CORDOVA PREPARED

Updated 7/1/09

Citizens of Cordova! This website will provide an array of information for you and, hopefully, it will help prepare you for any potential disaster. The weekly articles about disaster preparation (from the *Cordova Times*) will be archived here, as well as other pertinent information.

This week's featured information....

(actually, this will be up for a few weeks)

What Hazards do Cordovans Face???

The Hazard Analysis Pages 5-9

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JUNE 10: It is prudent to be prepared. We all know that. We just don't usually do it.

Recent events, particularly the H1N1 flu threat and the potential for ash fallout reminds us all that, even in Cordova, Alaska, we should be prepared to face a community-wide public health emergency . To that end, the city of Cordova is currently updating the Emergency Management plan. This is an "all-hazards" plan that will guide the actions of the Emergency Management Team in the event of any city-wide emergency, from a plane crash to an earthquake to a pandemic flu.

Part of that plan is to prepare the citizens of Cordova. It is assumed and understood that, in the event of a large scaled event, the city would have to fend for themselves for at least seven days until outside help would arrive…and very possibly more time than that. Each individual family should be absolutely prepared to support themselves for a week…at home…without any outside help.

Is your family ready? Would you have enough drinking water if the city water source was interrupted and you could not drive to the springs? Does your family have a disaster plan, so your children would know what to do in the case of an earthquake? During the next 6 months, this column , in short and concise articles, will address many of the issues we all face as we learn to prepare. Be watching. Be prudent. Be ready. In the meantime, check out www.ready.gov and click on the Ready America link.

JUNE 17: Is your family ready? Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. Cordova's potential hazards may include an earthquake, an avalanche, a pandemic flu, a tsunami, a plane crash, or ash falling from the sky. Your family may have to abruptly leave your home…or be confined to your home. Families can – and do- cope with disasters such as these by preparing in advance.

The first step to protect yourselves is to prepare a **Family Disaster Plan.** This plan is not a vague ideology, a random list of ideas, or an evening discussion with your kids. Instead, it is a purposeful, deliberate set of actions that require commitment and time. The family disaster plan begins by educating yourselves; find out what could happen to your family in Cordova.

Cordova's disaster management team has created a list of potential hazards in Cordova, which can be viewed on the city website. Go to www.cityofcordova.net …and click on the link for "*Cordova Prepared* ". For each of those potential hazards, gather information on how to prepare for them. Much of that specific information will be discussed in this column over the next six months.

So, what can you do now…today? You may begin….this week…by finding out what the disaster plan is at your workplace, your children's school or day care center, your church, and other places where your family spends time. As you ask, you may find that many places do not yet have a plan. The city of Cordova is not unlike many other small towns across America, just beginning this process. Disaster planning is time-consuming and hard to relate to, until a disaster actually happens. Let's be one step ahead. If there is no plan in place where you inquire, don't complain…offer to help create one.

As always. Be prudent. Be ready. Be prepared.

JULY 2: The first step towards protection in the face of a disaster, as was discussed last week, is to prepare a **Family Disaster Plan.** Assuming that your family has taken steps to become informed of the potential disasters in Cordova (haven't gotten that far? Check out www.cityofcordova.net)…the next step to prepare your family is to actually **MAKE A PLAN**. Start, this week, with the following four tasks:

- *Meet with family members and talk about what the local hazards are.* Explain the potential hazards our city faces to your children and explain that, as a team, your family will prepare for those potential dangers. Include your caregiver in this conversation.

- *Choose an "out-of-town" contact*. Make sure everyone has that phone number…HANDY. After a disaster, everyone should call this person. Why? After a disaster, it is often easier to make a long-distance call than a local one! This way you can check on the status of one another.

- *Decide where to meet after an emergency…two places, actually*. Choose one place right outside your home for a sudden localized emergency, like a house fire. Choose another location outside your neighborhood in case your home is not readily accessible.

- *Complete a Family Communication Plan.* See http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/ECCard.pdf for an example of the information each family member should carry with them. This website offers an emergency wallet card

that can be printed, filled out, and distributed to each family member. This information should also be posted next to the home telephone.

Your time and effort in finishing these activities could save a life….or save you significant heartache. It is difficult to find that time…but it is time well spent.

As always. Be prudent. Be ready. Be prepared.

