The Hydrant



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



There's no shortage of information about

what we should do in an

emergency/disaster. But truth is, not many of us are truly prepared. Part of the reason is that we are actually dealing with an unknown future situation. And it may be "convenient" for us to assume it will happen when we're not around (one way or another).

Possible disaster scenarios include:

- Earthquake/Tsunami-flooding
- Wind storm
- Major fire
- War (hopefully a very remote possibility)
- The extent of damage could be:
 - Huge (think Puerto Rico)
 - Moderate
 - Minor

The resulting impacts could be:

- Loss of electricity
- Loss of dwellings and other structures
- Loss of water supply
- Loss of access locally and to outside resources

Recently OPALCO provided a good list of supplies to consider and it is repeated here:

- Drinking water
- Canned/nonperishable food
- Blankets, pillows, clothing
- Basic toiletries
- First Aid Supplies
- Prescriptions
- Baby and pet supplies





- Flashlights
- Battery-operated clock and radio
- Extra batteries
- Phone
- Cash and credit cards
- Important documents



Notice that the first item on the list is DRINKING WATER. It turns out that we can survive without food for several days but not so with water.

Humans require about 2 quarts (1/2 gallon) of drinking water per day to survive. More if it is hot or physical exertion is involved. And that doesn't include water for washing or other personal needs. A generally recognized water supply requirement in a disaster is 2-4 gallons per person per day.

The Water Board has plans in place to optimize the ability to continue providing potable water with the existing system (or some modified version) in the event of a disaster. But each homeowner should consider maintaining some amount of bottled water on site and refreshing it periodically in the event that the Cape water system is inoperable.

We have been told that because of our remote location relative to the town of Friday Harbor, we may be on our own until emergency services can reach us. Food for thought.

Mail in Survey

A mail in survey was sent out a few months ago, to all homeowners at Cape San Juan. We were happy to receive 49 responses. Most of the 49 have some amount of water set aside for emergencies. For additional water storage, 20 of them are interested in buying up to 44 plastic jugs for extra storage. CSJWD was considering offering jugs at a reduced price but have found them to be quite affordable and easily accessible with no additional discount for ordering in quantity.

Amazon and Home Depot are 2 places that carry BPA water storage containers of various sizes.

