

MEMORANDUM

May, 2014

TO: Hills of Neskowin Owners

FROM: Jean Cameron, Lot 32

SUBJECT: Disaster Planning for our Neighborhood

The recent earthquake in Nepal reminds me that it's time to remind you, my neighbors, about Disaster Planning. We live close to the Juan de Fuca fault line off the Oregon coast, which is overdue for a major earthquake. Although our neighborhood is above the tsunami zone, our homes are still subject to the earthquake and our hillside might be subject to landslides. Furthermore, the highways will be impassable in the event of a major earthquake and following tsunami, so we'll probably be on our own for weeks as disaster response teams focus on areas with larger populations. We also live in an area susceptible to wind storms in the winter and fires in the forested hills behind us during the dry season; although we'd evacuate in a fire, windstorm damage could simulate moderate earthquake damage and require implementing the following steps.

Many of you were able to attend a disaster planning meeting here in January of 2014, so this is a reminder for you, plus some new information. For those of you not at that meeting, please pay close attention to these recommendations. If you're prepared, your chances of survival are always better. Remember both the Boy Scout motto and the old military saying, "Proper prior planning prevents poor procedure."

Nine (9) Key Steps Immediately Following a Disaster

1. Take care of your loved ones.
 - Make sure that everyone in your house is OK!
2. Protect your head, feet, and hands
 - Keep a helmet, sturdy shoes, and leather gloves under or near your bed. Use them to protect your head from falling objects and your feet and hands from broken glass. You should also keep a good flashlight with these emergency items, and a crowbar might help to pry open doors that shifted stuck or to break windows if needed to get in or out.
3. Check the propane at your house.
 - If you smell propane or the dial on your tank is moving rapidly, indicating a leak, turn the propane off. Find the shutoff valve NOW and know how to use it.
4. Shut off the water main coming into your house.
 - Pipes buried in the ground are likely to be damaged in an earthquake, allowing contamination into the line serving your house. Know how to turn this off! Your hot water tank and any water that you've stored for emergencies are your back-up supply. See the information below regarding emergency supplies and water decontamination.
5. Place a sign saying "HELP" or "OK" facing outside in your front window.
 - Those of you at the 2014 meeting have copies of such signs; I have copies available for those of you not there, or you can make your own. Keep tape or two band aids with the sign in order to stick it up on your front window.
 - These signs will let your neighbors know if you need help; if "OK", they can move on to help others.
6. Get your fire extinguisher out and ready.
 - Fire extinguishers are good for stopping small fires before they get bigger.
 - Know what kind of fires your extinguisher is rated for and check it regularly to make sure it's charged.
7. Go to the Neighborhood Gathering Site – that's our Common Area. If the weather is bad, we'll decide there where to gather from then on. Bring your fire extinguisher if you haven't used it up at home.
8. Form teams there to do the following simultaneously:
 - Team 1 will monitor the Emergency Alert system on AM/FM radio (bring a battery powered radio with you, if you have one – car radios can also work) or a NOAA weather radio

- Team 2 will check on neighbors who are elderly or have disabilities, or any children home alone
- Team 3 will check propane tanks at unoccupied houses or where their assistance is needed to do so
- Team 4 will check all houses with “HELP” signs in the front window. While gathered at the Common Area, we’ll designate one or two homes as Neighborhood Care Centers for children and the elderly, as well as for continuing First Aid.

9. Teams return and report at the Gathering Site.

We have done an inventory of skills and equipment available among our fulltime residents. In addition to some nursing skills, several of our neighbors have been or are currently volunteers with the Nestucca Fire District, and a volunteer EMT lives across 101 on Neskowin Crest. I have been training with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) as well, which includes First Aid training. If the roads are passable, our current Fire District volunteers might be called away, but we will be able to help ourselves by working together.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

- Food, water, your prescription medicines, and clothing sufficient for at least 4-6 weeks. Some experts recommend a 90-day supply.
- The Hills of Neskowin is a designated gathering site for people fleeing the tsunami prone lower elevations in the Neskowin area, so it’s probably smart to store extra food if possible.
- The recommended water supply is one gallon per person per day. If you can’t store this much water remember the capacity of your water tank (be sure that the power or gas is off before draining). We may be able to access water from the environment that can be purified with bleach, so store some bleach too. (Use 8 drops of bleach per gallon of water, or 16 drops if water is cloudy or dirty; let the bleach solution sit for 30 minutes before use.)
- A first aid kit.
- A tent in case your house is damaged, as well as sleeping pads or cots and sleeping bags.
- Camping supplies such as a cook stove, fuel, water purifier, pots, bowls, plates, utensils, etc.
- Tarps, trash bags, toilet paper, soap, wash basin, towel.
- Copies of important documents.
- Small bills; if we ever reach the point, while we’re waiting for outside help, that you have to pay someone for something small that you need, it might cost you \$20 if that’s the smallest bill you have!
- For more information about emergency planning and supplies, visit <http://www.ready.gov/> and <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family>.

EMERGENCY PET CARE

- Food, meds, and water for your pet sufficient for 4-6 weeks. Don’t forget food and water bowls.
- A pet first aid kit.
- Leashes or pet carriers, plus a few toys or bedding for comfort.
- Besides ID tags and a ID chip for your pet, it’s also wise to store copies of their vaccination information and a photo of you with them in your emergency supplies. Pets can be frightened by the disaster and run away; the more information you have to prove ownership, the better.
- Download the PDF “Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information for Pet Owners” at http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/139084677239-dc08e309debe561d866b05ac84daf1ee/pets_2014.pdf

ACCESS TO EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- Here are some emergency phone numbers (OTHER THAN 911):

FIRE:	Hebo station: 503-392-3313
TILLAMOOK COUNTY SHERIFF	503-842-2561
911CENTER NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH:	503-815-1911
TILLAMOOK PUD:	503-842-2535 (AFTER HOURS: 503-842-2122)
NESKOWIN WATER:	503-392-3966
PHONE REPAIR:	1-800-788-3600
ODOT TRIP CHECK:	503-588-2941 or http://tripcheck.com
COUNTY ROADS & WEATHER INFORMATION:	503-842-3451
STATE POLICE, TILLAMOOK OFFICE:	503-842-4433
TILLAMOOK COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:	503-842-3412
POISON CONTROL CENTER:	800-222-1222
- The following radio stations participate in the Emergency Broadcast System in Tillamook County, although we may not be able to get all of them in this end of the county:

KDEP	FM 105.5
KLON	FM 90.3
KOPB	FM 106.1 & 89.3 & 91.5
KUMN	FM 89.9
KMBD	AM 1590
KTIL	FM 94.3 & 104.1
KSHL	FM 98.1
- If you haven't already, go TODAY to this NIXLE website (<http://www.nixle.com/>) to sign up for email and text notifications of emergency situations. I've received texts and emails last night regarding phone outages, road closures, weather and tsunami warnings.

OTHER

- If you can get them out of your garage, your vehicles can provide emergency shelter as well as radio access, so keep your gas tank as full as possible.
- Have a Family Plan – where to meet or who to call. For instance, everyone could call a friend or relative out of the likely disaster area (for instance, Central Oregon) and let them know that they're OK. Cell towers may not stay functional for long, so make that call as soon as possible.
- You'll also find lots of emergency planning guidance on the Red Cross website (<http://www.redcross.org/>); scroll to the bottom of their home page and click on "Tools and Resources";

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please call or email me for copies of the HELP/OK sign, or to provide me with information regarding any first aid or other useful skills that you can contribute. Or if you have questions or suggestions!

Jean Cameron
503-392-5860
jeanccameron@centurylink.net