

Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn Now. September is National Preparedness Month!

National Preparedness, recognized every September, provides a fantastic opportunity to remind us all that we must prepare ourselves and our families now and throughout the year. This year's focus is on planning—disasters don't plan ahead, but you can! Consider taking some time to:

- Make a plan, and then practice your plan.
- Consider making your emergency plan a topic for conversation at your family dinner once a week.
- Don't forget your Communication Plan is part of your overall Plan. Make sure all family members know: 1) Where to go; 2) What to do; and 3) How to reconnect.
- Check your insurance policies and coverage for the hazards you may face, such as earthquakes, fire, etc.
- Include your pets in your Plan.
- Know your evacuation routes.
- Take a class and learn a lifesaving skill—such as CPR and 1st Aid.
- Find out how to shut off gas and water in an emergency.
- Make sure you know where your electrical shut-off is.

Help us help you! During an incident communication is critical! Sign up for emergency alerts! Call Public Works at 503.982.9429 & we'll help get you set up.

Minutes matter in a disaster and what you do, or don't do, now can make a difference on how you and your family are able to survive and recover from a disaster/emergency.

Think about the costs associated with disasters and work to save for an emergency. If a disaster or other emergency strikes, you may only have seconds or minutes to react. In those critical moments, your focus will be on your family's safety. Once the threat of harm has passed, having your homeowners or renters insurance policy, bank account information, and other household records and contacts will be very important as you begin the recovery process. For more information on Emergency Planning, email Melinda at molinger@cityofhubbard.org or give us a call at 503.982.9429.



Lessons Learned—Courtesy of OEM: Two people were killed and 38 injured near Gray Summit, Missouri when the driver of a pick-up truck slammed into a tractor trailer causing a major traffic accident involving two school buses carrying a high-school band to an amusement park. The driver of the pick-up was killed, as was a 15-year old student on one of the buses. **Lessons Learned:** An investigation into this accident revealed the 19-year old driver of the pick-up truck sent six text messages and received five text messages in the minutes leading up to the crash. While a vehicle accident with two fatalities may not be considered a disaster, consider the number of traffic accidents and fatalities that occur throughout the year as a result of inattentive driving, often because a driver is distracted by text messages or other cell-phone distractions. Texting while driving is banned (at least in part) in all but two states. Oregon also prohibits the use of cell phones (including hands-free) for all drivers under the age of 18. Exceptions to the use of hands-free devices while driving are made for those summoning emergency assistance (provided no one else in the vehicle is capable of doing so) and for licensed amateur radio operators using an amateur radio.

Clean Streets for Clean Water

As autumn approaches, consider the following to help keep our waterway's clean.

- Do you have a catch basin near your home or business? Act as its guardian angel and do your part to keep it free of litter and leaves.
- Sweep up the grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks and streets.
- Remove leaves from your gutters, driveways, sidewalks and streets.
- Resist to urge to let Fido fend for himself when the weather turns colder—keep scooping the poop!
- During routine fall tune-ups, check your car and other equipment for leaks. A rainstorm can send gasoline and oil drips from leaking vehicles and equipment into the waterways.
- **Spread the word!** Share these tips with your neighbors and friends!

Saving Water—Conservation

Can we do more?

Consider:

- Replacing water-intensive plants with native plants.
- Aerating your lawn periodically. Holes every six inches will allow water to reach the roots and keep it from running off the surface.
- Inspecting your overall irrigation system for leaks, broken lines or blockage in the lines. A well-maintained system will save you money, water and time.
- Watering your plants deeply, but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
- When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Instead use it to water your plants.

Knowledge and preparation are your best defense and are your responsibility! For more information on **EMERGENCY PLANNING**, call Public Works at 503.982.9429, or visit our website at www.cityofhubbard.org.

