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Support Our Community



Support our local businesses

Many of our businesses are open and meeting all required safety guidelines. Support your friends and neighbors by shopping locally.



RIPARIAN

AREA
Clean Water
News

Cottage Grove Public Works & Development Department
 Update for Riparian Corridor Neighbors



WINTER ADDITION

DECEMBER, 2021

Preparing for winter in Oregon

BE PREPARED!

As we enter winter flood season, it is important to consider how you can best prepare for potential flood events.

- #1 Know your flood risk.
- #2 Prepare your property for cold/wet weather.
- #3 Get flood insurance.



REMEMBER!

There is a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect, so call your insurance agent now.



Winter storms are among nature's most impressive spectacles. The combination of heavy snow, ice accumulation, and extreme cold can totally disrupt modern civilization, closing down roads and airports, creating power outages, and downing telephone and internet lines. Winter storms remind us how vulnerable we are to nature's awesome powers. Wind in winter storms can be so strong as to be considered its own hazard; see below. Heavy precipitation associated with winter storms sometimes leads to flooding. Rain on snow events can also lead to flooding.

Winter storms in Oregon often have a regional impact. When they do, Presidential Disaster Declarations result in federal mitigation dollars flowing to multiple local jurisdictions. Priority for funding is given to these "declared" jurisdictions, particularly those with related mitigation actions specified in their FEMA-approved NHMPs and ready to take action.



BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.



Winter storms and blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds.



IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Stay off roads.



Use generators outside only.

Stay indoors and dress warmly.



Listen for emergency information and alerts.

Prepare for power outages.



Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.



Check on neighbors.

Get Ready for Winter Weather



As temperatures drop, it's important to begin preparing for colder months and the threats they present. Winter storms can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds. These conditions can create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning and even heart attacks from overexertion.

Winter storms can last a few hours or several days. They can knock out heat, power and communication services. Older adults, young children and sick individuals are typically at greater risk during this time.

Taking preparedness actions, such as winterizing your car and keeping an emergency supply kit in it, can make a big difference in protecting you and your family. Other actions you can take to effectively prepare for winter conditions include:

- Preparing your home to keep out the cold with insulation. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.
- Know your [winter weather terms](#) and paying attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Sign up for your community's warning system.
- Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of

your pets.

Create an [emergency supply kit for your car](#). Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas and, if possible, have a professional check your battery, anti-freeze and cooling system.

Knowing the signs and basic treatments for frostbite and hypothermia is also important. Frostbite can cause loss of feeling and color around the face, finger and toes, as well as numbness and firm or waxy skin. If you think you are experiencing frostbite, go to a warm room, soak in warm water and use body heat to warm yourself.

Similarly, if you are experiencing an unusually low body temperature (less than 95 degrees) accompanied by confusion, fumbling hands or slurred speech, you may be experiencing hypothermia. If you are, go to a warm room, stay dry and wrap yourself in blankets.

During a winter storm, you can also stay safe by doing the following:

- Stay off the roads if possible.
- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.

Check on your neighbors, while staying safe from COVID-19, by texting, emailing or calling them.

STEPS TO SAFELY CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

Keep in mind these additional tips to keep your holidays as safe as possible:

1. Be a prepared traveler.

If you travel, check travel restrictions. If you're driving to your destination, ensure you have an [emergency supply kit](#) in your car, and if you're packing for a flight or train ride, consider a small kit in case of emergency: flashlight, batteries, & a spare USB power bank.

2. Protect against home fire risks.

Put working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms on every level of your home and inside and outside sleeping areas. Change the batteries in these alarms twice per year, or per manufacturer's guidelines.

3. Practice smart cooking.

Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food and turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so they won't get bumped. Clean cooking equipment after each use—crumbs in a toaster or grease on the stove can catch on fire.

4. Heat your home safely.

Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from fireplaces, wood stoves, portable heaters and radiators. When you leave a room or go to bed, turn heaters off or unplug them.

5. Decorate with care.

Nearly half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Think about using battery-operated flameless candles this season. If that isn't an option, place candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns and ensure they cannot be reached by children or pets. Inspect holiday lights before you put them up and throw away light strands with frayed or pinched wires. If you're putting up a tree inside your home, water it every day.

For more readiness tips, visit:

www.ready.gov, www.cdc.gov, www.usfa.fema.gov, or download FEMA's free app, available for your Android, Apple or Blackberry device.

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

- More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.
- More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- The top 3 days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous.
- On average, 1 of every 45 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.
- A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes 1 in every 4 winter fires.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.
- Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.
- Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

Logos for FEMA, U.S. Fire Administration, The Fire Department, and NFPA are included at the bottom.