FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

The following is a list of important considerations that should be followed during times of flooding:

• **Prepare an evacuation plan:** Before the floodwaters hit, develop an evacuation plan among all members of a household that includes a meeting place outside of the house, as well as an escape route out of the floodplain and away from floodwaters.

• **Do not walk through flowing water:** Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; **six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.** If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.

• **Do not drive through a flooded area:** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

• **Stay away from power lines and electrical wires:** The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to Portland General Electric.

• **Shut off gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs:** Be prepared in advance with a detailed checklist because warning of an impending flood may provide little time for preparation prior to evacuation.

• **Look out for animals, especially snakes:** Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.

• **Look before you step:** After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

• **Be alert for gas leaks:** Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know that the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

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FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

During periods of heavy rain, snowfall, etc., there are several ways for you to keep informed about potential flooding and local conditions.

• **Listen to your local radio and TV weather reports:** This is your best source of local, up-to-the-minute information on changing conditions in your area.

• **Social Media:** Social media is increasingly becoming the source that many people turn to for fast breaking information. Twitter users can "follow" publicalerts.org, as well as Multnomah County to receive weather advisories. Troutdale monitors these and other sources, and will post on the City of Troutdale Facebook page any relevant information as it becomes available.

Find us on Facebook: City of Troutdale, OR!

PublicAlerts: twitter.com/PublicAlerts
Multnomah County: twitter.com/multco

• **Reverse 9-1-1:** The City of Troutdale coordinates with the Multnomah County Office of Emergency Management to maintain the reverse 9-1-1 system to be used in the event of a flood hazard. Your mobile device may not be automatically included in this alert system, however mobile devices can be added voluntarily by individuals by going to www.publicalerts.org.

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