

# Grays Harbor County Emergency Management

## Preparedness on the Harbor

Volume 3, Issue 5

September - October 2017

Graysharbartalk.com

2017  
Emergency  
Preparedness  
EXPO

Fall 2017

Earthquakes  
and the Great  
Shake Out

Halloween  
Safety

Preparedness  
Information

Emergency  
Water Storage

Contacts &  
info



### 2017 Emergency Preparedness

Saturday October 7th **EXPO**  
10am - 3pm

Rotary Log Pavilion  
1401 Sargent Blvd., Aberdeen



*Free Family Event!!*



Join us for:

Emergency Response Vehicle Displays \* Interactive Booths \*  
Child ID Fingerprinting \* Disaster Cooking \* Hands-On CPR for  
the Whole Family . . . . and **MORE!!**

For more information contact Grays Harbor County Emergency Management  
at (360) 249-3911 or by email at [GHCEM@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:GHCEM@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)



# Fall 2017



## Your Home's Fall Checklist

*It's time to prepare your home to withstand winter's frosty bite. Fall is the perfect time to take care of the little things that can make a big difference for you and your home. Most of the tasks listed below are well with-in the average person's ability. But even if you choose to have a professional handle them, it's worth the expense. You'll save money -- and maybe even your life.*

Here's the checklist at a glance. Click [HERE](#) for more detailed guidance.

- Get your mind in the gutters.** Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts.
- Button up your overcoat.** Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weather-stripping and caulk.
- Get on top of roof problems.** Inspect your roof for damaged or curled shingles, corroded flashing, or leaky vents.
- Walks the walks (and drives).** Take steps to repair damaged sidewalks, driveways, and steps.
- Chill out.** Drain and winterize outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Freshen your filter.** Clean or replace dirty furnace filters.
- Give your furnace a physical.** Have a professional inspect your heating system.
- Gather round the hearth.** Check fireplaces for soot or creosote build-up. Better yet, schedule a visit from a reputable chimney sweep.
- Keep the humidifier humming.** Clean the plates or pads to ensure efficient operation.
- Head-off gas problems.** If you have a gas-fired room heater, have it inspected by a pro. Also, perform any routine maintenance recommended by the maker.
- Keep the wood fires burning brightly.** Wood stoves are making a comeback. To avoid a deadly situation, be sure to inspect yours before firing it up.
- Keep your family safe at home.** A home safety check should be an annual ritual in every household. Test smoke and CO monitors, inspect (or install) fire extinguishers, review fire escape plans, and rid your home of old newspapers and other fire hazards.

Courtesy of Better Homes & Gardens



Fall weather is here.  
Here's what you  
Autumn know!

As the days get shorter and temperatures fall, a new round of weather hazards are on the rise. This transitional season often features weather hazards seen during both warm and cold months, including hurricanes, wildfires, intense winds, flooding, droughts, early season snow and more.

*Get ready for fall weather with preparedness tips from the National Weather Service. Stay safe this fall!*

### 1. Know Your Risk: Check the Weather Forecast Daily

Start your day with [weather.gov](http://weather.gov), whether it's on a computer, phone or social media. Check the forecast before you leave home so that you'll know what to expect during the day.

### 2. Take Action: Prepare for Weather Hazards

To be weather-ready, it takes more than just knowing the forecast. You must be prepared for it. Get ready with an emergency supplies kit and a family communications plan. An emergency supplies kit is merely a box containing vital supplies that you may need during an emergency, such as food, water and medicine, while a family communications plan lists alternative ways of getting in touch during an emergency.

### 3. Be A Force of Nature: Share Your Weather Preparedness Story

You are influential. Take a photo of your emergency supplies kit and share it on Facebook. Tweet about your family communications plan on Twitter, or simply go next door and talk to the neighbors about what to do if a storm strikes. Building a Weather-Ready Nation is a job for all of us.

### Fall Weather Hazards

What hazards are most common in the fall? Learn about the dangers that these hazards pose and specific actions you can take to stay safe.



**FLOODS**



**FOG**



**WIND**

[http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/fall\\_safety.html](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/fall_safety.html)



# EARTHQUAKE

## It Could Happen To You!

Imagine being awakened by a sudden jolt, then tremendous shaking -virtually throwing you from your bed. Glass is crashing and you feel your home sliding and shifting from its foundation as you listen to terrified cries from your children through the thunderous noise of the ground, your home and everything you own being jolted, pitched and shoved by what you realize is an earthquake.

The 40 second event seems like an eternity as you struggle to yell out to your children to get under their beds or pull the covers over their heads as the shaking goes on...and on...and on.

