

# What's your level of disaster readiness?

*This article was originally featured in the January 23, 2019 edition of the Wednesday Wire weekly newsletter to Multnomah County Staff.*

Saturday, Jan. 26, marks the 319th anniversary of the Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake. These kinds of anniversaries are reminders for all of us to check in on our level of disaster readiness.

Refreshing the contents of our emergency kits under our desk, in our car, and at our home, is a great starting place. You can even sign up for a training that helps you meet your disaster readiness goals or plan an evening with your family to discuss your disaster plan, adding in some “what if” questions as needed.

County employees serve as a safety net for our community. That was demonstrated several times this past year when — regardless of department, division or job classification — County staff fulfilled a variety of disaster service roles.

We can help others only if we’re prepared and have taken the steps necessary to feel confident that our loved ones are taken care of. Building strong community connections is one of the best ways to create a resilient web of support that will be there for us in a disaster, when we need it most.

It’s great to have neighbors to call to let your dog out if you are running late, or to check a stove that you worry you left on. It’s even better to know that those folks will also be there when disaster strikes, checking on loved ones when it may be impossible for you to get there yourself.

This particular anniversary reminds us all that living in Oregon comes with hazards we cannot avoid. We can, however, prepare and make sure that we are doing everything possible to mitigate the potential effects on our loved ones, as well as on those who need us most in the communities we serve.

Emergency Management is holding trainings and exercises more often, and participation is up. Employees across the County recognize that we all have skills that can help alleviate the fallout from a disaster. The Eagle Creek Fire, the Cully Fire, and our cooling and warming center activations are just a few examples where County staff made a difference in people’s lives.

Here are a few ideas for simple ways to stay informed and increase your disaster resilience:

- [Visit Emergency Management’s calendar.](#)
- Sign up for disaster preparedness and response trainings and exercises on Workday.
- Sign up for a monthly disaster readiness newsletter by emailing [anna.bergman@multco.us](mailto:anna.bergman@multco.us).

However you choose to recognize the 319th anniversary of the Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake, Multnomah County Emergency Management is here to help, visit our [website](#) and [get to know us](#).

For any questions regarding this article, contact Alice Busch at [alice.busch@multco.us](mailto:alice.busch@multco.us) or via phone at 503-988-6552 (work) or 971-563-3051 (mobile).

Some additional resources with helpful tips and information:

- <https://multco.us/global/earthquake-primers-11-languages>
- <https://emergency.cdc.gov/>
- <https://multco.us/global/immigrant-and-refugee-emergency-preparedness>
- <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/outreach/occyshn/upload/ReadyNowToolkit.pdf>