

Grays Harbor County Emergency Management

Preparedness on the Harbor

Volume 2, Issue 2

November-December 2016

Importance of an All
Hazard Weather
Radio

CERT

Emergency Cooking
Class Series

⇒ Food Safety
⇒ Holiday Cooking
⇒ Safety Tips for
Deep Frying
Turkey

⇒ Holiday Driving
⇒ Winter Driving
Tips
⇒ Protect Your
Home

⇒ Pet Safety
⇒ Daylight Savings
⇒ Go Kits
⇒ Christmas Tree
Safety

Contacts & Info



WHAT HAPPENS

IF THERE ISN'T TIME TO WARN YOU?

The Importance of an All Hazard Weather Radio

One of the greatest fears of any emergency manager is not being able to warn the public about an event that is imminent – such as a tornado. The severe storm on Friday almost brought that fear to reality for me.

At 4:26 am Friday morning October 14, 2016, the National Weather Service in Portland, sent the first of four (4), Tornado Warning Messages for Pacific County, Washington and the first of 10 Tornado Warning Messages for Southern Washington and parts of Oregon.

This particular message was for areas around Ilwaco, but I began to think how many people didn't receive the message because they were asleep and had no All Hazard Weather Radio to alert them of a possible impending disaster event?

The second message at 6:37 am Friday really frightened me. The Tornado Warning included Tokeland, WA which is just a short distance from our county line, close to the City of Westport and the community of Grayland. The warning provided a 20 minute parameter when a potential funnel cloud could impact the area.

How would we warn the public if the next message included our jurisdictions? We do not have tornado sirens and if we activated the All Hazard Alert Broadcast Sirens (AHAB's) along the coast, it could prompt citizens to begin moving toward higher ground, (to escape a suspected Tsunami), exposing them to the wrath of the tornado without any protection from the winds and debris. Besides, the AHAB's are for outdoor notification only. We have a robust notification system to call, text and e-mail citizens of an approaching hazard, but if they were sleeping, I doubt many would receive the text message or the e-mail message. Depending which jurisdictions were chosen to receive the warning message via phone call, there might not be time to complete the calls prior to a tornado impact.

According to a 2013 Survey conducted by Grays Harbor County Emergency Management, only 40% of our residents volunteered to sign up for the Grays Harbor County Emergency Notification System. The All Hazard Weather Radio, probably the fastest and most efficient notification device to warn of Imminent danger, is only owned by 38% of our citizens. How do we alert the other 62% of our population of an approaching disaster?

An All Hazard Weather Radio is the fastest and most efficient way to receive imminent emergency and disaster messages. Every government office, school, local business and home should have one to alert all of the possibility of an impending disaster event such as tornado, flash flood, distant tsunami, severe winds and weather. They can be purchased at local hardware stores, Walmart or on-line for between \$20.00 - \$50.00 – a small price to protect your family, friends and pets.



The 29th of October was the first All-County CERT training for the newly trained members of Grays Harbor County. This event took place at the Pacific Beach Naval Resort.



Earlier this year teams got to participate with first responders from GHFDs #8, #16 and the Quinault nation during Cascadia Rising.



This time, teams were faced with a scenario of an evacuation of a severe flood-damaged area. They dealt with multiple victims with varying injuries with everything from 2nd degree burns, to a mentally unstable pregnant woman. Members did a great job improvising with limited resources till first responders arrived.

The last basic training of the year is **November 11-13** at Grays Harbor College. This training is open to all citizens in the county. If you are interested in attending, you can register at www.northbeachcert.org. Regional trainings will resume in the spring.

HOLIDAY FUN FACTS

Holiday Shopping

Nearly 40% of Americans begin their holiday shopping before Halloween.

The busiest shopping day of the year is not Black Friday, but the Saturday before Christmas. The busiest online shopping day takes place on the Monday or Tuesday a week or two before the week of Christmas.