Your body shivers as you feel the rush of cold air from the outside as the shaking subsides and you reach for your flashlight, but it's not where you left it because of the excessive shaking. The night is darker than you ever imagined without moonlight to assist as you try to get from your room to help the others in your home. You suffer cuts on your bare feet from broken glass and struggle to work around fallen and displaced furniture you can't see. The children continue to cry as you finally get to them. Hugging for support, you hear the home creaking and the faint voices of neighbors calling out on the street between the muffled sobs from your family.

Slowly, working to get out of the home to a safer environment, a second earthquake begins; rumbling and rattling everything around you again, as you struggle to pull your children under your body to protect them.

Earthquakes have occurred in our county, region and state in the past and will continue to occur in the future. There are multiple earthquake fault lines in our county as well as just off the coast and there is no way to predict when or where the next earthquake will strike.

Understanding what could happen in your particular community is the first step towards preparing for such an event. Family Emergency Plans and Disaster Plans for school, business and government have been shown to lessen the impact any emergency or disaster event causes upon a community and upon families.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> The Great Shakeout Earthquake Exercise will take place. Although the 10:19am weekday event is designed predominantly for business, schools and government, it offers a tremendous opportunity to all families to discuss emergency and disaster preparedness for all types of hazards.

- Do you know how to communicate if you are separated in an emergency or disaster event?
- Does each member of your family, including each pet have a [GO KIT](#) prepared if you determine you must leave your home in a disaster?
- Are you aware of [assembly areas](#) in your community?
- Are you aware of the disaster plans for your place of employment and your child's school?
- Have you signed up for the Grays Harbor County Notification System? [http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency\\_management/DEMNotificationRequest.php](http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency_management/DEMNotificationRequest.php)
- Do you follow Grays Harbor County Emergency Management on Face book? <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Grays-Harbor-County-Emergency-Management/426601594068767>

For more information on emergency or disaster preparedness, contact Grays Harbor County Emergency Management at (360) 964-1575 or [GHCDEM@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:GHCDEM@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)



## Why is it important to do a Drop, Cover, and Hold On drill?

To react quickly you must practice often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake, before strong shaking knocks you down--or drops something on you. Practicing helps you be ready to respond.

- If you are inside a building, move no more than a few steps, then Drop, Cover and Hold On:
  - \* **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!),
  - \* Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
  - \* **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops.

Stay indoors till the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit. In most buildings in Washington you are safer if you stay where you are until the shaking stops.

- If you in a low lying coastal area, immediately move inland and to higher ground because a tsunami could follow the earthquake. Do not return until local officials announce it is safe to reenter coastal areas.
- If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, you should find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, street-lights, and power lines, then Drop, Cover and Hold On. Stay there until the shaking stops.
- If you are driving, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. Once the shaking stops, proceed with caution and avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged.

Ground shaking during an earthquake is seldom the cause of injury. Most earthquake-related injuries and deaths are caused by collapsing walls and roofs, flying glass and falling objects. It is extremely important for a person to move as little as possible to reach the place of safety he or she has identified because most injuries occur when people try to move more than a short distance during the shaking.

Look around you now, before an earthquake. Identify safe places such as under a sturdy piece of furniture or against an interior wall in your home, office or school so that when the shaking starts you can respond quickly. An immediate response to move to the safe place can save lives. And that safe place should be within a few steps to avoid injury from flying debris.

<http://www.shakeout.org/washington/>

## 2 WEEKS READY

BUILD KITS

Plan to be on your own for at least 2 weeks



The Great Washington Shake Out

Click on Photo

# HALLOWEEN HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS

**S**words, knives, and other costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.

**A**void trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

**F**asten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.

**E**xamine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

**H**old a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. WALK and don't run from house to house.

**A**lways test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bed time to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.

**L**ook both ways before crossing the street. Use crosswalks possible.

**L**ower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.

**O**nly walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe

**W**ear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.

**E**at only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.

**E**nter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Never accept rides from strangers.

**N**ever walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

For more information visit the CDC at:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/index.htm>



## Grays Harbor County Emergency Management *Photo Gallery!!*

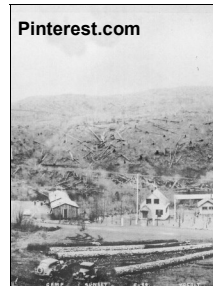
Click the link below to see photos from the  
**Westport Military Showcase**

[http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency\\_management/photo\\_gallery.php](http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency_management/photo_gallery.php)

## Looking Back. . . . .



### Yacolt Burn



The Yacolt Burn is the collective name for dozens of fires in Washington state and Oregon occurring between September 8 and September 12, 1902, causing 38 deaths in the Lewis River area, at least nine deaths by fire in Wind River and 18 deaths in the Columbia River Gorge.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yacolt\\_Burn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yacolt_Burn)

In September, 1902, "catastrophic" fires burned across Southwest Washington, including a burn from Elma to Shelton on Puget Sound that destroyed one million board feet of lumber at a mill in the hills above Elma, and uncounted volumes of live trees. On September 12, the county seat, Montesano experienced darkness at noon. A one-to two-mile wide swath of timber was completely burned from Elma to Summit Lake, 13 miles west.

