

**JACKSON
COUNTY
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS
PLAN FOR
FAMILIES**

Jackson County
Emergency Management
Advisory Council



**JACKSON
COUNTY**
Oregon



Information

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Dial 9-1-1 in a life-threatening emergency. Police, fire and medical personnel all respond to 9-1-1 calls.

(541) 776-7338 — The Jackson County citizen hotline is activated during county-wide disasters or major localized emergencies. The hotline provides information and non-emergency assistance to Jackson County residents.

(877) 548-3768 (LITESOUT) — Call this toll-free number to report power outages to Pacific Power. Information is also available by calling Jackson County Emergency Management, 774-6821, or at Jackson County's Web site, www.co.jackson.or.us



OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

Name _____

City _____

Telephone (day) _____

(evening) _____

LOCAL CONTACT

Name _____

City _____

Telephone (day) _____

(evening) _____

NEAREST RELATIVE

Name _____

City _____

Telephone (day) _____

(evening) _____

FAMILY WORK NUMBERS

Father _____

Mother _____

Other _____

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACTS

The out-of-area contact is one of the most important concepts in your disaster plan. When a disaster occurs, you will be concerned about the welfare of your loved ones.

During a disaster, it is possible for local telephone service to be disrupted and long distance lines to be open. Consequently, you and your loved ones may be able to relay information through an out-of-area contact. It is also important to remember that the pay phone system is the telephone company's emergency network. They will restore it before the rest of the system.

FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Name _____

Telephone _____

Name _____

Telephone _____

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This emergency planning booklet was developed for Jackson County citizens by the Jackson County Emergency Management Advisory Council. The advisory council is comprised of local officials working in or with emergency services to conduct ongoing emergency planning for Jackson County residents.

Special thanks to Jackson County Commissioners, Jack Walker (chair), Dave Gilmour and Dennis C.W. Smith for authorizing the re-publication of this manual.

Thanks to the following who supplied the photos used in this booklet.

**Medford Mail Tribune City of Medford Fire Dept. Jackson County Fire Dist. #3
 City of Ashland Fire Dept. Oregon Dept. of Forestry Jackson County Fire Dist. #5
 Jackson County Roads, Parks & Planning Department and Emergency Management**

Why plan?

Southern Oregon is a beautiful place to live, but nonetheless we are vulnerable to fires, floods, severe storms, earthquakes, dam failures, landslides and hazardous spills. Many of these disasters have already occurred here and undoubtedly will again. During a disaster you may be able to stay in your home but it could be without power or water. This preparedness guide and family workbook will help you to be ready for whatever emergencies may occur.



Jackson County residents are fortunate that local emergency services have developed an effective and cooperative emergency response system. Throughout the county, agencies work together closely to prepare for whatever disasters come our way.

While agencies can be in a high state of readiness for disasters, there is no substitute for individual preparedness. Jackson County's, Emergency Management Advisory Council recommends that you plan to be on your own for a minimum of 72 hours. You are not being asked to deal with emergencies alone, but your individual preparedness efforts will allow emergency service agencies to do their best job for you.

The following pages outline a step-by-step guide to disaster planning. First and foremost, you'll learn:

- Communication is the most important concept in developing an emergency preparedness plan for families.
- Every family member needs to be involved.
- Educating family members ahead of time will help reduce their fear if a disaster should occur
- Your plan will work best when everyone agrees to operate within its guidelines.

This guide is provided as a family workbook and when completed will be ready for immediate use. Once your family is prepared, it is time to look to your neighbors. In times of disaster they will probably be the first ones available to come to your aid, or they may be in need of your help. Find out before disaster strikes what resources you share and how you can work together. Good luck! Please remember to review your plan every six months.

planning

Discuss Disasters That Are Most Likely To Occur In Jackson County

- Historically our most likely disasters include floods, fires and severe weather. Loss of utilities could result from any of the above.
- Learn about the warning signals in your local community. All Rogue Valley radio and television stations are members of the Emergency Alert System.



CREATE YOUR OWN DISASTER PLAN

- Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for a disaster. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.
- Discuss the types of disasters listed in this guide and plan what to do in each case
- Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Plan to take care of your pets.
- Ask an out-of-area friend or relative to be your family contact. It is often easier to call long distance following a disaster than to make local calls. (*See Out-of-Area Contacts, inside front cover*)
- If you are not immediately affected by the disaster, find out what you can do to help elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Find out about the disaster plan at your workplace, your children's school or childcare center and other places your family frequents.
- Pick two places to meet:
 1. Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.

Address _____

Phone Number _____





Fill out these contact and family meeting place cards, then clip and carry them with you for easy reference. Make sure your school-aged children have cards, and that caregivers for younger children have this important information on file. If a disaster occurs during work and school hours, it is critical that children or their caregivers know whom to contact.

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

LOCAL CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

REUNION LOCATION

Address

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

LOCAL CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

REUNION LOCATION

Address _____

Telephone (day) _____ (eve) _____

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

LOCAL CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

REUNION LOCATION

Address

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

LOCAL CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

REUNION LOCATION

Address

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

LOCAL CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

REUNION LOCATION

Address

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

LOCAL CONTACT

Name

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)

REUNION LOCATION

Address

Telephone (day) _____ (eve)



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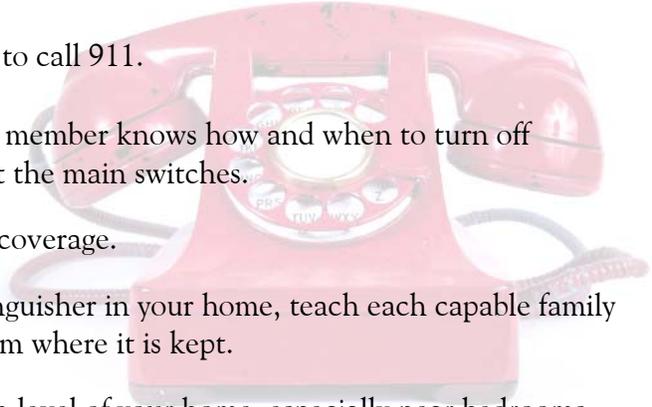
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PUT YOUR PLAN INTO ACTION

- Make copies of your emergency plan and make sure each family member knows where the plan is located in your home. Keep a copy at work and another one in your vehicle.
- Teach children how and when to call 911.
- Make sure each capable family member knows how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Check for adequate insurance coverage.
- Install an A-B-C type fire extinguisher in your home, teach each capable family member to use it and show them where it is kept.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Conduct a home hazard hunt. (see page 11)
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a disaster supplies kit. (see page 6)
- Take a first aid and CPR class.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room. (complete the escape diagram on page 12)
- Find safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.



PRACTICE AND MAINTAIN YOUR PLAN

- Review your plan every six months so everyone remembers what to do.
- Conduct Fire and Emergency evacuation drills.
- Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions.
Date inspected: _____
Next inspection due: _____
- Test your smoke detectors monthly. Change the batteries every six months and clean the dust from the detector each time you change batteries.
- Replace stored water and food every six months.

supplies

Disaster-Supplies Kit — A Checklist

Six basics should be stocked in your home: water, food, first-aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies and special items. Keep the items you will most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container such as a large covered trash container, camping backpack or duffel bag. Keep a smaller version of the disaster-supplies kit in the trunk of your car.

