampering and having fun,” O’Reilly added. “You may see a group of four people to groups of 12 to 20. And then there are people who join it while its going on. It’s just spontaneous. And I think that’s what makes it so doggone interesting. It’s not one of these things that is so rigid.”

Over the years, the only thing that seems to have shrunk in relation to the parade is involvement from regional military. “We’ve actually been affected by the lack of congressional action,” O’Reilly said. “In the past we were able to get the Air National Guard to do a pass over, there are no monies available for that.

“We are still hoping for potential support from Camp Rilea,” he added.



NANCY MCCARTHY PHOTO

Cannon Beach’s 2014 Fourth of July parade wasn’t without music. These musicians were part of the Tolovana Treble Makers.

“They used to send a few Humvees down to be part of the parade.”

With or without active military presence, though, the armed forces will be represented. This year the parade’s grand marshal is John “Jack” Kerwin, a former Marine and Oregon park ranger. Other mem-

bers of the Legion will also be on hand, helping facilitate the event. “People who have been in the service are committed to serving,” O’Reilly said. “There’s nothing better than seeing the joy on kids’ faces. I’m not usually at a loss for words, but it’s true. It’s just such an outpouring.”



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