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We're on the web!
www.cottagegroveor.gov

DO

- Collect oil and grease in containers and dispose of in the trash (allow to cool first)
- Wipe oil and grease from pots, pans, dishes with a paper towel before washing

DO NOT

- Put oil and grease down the drain, toilet
- Rinse off oil and grease with hot water



RIPARIAN AREA

Clean Water News

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



WINTER ADDITION

JANUARY, 2024

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.



As experienced quite recently here in our own community, 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. Heavy precipitation associated with winter storms sometimes leads to flooding. Rain on snow events can also lead to flooding.

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.

FEMA
FEMA V-1014/June 2018

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

- Stay off roads.
- Stay indoors and dress warmly.
- Prepare for power outages.
- Use generators outside only.
- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
- Check on neighbors.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Updates

City Planner Eric Mongan filed the appeal that challenged the preliminary flood maps to FEMA on April 19, 2023. After review by FEMA, they determined the maps needed to be revised, As of this date, there is no timeline as to when we will see the newly revised preliminary flood maps.



Get Ready for Winter Weather

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 pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Sign up for Lane Alerts at www.LaneAlerts.org

- 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.

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.

Riparian Habitat



Organic matter from riparian buffers, such as leaves, twigs, logs and stems that fall into the water are a main source of food and habitat for a broad range of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Riparian buffers, especially forested buffers, absorb rainwater, which recharges ground water supplies and allows storm runoff to be released more slowly. This reduces the intensity and frequency of flooding as well as allows for more water flow in streams during dry periods.

ADOPT A DRAIN



It's important to keep leaves and debris out of the streets, where they can cause drainage issues and additional flooding. Please dispose of yard waste properly.

Storm drains, also known as catch basins, are part of City infrastructure that is a drainage system that takes surface water and rain off of streets and parking lots, and moves the water through pipes to streams or rivers. Storm drains are important to our City because they help minimize flooding on roads and keep water from pooling around foundations, where it could cause damage.

We encourage you to "Adopt a Drain", where you take the opportunity to "adopt" a drain near you, and help keep it clean. Some things you can do to help keep the storm drains clear and working to the maximum capacity this winter:

- Wear gloves and use a rake, shovel, or broom to remove items like twigs, sticks, leaves, and other debris that accumulate during storms.
- Never open the storm drain grate or reach into them, as pollutants might have already settled. If the drain is clogged to a point where you don't feel comfortable cleaning it, call Cottage Grove Public Works at 541-942-3340.
- Only clear drains you can reach when standing on your sidewalk or off the street, and never clean drains by standing in the street. Be aware of traffic when cleaning the drain.

FOG Program



How to Prevent Fats, Oils, & Grease from Plugging Sewer Lines Damaging Your Home and Polluting the Environment

- Never pour oil or grease into the drain.
- Never pour oil or grease into the toilet.
- Put hot grease in a dry, metal container. Allow it to cool & place in trash.
- Allow grease to cool in the frying pan. Then, scrape into a suitable container. Discard container in the trash.
- Allow cooking oil to cool. Then pour into a plastic bottle or container.
- Scrape food wastes into a lined trash can. Some people put the scraps in a plastic bag first, then in

the trash.

- Use a paper towel to wipe oil & grease from plates, pots & pans, before washing.
- Use a strainer to catch food scraps from going down the drain. Empty the strainer into the trash.
- People usually associate grease with cooking, such as roasting a turkey or frying meat. Other foods contain fats that also cause sewer line problems. Please put them in the trash, rather than down the drain.

Fats, oils & grease poured into the drain or toilet, stick to drain pipes and to the City's Sanitary Sewer Lines.