WATER — AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY

Having an ample supply of clean water is a top priority in an emergency. Plan to store two gallons of water per person per day, one gallon for drinking and one gallon for washing. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. During the hot summer months, the amount can double. Children, nursing mothers and ill persons will need even more. You should store at least a two-week supply of water for each member of your family.

FOOD

Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food for each person. Select foods that do not require refrigeration, cooking or preparation. Select food items that are compact and lightweight and rotate the food supply every six months.

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- Juices — canned, powdered or crystallized
- Soups — bouillon cubes or dried soups in a cup
- Smoked or dried meats such as beef jerky
- Milk — powdered or canned



WATER TREATMENT

HOW TO STORE WATER

Store your water in thoroughly washed, plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Never use a container that has held toxic substances. Plastic containers, such as soft drink bottles, are best. You also can purchase food-grade plastic buckets or drums. Rotate water every six months.

HIDDEN WATER SOURCES IN YOUR HOME

If a disaster catches you without a stored supply of clean water, you can use the water in your hot-water tank, pipes and ice cubes. As a last resort, you can use water in the reservoir tank of your toilet (not the bowl.)

PURIFYING WATER

Two easy purification methods are outlined below. These measures will kill most microbes, but will not remove other contaminants such as heavy metals, salts and most other chemicals. Distillation will remove these contaminants, however. Before purifying, let any suspended particles settle to the bottom, or strain them through layers of paper towels or clean cloth.

(continued)



- Vitamins
- Stress foods — sugar cookies, hard candy
- High-energy foods — peanut butter, nuts, trail mix, etc.
- Staples — sugar, salt, pepper

NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid
- Emetic (to induce vomiting)
- Laxative
- Eye wash
- Rubbing alcohol
- Antiseptic or hydrogen peroxide
- Activated charcoal

FIRST-AID KIT

- You should have two first-aid kits — one for your home and the other for your car. Each kit should include:
 - Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
 - 2-inch sterile gauze pads (8-12)
 - 3-inch sterile gauze pads (8-12)
 - Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
 - Moistened towelettes (8-10 packages)
 - 2 and 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls each)
 - Scissors
 - Tweezers
 - Needle
 - Safety-razor blade

WATER TREATMENT (CONT.)

BOILING

Boiling is the safest method of purifying water. Bring water to a rolling boil for 3-5 minutes. Let the water cool before drinking. Boiled water will taste better if you put oxygen back into it by pouring the water back and forth between two clean containers.

DISINFECTION

You can use household liquid bleach to kill microorganisms. Use only regular household liquid bleach that contains 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. Do not use scented bleaches, color safe bleaches or bleaches with added cleaners. Add 16 drops of bleach per gallon of water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes. If the water does not have a slight bleach odor, repeat the dosage and let stand another 15 minutes.

The only agent used to purify water should be household liquid bleach. Other chemicals, such as iodine or water treatment products sold in camping or surplus stores that do not contain 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite as the only active ingredient, should not be used.

DISTILLATION

Distillation involves boiling water and then collecting the vapor that condenses back to water. The condensed vapor will not include salt and other impurities. To distill, fill a pot halfway with water. Tie a cup to the handle on the pot's lid so that the cup will hang right-side-up when the lid is upside-down (make sure the cup is not dangling into the water). Then boil the water for 20 minutes. The water that drips from the lid into the cup is distilled.



- Bar of soap
- Triangular bandages
- Antiseptic spray
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly
or other lubricant
- Tongue depressors and
wooden applicator sticks
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agents
- Latex gloves

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- Mess kits, or paper cups, plates and
plastic utensils
- Emergency Preparedness Plan for
Families
- Battery-operated radio and extra
batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Cash or traveler's checks, change
- Safe-deposit box key
- Extra set of car/vehicle keys
- Non-electric can opener
- Utility knife
- Fire extinguisher, small canister,
A-B-C type
- Tube Tent
- Pliers
- Tape
- Compass
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic storage containers
- Signal Flare
- Papers, pencils
- Needles, thread
- Medicine dropper
- Whistle
- Shut-off wrench for gas and water
- Plastic sheeting
- Dust mask and work gloves
- Leaf and lawn bags



Be sure to prepare two first-aid kits; one for your home and one for your vehicle. Do not skimp on either one. In an emergency, every item can be a potential life-saver, or can add to your safety and comfort. Check flashlights periodically and pack extra batteries. Make sure tools are in good repair. Do not forget to include whistles in your kits; a whistle can help emergency workers find you.

SANITATION

- Toilet paper, towelettes, soap, liquid detergent
- Feminine supplies
- Personal hygiene items
- Plastic garbage bags, ties
- Small shovel
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach

CLOTHING AND BEDDING

- Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.
- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Hat and gloves
- Thermal underwear and clothing for layering
- Sunglasses

Special items for family members with special needs, such as infants, elderly or disabled individuals.

When packing clothing, it is preferable to include layers rather than on warm heavy coat or jacket. It is also better to be prepared with polypropylene, wool, silk or other non-cotton fabrics. Cotton retains moisture and loses all insulating qualities when wet. A wet pair of jeans and a soggy cotton shirt wick heat away from the body.



FOR ADULTS

- Heart and high-blood pressure medications
- Insulin
- Prescription drugs
- Denture needs
- Contact lenses and supplies

FOR BABIES

- Formula
- Diapers
- Bottles
- Powdered milk
- Medications



FOR PETS

- Medications and medical and Vaccination records and a first-aid kit (stored in a waterproof container.)
- Sturdy leashes, harness and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure animals cannot escape.
- Current photos of your pets.

ENTERTAINMENT

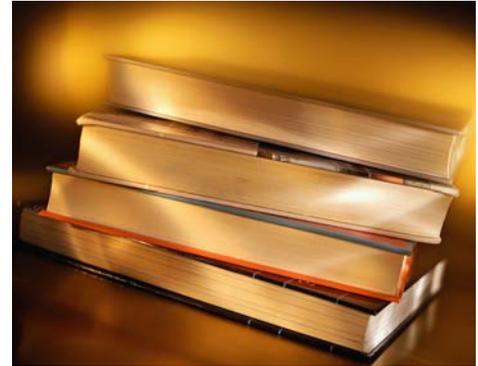
- Games for children; books for adults

IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS

Keep these records in a waterproof, Portable container.

- Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Passports, Social Security cards, immunization records
- Bank account numbers
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death, certificates)

- Food, portable water, bowls, cat litter/pan and can opener
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems and the name and phone number of your veterinarian
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable



Including books, games and small toys is a good idea, especially if you are evacuated to a community shelter and will need to help both children and adults pass the time.



Note: Originals of the above items should be stored in a bank safe deposit box, with copies in your home storage container.

Hunt

Hazard Hunt

Conduct a hazard hunt to identify hazards in your home. When the hazard has been corrected, put a check mark next to it.



- Secure water heater by strapping it to wall studs.
- Secure top-heavy, freestanding furniture.
- Place heavy or breakable objects on lower shelves.
- Secure electronic equipment/appliances.
- Brace hanging plants and overhead light fixtures.
- Hang mirrors and heavy pictures away from beds.
- Secure cupboard doors.
- Store poisons, toxins and solvents properly.
- Maintain house foundation in good repair.
- Maintain chimney and roof in good repair.
- Maintain in good repair utilities such as flexible gas connections, electrical wiring, shut off valves/switches.

