Facts About Windstorms

- Power pole and line damage cause widespread power outages.
- Improper use of generators and propane/charcoal grills cause carbon monoxide poisoning and is a leading cause in windstorm-related illness and fatalities.
- Falling trees and blowing debris can cause severe damage to buildings and vehicles and may also cause injuries and fatalities.
- Office buildings are generally structurally sound, but light metal building and structures such as bus stop shelters, where people might seek shelter, are vulnerable and could collapse, resulting in significant injuries and fatalities.
- Garage doors are the weakest link in the outer structure of a house. Failure at this point has a domino effect.
- Exterior load-bearing walls of buildings can fail resulting in the collapse of the roof. Failure of roof cover and structures can lead to additional damage and entry of wind and rain into the house.
- Weathered, loose window frames are exceptionally vulnerable during severe windstorms. Shattered windows can cause injuries and lead to extensive wind and water damage.

Basic Disaster Supply Kit
(3-day minimum)

- One gallon of water per person per day, bleach for purifying.
- Non-perishable food for each person per day.
- Prescription medications.
- Over the counter medicines and first aid supplies.
- Flashlights and extra batteries, light sticks, battery-operated lanterns.
- Toiletries (toilet paper, hand sanitizer, etc.).
- Important documents (wills, insurance papers, birth certificates, etc.).
- Money, including coins (ATM machines may not work and may be depleted quickly).
- Multi-purpose tools; garbage and zip lock bags.
- NOAA Weather radio (battery/crank)/extra batteries.
- Special needs (elderly, baby, pets).
- Extra clothes, shoes, blankets.
- Corded phone and cell phone with car charger.
- Extra supply of gas for your vehicle and generator.

Additional Information:

- National Weather Service: www.weather.gov/safety
- Take Winter by Storm: www.takewinterbystorm.org
- School Closures & Notifications: www.k12.wa.us
- www.mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division

Information to help you prepare for windstorms and power outages.

By taking action now, you can prevent stress and save lives.

Easy-to-do life saving activities:

- Post non-emergency numbers for power and utility companies; fire and police departments too.
- Teach your family how to use your phones (corded, cordless, cell).
- Register life-sustaining and medical equipment with your utility company.
- Check the battery for your electric garage door opener; know how to open it without power.
- Prepare Disaster Supply Kits (see back page): Some items you may already have around the house. Place them in a container and put them in an accessible area (inside your house by a main entrance/exit doorway or just outside your house or garage).
- Prepare out-of-area contact cards; give one to each of your family members and loved ones.
- Discuss your emergency plans - where will you meet, where will you go if you have to leave your home - relative, friend, hotel. Who will pick up the kids, check on other family members, and take care of your pets.
What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that cannot be seen or smelled and can kill a person in minutes. It is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO caused by appliances that are not used properly or that are malfunctioning. It can build up so quickly that victims are overcome before they can get help. Once inhaled it can cause permanent brain damage, chest pains, or heart attacks in people with heart disease.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Weakness
- Confusion
- Nausea

If you suspect someone has CO poisoning move them to fresh air immediately. Then take them to an emergency room and tell them that you suspect CO poisoning.

Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Install CO warning devices; they may provide some protection.
- Make sure that chimneys and flues are in good condition and are not blocked.
- Never try to heat your living space (house, mobile home, tent, camper, van, truck, or garage) with a gas oven, propane/gas grill, or hibachi. Do not use charcoal inside—even in your fireplace.
- Never use a gas/propane cooking grill or hibachi to cook inside your home.
- Never sleep in a room while using an unvented gas or kerosene heater.
- Never idle a car in a garage, even when the garage door is open.
- Never use gasoline powered equipment indoors.

Avoid downed power lines.