



Emergency Preparedness Guidebook

ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE

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Be Informed!

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Receive alerts

NIXLE ALERTS - SIGNING UP IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

Sign up for NIXLE for real-time emergency alerts and relevant community advisories for Ashland, such as evacuation, power outages and street closures.

To receive text alerts from Nixle on your cellphone, text 97520 in the message line and 888777 as a recipient to sign up for emergency alerts and advisory texts only.

To sign up online for Nixle email, text and/or landline alerts by visiting ashland.or.us/nixle and click on the Nixle widget.

For County-level alerts, sign up here:
<http://jacksoncountyor.org/emergency/Resources/Citizen-Alert>

ASHLAND EMERGENCY RADIO — 1700AM

Program your home and car radios to the Ashland Emergency Radio Frequency.

SMOKE AND WILDFIRE HOTLINE — 541-552-2490

Smoke in the air? Get updated information by calling the hotline.

CONTROLLED BURN TEXT ALERTS

Find out when burns are planned in the Ashland area.
Text **WATERSHED** to 888777

DO YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE during the event of a wildfire, flood or earthquake? Sign up for the Disaster Registry with Rogue Valley Council of Governments. **VISIT RVCOG.ORG**

CITY OF ASHLAND WEBSITE — ASHLAND.OR.US

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK @[ASHLANDFIRERESCUE](https://www.facebook.com/ASHLANDFIRERESCUE)



2 Evacuation Process

1. Be Ready – LEVEL 1 EVACUATION

A **LEVEL 1** evacuation means “**BE READY**” for potential evacuation. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.

ALL RESIDENTS SHOULD BE AT THIS LEVEL OF READINESS AT ALL TIMES!

2. Be Set – LEVEL 2 EVACUATION

A **LEVEL 2** evacuation means “**BE SET**” to evacuate. This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice. Residents **MAY** have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk. **THIS MAY BE THE ONLY NOTICE THAT YOU RECEIVE.** Emergency services cannot guarantee that they will be able to notify you if conditions rapidly deteriorate. Area media services will be asked to broadcast periodic updates.

3. Go! – LEVEL 3 EVACUATION

A **LEVEL 3** evacuation means that you need to **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!** Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should evacuate immediately. If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand that emergency services may not be available to assist you further. **DO NOT DELAY** leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home. Access to evacuated areas may be denied until conditions are safe for citizens to return. **DO NOT** plan to return to check on your house or animals. If it’s not safe for them, it’s not safe for you!

Plan, prepare and practice

Take appropriate steps in planning ahead before disaster strikes. Communicating with loved-ones will be difficult. Having a plan and being prepared will help reduce stress.

- People and Pets – Have a plan. Do you know at least two ways out of your community? Where will you meet family after evacuation? Where will you stay and how will you contact each other? Where will your pets stay?
- Papers, phone numbers, and important documents. Deeds, birth certificates and other irreplaceable documents should be in one location so these can be grabbed at a moment's notice.
- Prescriptions, eyeglasses, and vitamins. You may be gone from your home for days, so insure you have access to all your health related items.
- Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia. These are priceless and could be lost forever.
- Personal computers or any information stored on hard drives and disks. Consider encrypting critical documents onto a web based service.
- Plastic including credit cards, ATM cards and cash.

Take direction from authorities

When you are asked to leave your home, Go! Always have your disaster supply kit stocked and ready for use. Implement your plan just as you've practiced in the past during non-disaster situations. Stay calm. Be aware of your surroundings such as downed power lines, fallen objects, pedestrians and traffic, and spills or other potential hazards.

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Family Disaster Planning

COMMUNICATION IS THE MOST CRITICAL ASPECT OF DISASTER PLANNING. ASSIGN EACH FAMILY MEMBER A ROLE. CONSIDER ALL SITUATIONS WHICH MAY IMPACT YOU. PRACTICE YOUR PLAN.

Fire, flood or other emergency

Practice crawling low under smoke. Practice **STOP! DROP! And ROLL!**

Earthquake - Practice **DROP! COVER!** and **HOLD ON!**

Develop a home evacuation plan, including the use of alternative exits such as windows.

Meeting locations; you need a location near your home and away from home.

Informing loved-ones you are safe; will you text them? How long before they can reasonably expect to hear from you?

Identify an out-of-state contact. Create a hard copy of relevant contacts and provide to each family member.

Learn CPR and First Aid basics. Sign up for a course: ASHLAND.OR.US/CPR

Shelter-in-place

In some disasters staying put is safest depending on the situation. You may need to stay put for extended periods of time.

You may be without essential services during these times.