Date completed: _____

Date of next review: _____

Meeting

Family Meeting Places

After a disaster, it may be impossible for family members to return home for one reason or another. It is very important that you select a meeting point in the community where you can once again join the members of your household.

Family Meeting Locations

1. Right outside your home
2. Away from the neighborhood, in case you cannot return home

11

Address _____ Telephone _____

Route to try first _____

Note: Working with neighbors can save lives and property. Meet with your neighbors to plan how the neighborhood could work together after a disaster until help arrives.

utilities

Utilities

- ❑ Locate your gas meter shut-off valve and learn how to turn the gas off.
- ❑ If you suspect the valve may be corroded and not working properly, call your utility company for an operational check of the valve.
- ❑ Ensure a wrench is immediately available for turning the gas meter off in an emergency.
- ❑ If you smell natural gas, get everyone out and away from the home immediately. Do not use matches, lighters, open-flame appliances or operate electrical switches or use the telephone. Sparks could ignite gas and cause an explosion.
- ❑ Let the gas company turn the gas back on.
- ❑ Seek the assistance of a plumber to repair gas pipe damage.

SEWER

- ❑ Your sewer system could be damaged in a disaster such as an earthquake, landslide or flood. Make sure the system is functioning as designed before using it to prevent contamination of your home and possibly the drinking water supply.
- ❑ Have a bucket or portable toilet available for disposing of human waste. Plastic bags placed in the toilet bowl will also work.



Turning off the utilities can be of utmost importance in a disaster. Gas leaks and damaged electrical equipment can trigger explosions or fires, and broken water pipes can cause as much damage to your home as the disaster itself. Take the time to learn where shut-off valves and circuit breakers are located and have the tools you will need stored close by.

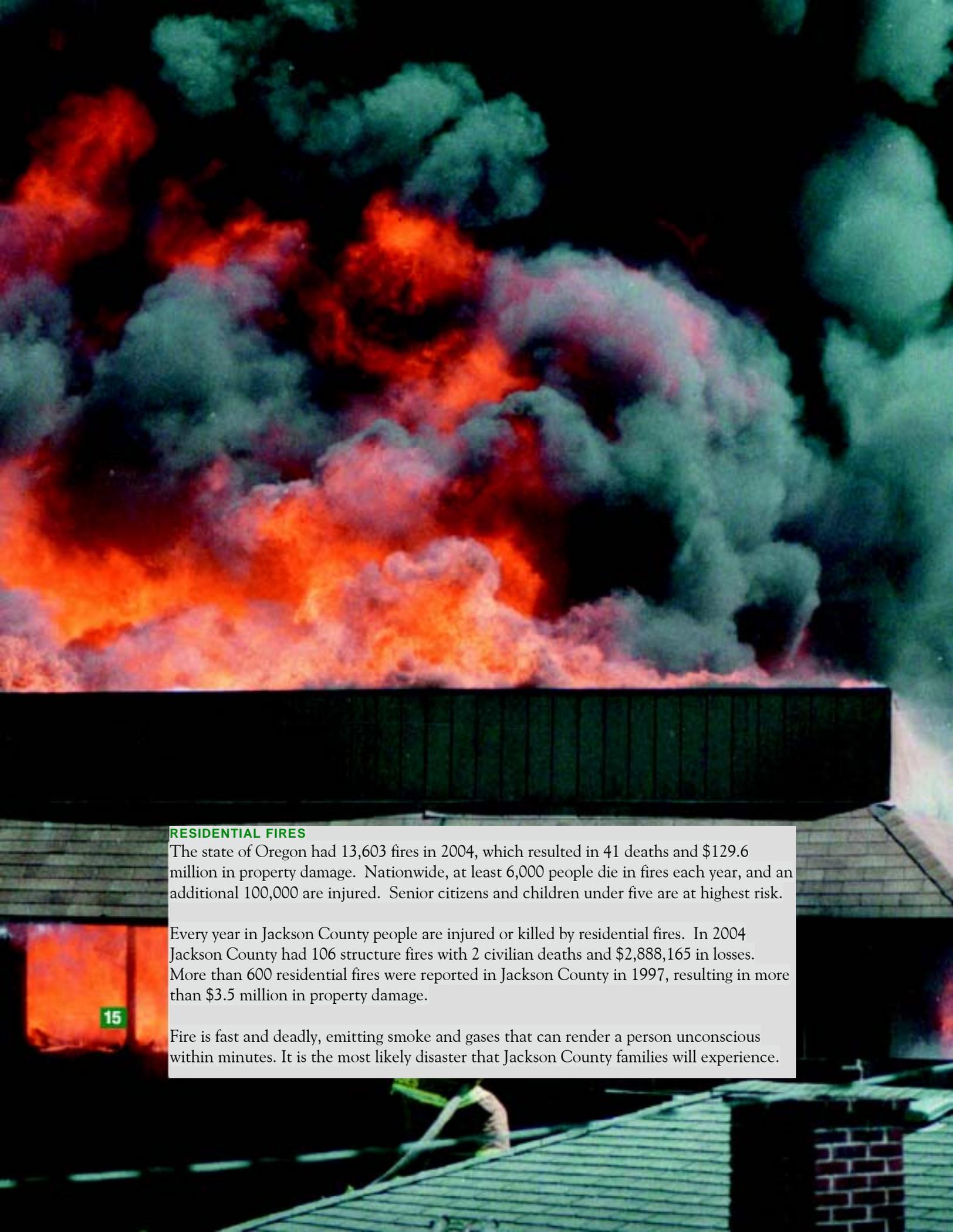


ELECTRICITY

- Locate your main electrical switch or fuse panel and learn how to turn the electrical power off.
- Remember, electrical sparks can cause a fire or explosion.
- If you are using a generator as a back-up power supply remember to:
- Follow the generator manufacturer's instructions.
- Connect lights and appliances directly to the generator and not to the electrical system. Power can back-feed into the electrical system and seriously injure unsuspecting utility workers.
- See Electric Generator Safety, page 33.

WATER

- Label the water shut-off valve and learn how to turn off the water supply to your home.
- Ensure the valve can be fully turned off. If the water valve requires the use of a special tool, make sure the tool is readily available.
- Shut off the main valve to prevent contamination of the water supply in your water heater and plumbing if you have been notified to do so, or reasonably believe that the source of water is or will be contaminated.
- Residents in rural areas may want to obtain generators large enough to operate water systems.



RESIDENTIAL FIRES

The state of Oregon had 13,603 fires in 2004, which resulted in 41 deaths and \$129.6 million in property damage. Nationwide, at least 6,000 people die in fires each year, and an additional 100,000 are injured. Senior citizens and children under five are at highest risk.

Every year in Jackson County people are injured or killed by residential fires. In 2004 Jackson County had 106 structure fires with 2 civilian deaths and \$2,888,165 in losses. More than 600 residential fires were reported in Jackson County in 1997, resulting in more than \$3.5 million in property damage.

Fire is fast and deadly, emitting smoke and gases that can render a person unconscious within minutes. It is the most likely disaster that Jackson County families will experience.



