



GP NOW

Live Rogue



Emergency Preparedness

Are you ready?

We need to have a general knowledge about disasters common to our area and strategies for how to protect ourselves and our families. Typically, people don't think about emergency preparedness—until after an event has occurred. Chances are that each of us will be affected by at least one emergency or disaster in our lifetime. In the Grants Pass area, the City has identified seven potential risks. Three of them—wildfire, flood and severe weather—have been identified as having both a high probability of occurrence and a high vulnerability. The other risks include: earthquake, landslide, volcanic impact and drought.



1. Be informed.
2. Make a plan.
3. Get prepared.

The City has emergency plans to help our residents and help create a disaster resilient city. However, personal preparedness will help you more than the City ever could. When citizens are prepared, that helps the City be more prepared. What can you do?



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a lot of good material that can help. Check out one of their websites at www.ready.gov. They suggest that all Americans should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive for at least three days if an emergency occurs.

Having a disaster supply kit on hand—complete with copies of important documents and emergency supply items such as non-perishable food, water, and personal items—saves critical time if a family needs to evacuate their home. The same is true if an emergency requires that a family stay at home for a few days, especially if there is no power. Preparing ahead of time for emergencies contributes to the safety and resiliency of both yourself and your community.



Work with your family to assemble items for a disaster supply kit. We also recommend you put together a family emergency communication plan so that your family will know where to meet, how to contact one another and who should be your out-of-state point of contact.

Putting your disaster supply kit (72-hour kit) together doesn't have to be a difficult thing. Start with a portable container, such as a piece of luggage or a backpack. Add water, non-perishable food, a flashlight and extra batteries, clothes, and a few basic tools. It is suggested you think "camping" to help you get the items you will want. Remember to include space for medications and other personal items you may need. The important thing is to get started. Getting through a crisis safely and comfortably is a lot easier if you are prepared.

October 2016

Strategic Planning

The fall season is upon us, which means it is time for the City's strategic planning. The City Council wants to engage the entire Grants Pass community in developing a strategic plan. Establishing a process that ensures broad community input is essential to the credibility of a strategic plan and its success. By regularly having one-on-one conversations with constituents, hosting open houses and conducting surveys, the City is hoping to use community input to develop a strategic plan that helps City leadership to make decisions with the confidence that they are responding to the citizens' stated desires.



City Manager Aaron Cubic leading a Strategic Planning Forum

On November 10, 2016, 6pm in the City Council Chambers, citizens are invited to attend a Strategic Planning Forum to provide their goals and dreams for the City. You will be asked to answer the following four questions and provide your thoughts on shaping our future and helping create a strategic plan for the City of Grants Pass:

- What do you want to accomplish?
- What would you like to happen that is not happening now?
- What do you like that is happening and would like it to occur more often or to a greater degree?
- What is the most important issue facing our community?

Community-suggested priorities and actions are placed in the strategic planning process for consideration and may ultimately be adopted by the City Council to set budget and action priorities for the future. Think of this as a roadmap establishing City priorities and actions to address pressing community needs, how resources will be utilized, and what can be done to move Grants Pass forward. Strategic planning is a tool that provides additional focus and ability to analyze our financial prospects and make strategic decisions about City services and capital projects – particularly as they affect community goals and objectives.

COLD WEATHER IS COMING - PROTECT YOUR PIPES

In the midst of our beautiful fall weather, it is hard to imagine that it is time to think about protecting your pipes from freezing. One only has to step outside in the early morning hours to feel the coolness and realize winter is closing in on our community.

Your water pipes and spigots (hose bibs) need to be protected. Without precautions, your water pipes could freeze and burst, creating an expensive mess. Here are some handy tips to avoid frozen pipes during sub-freezing temperatures.

- **CUSTOMER VALUE** – Knowing how to shut off the water can come in handy to limit damage if a pipe inside your home does freeze and burst. If you don't have a customer shut-off valve and would like to have one installed, the City's Water Distribution Division will gladly assist by shutting off your water during normal working hours to enable you or your plumber to install the valve.
- **INSULATION** – Pipe insulation can be purchased from most hardware stores. Simply measure the insulation, cut to length, and install on the pipes, especially those located in un-insulated areas of your home or business or those that are exposed to the weather such as hose bibs.
- **BACKFLOW PREVENTION** – Backflow prevention assemblies, which are installed above ground, such as reduced pressure assemblies and pressure reducing valves, should be properly protected. These are best protected with insulated boxes. Contact your landscaper or property maintenance to properly protect and/or drain your irrigation system to alleviate the chance that you will have a break and will not find out until the system is reactivated the following season.
- **PLUMBING FIXTURES** – If any plumbing fixtures are located adjacent to an exterior wall and inside a cabinet, such as a kitchen or bathroom sink, open cabinet doors to help keep the pipes from freezing.



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Cold Weather, continued

- **CAULKING** – Use caulk or insulation to seal cold-air leaks throughout your home or business.
- **STREAM OF WATER** – If the temperatures are forecasted to remain very cold for several days, run a thin stream of water from faucets and/or fixtures susceptible to freezing. Water that is running will not readily freeze. This will add a minimal cost to your water bill but is much cheaper than broken pipes.



