

Learn how to protect yourself and your family during emergencies

From page 12

occur. Collective efforts by all should not stop until 100 percent of the population believes safety is a priority in their community. "We need to collectively consider and actively discuss how we should prepare, respond and communicate in the event of an emergency scenario," said Wilson.

So, how can you better protect yourself and your family? Wilson has some tips to help you be prepared for the unexpected:

1. Be proactive. Build a safety plan for you and your family and implement it so that you can best react to the unexpected. Make an emergency kit that is easily accessible. Remember the importance of critical recommendations such as texting first and talking second when cell carrier signal strength is reduced.

2. Be connected. Timely communication is key in a state of emergency. Technology allows for several channels of communication to alert people when a crisis hits. Most cities

VRFPD gives Vernonia Cares a donation

A check for \$1,000 from the Vernonia Volunteer Fire Association (VRFPD) was gratefully accepted by Vernonia Cares Director Sandy Welch on November 17. VRFPD volunteers Amy Smith and Lt. Jesse Harbour delivered the check with the request that the money be designated to buy food for this year's Holiday Food Boxes.

The cost to fill each box is about \$30, and Vernonia Cares hopes to provide boxes to at least 200 families in need this year. The volunteers' donation will be a big help toward meeting their goal.

Throughout the year, the Firefighters Association hosts a number of fundraising events in order to support the community they serve with monetary gifts and the yearly Christmas Toy & Joy program. The Toy & Joy program is under way and those interested can pick up information and application forms at the Vernonia Fire Station, Vernonia Cares, and other locations around town.

have solutions and/or services that enable residents and visitors to enroll and receive information that ranges from traffic and weather emergencies to hazardous materials situations, and everything in between.

3. Be aware. Familiarize yourself with the changes that have been made in your community to alert the public of a natural disaster, health pandemic or terrorist attack. New technologies and systems are constantly being updated and it is important to be aware how those changes affect you and those around you.

To see the Federal Signal survey and learn more about how to better protect yourself and your family, visit www.alertnotification.com.

Power of the People

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



Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Santa Claus will be visiting West Oregon Electric Cooperative once again to help raise funds for our "Care to Share" energy assistance program. He will be available for keepsake

photographs on Thursday, December 8th, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, December 9th and Saturday, December 10th from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the WOEC office, 652 Rose Ave, Vernonia. Due to a generous donation by Five Star Builders the first 50 people will receive their initial \$5 photo FREE! Please come help support our fund raiser for energy assis-

tance, and have your picture taken with Santa. All proceeds will go to help families in the West Oregon Electric Co-op community.

These special photographs make great gifts! Individual, family, and group photos all for the same low cost!

Prices (full color photos):
 First Photo in card with envelope – \$5
 Additional copies in card w/envelope – \$2
 Additional 4x6 copies (no card) – \$1
 Photo packages with 8x10 and 5x7 photos also available for purchase. We have \$5, \$10, and \$15 packages that make great gifts.

For more information call the WOEC office at 503-429-3021 and ask for Sarah or Kellie. (see photo from Santa's visit to WOEC in 2010, on this page.)



Vernonia Volunteer Fire Association volunteers Lt. Jesse Harbour and Amy Smith presented a check to Sandy Welch of Vernonia Cares on November 17. Photo by Kate Talbott.

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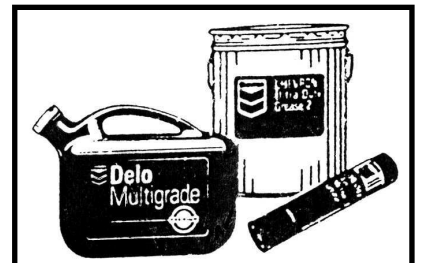
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