Know how to seal off a room, if required, and have the proper materials on hand.

Evacuation

Many situations such as wildfire and flood force people to leave their homes with little to no warning. Plan where and how you will reunite with your loved ones if you cannot return to your home immediately.

Inform your out-of-town contact where you are going. Use officially designated routes if advised by emergency response personnel.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE PREPARED TO SURVIVE FOR 2 WEEKS ON THEIR OWN FOLLOWING A DISASTER. INCLUDE THE NEEDS OF ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

Start by building a disaster supply kit

Kits should contain items needed for basic survival such as water, food, and first aid essentials. Store in single container or smaller manageable ones.

- 2-Week supply of non-perishable food (dried fruit, canned tuna fish, peanut butter, etc.)
- Can opener
- Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils, paper towels
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Water – at least a gallon per person, per day for drinking and hygiene
- First aid kit
- Prescription medication and glasses
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for everyone in your family
- Change of clothes to last for at least 3 days, including sturdy shoes; consider the weather where you live
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and other personal items
- Feminine hygiene supplies
- Fire extinguisher
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Household chlorine bleach
- Dust mask (N95), and plastic sheeting and duct tape, to help filter contaminated air
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked NOAA radio and extra batteries
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger, extra battery and solar charger
- Whistle to signal for help
- Local maps
- Cash in small bills
- Emergency reference material such as first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, ID, and bank records in a waterproof, portable container
- Infant formula and diapers
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games or puzzles
- Pet food, other supplies, and extra water for your pet

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Prepare for Wildfire

ASHLAND RESIDENTS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRE AROUND THEIR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS.

Before the fire checklist:

- Keep roof and gutters free of all leaves, needles, and debris throughout fire season
- Check that all vents in foundation and eaves are screened with 1/8 inch or finer metal mesh screening and baffled vents to prevent ember intrusion
- Maintain three to five foot buffer area around foundation with no combustible plants or material in contact with siding (NO BARK MULCH) and clean up all leaf and needle debris
- Ensure area under deck is clean of combustible debris and no combustibles (firewood, lumber, fuel) are stored underneath
- Screen off or enclose open areas under decks and overhangs with 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to prevent ember intrusion
- Keep tree limbs pruned at least 10 feet from house, and 10 feet from chimney
- Limb up lower branches 5-6 feet on trees within 30 feet of your home
- Store firewood 30 feet away or in an ember proof storage shed
- Keep dry grass and weeds mowed to four inches or less throughout fire season
- Keep home address clearly posted and visible from the street
- Use only Firewise plants within 30 feet of your home

CALL FOR A FREE WILDFIRE SAFETY ASSESSMENT

541-552-2231

Become a registered Firewise, USA neighborhood

ASHLANDFIREWISE.ORG

When Smoke is in the Air

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WILDFIRES SPREAD RAPIDLY AND CAN QUICKLY CHANGE AIR QUALITY. YOU NEED TO BE READY TO COPE WITH SMOKE.

Air quality information:

Check the DEQ's Air Quality Index (AQI). Search the internet for "Oregon AQI". Click the dot on Ashland to bring up current air quality readings.

The EPA's AirNow (**AIRNOW.GOV**) website has current air quality along with maps.

Oregon Smoke Blog, contains AQI and forecasts. Go to **OREGONSMOKE.BLOGSPOT.COM**

Who's most at risk?

Children, older adults, pregnant or nursing mothers, and those with pre-existing respiratory ailments should take preventative actions when the AQI level or symptoms dictate. **LEARN MORE AT ASHLAND.OR.US/SMOKE**

How do I protect myself?

Limit your exposure to smoke. Close windows and doors.

Follow recommended AQI guidelines for outdoor activities

Avoid anything that increases indoor pollution like candles or vacuuming.

Run an air conditioner or air cleaner with HEPA or MERV 13 or higher rated filter.

Fine particles can be filtered with an N95 or N100 face mask. Ensure a tight fit!

Follow the advice of your doctor or healthcare provider. Call if symptoms worsen.

Consider leaving the area if you are sensitive and smoke is an ongoing problem.

Watch for symptoms

Smoke can make respiratory disease symptoms worse and trigger asthma attacks.

Even otherwise healthy people can experience coughing, shortness of breath,

wheezing, and chest tightness. Contact a healthcare provider for further advice or call

911 in an emergency.

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Earthquake

During an earthquake – DROP! COVER! & HOLD ON!