Several fire lookouts were built on peaks in the 20th century as listed above as part of a national effort to control fires.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satsop\\_Hills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satsop_Hills)

**DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE STORM  
PICTURE TO SHARE??**

Email [cmccullough@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:cmccullough@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)



## Columbus Day Storm of 1962

The Columbus Day Storm of 1962 was a Pacific Northwest windstorm, that struck the West Coast of Canada and the Pacific Northwest coast of the United States on October 12, 1962. It is considered the benchmark of extratropical wind storms. The storm ranks among the most intense to strike the region since at least 1948, likely since the January 9, 1880 "Great Gale" and snowstorm. The storm is a contender for the title of most powerful extratropical



cyclone recorded in the U.S. in the 20th century; with respect to wind velocity, it is unmatched by the March 1993 "Storm of the Century" and the "1991 Halloween Nor'easter". The system brought strong winds to the Pacific Northwest and southwest Canada, and was linked to 46 fatalities in the northwest and Northern California resulting from heavy rains and mudslides.



Courtesy of [Wikipedia](#)



# ARE YOU READY?

*By failing to prepare,  
you are preparing to fail  
- Benjamin Franklin*



## ONE HOUR

of disaster

preparedness activity

## EACH MONTH

helps you be ready for

disasters –

whenever they occur.

Click [HERE](#) for  
Prepare in a Year  
Booklet

## Be prepared for bad weather -- buy a NOAA Weather Radio!

GET THE INFORMATION  
YOU NEED...24 HOURS A  
DAY...GET A NOAA  
WEATHER RADIO!



**NOAA Weather Radio** broadcasts weather information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, direct from the National Weather Service. It is the fastest way to receive weather warnings and information. Tone-alert radios can wake you at night or alert you when television or other radios are not turned on that hazardous weather is headed your way.

Weather radios should be in every home and facility much like smoke detectors now are.

**NOAA Weather Radio saves lives!**

### Where Can I Get My Weather Radio?

- ◆ Electronic stores, boating and marine stores, retail stores, department and sporting stores, or the internet.
- ◆ Cost ranges from \$20-100 depending on which brand and model. Look for the brand which carries the Public Alert Logo.



<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/ind/pdf/NOAA%20Weather%20Radio.pdf>

## Family Communication Plan

Emergencies can happen at anytime. Do you know how to get in touch with your family if you are not together?

**KNOW THE NUMBERS!**



FEMA.gov

The **American Red Cross** First Aid has an App for smart phones and tablets that provides users with expert advice on what to do in case of an emergency. This free app is available on the Apple iTunes or Google Play stores and at [redcross.org/mobileapps](http://redcross.org/mobileapps).



American  
Red Cross

To get involved with the  
Red Cross  
contact **Michaëlle Fries** at  
[Michaëlle.Fries@redcross.org](mailto:Michaëlle.Fries@redcross.org)





# EMERGENCY WATER STORAGE

Article Provided by  
Eric Khambatta, Environmental Health

## Create & Store an Emergency Water Supply

- Store at least **1 gallon of water per day for each person and each pet**. You should consider storing more water than this for hot climates, for pregnant women, and for persons who are sick.
- Store at least a 3-day supply of water for each person and each pet. Try to store a 2-week supply, if possible.
- Observe the expiration date for store-bought water. Replace non-store bought water every 6 months.
- Store a bottle of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach (label should say it contains 8.25% of sodium hypochlorite) to [disinfect your water](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/making-water-safe.html), if necessary, and to use for general cleaning and sanitizing.

### Choosing a Container:

When preparing safe water, it is best to use food grade water storage containers, such as those found at surplus or camping supply stores.

If you are not able to use a food grade water storage container, be sure the container you choose:

- Has a top that can be closed tightly
- Is made of durable, unbreakable materials (i.e. not glass)

**DO NOT USE** containers that previously have been used to hold liquid or solid toxic chemicals (bleach pesticides, etc.) A food grade water storage container is one that will not transfer noxious or toxic substances into the water it is holding. If you are uncertain whether a package type is food grade you can contact the manufacturer. Ask if that particular container is (US) FDA approved meaning that it is safe for food use.

### Cleaning a Water Storage Container Before Use collapsed

Before filling with safe water, use these steps to clean and sanitize water storage containers:

- Wash the storage container with dishwashing soap and water and rinse completely with clean water.
- Sanitize the container with a solution made by mixing 1 teaspoon of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach in one quart of water.
- Cover the container and shake it well so that the sanitizing bleach solution touches all inside surfaces of the container.
- Wait at least 30 seconds and then pour the sanitizing solution out of the container.
- Let the empty sanitized container air-dry before use OR rinse the empty container with clean, safe water that is available already.

