

News release

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Oregon residents urged to stay safe during flood conditions *Preparation and awareness can help avert injuries and disease*

Oregon Public Health officials want to help people stay safe during a flood. Warm winter temperatures and rain or snow have caused flooding in Oregon, and the National Weather Service continues its flood warning for parts of Oregon and Washington.

“There are things you can do to protect your family and your pets in a flood. Preparation and awareness can help prevent injury and serious health issues,” said Paul Cieslak, M.D., manager of the Acute and Communicable Disease Program, Oregon Public Health Division.

Here are a few things people can do to prepare for and stay safe during a flood:

- You should stock your home with supplies that may be needed during the emergency period including several clean containers large enough for a three- to five-day supply of water — about five gallons for each person; a three- to five-day supply of non-perishable food and a non-electric can opener.
- Have handy a first-aid kit and first-aid manual, your medicines, a battery-powered radio, flashlights and extra batteries.

(cont.)

- If you come in contact with flood water, use soap and warm water to wash your hands. If water isn't available, you can use alcohol-based products made for washing hands.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and plastic soda bottles with clean water. Sanitize the sinks and tubs first by using bleach. Rinse and fill with clean water.
- Never use a generator, pressure washer, charcoal grill, camp stove or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement or garage or near a window, door or vent.
- If you have a pet, identify a shelter designated for pets.
- If you have to evacuate, disconnect appliances to prevent electrical shock when power is restored.
- Do not drive through flooded areas. Even if the water appears shallow enough to cross, don't try it. Water hides dips in the road. There may be no road at all under the water. Flooding can scour away the entire road surface and a significant amount of ground beneath it.
- Stay tuned to local radio or television stations for updates and advisories.

For more complete information visit www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ or www.nws.noaa.gov/alerts/or.html.

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