

Tips for Preparedness Month given

September is National Preparedness Month, four calendar weeks set aside specifically to encourage citizens to prepare for disasters and emergencies by developing a plan, creating a disaster supply survival kit and staying informed. FEMA Acting Regional Administrator Dennis Hunsinger reminds parents that they are their family's first-responders.

"Emergency plans help families stay in contact if they are separated unexpectedly. If you already have a plan, keep it current. If you don't yet have a plan, get started with free Family Preparedness Plan templates available at www.ready.gov," said Hunsinger. "Another great resource is Ready Kids available at www.ready.gov/kids. It's a family-friendly tool that helps parents and teachers educate children ages 8-12 about emergencies, and how they can better prepare."

Ready Kids features fun activities such as Pack it Up Matching games, crossword puzzles, coloring pages and Scavenger Hunts, as well as step-by-step instructions on the role kids can play in family preparedness.

FEMA recommends that in-

dividuals and families prepare a disaster supply kit since it may take time for help to arrive and shelters and food to become available following a disaster. Detailed checklists are available at Ready.gov, but minimum guidelines include:

- Store at least one gallon of water per person per day, and store the water in plastic containers. Water should be replaced every six months
- Store at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food per person to include ready-to-eat canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, and energy bars.
- Basic first-aid supplies like adhesive bandages, gauze pads, and antiseptic wipes
- Essential medications
- A copy of emergency contact numbers, a battery operated radio, a flashlight and extra batteries.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer, General Manager, West Oregon Electric Cooperative



We Need the Salmon Plan Now

We are anxiously waiting to see what the Obama Administration has to say about the region's salmon plan. The plan, or Biological Opinion (BiOp), was completed 15 months ago, and after some give-and-take in the courtroom, it is getting further scrutiny from the Obama Administration, top officials at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of Commerce. In mid-September, we should know more about how the Columbia River and Snake River power system will be operated in the future.

Like most cooperatives in the region, we support the BiOp because we believe it will work to benefit fish and because it is a science-based plan developed through a broad collaboration. We believe it is the best solution to a huge problem that has literally been sapping energy from the Northwest for decades.

Our members have helped to support fish recovery efforts for many years, with renewed focus following the passage of the Northwest Power Act. These have included many modifications at the dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers that are successfully helping ease the passage of the vast majority of salmon. The measures that have been implemented are working; we have been seeing impressive returns for some

time and the steelhead and fall Chinook returns are near record levels.

While we wait for the Administration, we are confounded and angered by the efforts of the plan's opponents to stir up a national campaign against the jewel of the Northwest energy system – our hydro system. They have been crisscrossing the country planting misinformation and beating the drum for Snake River dam removal.

The Boston Globe, New York Times, and San Francisco Chronicle, to name a few, have gone on record in the past couple of weeks in support of removing our Snake River dams. While the editorial writers deliver messages and claims from dam removal advocates, they fail to take into account the lives of real people who depend on the low-cost, clean power the dams provide – and what it would cost to replace this clean source of renewable energy. And they ignore the real progress that has been made to restore salmon.

The Snake River dams produce almost as much energy annually as has been gained in 27 years of BPA's conservation programs. The dams play a huge role in stabilizing the entire power system, especially as more wind power comes onto the grid. And, the dams produce low cost, clean renewable domestic energy.

We hope the Obama Administration will recognize the sound science and the regional collaboration that went into the BiOp. And we hope they embrace it. We want the acrimony to stop, to get out of the courtroom and get the implementation for the benefit of the salmon underway. The people of the Northwest deserve as much.

Love the beach? Then help clean it up

Saturday, September 19, marks the 25th anniversary of the SOLV Great Oregon Fall Beach Cleanup. The event, held in cooperation with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. along the entire Oregon coast, from the Washington to the California borders. Oregonians from every corner of the state are invited and encouraged to join in this Oregon tradition.

Volunteers may check in at one of 44 meeting sites along the coast, pick up a SOLV trash bag, and head down to the beach to help improve the coast line for wildlife and visitors alike. Coordinators suggest volunteers dress for the weather, bring gloves, wear sturdy shoes, and stay safe while enjoying the wonderful Oregon coastline! Safety is all-important during this fall's cleanup. Volunteers are asked to watch for sneaker waves,

stay away from logs, exercise caution on rocks and cliffs, and never turn their backs on the ocean.

Groups and individuals are encouraged to visit www.solv.org to pre-register online and view a map of volunteer registration locations, or volunteers can call SOLV at 503-844-9571 or 800-333-SOLV (7658) for more information.

The first statewide, all-volunteer beach cleanup in the nation was held in Oregon on Oc-

tober 13, 1984. Since then, nearly 190,000 dedicated volunteers have worked to collect over 1,200 tons of trash from the Oregon coastline. Following the Oregon effort, beach cleanups have spread to every state in the Union and to over 100 countries and locations around the world. On September 19th, SOLV volunteers will be joined by hundreds of thousands of volunteers from across the world as part of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.

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