

Grays Harbor County Emergency Management

Preparedness on *the Harbor*

Volume 5, Issue 5

December 2019

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Previous Newsletters can be found [HERE](#)

All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) Siren testing occurs the first Monday of every month at noon.



Give the Gift of Emergency Preparedness



Stocking Stuffers

- * Flashlight or Headlamp
- * Portable Phone Charger
- * LifeStraw Water Filter
- * Rain Poncho
- * Emergency Blanket
- * Hand Sanitizer
- * Small 1st Aid Kit
- * Whistle
- * Swiss Army Knife
- * Hand Warmers
- * Warm Hat
- * Hand Warmers
- * Walkie Talkies

Other Gift Ideas

- * Emergency Roadside Car Kit
 - * All Hazard Alert Weather Radio
 - * Generator
 - * Food Dehydrator
 - * The best Emergency Preparedness Gift you can give is TIME.
- MAKE A PLAN**—Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know what disasters could affect your area and how you'll contact one another if separated.

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

Winter holiday fire facts

Christmas trees

- Between 2013-2017, U.S. fire departments responded to an average 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of three deaths, 15 injuries, and \$10 million in direct property damage annually.
- On average, one of every 52 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 135 total reported home fires.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 44% of home Christmas tree fires.
- In one-quarter (25%) of the Christmas tree fires, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.
- One-fifth (21%) of Christmas tree fires were intentional.
- Roughly three-quarters of Christmas tree fires occurred in December or January.
- Two of every five (39%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room.

Holiday decorations

- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 780 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees, in 2013-2017. These fires caused an annual average of three civilian fire deaths, 34 civilian fire injuries and \$12 million in direct property damage.
- Nine percent of decoration fires were intentional.
- The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment in more than two of every five (44%) fires.
- One-fifth (21%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. Sixteen percent started in the living room, family room or den.
- One-fifth (20%) of the home decoration fires occurred in December.

Candles

- On average, 22 home candle fires were reported each day between 2013-2017.
- Three of every five (60%) candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.
- Candle fires peak in December. January ranked second. Eighteen percent of December candle fires started in the living room and 8% started in the dining room compared to 14% and 3% for those areas during the rest of the year.
- The two peak days for candle fires were Christmas and Christmas Eve.

Holiday cooking

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.
- Cooking equipment was involved in one of every five (19%) of home decoration fires. This can happen when a decoration is left on or too close to a stove or other cooking equipment.

<https://www.nfpa.org>

[Christmas Tree Safety](#)

[Winter Holiday Safety Tips](#)

[12 days of Preparedness OEM Style](#)



Year in Review



Here are some of Grays Harbor County Emergency Management's highlights from

2019

Renewal of Tsunami and Storm Ready through June 2022.

In 2019 citizens were selected from the Grays Harbor County Notification System for the All Hazard Alert Weather Radio Giveaway.

The Tsunami Roadshow returned to Grays Harbor and held events at the Ocean Shores Convention Center and Aberdeen High School.

DNR Rolled out Tsunami Walk Maps for Aberdeen, Hoquiam & Cosmopolis.

Grays Harbor Community Foundation awarded a small grant for the purchase of All Hazard Alert Weather Radios for each School and School District Office in Grays Harbor County.

Grays Harbor County Emergency Management along with Grays Harbor County GIS mapped, inventoried and assessed all Tsunami Signs in the County.

Grays Harbor County Emergency Management along with Citizen Corps held the 4th annual Emergency Preparedness EXPO at the Shoppes at Riverside.

2 local students won the 2019 Great ShakeOut Youth Video contest. Congrats goes to Samantha Robinson, Montesano and Eric Lind, Aberdeen.

Traveling over the Holidays?

Here are a few preparedness tips for a safe road trip over the holidays!

Stay up to date with the latest traffic information In Washington State:

- * Call 511
- * Check the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) website at: <https://www.wsdot.com/traffic/trafficalerts/>
- * Check out Other Traffic Products offered by WSDOT: <https://www.wsdot.com/traffic/seattle/products/default.aspx>

Take an Emergency Roadside Car Kit with you. Some items to include:

- * Jumper Cables
- * Tow Rope
- * Flashlight
- * Gloves
- * Emergency Blanket
- * Flares or Emergency Triangle
- * Tire Chains



Other Items to take with you in case you are stranded or stuck in traffic:

- * High Protein Snacks
- * Water
- * Small First Aid Kit
- * Battery Operated or Crank Radio
- * Phone Charger
- * Extra Prescription Medications
- * Warm Coat, Hat, Rain Jacket or Poncho

Other things to consider:

- * Let someone know your destination and route.
- * Know the Weather Forecast <https://www.weather.gov/>
- * Make sure you have plenty of fuel. Gas station locations and price can be found on the Gas Buddy app. <http://www.washingtongasprices.com/GasPriceSearch.aspx>





Grays Harbor County Emergency Management

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Sheriff Rick Scott, Director

Hannah Cleverly, Deputy Director

Carmin McCullough, DEM Assistant



Contacts & Info

Save the Date

Red Cross Blood Drive

When: Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Where: United Methodist Church Montesano
401 Spruce Ave Montesano, WA 98563

Time: 1:30pm - 7:00pm

Walk-ins welcome or call (800) 733-2767 for availability.

Citizen Corps Meeting

When: Wednesday, December 11th

Where: Grays Harbor County Emergency Mgmt.
310 W Spruce Ave Montesano, WA

Time: 9:00am

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Congratulations to our 2019 monthly
All Hazard Alert Weather Radio
Raffle Winners!

Kellie McGee
Pam Appleyard
Jana Candler
Karl Harris
Karolyn Holden

Donna Abbott
Bill McCluskey
Carol Evans
Rebecca Bernard
Charles Elvig