

12 Months of Preparedness

Month 1: Be Informed/Make a Plan

How can you prepare if you do not know what to prepare for? In our area, perhaps tornados are not a major concern, but what about winter storms? The predicted Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake? A long-term power failure? Fire? There is no way you can prepare for all of the things that could happen. You have to pick and choose what kind of events you feel you should prepare for. In general, if you prepare for the worst you will likely will be prepared for less severe events. There are many sources to find out what kind of incidents we should prepare for. Several sources are listed below. Be sure to sign up for the Corvallis Alert and Linn-Benton Alert!

Once you have an idea of what kinds of events you wish to prepare for, the next step is a thought experiment: What would I do if...? What could you do? What would you need to survive? Where might you be when the disaster strikes? Where might you go during or after the event? How would the seasons affect your actions? What about the time of day? At what point might you evacuate? Would you go to a shelter? Then, write your answers into a plan. "If such and such happens, I will do this..."

<https://www.co.benton.or.us/preparedness>

<https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/fire/page/resilience-planning-emergency-preparedness>

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html>

<https://www.ready.gov/>