

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ...

Some realities and guidance for homeowners

Based on the 2016 Lake Almanor Basin Emergency Preparedness Plan

2016 Firewise Day Presentation

What You Didn't Want to Hear

- Emergencies WILL occur
- Public agency response assets are limited
- The Almanor basin can become isolated in a major emergency
- Immediate help may depend on local assets only
- Residents need to become as self-sufficient as practical

Possible Infrastructure Damage

- Blocked roads
 - Down trees, landslides, damaged bridges, washouts, etc.
- Power outages
 - Down lines, damaged transformers, etc.
- Communication outages
 - No telephone, cell phone or internet service
- Interrupted supply lines
 - Fuel, food, medical supplies, etc.

Agency Responders

- Overall Coordination, Public Information
 - Plumas County OES
- Law Enforcement
 - Plumas County Sheriff's Office, CHP
- Highways & Roads
 - CalTrans, Plumas County Road Dept., private road maintainers
- Fire & Medical
 - Local fire departments, local ambulances, Seneca Hospital
- Power, Communication, Utilities
 - PG&E, Frontier, local water and propane suppliers
- Relief
 - American Red Cross, local churches & service organizations

Citizen Response

- We could be “on our own” for several days
- First ... don't add to the problem
 - Do NOT speculate or circulate rumors
 - Stay off the roads unless it's essential
 - Stay off the phone unless it's essential
- Second ... be helpful
 - Check on your household first, then check on neighbors
 - Report any serious issues
 - Obtain authoritative guidance and follow it
- Strive to be self-sufficient

Becoming Self-Sufficient

- Goal: *Ability to cope, without assistance, for several days*
- This Means:
 - Minimum 3 day supply of water, food, meds, pet supplies, etc. ... *on hand*
 - If power is out, backups or alternatives for heat, light, cooking, refrigeration, critical medical devices

Personal Planning

- Download and review the County OES guide for citizens
 - www.CountyOfPlumas.com/DocumentCenter/View/13958
- Prepare a family evacuation plan
 - Consider people and pets
- Get connected to the County “Code Red” system
 - www.PlumasCounty.us/index.aspx?nid=2163
- Prepare and maintain a household inventory for insurance purposes
 - Written or photographic format ... stored elsewhere

More Suggestions

- Refuel vehicles when they drop to $\frac{1}{2}$ tank
- Contact propane supplier for a refill when the tank drops to 30% capacity
- Refill long-term prescriptions before the supply drops to only 2 weeks remaining
- Have at least one corded phone in the house

Medical Emergencies

- Call 911
- Unlock the front door for responders
- Have a list of meds and allergies available for responders
- Be honest when answering responders' questions
- Expect transfer to other hospitals for major ailments or injuries

Structure Fires

- Call 911
- Get out of the burning structure!
- Expect a multi-agency response:
 - West Almanor FD
 - Automatic response from Prattville-Almanor FD
 - Possible mutual aid from Chester FD, others
 - Possible assistance from law enforcement, etc.

Wildland Fires

- Call 911 to report a fire, but not for information
- Stay clear of fire areas, threatened zones
- Review your evacuation plan ... just in case
- Check for advisories and information:
 - Info board / desk at the fire station
 - Postings on www.facebook.com/WestAlmanorBulletin
 - Possible bulletins on KJDX (93.3 & 93.7 MHz)
- Do NOT speculate or circulate rumors!
- Remove / relocate combustibles in the yard
 - *Make sure you have the required defensible space!*

Evacuation Procedures

- Evacuations are controlled by the Sheriff's Office
- Several stages:
 - Advisory ... “get ready”
 - Voluntary ... soft closure (residents can return)
 - Mandatory ... hard closure (no return)
- Contact procedures vary with circumstances
 - Check fire information sources regularly
 - Likely individual contact via Code Red or door-to-door
- Please don't ignore an evacuation order

Severe Wind Storm

- Call 911 to report injuries, severe damage or down power lines
- Stay inside for best protection from injury
- After the storm, check for damage
- Do NOT approach down power lines
- Expect responders to deal with injuries and blocked roads first, then with power outages and other damage

Heavy Snows

- It has happened before; e.g., Dec '92 – Feb '93
- Possible impacts:
 - Roads narrowed or blocked
 - Blocked access to driveways, parking and buildings
 - Windows and doors blocked or broken
 - Propane vents blocked, damage to regulators, fires
 - Structural damage or collapse (flat roofs especially)
- Keep tabs on increasing snow loads, and remove excess snow before reaching damage threshold
 - Know your roof limit and how to measure snow load

Flooding

- It's happened before; e.g., January 1997
- Possible Impacts:
 - Erosion (road shoulders, around structures, etc.)
 - Road blockage due to flooding or washout
 - Bridge damage
 - Flooding / ponding of low areas
- Don't go sightseeing ... you could end up stranded
- Don't try to cross water ... can easily be swept away

Earthquakes

- M 5.7 Canyon Dam quake in 2013 was a surprise
 - Largest recorded prior quake had been M 4.5
- Possible impacts of a large earthquake:
 - Tipped over heavy furniture, emptied shelves, broken glass, etc.
 - Crumbled masonry (chimneys, facings, etc.)
 - Broken gas lines, water lines
 - Structural damage (homes, bridges, etc.)
 - Rock slides, earth movement
 - Resulting power outages, road blockages, possible fires
- Secure heavy household items to the wall
 - Water heater tanks, shelf units, chests, TVs, etc.

Volcanic Event at Mt. Lassen

- Lassen remains an ACTIVE site
- Local impact of an eruption at Lassen would most likely be due to ash fall
 - Serious health issue
 - Wear face mask
 - Seal house to minimize ash intrusion
 - Serious damage potential to engines, rotating parts
 - Frequent cleaning, filter change needed
 - Adds heavy loads to roofs, especially if followed by rain

Bottom Line

- We can't predict when emergencies will occur
- But we CAN prepare ourselves for trouble
- Ignoring the possibility won't make it go away