Getting Prepared

- Install smoke detectors, according to the manufacturer's directions, on every level of your house: outside bedrooms on the ceiling or high on the wall, at the top of open stairways, or at the bottom of enclosed stairs and near (but not in) the kitchen.
- If you live in a rural area, check with your local fire department about ways to create firebreaks against a wildland fire.
- Clean smoke detectors once a month and change batteries both spring and fall, when you change your clocks.
- Plan two escape routes out of each room. Contact your local fire authority for help in planning for the safe escape of those with disabilities.
- Make sure windows are not nailed or painted shut. Security grating on windows must have a fire-safety opening feature
- Teach everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from a fire.
- Pick a meeting place outside your home for the family to meet after escaping from a fire. **ONCE OUT, STAY OUT!**
- Practice your escape plans at least twice a year.
- Clean out storage areas. Store flammable and combustible liquids in approved containers. Keep containers in the garage or an outside storage area.
- Inspect electrical appliances and extension cords for bare wires, worn plugs and loose connections regularly.
- Clean and inspect primary and secondary heating equipment regularly.
- Learn how to turn off the gas and electricity in an emergency.
- Install A-B-C type fire extinguisher: teach family members how to use them.
- Inspect and service (if required) your fire extinguisher annually.
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children. Teach children that fire is a tool, not a toy.

*Working smoke detectors
double your chance of
surviving a fire .*

In Case of Fire

- Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Evacuate the residence.
- Do not attempt to extinguish a fire that is rapidly spreading.
- Use water or a fire extinguisher to put out small fires.
- Never use water on an electrical fire.



- Smother oil and grease fires in the kitchen with baking soda or salt, or put a lid over the flame if it is burning in a pan.
- If your clothes catch fire — **STOP-DROP-ROLL** — until the fire is out.
- Sleep with your door closed.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, crouch down low and feel the bottom of the door with the palm of your hand before opening it. If the door is hot, escape through the window. If the door is not hot and this route is your only means of escape, crawl below the level of the smoke and use the first available exit door to escape. If you cannot escape, leave the door closed, stay where you are and hang a white or light-colored sheet outside the window.

*It is imperative to call 9-1-1 the moment a fire is discovered.
Even a minute or two in response time can mean
the difference between life and death.*



WILDLAND FIRES

Wildland fires in the state of Oregon burn thousands of acres in an average year. Most of these fires are caused by man. If you live in a Wildland or Forest Residential Interface area, or where flammable vegetation is abundant, your house and property could be endangered by wildland fire.

The Oregon Department of Forestry determines when the official Fire Season begins, and when it ends. Open burning is prohibited. Burn barrels are permitted through June 30 with a permit from your local fire department or the Oregon Department of Forestry. After June 30, no outdoor debris burning is permitted.

As fire danger increases, a Public Regulated Use Closure is put into effect. This increases restrictions in an effort to prevent fires. Fires are known to start as a result of mowing dry grass, chain saw use, using vehicles on roads lined with grass, smoking in wildland areas and campfires. These activities may be limited to certain times of day or prohibited completely.

Getting Prepared

Protect your home by observing the safeguards listed under residential fire.

In addition:

- **Clear a 100-foot fuel break or safety zone around your home. If your home sits on a steep slope, standard protection measures may not suffice.**



- Make sure your driveway entrance, curves and bridges allow large fire-fighting apparatus access to your home and property.
- If you live in the Forest Residential Interface area, consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system for the roof and/or interior of your structure. Access bridges on your property should be built with noncombustible material.
- Make sure that fire vehicles can get to your home. Clearly mark all driveway entrances and display your name and address.
- Contact your local fire department, the Oregon Department of Forestry or the Jackson County Planning Department for more detailed information on safeguarding your property from a wildland fire.
- Report hazardous conditions that could cause a wildfire.
- Teach children about fire safety and keep matches out of their reach.
- Talk with your neighbors to plan how you could work together in case of wildfire.
- Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Clear all flammable vegetation.
- Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures.
- Thin a 15-foot space between tree crowns, and remove limbs within 15 feet of the ground.
- Remove dead branches that extend over the roof.
- Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.
- Call the power company if you plan on trimming or removing a tree near power lines.
- Remove vines from the walls of the home.
- Mow grass regularly.
- Clear a 10-foot area around propane tanks and the barbecue. Place a screen over the grill—use non-flammable material with mesh no coarser than one-quarter inch.
- Regularly dispose of newspapers and rubbish at an approved site. Follow local burning regulations.
- Place stove, fireplace and grill ashes in a metal bucket, soak in water for two days, then bury the cold ashes.

Stacking firewood close to a house is unsafe.



- Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of buildings.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home. Clear combustible material within 20 feet. Use only UL-approved wood burning devices.
- **Plan Your Water Needs**
- Identify and maintain an adequate outside water source such as a small pond, well, swimming pool or hydrant.
- Have a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of the home and other structures on the property.
- Consider installing fire-proof exterior water outlets on at least two sides of the home and near other structures on the property. Install outlets at least 50 feet from the home.
- Consider obtaining a portable gasoline-powered pump in case electrical power is cut off.
- **If Warned That a Wildfire Threatens Your Area**
- Listen to your radio and TV for reports and evacuation information.
- Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape. Shut the doors and windows. Leave the key in the ignition. Close the garage windows and doors but leave them unlocked. Disconnect automatic garage door openers.

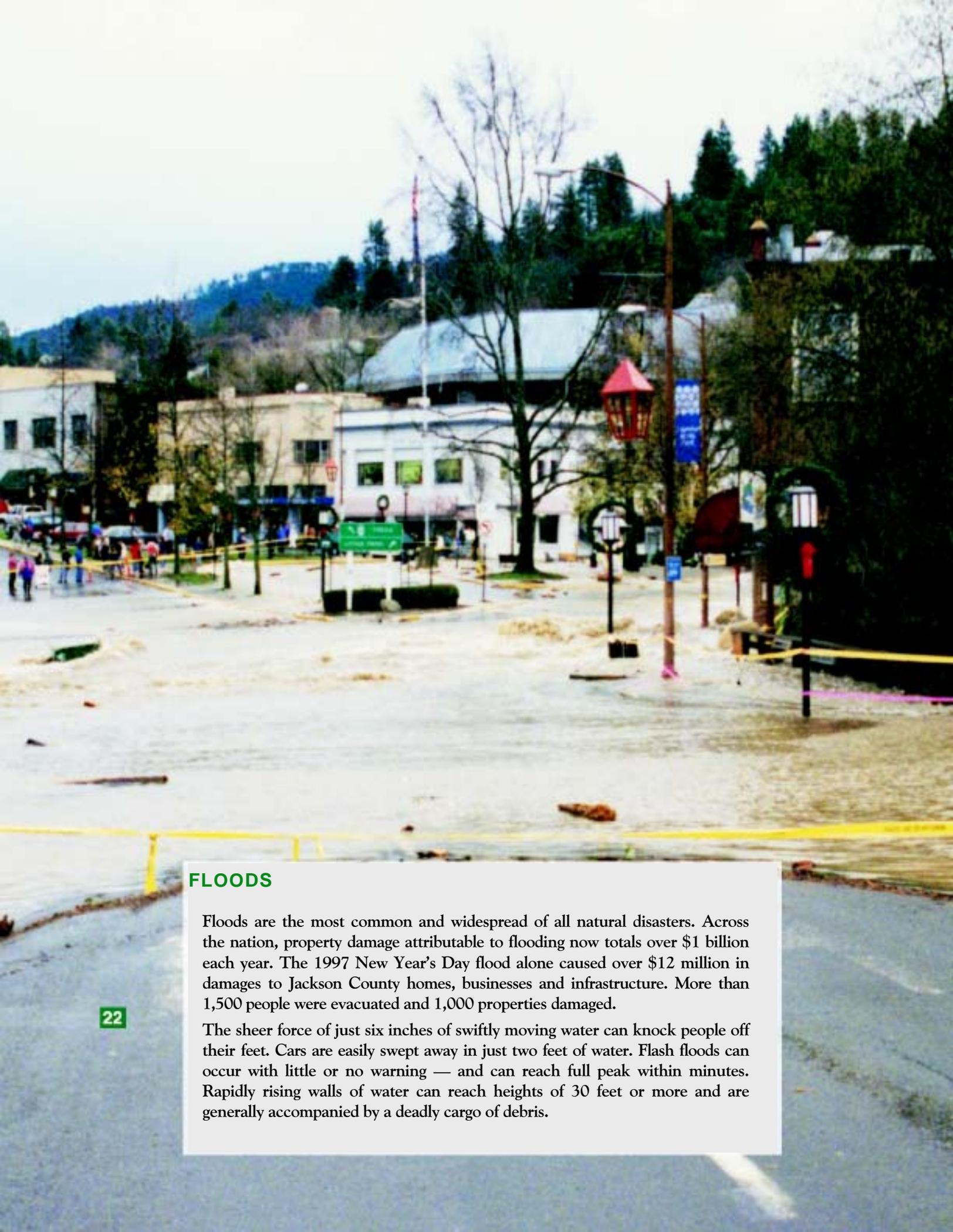
- Confine pets to one room. Make plans to care for your pets in case you must evacuate.
- Arrange temporary housing at a friend's or relative's home outside the threatened area.
- The citizen hotline (541)776-7338, may be activated to provide more information.

