

Winter Storm Preparation

The development of a Winter Storm Plan is strongly recommended for all residents and business operators in Cannon Beach. The following guidelines are suggested for use in preparing individual/family plans.

1. Your pre-storm planning should include the following assumptions:
 - The loss of utilities, especially electricity, is likely, and as we have learned in the past, could be for a substantial period of time, depending on the severity of the storm.
 - Telephone communications, both landline and cellular, could be disrupted.
 - Gasoline and diesel fuels may be unavailable or in limited supply. .
 - Vehicular travel could be impossible and/or dangerous due to weather and road conditions.

2. Needs Assessment:

- Determine your household/business general needs (nonperishable food, independent water supply, emergency lighting, etc.).
- Determine any special needs associated with household members (critical medical equipment needing continuous or periodic power, special medical supplies, special medications, those with mobility limitations, etc.).

It is strongly recommended that you provide the Police Department with information on anyone with special needs, especially those with disabilities, serious health problems, and other at risk individuals who live alone. Update the information as needs change. A list of such individuals is maintained at both the police station and the fire station.

- Determine the level of need for alternative lighting and communication capability (flashlights, other battery operated lights, adequate battery supplies, battery operated or hand rechargeable radios, touchtone telephones, fully charged cell phones, etc.).

3. Readily Available List of Emergency Telephones Numbers:

- Fire Department (436-2949). In the event that the 911 system fails, the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) located at the Fire Department will become the dispatch point for medical, fire, and police emergencies. Once activated, the EOC will remain open as long as necessary.
- Police Department (436-2811). The station will be open during the day, if at all possible.
- City Hall (436-1581). City Hall will be open during the day, if at all possible.

- Medical care providers, local and out-of-town relatives and friends.

4. Generators:

- If you operate a generator, follow all safety instructions pertaining to your particular generator.
- Never energize your house/business wiring system without consulting a licensed electrician and having the proper transfer switching professionally installed.
- Never operate indoors. Always locate a safe distance from your home to ensure that the exhaust system is directed away from the building and not blowing back toward the building.
- Always turn the generator off before refueling. Use a funnel and be very careful not to overfill.
- Calculate the electrical load level necessary to meet your needs before you purchase a generator. An electrician can assist with such calculations.
- Use extreme caution when storing and handling gasoline for your generator. Store your fuel in a safe, properly ventilated area.
- Have fuel on hand and use fuel stabilizer for prolonged gasoline storage.

5. Lighting:

- Use battery operated lights (lanterns, flashlights, etc.).
- Have plenty of batteries readily available.
- Avoid using candles (fire hazard, carbon monoxide hazard). If you use candles, never leave candles burning unattended (NOT when you sleep! NOT when you run to the store! NOT when you go to another room! NOT EVER, EVER!)
- Never use candles to provide heat. Candles consume oxygen and produce small amounts of carbon monoxide. Large numbers of burning candles can be deadly.
- Always burn candles in non-combustible containers.
- Never place a burning candle where children or pets can knock them over.

6. Emergency Cooking/Heating Tools:

- If you have a portable gas cook stove (propane, kerosene), carefully follow all instructions and safety recommendations and avoid using it indoors due to fire and carbon monoxide hazards.

- All fuel burning heaters produce carbon monoxide. Read the instruction manual carefully and thoroughly! Follow the instructions! Do not operate portable fuel burning heaters in your home!

7. Power Line Safety:

- Stay away from downed lines of any kind, whether it be power, cable, telephone, or other.
- Report the problem and wait for the power company to deal with it.
- Automatic energizing, capacitors, private generators, etc., can create hazards that cannot be determined by anyone except Power Company experts.
- Stay clear of trees or any other objects leaning against power lines or power poles.

8. Neighborhood Preparation.:

- Know your neighbors and check on them. You and your neighbors have the most knowledge about each other (i.e., who's at home or away, who's in frail health, who is alone, etc., etc., etc.). Neighbors can provide a strong support system for each other in emergency situations.
- Keep your trees trimmed to minimize debris.
- Periodically check your roof for maintenance needs.
- Secure outdoor items that may become a hazard in high winds.

9. Power Outages:

- When the power goes out, check everything in your home or business that uses electricity and turn them off or down; unplug them if necessary.
- Leave only a single bulb on that is near the street side of your home for visibility by the power company when the power returns.
- After the power is restored, slowly turn things back on one at a time to avoid overloads and sudden power surges that could cause the system to fail again.

10. Wind Storms:

- Stay indoors during wind storms to avoid injury from flying debris.
- Even small pieces of debris can cause injury or death when propelled by hurricane-force or near hurricane-force winds.

11. Emergency Shelters

- 3 pre-designated sites have been established for use as Emergency Shelters during an emergency.
- The Emergency Operations Center will be responsible for activating emergency shelters, as needed.
- The shelter locations are as follows:

Cannon Beach Presbyterian Church
132 E. Washington Street

Cannon Beach Bible Church
264 Hills Lane

Cannon Beach Children's Center
3779 S. Hemlock Street