



Emergency Preparedness Community Newsletter August 2026



Be Prepared for Power Outages

How to prepare for power outages

Power outages can happen at any time. The outage could be caused by wild-fire threats, storms, accidents, or necessary safety measures.

Contact your power company to make sure your contact information is up to date. They may have text alerts that can keep you informed of power outages in your area.

Protect your **electronics, like TV's and computers**, with surge protectors and unplug them when the power goes out. Make sure you know how to override your garage door opener.

A **portable generator or backup battery** can help provide electricity to the appliances, devices, and systems that you need most in an emergency. If you have medical needs that require electricity, a generator or backup power source can be imperative. It is essential to learn how to safely operate these devices prior to an emergency. Generators also require proper storage, access to fuel and regular safety checks.



Prepare an **emergency supply kit (or Go Kit)**. Your kit should include a two-to-three week supply of shelf stable food for all people and pets in your home, one gallon of water per person/per day, flashlights and extra batteries, battery powered radio and extra batteries, solar phone chargers, blankets and/or sleeping bags, at least one change of clothes and shoes per person, wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, manual can opener, toiletries, first-aid kit, 30-day supply of prescription medications, dust masks, cash, family contact sheet, and copies of important documents. Emergency supply kits should be prepared before an emergency or disaster. Store your kit in an airtight plastic bag, plastic bin, or a duffel bag. Make sure everyone knows where the kit is stored and that it is readily available. Be sure to restock your kit periodically so that it is always up to date and ready for use.



Pool and Swimming Safety



Did you know that drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1-4? Drownings happen quickly and often they are silent. They are 100% preventable by following simple water safety steps.

Adults need to stay with children when they are in or around water. **DO NOT** read, use a cell phone, or leave children unattended. Keep the pool and deck clear of floats, balls, and toys after you get out of the pool. For preschoolers, an adult should be close enough to touch the child. Never swim near a boat, marina, or boat launch. When boating, always use a certified life jacket.

Your safety is dependent on the preparation
and safety of your family, neighbors,
community, and local fire department.
Get involved.
Your local volunteer fire department
has boots for you to fill!



Cities of Brownsville | Halsey | Shedd
Brownsville & Halsey Fire Districts
255 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 188
Brownsville, OR 97327

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL POSTAL PATRON

BATTERY SAFETY TIPS



Before purchasing

1. Review the Consumer Product Safety Commission website (www.saferproducts.gov) for any recall information on the products you are considering.
2. Look for a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory stamp on the packaging and product. Examples can be found on this link: www.osha.gov/nationally-recognized-testing-laboratory-program/current-list-of-nrtls.



How to stay safe when charging

1. Always use the charger provided by the manufacturer for the device being charged.
2. Do not overload outlets. Using multiplug adapters or power strips on an outlet may result in overheating and a potential fire hazard.
3. Charging devices should be plugged directly into an outlet and not into extension cords or multiplug adapters.
4. When in doubt, have a professionally licensed electrician test your existing circuits to ensure safe use.



Proper disposal of batteries

1. Place tape over battery ends and terminals to help prevent accidental discharges and potential fires.
2. Repairs to any lithium-ion battery packs should only be performed by a certified repair facility.
3. Do not place lithium-ion batteries in trash or recycle bins as they have the potential to ignite. Locate collection sites in your community and check with your local authorities to determine proper recycling methods for used batteries.

To learn
more, visit
usfa.fema.gov.

Local Recycling Options for Used Batteries:



- ♦ **Staples** - Staples will recycle used single-use batteries for average household consumers. Check with the store for acceptable battery amounts as they have limited storage capabilities.
- ♦ **Home Depot** - Home Depot will recycle rechargeable batteries for tools, cell phones, and lap tops. The battery must be under 11 pounds in weight. Check at the service desk for more information.
- ♦ **Batteries Plus** - Batteries Plus will recycle most all batteries; there is a per pound fee cost dependent on the type of battery. Check store for details.