

**CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL**  
**Agenda Staff Report**

<b>MEETING DATE</b> September 1, 2015	<b>AGENDA ITEM NUMBER</b>
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TO: Mayor Shoji and City Councilors  
FROM: Mark Anderson, Fire Chief  
THROUGH: Rodger Craddock, City Manager  
ISSUE: Presentation on Disaster Preparedness

**BACKGROUND**

A disaster can be defined as a sudden calamitous event or series of events that seriously disrupts the functioning of a community and causes human, material, and economic or environmental losses that exceed the community's ability to cope using its own resources. Though often caused by nature, disasters can have human origins.

The 2008 Hazardous Analysis report for Coos County identified the following primary hazards that may pose a threat to the City of Coos Bay. These hazards are ranked and listed in order according to probability and severity:

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Severe Weather – Wind       | 6. Wildland Fire                       |
| 2. Earthquake                  | 7. Landslide                           |
| 3. Tsunami                     | 8. Domestic Terrorism                  |
| 4. Hazardous Materials release | 9. Pandemic or Biological<br>Emergency |
| 5. Flooding                    |  |

**City & Staff Preparedness**

In 2012, the City adopted a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). This volume provides the framework for the management of operations throughout the course of preparation, response, mitigation, and recovery from a disaster within the Coos Bay community. The major objectives of the EOP are to:

- Integrate city, county, local, regional, and tribal emergency operations under the principles of the National Response Framework and National Incident Management System (Incident Command System);
- Establish lines of authority and organizational relationships for an emergency;
- Define roles and responsibilities for organizations and individuals for carrying out emergency functions;
- Describe how people and property are protected in emergencies and disasters; and
- Provide guidelines for identifying and allocating personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources to support emergency operations.

The EOP is reviewed and updated periodically to ensure accuracy and effectiveness.

City staff and elected officials with emergency service responsibilities receive training in their emergency management and response duties. This includes, but is not limited to instruction in the basics of the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System (ICS 100 etc.). Additionally, City staff are trained in their related field - recognizing their capabilities and limitations particularly as applicable to disaster response. As an example, the City's Building Official has received training in post-earthquake safety evaluation of buildings (structural triage). Training also includes periodic exercises of the EOP, evacuation, mutual aid, and other disaster related response activities.

The City has staff, resources, and equipment for response and mitigation to daily emergencies. However, it is impractical to maintain these resources at the levels necessary for handling a disaster event. Therefore, the City maintains mutual aid agreements with neighboring agencies and community partners for assistance when our limitations have been exceeded. There is some concern that, based on the location of city shops, much of the Street Department's equipment may be isolated, unusable, or destroyed with flooding from a tsunami. Staff plan to move the essential equipment to safety if they have ample advance notice. This places a significant importance on partnerships with public and private businesses with heavy equipment.

With the construction of Fire Station No. 1 in 2010, the City included the capability for the station to be utilized as the Emergency Operation Center (EOC). The station has the ability to support the coordinated management and communication for a large scale disaster event. Alternate locations are identified in the Emergency Operations Plan.

### **Threat-Specific Preparations**

The City maintains an inventory of sandbags for use with localized flooding. Some of the bags are already filled, but most are empty. The Street Department also has sand available for filling these sandbags or for building temporary berms. Evacuation routes and assembly points have been identified for residents and visitors to the area. Oregon Emergency Management and the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries have included these assembly points in their Tsunami Evacuation Route maps that the City provides free to the public.

City Hall was retrofitted with seismic upgrades in 2013 to improve the survivability and reduce the structural damage to key infrastructure in the event of a sizable earthquake.

Coos Bay is host to the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team. This cooperative relationship puts hazard-specific tools and training in our community and available for timely response, stabilization, and mitigation. This equipment includes communication equipment, air monitoring equipment, protective suits, and specialized tools for reducing the impact of a hazmat release to life, property, or the environment.

All Fire Department staff are emergency medically trained. This training includes mass-casualty triage and biological isolation to reduce the spread of illness. The department has equipment and procedures for protection from bloodborne and airborne pathogens.

## **Community Readiness**

In a major disaster, our community's ability to respond and recover is directly related to the preparedness of individuals, households, and neighborhoods. Public Education is the most important preparedness activity for disasters. For the past several years, the City of Coos Bay has partnered with the American Red Cross and NW Natural Gas to host a community disaster preparedness fair called "Get Ready Coos Bay". This annual event invites the public to talk with dozens of agencies that directly or indirectly offer assistance during and after a disaster. The public can learn what to expect and how to prepare their family for surviving a community disaster. In 2014, the Fire Department had over 600 people attend this event.

The Fire Department hosts monthly training free to the public on topics including CPR, Fire Extinguisher use, Disaster Preparedness, and Fire Safety tips. Disaster preparedness education includes parts of the "Map Your Neighborhood" program as well as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommendations for temporary self-sufficiency.

The City has partnered with the Coos Bay School District, Bay Cities Ambulance, State and Federal Hazmat Teams, and the US Coast Guard to exercise the interoperability of response and readiness in the event of a disaster. These drills have included Tsunami evacuation, large-scale Hazardous Materials release, acts of terrorism, mass casualty incidents, and earthquake response.