- **Only If You Have Time**
- Close the windows, vents, doors, non-combustible window covers and heavy drapes. Remove lightweight curtains.
- Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- Open fireplace dampers. Close fireplace screens.
- Move flammable furniture into the center of the home away from windows and sliding-glass doors.
- Turn on a light in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke.
- Seal attic and ground vents.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Place combustible patio furniture inside.

After a Fire

- Stay out of the burned structure until advised it is safe to return.
- If it is safe to return, your local fire department may be able to help retrieve important documents.
- Ask your fire department or Jackson County Emergency Management to contact local disaster relief services if you need housing, food or other essentials.
- Notify your insurance agent.
- Keep records of all cleanup and repair costs.
- Secure personal belongings.

*Do not throw away
damaged goods until an
official inventory has
been taken.*



FLOODS

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Across the nation, property damage attributable to flooding now totals over \$1 billion each year. The 1997 New Year's Day flood alone caused over \$12 million in damages to Jackson County homes, businesses and infrastructure. More than 1,500 people were evacuated and 1,000 properties damaged.

The sheer force of just six inches of swiftly moving water can knock people off their feet. Cars are easily swept away in just two feet of water. Flash floods can occur with little or no warning — and can reach full peak within minutes. Rapidly rising walls of water can reach heights of 30 feet or more and are generally accompanied by a deadly cargo of debris.



Getting Prepared

- Find out if you live in a flood-prone area and identify dams in your area.
- If you have a dam or dike on your property, know how it is constructed and how much water it impounds. Be prepared to relay that information to emergency workers.
- Purchase a weather-alert radio.
- Know the terms Flood Watch, Flash Flood Watch, Flood Warning and Flash Flood Warning. (See glossary on page 37.)
- Plan for evacuation.
- Consider purchasing flood insurance.
- Keep all insurance policies and your household inventory in a safe place.

In Case of Heavy Rains

- Be aware of flash floods.
- Listen to radio or television stations for local information.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood suddenly.
- If local authorities issue a flood watch, prepare to evacuate.
- Secure your home. If time permits, secure items located outside the house.
- If instructed, turn off utilities at the main switches or valves.
- Fill your car with fuel.
- Fill the bathtub with water in case water becomes contaminated or services are cut off. Disinfect the bathtub first. Use the bleach and water solution described on page 7.

Learn what to do when you hear flood warnings .

If there is any possibility of a flash flood occurring, move immediately to higher ground.

During and After a Flood

- Stay away from flood waters.
- When deep flooding is likely, permit the flood waters to flow freely into your basement to avoid structural damage to the foundation and the house.
- Stay away from moving water. Moving water six inches deep can sweep you off your feet.
- Be aware of areas where flood waters have receded and may have weakened road surfaces.



- Stay away from and report downed power lines.
- Stay away from disaster areas unless authorities ask for volunteers.
- Continue listening to the radio and TV for information about where to get assistance. The citizen hotline (541) 776-7338, may be activated to provide assistance.
- Consider health and safety needs. Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water if you come into contact with floodwaters.
- Throw away food that has come into contact with floodwaters.
- Call your insurance agent.
- Keep records of all clean up and repair costs.
- Take photos of or videotape your belongings and your home.
- Do not throw away damaged goods until an official inventory has been taken.

*Flood waters, may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage.
The water may also be electrically charged from underground or
downed power lines.*



EARTHQUAKES

Seventy million people in 39 states are at high risk from earthquakes. Although Jackson County has not had a major earthquake in recent history, we have had minor earthquakes and the potential for a catastrophic earthquake exists. Earthquakes can cause buildings to collapse, disrupt utilities and trigger landslides, avalanches, flash floods, fires and volcanoes.

Getting Prepared

- Securely fasten water heaters and gas appliances
- Repair defective electrical wiring, leaky gas and inflexible utility connections.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves. Fasten shelves to walls. Brace high and top heavy objects.
- Store bottles, glass, china and other breakables on low shelves or in cabinets that can be fastened shut
- Anchor overhead lighting fixtures.
- Be sure the house is firmly anchored to its foundation.
- Know how to shut off all utilities
- Locate safe spots in each room.
- Identify danger zones in each room.
- Consider buying earthquake insurance.

When the Ground Moves

- If indoors, stay there. Do not try to run outside. Take cover under sturdy furniture or against an inside wall, and hold on.
 - Protect your head and neck!
 - Hold on to stay with the protection.
 - Stay away from the kitchen!
- If outdoors-stay there. Move away from buildings, street lights and utility wires. Stay at least ten feet away from any power line.
- In a high-rise building, take cover under sturdy furniture away from windows and outside walls. Stay in the building on the same floor. An evacuation may not be necessary. Wait for instructions from safety personnel. Do not use elevators.
- In a vehicle, pull to the side of the road and stop as quickly as safety permits. Stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses or utility wires. If a utility wire falls on your vehicle, stay inside unless you smell gas or there is a fire. If you must leave the vehicle, jump away as far as possible landing with both feet together.

When the Shaking Stops

- If the electricity is out, use flashlights or battery powered lanterns.
- If you smell gas or hear a hissing or blowing sound, open a window and leave the building. Shut off the main gas valve outside. Follow proper precautions when turning gas back on.