Get prepared – BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE

- Securely anchor gas appliances, water heaters, and heavy furniture including light fixtures, wall décor, and fragile shelving contents (breakables).
- Locate utility shut-off valves and know how to turn them off.
- Have a Family Communication Plan and build a Disaster Supply Kit.
- Create an Under-the-Bed Kit to safeguard against the most common injuries to head, hands, and feet including a hard hat, close-toed shoes, and leather gloves.

Proceed with caution – AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

Be aware of aftershocks. Assess your situation. Determine if your environment is safe to stay in. Turn off utilities if necessary.

Gather critical information. **TUNE TO 1700 AM.** Listen to directions from officials including emergency responders.

Turning off your utilities

Only do so if leak or breakage is suspected as it may take weeks to months for utility providers to restore services.

GAS - Using a non-sparking wrench, turn the valve perpendicular to pipe flow.

WATER - Turn valve to closed position on the home side. Valve is similar to gas valve.

CIRCUIT BREAKERS - Turn off each individually before turning the main off and reverse for turning back on.

The Basics

Ashland and surrounding areas are prone to flooding. Certain areas in Ashland are more susceptible than others. Educate yourself regarding the danger and purchase flood insurance whether you rent or own.

Localized flooding and pooling occurs frequently during rain events. Consider educating yourself regarding sandbag techniques and where to purchase and fill sandbags.

Purchase a hand-crank radio with a NOAA weather listening band. Tune into the National Weather Service.

Be aware of flash flooding. Six inches of water can sweep you off your feet. Two feet of water is enough to float a vehicle. Water conceals other hazards as well.

Sanitation

Public drinking water may be impacted during floods and related events. It is critical to listen to emergency information regarding health updates for water use and contamination. You may need to filter and/or purify water before drinking. According to the Food and Drug Administration, commercially bottled water has an unlimited shelf-life when stored in original sealed containers.

Landslides

Oregon has steep slopes and loose soil that is highly susceptible to landslides. Though landslides most frequently occur after wildfires they can occur during and after long periods of heavy rain.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries has compiled information to help identify and reduce landslide hazards around the home. If a landslide warning is issued be prepared to evacuate.

Community Emergency Response Team

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training educates individuals about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT trainees understand how to effectively help their families, neighbors, and entire community following an incident where response personnel are overwhelmed, or otherwise not immediately available. They receive knowledge and practical skills that allow them to effectively help others without harming themselves or further injuring others.

Ashland's CERT program has trained over 785 volunteers to be better prepared to survive a disaster making Ashland's program one of the most successful in the nation. CERT has been mobilized thirty-four times for activities ranging from managing emergency shelters to evacuating residents during wildfires. CERT's competency is preparing our community to endure disasters. To learn more visit: ASHLANDCERT.ORG

Map Your Neighborhood

The Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program continues to provide community outreach through the nine steps to preparedness. Community members have the opportunity to partake in the free program adopted and administered locally through the CERT program. MYN encompasses small neighborhood disaster planning and response incorporating the individual neighbors' skills and expertise and equipment inventory into planning for a catastrophic event.

The MYN program attempts to promote readiness and action among neighbors through the response planning process. Neighbors taking advantage of the planning program identify individual needs of families with small children, pets, elderly, and infirm to formulate plans regarding appropriate actions as necessary to respond to these neighbors in a disaster. To learn more visit: ASHLAND.OR.US/MYN

Disaster Resources

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American Red Cross	redcross.org
Ashland Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)	ashlandcert.org
Ashland Emergency Radio Frequency	1700AM
Ashland Fire & Rescue Non-Emergency Line	541-482-2770
Ashland Fire & Rescue Smoke and Wildfire Hotline	541-552-2490
Ashland Firewise	ashlandfirewise.org
Centers for Disease Control	cdc.gov
Citizen Alert	ashland.or.us/alert
City of Ashland	ashland.or.us
CPR Classes	ashland.or.us/cpr
Department of Homeland Security	ready.gov
Disaster Registry	rvcog.org/disaster-registry
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	fema.gov
Jackson County Health & Human Services	jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/public-health
National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA)	nfpa.org
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	noaa.gov
National Weather Service	weather.gov
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	oregon.gov/deq
Oregon Department of Forestry Wildfire Information	facebook.com/odfsouthwest
Oregon Department of Geology	oregongeology.org
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Trip Check	tripcheck.com
Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	oregon.gov/oem
Oregon Smoke Information	oregonsmoke.blogspot.com
Pacific Northwest Seismic Network	pnsn.org
United States Geological Survey	usgs.gov

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Family Contact Information

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HOME PHONE

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ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE STATION 1

455 Siskiyou Blvd
Ashland, OR 97520
541-482-2770



ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE STATION 2

1860 Ashland Street
Ashland, OR 97520
541-482-2770