Remember: whether indoors or out, the water service line from the meter box, to the structure, including all the plumbing within the customer's property is the responsibility of the property owner. A few minutes spent weatherizing and protecting your plumbing system can save you a lot of hassle and money.

Holiday Events

This time of year brings in many great events in downtown Grants Pass, such as Art Along the Rogue, held October 8-9. Thousands come out to see this street painting and music festival every year.

Safe Halloween is also a fun time where kids and families can trick-or-treat downtown from 3-5 pm on October 31.

Shortly after comes a magical time when downtown Grants Pass transforms into a Christmas wonderland. Snowflakes are on the lampposts to complement our year-round tree lights, decorations are placed in storefronts and nutcrackers and magical murals adorn the sidewalks. This creates a beautiful setting for our special holiday events.



On December 2 at 7pm, the Holiday Plaza at 5th and 'H' streets will glow as the towering Christmas Tree is lit and Santa's Workshop opens up. Join in for holiday songs and festive fun. Come back the next night on December 3 at 6 pm for our annual Christmas Parade. See the community fill the streets with floats, bands and other yuletide entertainment. More activity is in the works to keep the Christmas spirit alive throughout December. Refer to the TravelGrantsPass.com website for all of the latest events.

Rogue Winterfest is a popular holiday festival and is happening December 1-5. Several days of events are hosted at Evergreen Federal Bank's Bear Hotel. Join in the Gala & Grand Auction on Thursday and the Golden Social on Friday. Attend holiday events on both Saturday and Sunday and the Culinary Christmas Classic on Monday. When you visit, you'll have a chance to walk through the Southern Oregon Adventure. Local artists created glimpses of the great sights we have in Southern Oregon, including Crater Lake, the Redwood Forest and the Coast. This festival brings the community together to help support three of Josephine County's nonprofit mental health organizations.

Halloween Safety Tips

- Be sure you can see clearly. Use makeup instead of masks.
- Wear flame resistant costumes and stay away from lit candles.
- Use reflective tape on your costume.
- Don't eat candy until it has been inspected.
- Don't eat homemade treats from strangers.
- Do not enter a stranger's home.
- Pay attention around cars and never run out into the street.
- Trick or Treat downtown or in well-lit neighborhoods.
- Stay on sidewalks and cross at corners or crosswalks.
- Stay in small groups and don't go off alone.
- Be sure your parent or guardian knows where you are going.
- Carry a cell phone and use the flashlight on it.

Dog Nuisances



Two of the most common complaints received about dogs are that they are running loose (at large), and habitually barking. The "nuisance dog" Ordinance under Grants Pass Municipal Code (5.08.010) is fairly broad. However, the following is a brief summary of two sections of the Ordinance. While the majority of the dogs running loose are friendly, some citizens have preconceived notions about certain breeds, or may have had a traumatic experience with a dangerous dog. We encourage all citizens to be respectful of their neighbors and realize not all people enjoy the company or presence of dogs.

While having a highly-trained/obedient dog is encouraged, all dogs are susceptible to distractions such as wild animals, people, and moving vehicles, which could put dogs and people at risk of being involved in a vehicular collision. These are some of the reasons why the City's Municipal Code requires a leash measuring 8 feet or shorter while the dog is on public property or loose on property not owned by the dog owner. The Municipal Code does not recognize voice commands as an alternative for a leash. If a dog is loose on public or private property without the owner present, the dog can be taken to Josephine County Animal Control unless a Public Safety official is able to locate the owner.

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (GPDPS) encourages responsible dog ownership for any citizen, realizing the potential impact on neighbors. For a variety of reasons, an inherent trait of most dogs is to bark. Some options to remedy such an issue is to seek professional training or consult with a veterinarian or pet store employee for options and products which may reduce or limit the barking. Many citizens work varying hours, including night shifts, which require them to sleep during the day. A constant howling or barking dog can interfere with the repose of nearby residents. When citizens call the police about barking dogs during late-evening or early-morning hours, police officers are not always able to contact the owners to cease the barking. Those situations are forwarded to Community Service Officers, who follow up with the dog owner as soon as possible.

Issues often may be alleviated by speaking directly with the dog owner. If this is not appropriate, or is not working, GPDPS is available to address the problem. The owner of the dog may be issued a notice of violation, which serves as a warning for a nuisance dog. Additional occurrences of the same nature may be handled through the issuance of citations for each subsequent violation. Alleviating the nuisance through compliance is the goal, however a warning is not required prior to issuing citations.

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Vacant

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City Council Meetings

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6 pm

City Council Workshops

Each Monday at 11:45 am

City Council Chambers, 101 NW A Street

Meetings are televised on Charter Cable

Channel 183 and posted online at

www.grantspassoregon.gov.

Listen live to Councilors and Staff discussing local issues on KAJO (1270 AM) the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays each month at 9:30 am



City of Grants Pass
Local Government

www.grantspassoregon.gov