- 
- Be prepared for aftershocks.
 - Check for injuries to yourself and those around you.
 - If there is electrical damage, switch off the power at the main control panel.
 - If water pipes are damaged, shut off the water supply at the main valve.
 - Wear sturdy shoes in areas covered with fallen debris and broken glass.
 - Check your home for structural damage. Check chimneys for damage.
 - Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids.
 - Visually inspect utility lines and appliances for damage.
 - Do not flush toilets until you know that sewage lines are intact.
 - Open cabinets cautiously. Beware of objects that can fall off shelves.
 - Be sure all telephones are on their cradles.
 - Use your telephone only to report emergency information.
 - Use your cellular telephone only if regular telephone service is out of order, and then only to report emergency information or obtain emergency assistance.
 - Listen to news reports for the latest emergency information. The citizen hotline (541) 776-7338, may be activated to provide information and assistance.
 - Stay off the streets.
 - Stay away from damaged areas, unless your assistance has been specifically requested by proper authorities.

Do not use candles, matches or open flames indoors because of the possibility of gas leaks.

If you live near a body of water, evacuate to higher ground immediately.



WINTER STORMS AND EXTREME COLD

Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region. Even areas which normally experience mild winters, can be hit with a major snow storm or extreme cold. The results can range from isolation to the havoc of cars and trucks sliding on icy highways.

Getting Prepared

- Know the terms used by weather forecasters. (See glossary on page 40.)
- Purchase a weather-alert radio.
- Keep rock salt to melt ice on walkways and sand to improve traction.
- Make sure you have sufficient heating fuel.
- Make sure you have an alternate heat source and a supply of fuel. Do not use portable gas heaters or charcoal grills for heating in closed areas.
- Install storm windows or cover windows with
- Insulate walls and attics.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Keep your car “winterized” with antifreeze. Use snow tires.
- Listen to the radio or television for weather reports and emergency information.
Have a battery-operated radio handy in case of a power outage.
- Wear several layers of loose-fitting, light-weight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.
- Wear a hat — most body heat is lost through the top of the head.
- Watch for signs of frostbite. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Watch for signs of hypothermia. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Conserve fuel if necessary by keeping your house cooler than normal.
- If you must travel consider using public transportation.

*Dress for the weather
and keep a “Winter-Car
Kit” in the trunk of
your car.*

Caught in Your Car During a Blizzard

- Pull off the highway and set your hazard lights to flash. Hang a distress flag from the radio antenna.
- Run the engine and heater about ten minutes each hour to keep warm. While the engine is running, crack open a window. Keep the exhaust pipe free of snow.
- Exercise lightly to maintain body heat. Huddle with passengers to stay warm.



- Take turns sleeping.
- Be careful not to run the car battery down.
- If stranded in a remote rural or wilderness area, spread a large cloth over the snow to attract attention of rescue personnel.
- Once the blizzard passes, you may need to leave the car and proceed on foot, but only if you know where you are going and are reasonably sure you can safely reach your destination. Otherwise, stay put and wait for help.
- Do not use portable gas heaters or charcoal grills for heating in your vehicle or any closed area.

*Remain in your
vehicle and wait
to be found.*

Power Outages

Everyone experiences power interruptions from time to time. Unfortunately, many of these outages come at times of weather extremes or accompany various disasters. When the power is out we lose our primary source of artificial light and often our source of heat and water as well. When the power is out, safety becomes a major concern.

Getting Prepared

- Prepare a power-outage kit. For short-duration outages, having glow-light sticks, flashlights, battery-powered radio, extra batteries and a wind-up clock on hand.
- Post the Power Outage number for Pacific Power, 1-877-548-3768 (LITESOUT).
- If you own an electric garage door opener, learn how to open the door without power.
- Make sure you have an alternate heat source and a supply of fuel.
- Have a corded telephone available.
- Consider purchasing a small generator or know where to rent one if you use life-sustaining equipment that requires electrical power.
- When installing generators, follow the manufacturer's instructions and have it inspected by the local building inspection authority. Never operate the generator without a properly installed transfer switch that disconnects it from the main power lines. (see Electric Generator Safety, page 33)



When the Lights Go Out

- Check neighboring homes to see if they have lights. If your house is the only one without power, check your fuse box or main service panel to make sure the outage in your home is not caused by an overloaded circuit. Turn off large appliances before replacing fuses or resetting circuit breakers.
- If power is out in the neighborhood, disconnect all electrical heaters and appliances to reduce the initial demand and protect the motors from possible low-voltage damage when power is restored.
- To report a power outage to Pacific Power call 1-877-548-3768 (LITESOUT) and have your account number handy. Never assume the utility company is already aware of a power outage.
- *Cordless phones do not work when the power is out.*

Report power outages to the utility company.



- Turn on your porch light so your utility workers can tell when power is restored.
- If you see that your neighbor's power comes back on but yours does not, call Pacific Power again.
- When your power returns, if your lights are very dim or are unusually bright, turn off the power at the breaker or fuse box and call Pacific Power. Sometimes this indicates there is still a problem at your home or at the company's facilities.
- If you leave home, turn off or unplug heat-producing appliances.
- Unplug computers and other voltage-sensitive equipment to protect them against possible surges when power is restored.
- Microwaves, VCRs, televisions and computers should be protected with individual surge protectors.
- Conserve water, especially if you are on a well.
- Keep doors, windows and draperies closed to retain heat in your home. If you feel cold put on extra clothing or cover up with blankets. Never use a gas oven or range to heat a room or house; this could lead to carbon-monoxide poisoning.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. If the door remains closed, a fully loaded freezer can keep foods frozen for two days.
- If you can't go out to eat, try cooking on your fireplace, but be sure to use heavy-duty pots and pans. Never use barbecue grills inside; they can cause carbon-monoxide fumes or fires. Canned heat, such as Sterno, is a handy alternative and can be used with a fondue pot or chafing dish.
- Use candles, lanterns or flashlights for light, but to avoid fire hazards, make sure you always blow out candles before leaving your home.
- Stay at least ten feet away from a downed power line even if the line is not sparking. It could still carry a dangerous current.



Leave one light switch in the on position to alert you when service is restored.