The National Retail Federation considers the "holiday shopping" season to be the full months of November and December, which is usually 55 days

<http://www.factretriever.com/holiday-shopping-facts>

The First Thanksgiving

The "first Thanksgiving" occurred in 1621 and was actually a three-day harvest festival held by founders of the Plymouth colony in conjunction with the Wampanoag Indians. Though not technically the first of such feasts in America, it is by far the most remembered, and was attended by 53 colonists and 90 Wampanoag. It has been 395 years since that first Thanksgiving, but only 153 years since Abraham Lincoln officially declared Thanksgiving Day a national holiday (1863).

White Meat or Dark Meat?

When getting ready for a Thanksgiving Day feast, the question

The Second Annual Emergency Cooking Class Series to Start in November!

Due to the impending storm, series instructor Clint Davis of North Beach CERT decided it was safer to cancel the October class.

Also for the next two months, the classes will be held at the North Beach Community Center aka Grays Harbor Fire District #8. Located at 108 First St. N., Pacific Beach 98571.

Jess Owen, The Culinary Madman from the Ocean Crest Resort will be the kick-off Chef on November 19th. The December class will be taught by Clint on the 17th.

Residents and visitors will have the opportunity to learn how to prepare delicious meals using emergency supplies and pantry items. These chefs will help you learn to not only survive, but to thrive, in any emergency.

Clint Davis, North Beach CERT Team Leader and firefighter/EMT will also show you gear, supplies, recipes and techniques to be prepared for power outages and other emergencies.

There will free giveaways and demo gear, as well as many other interesting innovative ideas. The series runs every month, and will feature different chefs/guests and suggestions each month.

Admission is always FREE and all are welcome.

info@northbeachcert.org

usually arises: Do you like the dark meat or the white meat? According to the National Turkey Federation, in the United States white meat is generally the preferred portion of turkey for consumption, while other countries love digging in to the richer flavors of the dark meat. Good news for you white meat fans: **a typical turkey has 70 percent white meat and only 30 percent dark**

Trash Talkin'

The U.S. produces an estimated **1 million tons** of additional waste per week between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. This includes **38,000 miles of decorative ribbon**, enough to tie a bow around the entire globe. If each family in the U.S. sent just one less holiday card, then the nation would save 150,000 cubic feet of paper, enough to fill 25,000 wheelbarrows.

Yuletide Tunes

According to [American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers](http://www.americanmusicians.com), between 2000 and 2010, **the most-performed holiday song was "Winter Wonderland,"** which was written in 1934. While recordings by The Andrews Sisters and Perry Como popularized the song in the '40s, versions by Eurhythms, Jewel and Air Supply are frequently heard on the radio today.

<http://glo.com/relationships/holiday-fun-facts-7644.gallery?photoId=74362>

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY STATE OF WASHINGTON

FOOD SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS – SIX GAME RULES

KEEP IT CLEAN

Before you eat or handle food, thoroughly wash your hands, food prep tools and surfaces, and all fruits and veggies.

COOK IT WELL

Measure minimum internal temperatures with a food thermometer. For party faves, like chicken wings make sure that they reach 165°F.

WATCH THE CLOCK

Follow recommended microwave cooking and standing times (the extra minutes needed for food to cook completely). Track how long foods have been on the buffet. Discard after two hours.

KEEP IT SAFE

Use chafing dishes, slow cookers, and warming trays to keep hot food at 135°F or more. Keep cold foods, like salsa and dips, at 41°F or cooler. Nest serving dishes in bowls of ice or use small trays. Replace them often.

INTERCEPT MIX-UPS

Separate raw meats from ready-to-eat foods, like veggies. Provide serving utensils and small plates to discourage eating directly from bowls with dips and salsa.

PROTECT ALL “TO-GO”

Discard foods that have been on the buffet over two hours. Divide leftovers into smaller portions, place in shallow containers, and refrigerate.



Cooking Temperatures

Fight Bac! – Supporting consumers to prevent food poisoning

FDA – Safe Food Handling: [What you need to know.](#)

For more information on food safety, check out the resources below. If you have other questions about food safety in your home, you can also contact the Grays Harbor County Environmental Health Division at: (360) 249-4222

165°F (for 15 seconds)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poultry (chicken and turkey) Stuffed foods or stuffing Casseroles All raw animal products cooked in a microwave All reheated potentially hazardous foods
155°F (for 15 seconds)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hamburger Sausage
145°F (for 15 seconds)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eggs Fish Beef Pork
135°F		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetables that will be hot held Packaged ready-to-eat foods (such as hot dogs and canned chili) that are heated for hot holding

Note: Additional cooking times and temperatures are available. Beef or pork roasts have additional cooking requirements. Please see the Washington State Food Rule or contact your local health department for more information.

