



Readiness Reader

Bonner County Emergency Management

September 2016



Cascadia Rising

The Cascadia Rising 2016 Exercise that took place the week of June 7-10 in which more than 800 people in Idaho participated, provided IOEM with the opportunity to critically evaluate our plans and processes. One thing for certain, the countless strong partnerships we cultivated during the last several years proved invaluable in how the exercise was successfully carried out in Idaho, and how we were able to assist our neighboring states. In the coming months IOEM will be producing After Action Reports (AAR) that will clearly assess how we responded and also provide the opportunity for modifications to our plans where necessary.



Agencies gain significant insight into their ability to respond to a major influx of disaster victims under realistic conditions.

“The level of multi-agency cooperation during Cascadia Rising was outstanding. This opportunity to increase awareness of earthquake activity in Idaho, and to work seamlessly with our county and neighboring state partners made the exercise a success.”

Brad Richy, Idaho Office of Emergency Management



SEPTEMBER IS PREPAREDNESS MONTH

The safest locations to seek shelter vary by hazard. Be informed about the sheltering suggestions for each hazard. There may be situations, depending on your circumstances and the nature of the disaster, when it's simply best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside by "sheltering in place".

Some basic protective actions are similar across many different hazards:

- ⇒ Physical safety is a concern for all hazards and may involve sheltering or evacuating.
- ⇒ Develop a family communications plan.
- ⇒ Make an emergency supply kit to be prepared for any type of disaster.
- ⇒ Learn about receiving emergency alerts and local emergency plans for shelter and evacuation, local emergency contacts, and local advance alerts and warnings.
- ⇒ When recovering from a disaster, safety as well as mental and physical well-being must be considered.

Text to 9-1-1

As of May, 2016 in situations where you cannot make a voice call, or in spotty cell phone coverage where a text message may work, the 9-1-1 Center can now receive emergency text messages. This service is offered in Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone counties as well as in the Post Falls Police Dept.

A text to 9-1-1 is the same type of service as making a 9-1-1 voice call, so it's use is strictly for emergency assistance messages only. Call if you can.

- * **Type 911 in the "To" box**
- * **Communicate your exact location and describe the emergency**
- * **Hit "Send"**

SHELTER

Choosing to take shelter is necessary in many emergencies.

Taking appropriate shelter is critical in times of disaster. Sheltering is appropriate when conditions require that you seek protection in your home, place of employment or other location when disaster strikes. Sheltering outside the hazard area could include staying with friends and relatives, seeking commercial lodging or staying in a mass care facility operated by disaster relief groups.

To effectively shelter, you must first consider the hazard and then choose a place in your home or other building that is safe for that hazard. For example, for a tornado, a room should be selected that is in a basement or an interior room on the lowest level away from corners, windows, doors and outside walls.

Guidelines for Staying Put (Sheltering in Place)

There may be circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as "sealing the room," is a matter of survival.

Use common sense and available information to assess the situation and determine if there is immediate danger. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly con-

taminated, you may want to take this kind of action. The process used to seal the room is considered a temporary protective measure to create a barrier between you and potentially contaminated air outside. It is a type of sheltering in place that requires preplanning.

Bring your family and pets inside.

- Lock doors, close windows, air vents and fireplace dampers.
- Turn off fans, air conditioning and forced air heating systems.
- Take your emergency supply kit unless you have reason to believe it has been contaminated.
- Go into an interior room with few windows, if possible.
- Seal all windows, doors and air vents with 2-4 mil. thick plastic sheeting and duct tape. Consider measuring and cutting the sheeting in advance to save time.
- Cut the plastic sheeting several inches wider than the openings and label each sheet.
- Duct tape plastic at corners first and then tape down all edges.
- Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to seal gaps

so that you create a barrier between yourself and any contamination.



Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.

Get "in the know" with Nixle. It will keep you up-to-date with relevant information from your local public safety department. <http://www.nixle.com/>

EMERGENCY SUPPLY LIST

- ◇ Prescription meds and glasses
- ◇ Infant formula and diapers
- ◇ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ◇ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- ◇ Cash or traveler's checks and change
- ◇ Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information

- ◇ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding.
- ◇ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing for cold weather.
- ◇ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper-when diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid

- bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners
- ◇ Fire extinguisher
- ◇ Matches in a waterproof container
- ◇ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- ◇ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- ◇ Paper and pencil
- ◇ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



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