

## ***Wind Storms***

- Hanukkah Eve Wind Storm of 2006 occurred on the evening of December 14 and extended into the morning of December 15.

- There were 15 fatalities as a result of the storm. Four were directly involved with the storm, three from fallen trees and one drowning. The other eleven were indirect fatalities after the storm, eight from carbon monoxide poisoning, two electrocutions from downed power lines, and one in a house fire started by a candle used for light.

- The storm blew down thousands of trees, knocked power out to close to 1.5 million customers, damaged hundreds of structures and homes, and injured dozens of people. 275 people were treated in hospitals for carbon monoxide poisoning following the storm.

***Each fall and winter several low pressure systems impact the Pacific Northwest. By taking action now you can save lives and reduce the damage caused by windstorms and other weather-related hazards.***

### ***What to do before a windstorm***

- Contact your local emergency management office or the National Weather Service to find out what types of storms are most likely to occur in your community.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit.
- Contact vendors to learn the proper use of home generators.
- Find out who in your area might need special assistance, specifically the elderly, disabled, and non-English speaking neighbors.
- Check with your veterinarian for animal care instructions in an emergency situation.
- If you live on a coastal or inland shoreline, be familiar with evacuation routes.
- Know what emergency plans are in place at your workplace, school and daycare center.
- Conduct a home safety evaluation to find out which nearby trees could fall in windstorm.
- If you have an electric garage door opener, locate the manual override.

### ***What to do during a windstorm***

- Don't panic. Take quick action to protect yourself and help others.
- Turn off the stove if you're cooking when the power goes out, and turn off natural gas appliances.
- If you are indoors, move away from windows or objects that could fall. Go to lower floors in multi-story homes.
- If you are outdoors, move into a building. Avoid downed electric power lines, utility poles and trees.
- If you are driving, pull off the road and stop away from trees. If possible, walk into a safe building. Avoid overpasses, power lines and other hazards.



- Listen to your radio for emergency instructions.



***What to do after a windstorm***

- Check yourself and those around you for injuries.
- Evacuate damaged buildings. Do not re-enter until declared safe by authorities.
- Call 9-1-1 only to report a life threatening emergency.
- If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound indoors — open windows and leave the building. Turn off the gas source and call your gas company. Do not use matches, candles, open flames or electric switches indoors.
- If the power goes out, keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to keep food frozen for up to two days.
- Provide assistance to your neighbors, especially the elderly or disabled.
- Try to make contact with your out-of-area phone contact, but avoid making local telephone calls.
- Monitor your portable or weather radio for instructions or an official "all clear" notice. Radio stations will broadcast what to do, the location of emergency shelters, medical aid stations, and the extent of damage.