



# LEWIS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

October 2009

## Emergency Preparedness



### **High Winds—Power Outages**

As a continuing effort to promote preparedness, Lewis County Emergency Management will be providing Monthly Safety Messages that will focus on all-hazard, can-do preparedness for individuals and neighborhoods.

A disaster, by definition, is any event that overwhelms a person or agency's ability to respond. Disasters typically happen with little or no warning, and can leave us cut off from outside support for 3-7 days, or longer in widespread events. An emergency is a sudden, usually unexpected event that does

or could do harm to people, resources, property, or the environment.

While there are no guarantees, individuals who are prepared typically experience a reduction in loss, injury, damage, and trauma. Neighborhoods that are prepared and ready to complete initial response activity also help minimize the tasks of the emergency responders.

The key to successful preparedness is to take one hour a month to complete one preparedness task. Begin or continue your family preparedness by completing the following preparedness assignment

#### **Contact Us:**

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Chehalis, WA 98532  
(360) 740-1151 Office  
(360) 740-1471 Fax  
[DEM@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:DEM@lewiscountywa.gov)

#### **More information:**

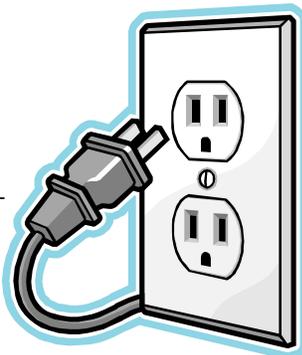
- Additional preparedness tips can be found at:  
[www.lewiscountywa.gov](http://www.lewiscountywa.gov)
- FEMA website:  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

### **High Winds—Power Outages**

Lewis County has a long history of sever windstorms having experienced 10 major storms since 1958, 5 of those in the past decade. The most recent windstorm event that included one death and \$2.7 million in preliminary damages occurred on Hanukkah Eve, December 14, 2006. The storm with 40 MPH winds and gust up to 70 mph lasting 12 ½ hours. Every home in Lewis County was without power for a least some time and 500 homes were still without power 6 days after the storm.

#### **Before a Power Outage:**

- Check or create an emergency supply kit, with a battery-operated NOAA weather radio
- Have a corded telephone available
- Have an out-of-state contact for family members to notify when local communications are overloaded
- Register life sustaining and medical equipment with your utility company
- Have an alternative heat source
- Consider buying a generator



#### **After a Power Outage:**

- Turn off lights and electrical appliances
- Unplug computers and other sensitive equipment to protect from a power surge when power is restored
- Leave one lamp on
- Conserve water
- Keep doors to refrigerators and freezers closed

#### **Mission Statement:**

*Lewis County Emergency Management shall seek to minimize the impacts of disasters and emergencies on the people, property, and environment of Lewis County through strong partnerships that promote mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts.*