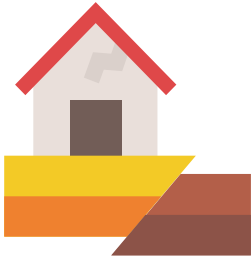




Emergency Preparedness and Your Health

Tillamook County Wellness

Public Health Emergency Preparedness



The ability to effectively respond to a range of public health threats, including:

- infectious diseases
- natural disasters
- biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events

Aspects of PH Emergency Preparedness

Natural Hazards

What are the events of concern that are most likely to occur, or are becoming more frequent? How do they affect health?

Communication & Education

How do we inform the public and encourage action to protect their health? How do we share information in a timely manner?

Vulnerable Populations

Who is most likely to be adversely affected by an emergency or environmental health issue?

Continuous Assessment & Response

How are we collecting data and using that data to respond to ongoing concerns?



Who's most at risk?

Age

- Older adults
- Infants and young children



Occupation/Hobbies

- Outdoor Workers
- Agricultural workers
- First responders
- Outdoor recreationalists

Place

- Rural communities
- Coastal communities



Housing & Socioeconomic Status

- Low-income households
- People who rent their home
- People experiencing homelessness

Health

- People with disabilities or pre-existing health conditions
- People who are pregnant



Demographics

- People experiencing other forms of discrimination (BIPOC, 2SLGBTQ+, etc.)
- People who speak a primary language other than English

What factors increase risk?

Cognitive and/or mobility limitations may influence action on environmental hazards



People with disabilities



People with mobility limitations or medical needs are highly vulnerable to infrastructure disruptions

Often live in older buildings with increased safety concerns. May also be dependent upon others to address problems with environment



Older adults



More likely to be isolated and experience comorbid health concerns. Less likely to receive timely information via internet about ongoing emergencies

May not have the means to address issues such as housing quality or to treat environment-related health issues



Low-Income Families



Less likely to have means to gather emergency supplies

Increased exposure to environmental health hazards and poor conditions



Unhoused Individuals



Less likely to have access to suitable shelter in case of emergency. May not have access to timely information via internet or other communication channels

Increased exposure to environmental health hazards. May not have workplace protections against certain exposures



Outdoor workers



Less likely to have suitable shelter in case of emergency. Increased exposure during climate-based emergencies

Emergency communications are often only made available in English



Non-English speakers



Translated materials may not be timely or culturally relevant to the community they are directed towards

Events of Concern in Tillamook County



Winter Storms



Heat Waves



**Wildfire and
Smoke**



**Earthquake &
Tsunami**



Drought



Flooding

Emergency Preparedness Data

By 2050, it's projected that:

Heat Waves

Average number of days that get above 90°F every year will increase by 3

Drought

Drought will become more frequent

Wildfire

Average number of days every year at very high fire danger will increase by 11

Air Quality

Average number of days with poor air quality due to smoke will increase by 17%

Cold Waves

Average temperature of the coldest nights will increase by 5°F

Heavy Rains

Average projected rainfall on the wettest day of the year will increase by 15%

River Flooding

Winter flood risk will increase

Coastal Flooding

Coastal erosion and flooding will increase

Tillamook County Vulnerabilities



High proportion of vulnerable populations

- 22.13% of people have at least one disability
- 9.5% of population is age 75 or older
- 10.2% of youth ages 16-19 are not engaged in school or work



Built Environment Barriers

- Only 26% of the population live within a half mile of public transportation
- 18.8% of households have no or slow internet access
- 4.8% of students are homeless



Barriers to readiness

- Households spend an average of 62% of income on housing and transportation
- 19.7% of children live in poverty
- 4.3% of the population have limited English proficiency

PH Emergency Preparedness Work in Tillamook County

Action Planning

Creating public health response plans and public messaging for potential emergency situations

Communication

Developing communication strategies between public health, health care, and community organizations

Education

Educating the community and partners on how to prepare and respond to emergency situations

Risk Assessment

Gathering data on the biggest risks in our county and vulnerable populations

Community Readiness

Working alongside community groups, county and state agencies to promote preparedness efforts.



What are the gaps and barriers?

Communications

Developing ways to communicate emergency preparedness information to reach both residents and tourists in the county.

Language Access

Limited availability of preparedness materials and resources in other languages

Cultural Specificity

Culturally-specific preparedness resources that are appropriate for all populations and community groups

Cost and Storage

The costs for purchasing emergency supplies on an ongoing basis and finding space to store them properly are not accessible to all.



Community Risk Perception

Community may lack of a sense of urgency to prepare for emergencies, even when risks are communicated

Knowledge & Fatigue

Many do not know what they can do to prepare, or don't feel like preparing is not worthwhile

Tracking Measures

There are limited ways to effectively measure the preparedness of an entire community

What areas should TCW focus on?

Partner Communication

Develop and expand communication networks

Language Access

Improve language access and cultural specificity in EP resources

Safety Planning

Help organizations and/or community members develop safety and response plans

Data & Tracking

Expand data and tracking systems for Emergency Preparedness

Future Hazards Planning

Identify areas of concern within the county that would be most impacted by extreme weather events

Outreach & Events

Host and/or join events to educate community on public health emergency preparedness