Table 1-X City of Cordova Hazard Analysis Chart

HAZARD→		Flooding (Eyak Lake/River)		Fire		Earthquake	
VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS	Vulnerability zone	Buildings and streets near Eyak Lake and River, hospital		Entire census area including the boat harbor		Entire census area including the boat harbor	
	Population within vulnerability zone	Unknown		2,400 (5,000 summer)		2,400 (5,000 summer)	
	Property that may be affected	Private dwellings and outbuildings, Cordova City airstrip and hangers, Nirvana Park, water treatment plant, boat launch, hospital basement, CEC transfer station		Private and public structures, facilities, processors, public works, vehicles, aircraft, boats		Private and public structures, facilities, processors, public works, vehicles, aircraft, runways, bridges, fuel storage tanks, pipelines. Liquefaction and consequent structural damage on dredged soil fill.	
	Environment that may be affected	Shoreline and flood plain		Possibly nearby waters		Land and waters where hazardous materials are stored or present	
RISK ANALYSIS	Probability of occurrence	Moderate		Low		Moderate	
	Consequences to people	Damage or loss of shelter, hardship due to disruption of transportation. Loss of some medical services.		Possible loss of shelter, injury or death		Injuries and deaths, loss of shelter, disruption of vital services such as medical, water, sewer, power, and transportation	
	Consequences to property	Damage to structures, roads, facilities, well contamination.		Loss or damage of property		Damage to structures, roads, utilities, runways	
	Consequences to environment	Possible contamination from hazardous materials, sewage tanks present in flood plain, sedimentation of salmon spawning habitat, floating debris.		Possible contamination from hazardous materials released by fire		Contamination from hazardous materials released by damaged facilities; landslides; uplift & subsidence& and their effects (seiche etc.)	
	Probability of simultaneous emergencies	Moderate: high winds associated with storms		Low (earthquake, technological)		High (fire, tsunami, avalanche,landslides)	
SEVERITY RATING	**Categories**	**Severity**	**Points**	**Severity**	**Points**	**Severity**	**Points**
	History	High	6	Moderate	3	Moderate	3
	Vulnerability	Moderate	4	Low	3	Moderate	5
	Maximum threat	Moderate	4	High	8	High	9
	Probability	Moderate	4	Moderate	4	Moderate	4
	TOTAL	18		18		23	

Table 1-X City of Cordova Hazard Analysis Chart (continued)

HAZARD→		Volcano (ash fallout)		Avalanche		Tsunami	
VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS	Vulnerability zone	Entire census area		Power Creek hydro plant, 2.0 mi - 5.5 mi Copper River Hwy		Immediate coastal zone below 50 ft elevation	
	Population within vulnerability zone	2,400 (5,000 summer)		Unknown, <20		Unknown, <2,000	
	Property that may be affected	Private dwellings and outbuildings, airports and hangers, water treatment plant, engines, diesel generators		Private and public structures, facilities at 5.5 mi Copper River Hwy Power Creek hydro plant		Private and public structures, facilities, processors, public works, vehicles, aircraft, boats, docks, floats, City Hall, police/fire station	
	Environment that may be affected	Anything down wind of volcano		Possibly Eyak Lake		Land below 50 ft. elevation and waters where hazardous materials are stored or present	
RISK ANALYSIS	Probability of occurrence	Low		Moderate		Low	
	Consequences to people	Disruption of transportation and services, respiratory problems. Warnings issued by Volcano Observatory help mitigate.		Possible loss of shelter, injury or death; road blockage and it's consequences		Injuries and deaths, loss of shelter, disruption of vital services such as medical, water, sewer, power, and transportation	
	Consequences to property	Damage to structures, roads, facilities, engines		Loss or damage of structures, vehicles		Damage to structures, roads, utilities,	
	Consequences to environment	Ash in lakes and streams could disrupt salmon spawning		Possible contamination from hazardous materials released Power Creek hydro plant		Contamination from hazardous materials released by damaged facilities	
	Probability of simultaneous emergencies	Low (earthquake)		Low (earthquake); weather extremes		High (earthquake, fire, avalanche, seiche)	
SEVERITY RATING	**Categories**	**Severity**	**Points**	**Severity**	**Points**	**Severity**	**Points**
	History	Low	2	Moderate	4	Low	2
	Vulnerability	Low	2	Low	2	High	8
	Maximum threat	High	6	Moderate	4	High	8
	Probability	Low	2	Moderate	3	Low	3
	TOTAL	12		13		21	

