

Emergency Preparation in a Year

EP-1a: Action Plans

"There's no such thing as a 'federal' disaster. Disasters occur at the 'local' level no matter where they are in the U.S." Bob Hamlin, Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management

Rule Nbr 1: "No Plan Survives Its Implementation"

When we announced that the Ocean Grove Emergency Committee was going to be active again, one community member said, "Oh! Good! Now you can tell us why we should plan and what we should worry about." There are two commercial spots that should put you in the mood to answer the question about why we should plan for yourselves:

Seat of Your Pants: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7mHV3el2g0&feature=player_embedded

Not Sharing:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=n4LCMrTou8Y&list=UUVrYey5SZMid_VZk9D8tYmA

And in keeping with the season, the Center for Disease Control has a site with a Zombie Apocalypse Pandemic comic book for :

Zombie Preparedness



Wonder why Zombies, Zombie Apocalypse, and Zombie Preparedness continue to live or walk dead on a CDC web site? As it turns out what first began as a tongue in cheek campaign to engage new audiences with preparedness messages has proven to be a very effective platform. We continue to reach and engage a wide variety of audiences on all hazards preparedness via Zombie Preparedness; and as our own director, Dr. Ali Khan, notes, "If you are generally well equipped to deal with a zombie apocalypse you will be prepared for a hurricane, pandemic, earthquake, or terrorist attack." So please log on, get a kit, make a plan, and be prepared!

The link to the CDC comic book is: http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/zombies_novella.htm. It is available in many forms, but I advise not printing it unless you really really like to buy black ink.

Now that you are in the proper mood, we can turn to the types of planning we are going to do or review: action plans, personal emergency plans, and hazard mitigation plans.

ACTION PLAN: Chapter 1 of the “Prepare in a Year” is called “**Action Plan.**” This is basically a two page plan of action – a checklist of what to do in some circumstances possible in our area: earthquake, tsunami, volcano eruption, and a chemical spill. For those who are new to the area, earthquakes and tsunamis have been rare but significant events. We have geological evidence of at least 7 major tsunamis in Discovery Bay. We also have an earthquake fault in Discovery Bay that is capable of a 5.0 magnitude quake. The Quimper Peninsula has experienced volcanic ash fall from the Mount St. Helens eruption, and Navy contractors frequently drive loaded munitions trucks through Port Hadlock to get to the Naval Magazine on Indian Island. So, **Emergency Preparedness 1a (EP-1a)** is Chapter 1 of “**Prepare in a Year.**”

PERSONAL EMERGENCY PLAN: This is a more formal plan that organizes your personal information, contacts, finances, etc. We will start that as **Teaching Element 1b** with the intent of building a complete plan over time so that it is easy to do. In Part 1, you will document your medical needs and out of area contacts; in Part 2, you will document your finances, etc. until you have a complete plan that you can grab and run with and actually find useful in an emergency.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN: FEMA requires the County to prepare a Hazard Mitigation Plan and update it every five years in order to be eligible for some kinds of emergency aid. Part of that plan documents both natural and man-made disasters that can occur in Jefferson County. Since someone asked what we should be worried about, we will take the types of disasters possible in Jefferson County and augment them to address how they can affect Ocean Grove. Hopefully, they will be entertaining and give you an appreciation of what can happen. Since we just had the season’s first wind storm, the first one up will be “Damaging Winds”, HZ-1a.