

ROCKWOOD WATER LINES

THE ROCKWOOD WATER PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT **NEWSLETTER**
2016 ISSUE 4

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ARE YOU READY?

If you are like many people, you've probably been meaning to put together an emergency kit, but haven't yet. Don't despair. There are many resources out there to help you. Start with one thing at a time, and soon you will have a well-stocked kit. Chances are you probably have most of the items already.



One of the most important things you can do is have an emergency supply of water. People can survive for weeks without food, but only a few days without water, so water is a good place to start your preparedness efforts. Here in the Pacific

Northwest, the general rule is to have one gallon of water per person per day to last you 14 days (and don't forget about your pets!). If you can't store all the water you'll need, store what you can. With a little creativity, you may find your home has more storage space than you initially thought (e.g., place storage containers under beds, in closets, under stairs, and around your home). Here are three things you can do to prepare for emergencies:

1. Get a kit. Being prepared means having the right supplies and being able to access them easily when you may need them. You can stock your own emergency kit or purchase a ready-made one. There are many online resources that outline the types of supplies to include in your kit. Essential items to include in your emergency kit:

- Water: One gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 14-day supply for home)
- Food: Non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 14-day supply for home)
- First aid kit and manual
- Tools: Manual can opener, multi-purpose tool, or basic tool kit
- A flashlight or head lamp for every member of your household (include spare batteries or alternate way to recharge them)

- Communication devices and information: Portable, multifunction radio (battery operated, solar, or hand cranked), cell phone and a way to recharge it (e.g., battery operated or car plug-in), key people's contact information
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Comfort items: Blankets, sleeping bags, extra clothing, hat, and sturdy shoes
- Other specialty items your household will need (e.g., medications, formula, glasses, pet supplies)
- Copies of important documents (e.g., driver's license or other photo ID, deed/lease to home, insurance policies, and financial information)
- Extra cash in small bills

Regardless of what is in your kit, be sure to keep essential items in something that is easily accessible and easy to carry - a backpack or carry-on suitcase with wheels works well!

2. Sign up to get public alerts. PublicAlerts.org is a website that provides news and information on major service disruptions in the Portland-Vancouver metro area. PublicAlerts.org's sign up page includes links to county-specific emergency notification systems throughout Oregon and SW Washington.

3. Know how to shut off your home's water supply. Knowing where your home's shut-off valve is, and making sure the other members of your household do too, will help ensure you can quickly shut your water off during or after an emergency. Typically, it is located in the basement, crawl space under your home, or in your garage. It may also be located outside your home by the foundation. Some homes do not have shut-off valves. If you cannot locate your water shut-off valve, or if it appears to be stuck, check with a plumber. Below are a few of the most common types of shutoff valves:



IT'S DARK OUT THERE

We are back to Standard Time, which means it's usually dark when we are commuting to and from work. It may also be rainy and foggy on most days. Whether it's dark or bad weather, District work crews will be working in the street. It is oftentimes a dangerous environment, especially this time of year. Travelers are urged to use caution while driving through work zones. Watch for signs, slow down, keep a safe distance, and watch for workers. Please be extra careful driving when it's dark, foggy, and in rainy and windy weather.

PROJECTS

FIRE FLOW 22 MAINLINE REPLACEMENT

This project is part of our Capital Improvement Plan to improve fire flow capacity. District crews replaced 2,200 linear feet of 4-inch steel pipe with 6- and 8-inch ductile iron pipe between NE 188th and 190th Avenues on NE Flanders Street, NE Everett Court, and NE Davis Street. This project was completed in October.



FIRE FLOW 5 WATERLINE BORES

This project is also part of our Capital Improvement Plan to improve fire flow capacity. The project consists of three waterline bores under the MAX tracks on E Burnside Street at 141st, 143rd, and 146th Avenues. This project is scheduled to be completed in early November.



PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

The District offers bill payment assistance to qualifying low-income customers. At this time, the financial assistance is a one-time crisis assistance payment of \$132.00 **OR** a bi-monthly discount of \$22.00 on water bills for one year (six bills). To find out if you meet our Customer Assistance Program income guidelines, contact Human Solutions, Inc., 503-548-0217. Their offices are located at:

Rockwood Office: 124 NE 181st Ave.
Portland Office: 12350 SE Powell Blvd.