Provided by Jeff Nelson
Environmental Health

Holiday Cooking Facts

In 2013, **Thanksgiving** was the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by **Christmas Day** and **Christmas Eve**.

Date	Fires	Percent above average number of fires per day
November 28 (Thanksgiving)	1,550	(230%)
December 25 (Christmas)	740	(58%)
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	720	(54%)

Source:

Statistics from Liberty Mutual
Get safety tips from Liberty Mutual.

Forty-Two percent of surveyed consumers say they have left the kitchen to talk or text on the phone, and 35 percent to use the computer to check email while food is cooking. If you tend to do a lot of cooking, invest in a second or third timer. They're an inexpensive way to stay safe while ensuring that your holiday dishes do not overcook.

Nearly half (45 percent) of consumers say they have left the room to watch television or listen to music. Multi-tasking during the busy holiday season is tempting. If you succumb, it's important not to leave the stove or oven unattended.

Nearly one third (29 percent) of consumers reported that they have intentionally disabled smoke alarms while cooking.

More than half (56 percent) of surveyed consumers said they plan to cook for family or friends during the holidays this year - with 42 percent of those cooking for groups of 11 or more.

· <http://www.nfpa.org/>
· Liberty Mutual Insurance, 2013



Safety Tips for Deep Frying Turkey

- **Stay Away from The House:** Set up the turkey fryer more than 10 feet away from your home and keep children and pets away. Never leave unattended.
- **Find Flat Ground:** The oil must be even and steady at all times to ensure safety. Place the fryer on a flat, level surface and carefully gauge the amount of oil needed.
- **Prior to Cooking Turkey:** Place turkey in pot, fill with water until the turkey is covered by about 1/2 inch of water, mark water level. Dump water, dry the pot, and fill with oil to the marked level.
- **Use a Thawed and Dry Turkey:** Make sure your turkey is completely thawed and dry. Extra water will cause the oil to bubble furiously and spill over. If oil spills from the fryer onto the burner, it can cause a fire.
- **Monitor the Temp:** Use caution when touching the turkey fryer. The lid and handle can become very hot and could cause burns. Also be sure to keep track of the oil's temperature as many fryers do not have their own thermostats.
- **Be Prepared:** Have a fire extinguisher ready at all times in the event that the oil ignites.

Safety Tips for Deep Frying Turkey/ PBS Food

HOLIDAY DRIVING

The holiday season is nearly upon us, and the Region 2 Target Zero Task Force would like to remind Grays Harbor residents to plan ahead and use alternative transportation after drinking alcohol or using marijuana during celebrations.

“Local agencies are committed to catching and arresting impaired drivers who put themselves and others at risk.” said Grays Harbor County’s Target Zero Manager Susan Bradbury. “Police will have zero tolerance for drivers who drive impaired putting themselves and everyone else on our roads at risk of life and limb.”

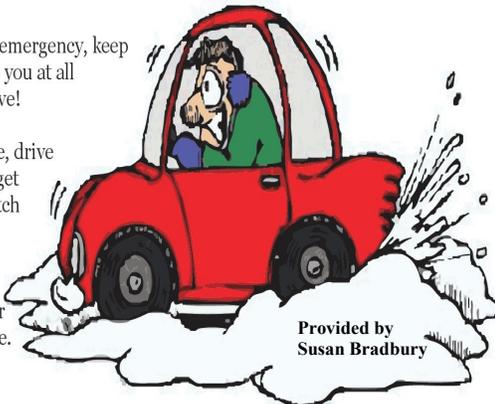
While death and injury are of course the most serious of possible consequences of drunk driving, there are other negative considerations that can affect lives for many years, including loss of a driver licenses, vehicle impoundment, jail time, lawyer fees, court costs, insurance hikes, just to name a few.

Help keep our local roadways safe. If you’re impaired, use a taxi or call a sober friend or family member. And if you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate to contact local police.

