

New earthquake property protection tips

The Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) announced, January 18, the availability of new guidelines to protect property from the effects of earthquakes.

The new IBHS guide, "Earthquake Risk Around the U.S. - How to Protect Your Property," provides information to help residents and business owners better understand the areas of a home or business most vulnerable to earthquake damage and offers solutions to minimize the risk of property losses. The information and suggestions presented in this guide range from simple weekend tasks that require basic carpentry skills to more complex projects that may require professional assistance.

Key topics covered include:

- The relationship between your home or business and an earthquake;
- Key areas of your home or business that are especially susceptible to damage;
- Ways you can reduce damage to your home or business and belongings; and,
- What you can do to protect yourself and your family.

"In the U.S. we mainly associate earthquakes with California, but many other states also are at serious risk, such as South Carolina and those in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, including Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. Between December 1811 and February 1812, the New

Madrid Zone had four of the largest known earthquakes in North America. It was reported that the Mississippi River ran backwards and the ground motion from the last quake caused church bells to ring as far away as Boston," said Julie Rochman, CEO and president, IBHS.

"The deadly earthquakes in Chile and Haiti last year tragically and vividly illustrated how damaging a single event can be, and what a difference effective building codes and other loss control measures can make to lives and property," Rochman said. "Earthquakes are not like blizzards or hurricanes; we do not get a clear warning period that one is im-

See Earthquake, page 21

OSU Extension Service offers well and spring testing

Have your well (or spring) tested for Coliform bacteria. Pick up sample bottles between February 13 and the test dates of March 3 or 10 at one of the following collection sites:

- Ace Hardware, Forest Grove
- Jim's Thriftway, Banks
- North Plains Hardware
- Petrich General Store, Scholls, or
- OSU Extension Service, 185th/Walker Roads

Payment of \$25.00 must be made when picking up the bottles. Make checks payable to: OSU Extension Service.

In the morning of March 3 or

Students and children in certified care facilities who do not have their vaccinations up to date will not be allowed to attend school as of February 16 according to an official of Washington County's Department of Health and Human Services. "It's important that each student have his or her vaccinations to protect them and their fellow students," says Gregg Russell, Washington County's immunization program coordinator.

On February 2, Health and Human Services sent "exclusion letters" to parents of over 5,000 Washington County students who attend schools and certified child care facilities. The letters will explain which vaccinations are missing from

the student's record and which are needed. Parents will have until February 16 to get their students vaccinated or bring in the missing records to their schools. The schools can then cancel the exclusion orders and the students will continue attending school.

There are exemptions from this rule, according to Russell. "A few students may be undergoing medical treatment and so vaccinations aren't recommended for them at the time." Medical exemptions need a doctor's letter or a lab report to be confirmed by Health and Human Services. Exemptions may also be given if parents have a religious objection to one or more vaccinations.

Parents who do not have a

regular health care provider for their children may call the Washington County Department of Health and Human Services at 503-846-8851 to set up an appointment to have their child immunized at a county clinic.

Parents are strongly encouraged to keep an updated immunization record at home for all members of the family.

Parents who would like to have more information about immunizations, and which immunizations are needed for school, can visit the Washington County Health and Human Services web site at: <http://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/Immunizations/index.cfm>. They may also call 503-846-4955 with particular questions.

10, collect a water sample and drop off your water test bottle before 10:00 a.m. at the same collection site where you got the sample bottle. Do not drop them off before the testing date; water must be fresh the day of the test.

Plan to attend the free, "Managing and Maintaining

Wells and Septic Systems," class April 2, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, at the OSU Extension Service office, 18640 NW Walker Road, (Entrance D-1), Beaverton. If you are unable to attend, your results will be mailed to you. This is a free, educational program to provide homeowners with basic infor-

mation on how to care for their drinking water well. There is no charge for attendance or materials, but pre-registration is requested so there will be adequate materials. Walk-ins will be welcome.

For information, contact OSU Extension Service at 503-821-1150.

Get some power for your Valentine



FS 45 TRIMMER

- Easy-to-use, well-balanced trimmer for home owner use
- Lightweight, reliable and fast starting

Trimmers Starting at \$149.⁹⁵

Stihl tune up kits available.



MS 170 Chain Saw

Designed for occasional wood-cutting tasks around the home

Chain Saws Starting at \$179.⁹⁵

STIHL HAS YOU COVERED WITH PROTECTIVE APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES.



Service provided by Stihl certified technicians.

- Mon - Fri 8am to 6pm
- Saturday 8am to 5pm
- Sunday 10am to 4pm

STIHL®

PRECISION OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

Banks Hardware

503-324-5221 • 150 N. Main Street, Banks

Main Street Pizza

680 S. Main
Oak Village Shopping Center
Banks, Oregon
503-324-5858

Receive \$2 off any large Pizza.

\$2⁰⁰ Off

Expires 2-28-11. Coupons cannot be sold or duplicated.

Main Street Pizza

680 S. Main
Oak Village Shopping Center
Banks, Oregon
503-324-5858

Receive \$1 off any medium Pizza.

\$1⁰⁰ Off

Expires 2-28-11. Coupons cannot be sold or duplicated.