Electric-Generator Safety

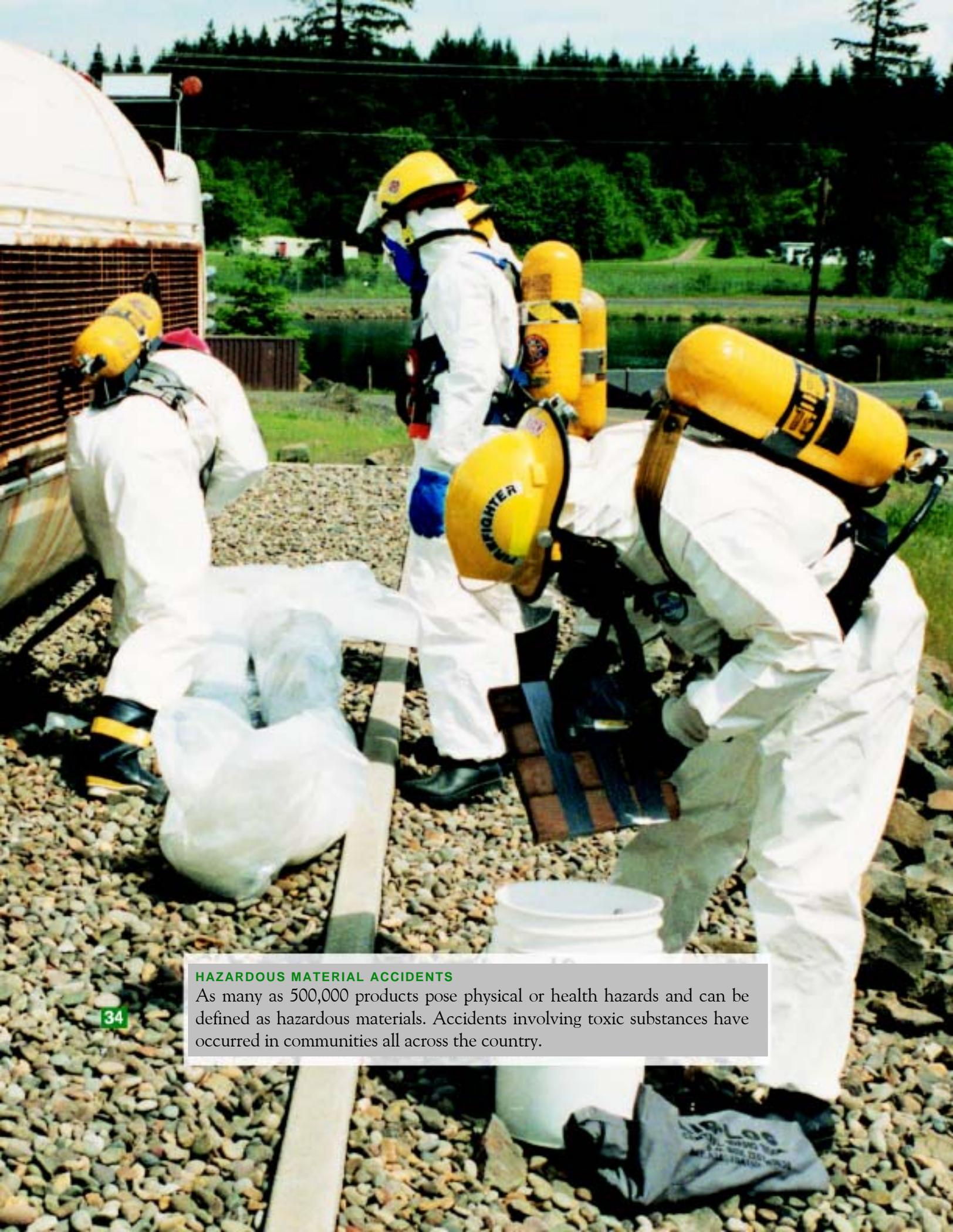
You may want to purchase an electric generator to use as an alternative when the power goes out. A generator may help to save food in your refrigerator or freezer during a prolonged outage, keep your home office running or power other essential equipment.

Generators can also be expensive, noisy and dangerous, posing serious safety hazards to you and to others when not properly installed. If you use a portable power generator, carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions and those listed below.

- Obtain guidance from a licensed electrician. Per National Electric Code, portable generators should be used in conjunction with a hard-wired transfer switch to isolate the power system in the home from the utility.
- Be sure that the total electric load won't exceed the generator's rating.
- Do not connect your power generator directly to your home's main fuse box or circuit panel. A generator that remains connected to main power lines can back-feed power into them, shocking unsuspecting utility workers.
- Use heavy duty, properly grounded extension cords to connect your appliances to the generator. Never plug your generator into an outlet.
- Make sure that extension cords are the proper size to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fire or damage to equipment. Be sure the cords are not worn.
- Always operate a portable generator outside the house with proper ventilation.

For more information on home generators, call Pacific Power's Power Quality Hotline at 1-800-289-2689.

You are responsible for making sure that electricity from your generator cannot back-feed into Pacific Power lines, risking damage to your property and endangering your life and the lives of utility workers who may be working on power lines some distance from your home.



HAZARDOUS MATERIAL ACCIDENTS

As many as 500,000 products pose physical or health hazards and can be defined as hazardous materials. Accidents involving toxic substances have occurred in communities all across the country.



Getting Prepared

- Find out if you live near an area where hazardous materials are used or stored, such as a propane dealer or packing warehouse.
- Determine how close you are to roadways that may have a hazardous spill such as I-5 or highways 62, 66, 99, 140, 227, 234 and 238.
- Be prepared to evacuate.

During a Hazardous-Material Incident

- If you are a witness, call 9-1-1 or your local fire department.
- Stay away from the incident site by at least one-half mile to minimize the risk of contamination.
- If you are in a car, close windows and shut off ventilation.
- Evacuate if you are told to do so.
- If local officials say there is time, close all windows, shut vents, and turn off attic fans and other ventilation systems to minimize contamination. But only if there is time.
- If you are unable to evacuate and you suspect gas or vapor contamination, take shallow breaths through a cloth or towel.
- Remember, stay out of the area, avoid contact with any spilled materials, airborne mist or solid chemical deposits. Do not eat or drink food or water that may have been contaminated.

After a Hazardous-Material Incident

- Call 9-1-1 if you have any unusual medical symptoms. Do not go to a medical facility because if you are contaminated, you may spread the contamination. By calling 9-1-1, your local emergency response personnel can better assess your needs and help you.
- If unable to evacuate and you suspect contamination, remove all clothing and shower thoroughly.
- Place exposed clothing and shoes in tightly sealed containers without allowing them to contact other materials; get directions for proper disposal.
- Call 9-1-1 if you think you've been contaminated.
- Get direction from local authorities, the Jackson County Health Department (541-774-8206) or the Department of Environmental Quality (541-776-6010), on how to clean up your land and property.

*Evaluate the risks to
your family.*

*Do not touch
contaminated items.*



- If you've been evacuated, return home only when directed to do so.
- Upon returning home, ventilate the house.
- Report lingering vapors or other hazards.

If You Need to Evacuate

- Listen to a battery-powered radio for the location of emergency shelters. Follow instructions from local officials.
- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Take your disaster supplies kit.
- Lock your house.
- Use travel routes specified by local officials.

*Follow
decontamination
instructions from
local authorities.*

If You're Sure You Have Time

- Shut off water, gas and electricity if you have been instructed to do so.
- Post a note telling others when you left, where you're going and whether all family members are accounted for.
- Make arrangements for pets. Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and have securely fastened, up-to-date identification.

Specific Terrorist Threats

It is important to remember, there are significant differences among potential terrorist threats that will influence the decisions you make and the actions you take. By beginning a process of learning about these specific threats, you are preparing yourself to react to an emergency.

Biological Threat: A biological threat is the deliberate release of germs or other biological substances that can make you sick. Many agents must be inhaled, enter through a cut in the skin or be eaten to make you sick. Some biological agents, such as anthrax, do not cause contagious diseases. Others like the smallpox virus can result in diseases you can catch from people.

Unlike an explosion, a biological attack may or may not be immediately obvious. While it is possible that you will see signs of a biological attack, as was sometimes the case with the anthrax mailings, it is perhaps more likely that local health care workers will report a pattern of unusual illness or there will be a wave of sick people seeking emergency medical attention. You will probably learn of the danger through an emergency radio or TV broadcast or some other signal used in your community. Perhaps you will get a phone call or emergency response workers may come door-to-door.

■ If you become aware of an unusual or suspicious release of an unknown substance nearby, it doesn't hurt to protect yourself.