10 WORST DAYS FOR DRIVING— include Thanksgiving, Black Friday, NFL game day, Christmas and New Year’s Day. See where they rank.



- Service Your Car. Have your vehicle checked thoroughly before you head out on the road.
- Check Tires. Be sure your tires have good tread, are properly inflated according to the manufacturers specifications, and don't forget to check your spare if you have one.
- Plan Ahead. Check weather, traffic, and road conditions before you leave the house. Map your route in advance.
- Stock Up. Keep blankets, ice scraper, flashlight, and jumper cables handy. It's a good idea to keep bottled water, non-perishable food, and needed medication in the car in case you get stranded.
- Stay Connected. In case of emergency, keep a cell phone and charger with you at all times. But never text and drive!
- Stay Alert. Always be aware, drive sober, and buckle up. If you get tired, stop and get out to stretch and rehydrate before getting back on the road.
- If you get stuck, stay in your vehicle and wait for assistance.



How to Protect Your Home While Away this Holiday Season

Be sure to lock before you leave, and let a neighbor have a key. When leaving your home, practice the following advice— it could pay big, big dividends.

Going To The Market Or Out To Dinner?

A residence which presents a “lived-in” appearance is a deterrent to burglars. Never leave notes that can inform a burglar that your house is unoccupied. Make certain all windows and doors are secured before departing. An empty garage advertises your absence, so close the doors.

When going out at night, leave one or more interior lights on and perhaps have a radio playing (TV sets should not be left unattended). Timers may be purchased that will turn lights on and off during your absence.

Do not leave door keys under flower pots or doormats, inside and unlocked mailbox, over the doorway, or in other obvious places.

When Planning Vacations Or Prolonged Absences

Discontinue newspaper and other deliveries by phone or in person ahead of time. Do not leave notes.

Arrange for lawn care and have someone remove advertising circulars and other debris regularly. On the other hand, several toys scattered about will create an impression of occupancy.

Notify the post office to hold your mail or have a trustworthy person pick it up daily. Apartment house tenants should also heed this hint since stuffed mail receptacles are a give-away when no one is home.

Inform neighbors of your absence so they can be extra alert for suspicious persons. Leave a key with them so your place may be periodically inspected. Ask them to vary the positions of your shades and blinds.

When you leave, do not publicize your plans. Some burglars specialize in reading newspaper / social media accounts of other people’s vacation activities.

If you find a door or window has been forced or broken while you were away, **DO NOT ENTER**. The criminal may still be inside. Use a neighbor’s phone or cell phone immediately to summon police.

Do not touch anything or clean up if a crime has occurred. Preserve the scene until police inspect for evidence.

Always Remember to:

1. Lock before you leave
2. Trust a neighbor with a key.
3. Stop all deliveries
4. Connect a light to a timer.
5. Notify the police and have a neighbor check your home periodically.
6. Be a concerned neighbor—yourself.

Provided by
Chief Shumate GHSO

For Thanksgiving and Christmas Pet



Safety Tips visit ASPCA -

- ⇒ Seasonal Plants and Decorations
- ⇒ Avoid Holiday Food Dangers
- ⇒ Pet-Safe Holiday Gatherings

<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/thanksgiving-safety-tips>

<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/holiday-safety-tips>

Daylight Savings Time Ends November 6th

Check your Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Flashlights and your All Hazard Weather Radios!

Grays Harbor County Emergency Management would like to inform the citizens of Grays Harbor County that Daylight Savings Time ends November 6th. Remember to turn your clock **BACK** one hour. This also provides a perfect opportunity to **REPLACE** the batteries in your Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Flashlights, your All Hazard Weather Radios and to check each for proper operation!

1. **REPLACE the batteries in their Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide detectors and your All Hazard Weather Radios** at the same time you change your clocks. Also, please test the alarm to make sure they work properly.
2. Check or begin to assemble your "Go Kits" and 72 hour supplies in the event of a power outage. You will need non perishable food and water for your family and pets, blankets, bedding, flashlights and the location of the closest shelter in the event you must leave your home.
3. In the event of severe weather or disaster, remember to check on your neighbors.

