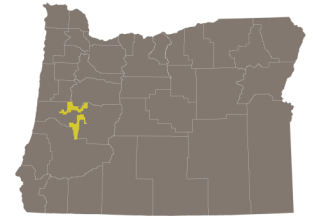




OREGON RESILIENCE CASE STUDY

EMERALD PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT

Emerald People's Utility District serves about 21,000 customers in the Eugene-Springfield area.



Facilities Plan

Emerald PUD has completed an initial structural analysis on its headquarters building, and will conduct additional analysis to help identify improvements or additions needed to withstand a serious emergency like a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

The facility has two back-up generators – one serving the whole facility, and a second for specific circuits. The generators run on diesel, and are expected to last 2-3 days. The site has an additional fuel tank, normally used for the PUD's fleet of trucks, which could also be tapped for generator use.

On site, Emerald PUD has 21 cots with blankets and pillows in case of an emergency. Personal supplies like toothpaste and toothbrushes are also available, as is drinking water. There are two barbecues on site that could be used to cook food.

Emergency Response and Communication

Emerald is working on creating succession plans for emergencies. If key staff are unable to respond, identify who is next in line – as well as how that person will be notified that he or she is needed.

Management is training staff to understand roles after an emergency. There may not always be a clear person in charge providing instructions and assigning work, so employees will need to know what to do on their own.

Communication lines may be down after an emergency, so Emerald has a two-way radio system in place if towers are still standing. Nearby utilities also have towers, so if Emerald's are down, radios may be able to connect to others. As an even more analog back-up, the PUD also has old fashioned walkie talkies powered by AA batteries.

Mutual Aid

Emerald PUD will work on developing relationships with other nearby services, such as the county, city, and other utilities. After a large-scale emergency, it will be all-hands-on-deck. Responding employees will have to think outside the box and help each other. For example, if staff can't get to Emerald PUD's headquarters but

could get to another utility’s office, they could report there for work. In other situations, teams from separate utilities could team up – such as a tree crew and a line crew working together to clear roads and restore lines.



Looking Forward

In addition to completing a more detailed structural analysis of its headquarters, Emerald PUD is also reviewing the likelihood that access to their building could be compromised after a large quake, and whether or not it will need a second site available as a back-up. The utility will also complete analysis on its infrastructure, like substations and transformers, to test their viability after an emergency.

The PUD is also looking at additional personal preparedness measures, such as putting together “go-bags” for employees.

Emerald PUD is working on additions to its stored supplies, including protein bars, dry rations, and MREs. The utility is also working with an electrician to upgrade electric circuits so clothes washers and dryers can be installed.