The City supports some additional disaster response groups. The Coos County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)/ Coos County Radio Amateur Communication Emergency Services (RACES) assist Coos County Emergency Management in providing alternate emergency and disaster communications. Coos County also supports Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). There is an active group of CERT volunteers in the Empire area that are trained to assist with damage assessment, patient triage, search and rescue, and other functional assignments.

## **Action Items**

- *The EOP needs to be updated. It is currently being reviewed by staff, but Council will need to adopt the changes in an upcoming Council meeting.*
- *Staff should become practiced and more proficient with the implementation of the EOP.*
- *Several members of staff and Council have not completed the ICS training. This training is available online or in a workshop setting.*
- *The City should consider developing a cache of supplies for victim relief. Items could include non-perishable resources (tarps, rope, blankets, water filtration equipment, etc.)*
- *Need to develop a process for checking on and/or recalling staff.*
- *The City needs to continue promoting education on disaster preparedness topics. More of the population need to be reached.*
- *Sheltering and feeding of displaced victims is a concern. The local Red Cross chapter has limited resources and there is no clear plan in place for handling these needs.*
- *Staff should train with these groups periodically to further develop the relationship, identify challenges and to communicate expectations.*

**ADVANTAGES:**

The advantage of continued disaster preparation and readiness efforts include:

1. Reduced casualties and property damage
2. Improved community resilience
3. Improved efficiency in response efforts
4. Reduced reliance on external agencies
5. Improved understanding of what the community may expect

**DISADVANTAGES:**

The disadvantages of adequately preparing for a disaster include:

1. Potential for an increase in preventable loss of life
2. Disorganization and chaotic response/recovery effort
3. Potential risk of legal liability

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

The current preparedness efforts are primarily absorbed in the General Fund operating budgets for the participating departments. The identified action items would also require little or no additional funding with the exception of stockpiling supplies for victim relief. If the City were to consider this approach, grant funds may ease the financial strain on the City's budget.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

If it pleases the Council, staff requests the continued support for disaster preparedness through training, planning, and community education. Council members not trained or familiar with the Incident Command System (ICS), the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) or the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), should add this preparation effort to their schedule. Lastly, staff asks for Council's direction on the collection of victim relief resources.

## **An Overview of the Map Your Neighborhood Program**

Teaches neighbors to rely on each other during the hours or days before fire, medical, police, or utility responders arrive.

### **Before the Disaster:**

Identify Skills and Equipment Inventory (Resource) List

Create a Neighborhood Map

- Identify Natural Gas/Propane shut off valves
- Identify water shut off valves
- Develop a Neighborhood Contact List
  - Latch-key Children
  - Elderly
  - Disabled

### **Immediately following a disaster:**

Step 1: Take care of your loved ones

Step 2: Protect your head, feet, and hands

Step 3: Check the natural gas or propane at your home

Step 4: Shut off water at the house main

Step 5: Place the Help or OK sign on your front door or window

Step 6: Put your fire extinguisher on the sidewalk or where neighbors can see it

Step 7: Go to the Neighborhood Gathering Site

Step 8: Form Teams

- Radio
- Check People - elderly, disability, children
- Gas/Propane
- Help/OK Card

Step 9: Return to Neighborhood Gathering Site – report out



# City of Coos Bay

## Disaster Preparedness



### Coos Bay Area Threats

- Severe Weather – Wind
- Earthquake
- Tsunami
- Hazardous Materials Release
- Flooding
- Wildland Fire
- Landslide
- Domestic Terrorism
- Pandemic or Biological Emergency



## City and Staff Preparedness

- Emergency Operations Plan
- Training
- Community Partners
- Emergency Operations Center



## Threat-Specific Preparations





## Community Readiness



### Community Education Schedule

- January – Disaster Preparedness
- February – CPR
- March – Fire Extinguisher
- April – Fire Safety (Home)
- May – CPR
- June – Fire Safety (Business)
- September – Disaster Preparedness
- October – CPR
- November – Fire Extinguisher

### An Overview of the Map Your Neighborhood Program



Teaches neighbors to rely on each other during the hours or days before fire, medical, police, or utility responders arrive.

#### **Before the Disaster:**

- Identify Skills and Equipment Inventory (Resource) List
- Create a Neighborhood Map
- Identify Natural Gas/Propane shut off valves
- Identify water shut off valves
- Develop a Neighborhood Contact List



## An Overview of the Map Your Neighborhood Program



- **Immediately following a disaster:**
- Step 1: Take care of your loved ones
- Step 2: Protect your head, feet, and hands
- Step 3: Check the natural gas or propane at your home
- Step 4: Shut off water at the house main
- Step 5: Place the Help or OK sign on your front door or window
- Step 6: Put your fire extinguisher on the sidewalk
- Step 7: Go to the Neighborhood Gathering Site
- Step 8: Form Teams (check on neighbors, shut off utilities, etc.)
- Step 9: Return to Neighborhood Gathering Site – report out

## Community Partnerships

- City of North Bend
- Int'l Port of Coos Bay
- Coos County
- Coos Forest Protective Assoc.
- Oregon OEM
- US Coast Guard
- Bay Cities Ambulance
- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Coos Bay School District
- Northwest Natural Gas
- Confederated Tribes
- Bay Area Hospital
- CERT
- ARES/RACES

