

September Is Preparedness Month

From a large-scale earthquake to a pipe break, emergencies can happen any time. September is National Preparedness Month, a time to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. Despite our best efforts, your utility services may not be available for hours, or possibly days or weeks, in the event of an emergency. We encourage you to take steps now so you are self-sufficient.



Start with food and water

Having an emergency supply of food and water is one of the most important things that you can do to prepare for an emergency. To be prepared, you need one gallon of water per person per day to last 14 days, with more for pets and special needs, such as healthcare. Stock canned foods, dry mixes and other staples that do not require refrigeration, cooking, water or special preparation. Include a manual can opener and eating utensils.



Have appropriate first aid kits

Accidents can happen at any time. A well-stocked first aid kit offers basic and instant care for common medical injuries. This is important because having the right supplies ahead of time can help you handle an emergency at a moment's notice. Keep a first aid kit in your home and car, carry one with you when you go hiking, camping or travelling, and make sure you know where to find them at work.



Prepare your home for cold weather

There are many things you can do to help keep your pipes from freezing this winter, but preparation is the key. Doing the following can keep your water service flowing when the weather turns cold:

- Know how to turn off your water in case a pipe breaks and you need to shut off your water in a hurry.
- Cover or wrap outside faucets.
- Cover foundation vents with foam blocks, thickly folded newspaper or cardboard.
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas.
- Drain irrigation systems and backflow assemblies.



Sign up for emergency notifications

During an emergency, officials need to be able to deliver quick, accurate information about what you can do to minimize impacts to your health and safety. In addition, it is critical that others can reach your emergency contacts if you are unable to do so. Make sure TVWD has your current contact information in case we need to reach you in a water emergency, you have an In Case of Emergency (ICE) contact in your phone and on Oregon's online DMV tool, and you have relevant emergency notification apps for your tablet and phone.

The following resources can be used to help you be prepare for the unexpected:

- Emergency water storage: regionalh2o.org
- Emergency preparedness kit: redcross.org.
- Prepare your pipes for cold weather: www.tvwd.org/cold
- Update TVWD contact information: www.tvwd.org/portal
- Oregon DMV emergency notification tool: <http://dmv2u.oregon.gov/>
- TVWD emergency notification tool: <https://www.flashalert.net/>
- Other local agency emergency notification tools: <https://oralert.gov/>



Do you have your emergency supply of water and food, and have taken other steps to prepare for emergencies?

[Click here for past editions of the emergency preparedness tip newsletters.](#)

