



Windstorm damage can happen anywhere.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

It is human nature that we don't think about disaster until after one has occurred. By that time, however, it is far too late to get prepared and we find ourselves in the position of relying on others to help us out. Neighbors will likely be the first ones available to offer assistance, but if they are also not prepared, then no help will be immediately available as usual first responders such as fire, police, medics and utility personnel will be overwhelmed and unable to assist individuals.

Since the potential for natural disaster is ever present, being prepared is a job that falls to each one of us, individually -- we each should be prepared to help ourselves until such time as outside help becomes available. As was witnessed during the Hurricane Katrina event, outside help can take several days or even weeks to reach people affected by a disaster. Power may be out, roads may be impassable, food and water may no longer be accessible outside of our own home. So, are YOU prepared for a natural disaster?



Being ready may minimize panic.

If your answer is yes, congratulations! If, like most of us, it is no, then I have something for you. It is a disaster preparedness plan that you can complete in one year by committing just one hour of your time per month – or, you can put a few days aside and complete all at once – its your choice. But, the reality is that having such a plan in place can save lives; and the lives saved may very well be those of your family members and pets.



Earthquake fault lines run throughout the entire Pacific NW.

Every family unit in the nation should have a disaster preparedness plan in place and should practice at least twice a year so everyone knows what to do should a flood, earthquake, windstorm, tsunami, wildfire or other natural disaster occur in their neighborhood.

If you wish to put together a disaster preparedness plan for you and your family, please visit the Washington State Emergency Management Division's website. This website is full of valuable and practical preparedness information and tips and has the best, down to earth instructional guide that you can print out and use to create your family's disaster preparedness plan. The brochure you

will want to print out is called: "Prepare in a Year." They also have great plans for pet and livestock preparedness. Please take time to visit Emergency Management Division today at:

www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_neighborhoods.shtml.

If you do not have access to a computer but wish to receive the "Prepare in a Year" instructional guide, please contact either Janice Brock (541-672-9405) or Jhana McCullum at (541-677-5524) at the Cow Creek Government Offices and one will be mailed to you.

By Jhana McCullum, Emergency Safety