### Storing Safe Water in a Container collapsed

- Label container as "drinking water" and include storage date.
- Replace stored water every six months.
- Keep stored water in a place with a fairly constant cool temperature (50-70° F).
- Do not store water containers in direct sunlight.
- Do not store water containers in areas where toxic substances, such as gasoline or pesticides, are present.

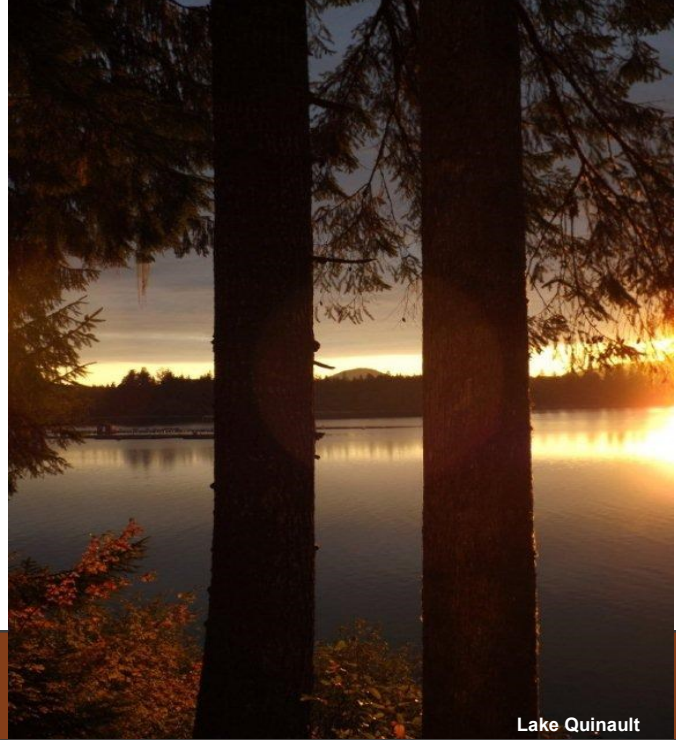
**Make Water Safe Click [HERE](#)      Drink Safe Water Click [HERE](#)**  
*Courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*



# Contacts & Info



**Request for Preparedness on the Harbor  
Newsletter Articles**  
Submit your article and pictures to  
[cmccullough@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:cmccullough@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)  
Deadline is October 6, 2017



Lake Quinault

**All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) Siren testing  
occurs the first Monday of every month at noon.**

**Sheriff Rick Scott**  
Director Emergency Management  
(360) 249-3711  
[soadmin@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:soadmin@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)

**Chuck Wallace**  
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Montesano, WA 98563  
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[ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)

## Article & Photo Credit

*Page 6 Emergency Water Storage  
Information Provided by  
Eric Khambatta, Grays Harbor County  
Environmental Health*

**ATTEND** the Grays Harbor Citizen Corp meetings the second Wednesday of every month at 9am, in the Grays Harbor County Forestry Building.  
**310 W Spruce St Montesano, WA 98563**

*Meet with other county agencies and organizations working on disaster preparedness in our county. Check out their Facebook page too.*  
[www.facebook.com/GraysHarborCitizenCorps](http://www.facebook.com/GraysHarborCitizenCorps)

**SIGN UP** for the Grays Harbor Emergency Notification System to receive Emergency & Disaster information on winter storms, earthquakes, flooding, from Grays Harbor  
[http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency\\_management/DEMNotificationRequest.php](http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency_management/DEMNotificationRequest.php)

**LIKE** the Grays Harbor Emergency Management Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Grays-Harbor-County-Emergency-Management](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Grays-Harbor-County-Emergency-Management)

**FOLLOW** Grays Harbor Emergency Management [@GHCDEM](https://twitter.com/GHCDEM) on Twitter

**VISIT** the Grays Harbor Emergency Management website at  
[http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency\\_management/index.php](http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency_management/index.php)

## Upcoming Events

**2017 Emergency Preparedness EXPO**  
October 7th  
Rotary Log Pavilion  
1401 Sargent Blvd  
Aberdeen  
10am-3pm

**Basic & Advanced Moulage**  
October 21st  
Westport Fire/  
South Beach EMS

**Listen for Tammy Fairley of the Ocean Shores CERT Team at 9am on: 91.3FM or at <http://koswradio.com>**

Sept. 28th  
Oct. 26th



**Look for Upcoming Events on the Emergency Management Website**  
<http://cms5.revize.com/revize/>

## Upcoming Meetings

**Citizen Corps**  
September 13th - 9:00am  
October 11th - 9:00am  
**LEPC**  
September 13th - 10:15am  
October 11th - 10:15am