

Emergency Preparedness Tip of the Week

By: Ed Mayer, Shady Cove Emergency Manager

For the past 12 weeks I have had the pleasure of drafting the Emergency Preparedness Tip of the Week. This final tip will be wrapping up some loose ends. If you missed any tips or would like to review them again, they will soon be posted on the newly developed Emergency Management page of Shady Cove's City website. www.shadycove.net

Recently Shady Cove completed a "risk assessment" identifying the most likely natural disasters to hit our community. The results were no surprise. Topping the list is a wildland fire, followed by a major weather event, flood and in 4th place is an earthquake. All of the tips learned over the last 3 months are applicable to any of these disasters.

Below are a few additional recommendations to add to your family's emergency planning process.

- Learn how to turn off your utilities. If an evacuation occurs and time allows, be sure to turn off your power, gas and water. This could prevent or reduce additional damage to your residence if the disaster strikes your home. Utility companies can direct you in how to safely complete this task.
- FEMA recommends that you store water for consumption for AT LEAST 3 days. One gallon per person per day should be stored. Your consumable water should periodically be replaced.
- Review your insurance coverage with your agent. Often we believe we are "covered" for situations where in reality your insurance claim may possibly be denied following a disaster event. A periodic review with your agent could save you many headaches and a lot of cash.
- I often receive questions about the possibility of Lost Creek Dam failing. Although the possibility of this happening is extremely small, it would be good information for you to have. As you can guess, a majority of the city of Shady Cove would be flooded. According to the Army Corps of Engineers Lost Creek Dam Inundation map the arrival time for the surge would be 1 hour and 15 minutes. If you have signed up for "Citizen Alert" through Jackson County (www.jacksoncounty.org/alert) you could receive warning information in time to get to a safe location. The map which is available to be seen at Shady Cove City Hall is based on "a worse-case scenario" with the dam failing all at once. Most dam failures don't occur this way, rather failing a little at a time allowing the water to be released gradually, rather than all at once.
- Make your family's emergency preparation planning fun; it will be more enjoyable and when the learning process is fun, family members will remember it better.

I am available to give Emergency Preparedness talks to any group of Shady Cove citizens; whether you are in a community civic group, a church, mobile home community or even a group of neighbors. You can contact me through Shady Cove City Hall at (541) 878-2225 and ask to be put in contact with Ed Mayer.

Remember, "Don't be scared, be prepared."