Table 1-X City of Cordova Hazard Analysis Chart (continued)

HAZARD→		Weather Extremes		Landslide/Seiche		Oil Spill (Copper River)	
VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS	Vulnerability zone	Entire census area		Mountainous terrain within census area		Downstream any of the 3 pipeline crossings on Copper River tributaries	
	Population within vulnerability zone	2,400 (5,000 summer)		Unknown		Unknown, but most Cordovans rely economically on Copper River fisheries.	
	Property that may be affected	Roads, utilities, airports, residences, water sources and other structures		Roads, utilities, airports, residences and other structures		None in the Cordova area	
	Environment that may be affected	N/A		Unknown		Copper River watershed, Gulf of Alaska	
RISK ANALYSIS	Probability of occurrence	High		Low		Moderate	
	Consequences to people	High winds can cause injury or death, delays in ferry or air service. Severe cold can cause hypothermia and frostbite.		Possible loss of shelter, injury or death, especially with seiche		Probable loss of commercial fishing opportunity and income, loss of subsistence and recreation along Copper River	
	Consequences to property	Damage to structures, utilities, roads (flooding), ice loading damage to roofs		Loss or damage of structures, vehicles, roads, especially with seiche		None	
	Consequences to environment	N/A		Unknown		Depending on volume of oil spilled, could be severe damage to fish and wildlife resources.	
	Probability of simultaneous emergencies	Moderate (flooding, fire, transportation accidents, avalanche)		Moderate (earthquake, avalanche)		High (earthquake, fire, avalanche)	
SEVERITY RATING	**Categories**	**Severity**	**Points**	**Severity**	**Points**	**Severity**	**Points**
	History	Moderate	5	Low	2	Moderate	4
	Vulnerability	Low	2	Moderate	5	High	8
	Maximum threat	Low	2	Moderate	6	High	9
	Probability	High	7	Low	3	Moderate	4
	TOTAL	16		16		25	

Table 1-X City of Cordova Hazard Analysis Chart (continued)

HAZARD→		Oil Spill (PWS or Gulf)		Airline Crash		Weapons and Terrorism	
VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS	Vulnerability zone	Prince William Sound, Gulf of Alaska waters		Mudhole Smith Airport area and 6 mile subdivision		Entire city	
	Population within vulnerability zone	Unknown, but most Cordovans rely economically on commercial fisheries		None living in zone, but would affect those living in Cordova		Entire population	
	Property that may be affected	Unknown		Probably none except airport		Public and private facilities	
	Environment that may be affected	Prince William Sound, Gulf of Alaska waters and shoreline including the Copper River Delta.		West Copper River Delta		Incident specific	
RISK ANALYSIS	Probability of occurrence	Low		Low		Low	
	Consequences to people	Probable loss of commercial fishing opportunity and income, loss of subsistence and recreation, psychological trauma associated with technological disasters		Mass casualties, fatalities, disruption of travel and medical services		Mass casualties, fatalities, disruption of services	
	Consequences to property	Unknown		Unknown		Damage or destruction	
	Consequences to environment	Depending on volume of oil spilled, could be severe damage to fish and wildlife resources.		Possible fuel spill into wetlands		Degradation of air and water quality	
	Probability of simultaneous emergencies	Low		Low		Low	
SEVERITY RATING	**Categories**	**Severity**	**Points**	**Severity**	**Points**	**Severity**	**Points**
	History	High	9	Low	0	Low	0
	Vulnerability	High	9	Low	2	Low	3
	Maximum threat	High	10	Mod	4	High	7
	Probability	Low	2	Low	1	Low	1
	TOTAL	30		7		11	

Table 1-X City of Cordova Hazard Analysis Chart (continued)

HAZARD→		Pandemic Disease	
VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS	Vulnerability zone	Entire census area	
	Population within vulnerability zone	2,400 (5,000 summer)	
	Property that may be affected	None	
	Environment that may be affected	N/A	
RISK ANALYSIS	Probability of occurrence	Low	
	Consequences to people	Mass casualties, fatalities, disruption of services	
	Consequences to property	None	
	Consequences to environment	N/A	
	Probability of simultaneous emergencies	Low	
SEVERITY RATING	**Categories**	**Severity**	**Points**
	History	Low	3
	Vulnerability	High	8
	Maximum threat	High	9
	Probability	Moderate	4
	TOTAL	24	