

NEWS RELEASE



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NATURE OF STORY: FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

DETAILS:

With the recent weather events, Lane County Emergency Management urges citizens to plan ahead for potential flooding. According to the National Weather Service, there is a 50-50 chance of experiencing the same climate conditions at some point this winter that occurred in late 1996 and early 1997. That is, low-level snow accumulations could melt rapidly if we experience a sudden arrival of a warm subtropical storm system (there are no such forecasts for at least the next 7 days).

If your home or property is prone to flooding, it is recommended that you initiate your preparation ahead of time. It is far more difficult to start emergency work when the flooding is happening so please don't procrastinate.

Those in or near the floodplain of the McKenzie River, Willamette River, Siuslaw River (including the North Fork) the Row River, Lake Creek, Mohawk River, Long Tom River, Fall Creek, Little Fall Creek, Camp Creek, Horse Creek, Coyote Creek, Mosby Creek, Poodle Creek, Siltcoos River and Tenmile River are urged to plan ahead for potential flooding.

Although the Army Corps of Engineers operates 8 flood-control dams in Lane County, they only control some of the rivers and streams that could flood. All of the flood-control dams are well below capacity and are not expected to reach anywhere near full pool this winter or spring.

Water and debris control aids (such as sandbags, sand, lumber and plywood) are inexpensive when compared to the protection received, and can be installed with normal household tools. Materials are readily available at your local home improvement store, lumber yard and/or sand & gravel yard. Sandbags are also available for purchase online. To find vendors, just type “sandbags” in your search tool. Sandbags, when properly placed, will redirect storm and debris flows away from built structures.

For more information on how to prepare for a flood, visit www.lanecounty.org.

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For additional information contact: Linda Cook Emergency Manager 682-6744