



CITY OF VERNONIA

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SEVERE WEATHER ALERT

Please note that this is a prediction from the National Weather Service based on scientific research, not a foregone conclusion. Updates on weather watches and warnings will be posted to our online networks:

Greetings!

Columbia County Emergency Management and several local emergency responders participated in a conference call this afternoon with the National Weather Service. They are predicting some strong storms for the weekend as a low-pressure front camps off of Puget Sound and causes the jet stream to hold over NW Oregon and SW Washington. During this time, three storm fronts (starting tonight and the strongest coming Saturday night-Sunday) will swing our way.

Potentials for this weekend (10/21/2010-10/24/2010) include:

- * Coast Range/West side of Columbia County--high winds (up to 40-50 MPH) Saturday night and Sunday and total weekend rainfall from 2-5 inches. Wind forecast may change for the good or bad, so please monitor later forecasts for further information.
- * Valleys/Eastern side of Columbia County--gusts up to 30-35 MPH at times Saturday night and Sunday and total weekend rainfall of 1-2 inches.
- * Potential for a second low to form over SW Washington that may create strong winds even in the valleys Sunday night--check for later forecasts.
- * Heavy rains may occur at times. It is possible that the National Weather Service will issue flash flood watches/warnings at times this weekend. The good news is that local rivers are at low levels, so river flooding is unlikely.

Blog: <http://columbiacountyem.blogspot.com>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/columbiacoem>

Facebook: search for "Columbia County Emergency Management"

Please let us know if you have questions. *This e-mail 's information may be passed along to the general public.*

Thanks,

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A FEW HELPFUL TIPS
Flood Season is fast approaching

- **Floodvents** must allow floodwaters to flow freely. Screens, louvers, or other covers that allow flood waters to flow freely into the enclosed area may be placed over the openings to keep out vermin and weather. But solid covers that do not allow flood waters to flow freely are in violation and may affect you and the city from receiving Flood Insurance. Remove solid covers, styrofoam or other materials from vents.
- **Lowest Elevation of Machinery or Equipment** Service equipment for a building that is below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) has to be elevated or designed to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding. This includes equipment such as, but not limited to, furnaces, hot water heaters, washers, dryers, air conditioners, etc.
- **A Flood Plain Development Permit** is required by the FEMA Code of Federal Regulations for such activities as new construction, reconstruction, rebuilding, placement of manufactured homes, placement of small outbuildings, fences, clearing of trees and other vegetation, placement of driveway culverts or bridges, long term storage of equipment and materials or any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate such as dredging, drilling, excavation, filling, grading, logging, mining, or paving. The Flood Plain Development Permit requirement is intended to allow the City of Vernonia to monitor activities located in Flood Plain Management Area. Application for a Flood Plain Development Permit is a SEPARATE process from the building permit application process.
- **If you are not elevated: BUY FLOOD INSURANCE!**
- **Avoid storing these products** in areas likely to flood:
 - *Fiberglass or Cellulose insulation
 - *Cork, or corkboard
 - *Gasoline, motor oil, weed killer, pesticide, lye, drain cleaners
 - *Linoleum, particle board plywood, chipboard, fiberboard, paperboard, strawboard, masonite paneling
 - *Wallboard, drywall, gypsum, wallpaper

It's never too early to prepare! Prepare a 72 hour Preparedness Kit for your home and car. Visit the Take 5 to Survive website at <http://www.take5tosurvive.com/> for additional information including a step-by-step plan to put your emergency kit together.