
Surviving “The Big One” at Timber Valley

Background

Interruptions of one or more of the “grids” we depend on occurs in Southern Oregon every few years. Most are caused by weather and are of minor inconvenience. In the fall of 2012, a windstorm brought down power lines. Electricity in the park was off for four days, a critical period for most freezers.

Disruptive events include:

- Hurricane force winds
- 25 and 100-year snowfalls
- Flooding
- Urban-wildland interface fires
- Earthquake

Our Grids include:

- Electrical power
- Telephone and internet
- Streets, roads and highways
- Money network that connects the vendor’s card-reader and your bank
- Natural gas

Disruptive events mess with us by disabling one or more of the grids we depend on, such as:

- Blocking our travel to get supplies.
- Disabling grocery stores’ ability to sell goods because a loss of electricity and its computer inventory checkout system. (There are no hand cranks to ring up the cash registers like there used to be.)
- No motor fuel. (It takes electricity to pump gasoline and propane.)
- No ATMs.
- No internet.
- No natural gas.
- No telephone service. Even cell phones will be iffy.

Location is everything

Give thanks that you are in residence at Timber Valley when The Big One happens because:

- Most of you are “self-contained.”

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- You are not in a floodplain; path of a dam failure yes, but floodplain, no.
 - You have a tight community to help, and help you.
 - You have access to a generator, yours or a neighbor’s.
 - Cracked or broken foundations will not be a problem.
 - Many of us live in, or have, a rolling “Go Bag.” (see below)

Preparing for The Big One

Each family should maintain enough essential supplies to live independently for a minimum of **fourteen days**. Essential supplies include:

- **Water** – Keep your water tank full. If you have no tank, buy sealed containers like 5-gallon plastic carboys. Water will not go stale.
- **Food** – Each of us probably has a two-week supply of food. Sharing with neighbors can add variety. Packaged survival kits are available and will keep forever. Don’t forget your pets.
- **Medications** – Plan ahead – be sure to have two weeks supply on hand.
- **Essential supplies** like blood sugar test strips, paper towels, TP, etc.
- **Motor fuel** - Gas will become impossible to find very quickly.
- **Fuel for warmth** – Maintain a couple of LPG cylinders in reserve. LPG does not get stale and without electricity, LPG cannot be dispensed.

Your furnace is probably dependent on your 12- volt system. Your furnace will probably only function for a couple of days unless you have access to that generator to recharge your batteries.

- **Go Bag** - Make up a Go Bag that contains clothes for a couple of days and your essentials. Add meds, credit cards, pets, etc. when notified of a “Level One – Be Ready” warning. (See pages 3 and 4)

The really Big One

Very real danger lurks just offshore under the Pacific Ocean in the form of the Cascadia subduction zone (also referred to as the Cascadia fault) Newly assembled research shows the Pacific Northwest is 75 years overdue for its own major earthquake. In terms of property damage and human loss of life,

earthquakes are historically the single most cataclysmic events on earth. **This is serious stuff!**

The REALLY Big “Great Quake”

A “great quake” is in a special destructive class all its own; it is the worst of the worst. Earth experiences only one great quake every 8 years. The last Cascadia earthquake in 1700 is the strongest earthquake to occur in North America in recorded history.

A Cascadia battered the Pacific Northwest almost 320 years ago, at 9 p.m. on January 26, 1700. The date and time are precisely known because the tsunami it generated was well documented over 5,000 miles away in Japan. This Cascadia quake is tied for earth’s 4th largest measured earthquake ever. The largest was the 9.5 Valdivia earthquake of 1960 in southern Chile.

When it happens:

- Severe shaking lasting 5-6 minutes.
- Up to 10,000 deaths are likely.
- Tens of thousands of structures destroyed.
- \$32 billion in property damage.
- Parts of northwest Oregon near Astoria could drop 4-8 feet in elevation and could change the coastline.
- Tens of thousands left homeless. Survivors in areas of devastation will probably be evacuated to the Midwest.
- Severe infrastructure damage causing loss of some or all of our grids.
- I-5 May be impassable for a long while.

The not quite worst-case scenario is that Timber Valley and all of Sutherlin will have to take care of itself without one or all the “grids” and without much outside help for as long as a month.

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascadia_subduction_zone

and

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/07/20/the-really-big-one>

See page 5 for the ‘Casadia M 9.0 simulation’ map showing expected zones of movement of the earth.

Evacuation

Timber Valley may be evacuated in cases of a wildland fire or impending failure of the Cooper Creek Reservoir Dam.

State of Oregon Approved Evacuation Levels - June, 2014

LEVEL 1 Evacuation means “**BE READY**” for potential evacuation.

Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.

LEVEL 2 Evacuation means “**BE SET**” to evacuate.

YOU MUST PREPARE TO LEAVE AT A MOMENT’S NOTICE. This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice. Residents **MAY** have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk.

THIS MAY BE THE ONLY NOTICE THAT YOU RECEIVE. Emergency services cannot guarantee that they will be able to notify you if conditions rapidly deteriorate. Area media services will be asked to broadcast periodic updates.

LEVEL 3 Evacuation means:

“GO!”
Evacuate NOW!
LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!

Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should evacuate immediately. If you choose to ignore this instruction, you must understand that emergency services may not be available to assist you further. **DO NOT** delay leaving in order to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home.