Prepare a Disaster Go Kit

Waterproof backpack containing the following:

- 2 Bottles of Water
- 2 Disposable easy-open pouches of food (*tuna, peanut butter, energy bars*)
- Spoon or Fork
- Flashlight—plus 1 set of extra batteries
- Small AM/FM Radio
- Hooded Jacket or Sweatshirt
- **Laminated Copy** of Emergency Contact Phone numbers and Addresses of family and friends in another state (if possible)
- Pocket Sized Rain Parka
- Pocket Sized Emergency Blanket
- Hand Sanitizer
- Band Aids, Gauze,
- Medical tape, antiseptic spray
- **Laminated Copy of Prescriptions** —One week supply of your prescription medication (in a waterproof container) and medical supplies (exceptions will be made by insurance companies to allow you this supply)

****Christmas Tree Safety****

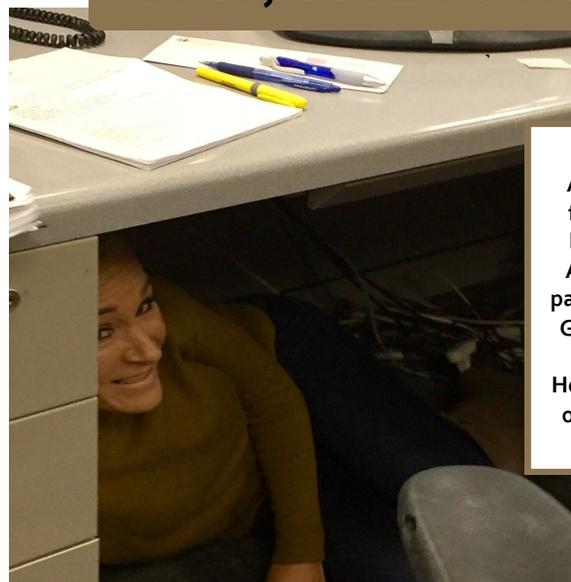
- * Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
 - * Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk at a 45 degree angle.
 - * Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from all heat sources.
 - * Use non-flammable decorations.
 - * Use only lighting evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
 - * Inspect lights for frayed wire or other defects before use.
 - * Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- DO NOT LEAVE LIGHTS UNATTENDED!**
- * Keep tree stands filled with water at all times.
 - * When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.



Photo Provided by Lois Hockett of Hockett Family Christmas Tree Farm
NFPA.org
Provided by Chief Hubbard, AFD

FEMA: [Prevent Christmas Tree Fires](#)

DROP, COVER & HOLD



Amanda Radke from the Grays Harbor County Auditor's Office participates in The Great Shake Out Drop, Cover & Hold exercise held on October 20th



Contacts & Info



Request for *Preparedness on the Harbor* Newsletter Articles

Do you have Grays Harbor County News to Share??

Submit your article and pictures to cmccullough@co.grays-harbor.wa.us
Deadline is December 5, 2016

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



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ATTEND the Grays Harbor Citizen Corp meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 9am, in the Grays Harbor County Forestry Building.
310 W Spruce St Montesano, WA 98563

Meet with other county agencies and organizations working on disaster preparedness in our county. Check out their Facebook page too.
www.facebook.com/GraysHarborCitizenCorps

SIGN UP for the Grays Harbor Emergency Notification System to receive Emergency & Disaster information on winter storms, earthquakes, flooding, from Grays Harbor Emergency Management
<http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/DEM/EMailTWS.asp>

LIKE the Grays Harbor Emergency Management Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/pages/Grays-Harbor-County-Emergency-Management

FOLLOW Grays Harbor Emergency Management [@GHCDem](https://twitter.com/GHCDem) on Twitter

VISIT the Grays Harbor Emergency Management website at
www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/DEM

Upcoming Events

National Weather Service Presentation
November 3rd
1-4pm

Daylight Savings FALL BACK
November 6th

Emergency Cooking & Disaster Preparedness Made Easy Class
November 19th
December 17th

Upcoming Meetings

Citizen Corps
November 9th—9:00am
December 14th—9:00am
LEPC
November 9th—10:15am
December 14th—10:15am

Article & Photo Credit
Page 5 Christmas Tree Photo
Provided by Lois Hockett