- Quickly get away.
- Cover your mouth and nose with layers of fabric that can filter the air but still allow breathing. Examples include two to three layers of cotton such as a t-shirt, handkerchief or towel. Otherwise, several layers of tissue or paper towels may help.
- Wash with soap and water and contact authorities.

In the event of a biological attack, public health officials will provide information on what you should do as quickly as they can. However, it can take time for them to determine exactly what the illness is, how it should be treated and who is in danger. What you can do is:

- Watch TV
- Listen to the radio
- Check the internet for official news including the following:
 - Are you in the group or areas authorities consider in danger?
 - What are the signs and symptoms of the disease?
 - Are medications or vaccines being distributed?
 - Where?
 - Who should get them?
 - Where should you seek emergency medical care if you become sick?



At the time of a declared biological emergency, if a family member becomes sick, it is important to be suspicious. However, do not automatically assume you should go to a hospital emergency room or that any illness is the result of the biological attack. Symptoms of many common illnesses may overlap. Use common sense, practice good hygiene and cleanliness to avoid spreading germs, and seek medical advice.

Chemical Threat: A chemical attack is the deliberate release of a toxic gas, liquid or solid that can poison people and the environment.

Watch for signs of a chemical attack such as:

- Many people suffering from watery eyes, twitching, choking, having trouble breathing or losing coordination.
- Many sick or dead birds, fish or small animals are also a cause for suspicion.
- If you see signs of a chemical attack, quickly try to define the impacted area of where the chemical is coming from, if possible.
- Take immediate action to get away from the affected area.

If the chemical is inside a building where you are, try to get out of the building without passing through the contaminated area. Otherwise, it may be better to move as far away from where you suspect the chemical release is and seal the room. If you are outside when you see signs of a chemical attack, you must quickly decide what is the fastest way to get away from the chemical threat.

Nuclear Blast: A nuclear blast is an explosion with intense light and heat, a damaging pressure wave and widespread radioactive material that can contaminate the air, water and ground surfaces for miles around. While experts may predict at this time that a nuclear attack is less likely than others, terrorism by its nature is unpredictable. If there is a flash or fireball, take cover immediately, below ground if possible, though any shield or shelter will help protect you from the immediate effects of the blast and the pressure wave. In order to limit the amount of radiation you are exposed to think about:

- Time
- Distance
- Shielding

If you have a thick shield between yourself and the radioactive materials, it will absorb more of the radiation and you will be exposed to less. Similarly, the farther away you are from the blast and the fallout, the lower your exposure. Finally minimizing time spent exposed will also reduce your risk.

Radiation Threat or “Dirty Bomb” A radiation threat or “Dirty Bomb” is the use of common explosives to spread radioactive materials over a targeted area. It is not a nuclear blast. The force of the explosion and radioactive contamination will be more localized. While the blast will be immediately obvious, the presence of radiation may not be clearly defined until trained personnel with specialized equipment are on the scene. As with any radiation, you want to try to limit your exposure. Think about time, distance and shielding.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as making an *emergency* supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency. However, there are important differences among natural disasters that will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. Some natural disasters are easily predicted, others happen without warning. Planning what to do in advance is an important part of being prepared.

This booklet discusses what natural disasters are most common for this area. You may be aware of some of your community's risks: others may surprise you.

Historically flooding is the nation's single most common natural disaster. Flooding can happen in every U.S. state and territory.

Earthquakes are often thought of as a West Coast phenomenon, yet 45 states and territories in the United States are at moderate to high risk from earthquakes and are located in every region of the country. Other disasters may be more common in certain areas.

Tornados are nature's most violent storms and can happen anywhere. However, states located in "Tornado Alley," as well as areas in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Florida are at the highest risk for tornado damage.

Hurricanes are severe tropical storms that form in the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Scientist can now predict hurricanes, but people who live in coastal communities should plan what they will do if they are told to evacuate.

Planning what to do in advance is an important part of being prepared. Find out what natural disasters are most common in your area.

In All Cases, Remain Calm

glossary

Glossary of Terms to Know

ADVISORY — A National Weather Service (NWS) term that means conditions may become life-threatening if caution is not exercised.

BLIZZARD — The following life-threatening conditions are expected to prevail for three hours or longer: (1) Sustained wind or frequent gusts to 35 mph or greater (2) considerable falling and/or blowing snow that frequently reduces visibility to less than one-quarter mile.

BLOWING SNOW — Wind-driven snow that reduces surface visibility.

FLOOD or FLASH-FLOOD WARNING — A flood or flash flood is occurring or is imminent.

FLOOD or FLASH-FLOOD WATCH — Conditions are right for flooding to happen soon. Monitor weather information sources and be prepared to take action.

FREEZING RAIN — Rain that freezes on surfaces such as the ground, trees, power lines, motor vehicles and roads. Also, freezing drizzle.

HAZMAT — Stands for hazardous materials. These are chemicals which can cause harm to humans, animals or the environment.

HEAVY SNOW — Defined by the following snowfall accumulations:

For the Cascades, Siskiyou and Eastern Oregon mountains: 12 inches or more in 12 hours, or 18 inches or more in 24 hours.

For the Coast Range and Eastern Oregon plateau: 6 inches or more in 12 hours, or 10 inches or more in 24 hours.

For Western Oregon valleys and the Oregon coast: 4 inches or more in 12 hours or 6 inches or more in 24 hours.

HIGH WIND — Sustained winds of 40 mph or greater, or gusts to 58 mph or greater (not due to thunderstorms) that are expected to last for an extended period.

SLEET — Pellets of ice comprising frozen or mostly frozen raindrops (or refrozen melted snow) that usually bounce when hitting the ground or other hard surfaces.

WARNING — A NWS term that means severe weather or dangerous events are occurring or are imminent.

WATCH — A NWS term that means conditions are favorable for severe weather or dangerous events to occur. Be alert, monitor NOAA Weather Radio or any other weather-information source, and be prepared to take immediate action if the watch is upgraded to a warning.

WILDLAND-INTERFACE or FOREST-RESIDENTIAL-INTERFACE AREA — The geographical area where structures and other human developments meet or intermingle with wildland or vegetative fuels.

actions

Actions to Take in Response to Weather

Conditions



BLIZZARD WARNING — Life-threatening blizzard conditions are occurring or are imminent. Any travel in the warning area is strongly discouraged. If you leave the safety of indoors, you will put your life at risk.

FLOOD or FLASH-FLOOD WARNING — Take immediate action. A flood or flash flood is occurring or is imminent. If you are in a low area, especially near a creek, stream or river, get to higher ground. Never attempt to cross a running creek, stream or river on foot or in a vehicle during a flood or flash-flood event. Be prepared to evacuate if told to do so.

HIGH-WIND WARNING — High winds are imminent or occurring. High-profile vehicles may become dangerous or prohibited on specific roadways. Be prepared for areas of suddenly reduced visibility.

SEVERE-THUNDERSTORM WARNING — Severe thunderstorms are occurring or imminent. Travel in the warning area is strongly discouraged. Be prepared for hazardous conditions if you must travel or must be outside.

WINTER-STORM WARNING — Dangerous winter weather is occurring or is imminent. If you must travel or need to be outdoors, take winter survival equipment and supplies. Be prepared for hazardous driving conditions. Carry extra clothing and supplies in case your car becomes disabled or you become stranded.



Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Jack Walker, Chair; Dave Gilmour, Dennis C.W. Smith

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