



January 2021

As we begin the start of another year, often families take this time to reassess their emergency plans and supplies. Some who have not previously done this, may be considering a plan. The year 2020 has brought us disasters and emergencies unimaginable. Many families suffered supply and food shortages. Having an emergency plan can help prepare a family for those events. The Villages also maintains alongside the member listing, emergency contacts for residents, pets are also included in the listing. It is extremely important for every resident to provide emergency contact information to the Village directory. This information is kept confidential unless needed in an emergency. We always hope emergencies do not occur, but when they do, access to your home, contact with family or friends, and request for emergency services is much easier when this information is readily available. Your life may depend on it. We encourage you to update your emergency contact listing, or add one, including your pets. To do so, please send an email to: safetysecurity@villagesofgarrisoncreek.com

Walla Walla County website provides excellent local information. The attached link takes you to the sign-up for local emergency notifications.

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736724315#/signup>

We are fortunate to have Dennis Olson as a resident of the Villages. He has provided us a comprehensive emergency plan that we have included with this newsletter. It can be followed as written, or

modified. We appreciate his expertise and providing us this complete plan.

Submitted by Dennis Olson

Prior to my retirement I was the Umatilla County Oregon Planning Director and Emergency Manager. Upon my retirement from the County, I worked as an emergency management disaster assistant for FEMA at various locations where national disasters occurred throughout the United States. I also was a disaster response coordinator for a relief organization.

PREPARING FOR AN EMERGENCY

Being prepared for an emergency can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that often accompany disasters. The keys to coping with emergencies are awareness and planning. The Villages of Garrison Creek residents should know what to do in the event of a fire and other events such as severe thunder and lightning or wind storms, winter storms and extreme cold, floods, earthquakes, etc. and where to seek shelter when necessary. We should be ready to evacuate our homes as well. If a disaster should occur in our community, College Place city government and Walla Walla County Emergency Management, as well as, disaster relief organizations will try to assist you, but you need to be ready as well. You should be ready to be self-sufficient for at least five days. This may mean providing for your own shelter, first aid, food, and water. Local responders may not be able to reach you immediately, or they may need to focus their efforts elsewhere.

Some specific suggestions for becoming prepared include the following:

- Schedule family conferences to discuss emergency procedures; hold practice drills.
- Ensure you know emergency telephone numbers (Post on your cell phones.)
- Assemble and store a survival kit. (See attachment A)
- Learn first aid.
- Establish a location where the family should reunite if separated.

- Arrange for a friend or relative in another town to be a communication contact for the extended family.
- Learn the emergency plans of the family's schools, day-care centers, clubs, and workplaces.
- Tune in to daily weather forecasts and be alert to changing conditions. The Emergency Broadcast System on radio and TV stations will announce a WATCH if any emergency is expected and a WARNING if it is imminent or in progress.
- Learn emergency food and water procedures. (See attachment B)
- Determine an evacuation route and alternates.
- Know where main utility switches are located and learn how to turn them off if lines rupture and trained technicians are unavailable. (See attachment C).
- Remember to also include your pets in emergency planning.

Appendix A

Survival Kit

- Water (one gallon per person per day). Mark the storage date and replace every six months.
- Emergency food and beverage supply (nonperishable food and juices).
- A hand can opener, cooking equipment, fuel for alternate cooking and heating devices.
- Changes of clothing for each person in the family, coats, rain gear, sturdy shoes.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- First-aid kit, prescription medicine.
- Flashlights, cell phones and chargers, portable radio, matches, candles.
- Credit cards, cash, an extra set of car keys.
- Special needs equipment for infants, the elderly, and disabled.
- Sanitation supplies (plastic trash bags, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, toilet paper, newspaper, a camp shovel.)
- Supplies for pets

Appendix B

Food and Water

- If sheltering in place, take emergency drinking water from ice cubes, water heater, and canned fruits and vegetables.
- Don't drink unbottled water (including municipal tap water) until it has been strained with a clean cloth and treated. (To treat water, add ten drops of chlorine bleach to each gallon of water, mix well, and let stand for about 30 minutes.)
- Freezer foods will last from 48 to 72 hours if the freezer is full and the door stays closed.
- Eat perishable foods first.
- Discard all open food and beverages that may have been contaminated.
- Cook on portable grills, but only outdoors.

Appendix C

Utilities

Electricity

- Turn off electricity ONLY if you see sparks or a fallen wire.
- Find the main circuit box.
- Locate the main circuit breaker. Switch the circuit breaker to the off position.
- Have electrical service restored by a local supplier or contractor.

Gas

- If you smell gas, evacuate the house. Don't use phones, light switches, or electrical appliances or do anything that will cause sparks.
- Use your cell phone or go to a neighbor's house to report the leak to the gas company.
- Let the gas company repair the leak and turn the gas back on.

Water

- Find the main water shut-off valve inside the house (located where the water line enters the building). Turn the valve in the directions of the arrow, usually clockwise.

- If necessary (and possible), shut off the main water valve outside your home.
- When the danger has passed, have water service restored by a local supplier.