

# Water Reliability and Emergency Preparedness



**An alternative water filtration plant on the Willamette River—designed to modern seismic standards—will help improve our ability to provide drinking water during a prolonged water outage.**

## What are we preparing for?

EWEB has identified several emergencies that could result in a water supply shortage: seismic event, drought, forest fire in our watershed, severe flood, a chemical spill into the McKenzie River, and a system or facility failure.

**Reliable** (*adj*)  
Can be counted upon to do what is expected; dependable.

Earthquakes are high on the list of natural disasters that can interrupt our drinking water. Research published in the *Oregon Resilience Plan* indicates there is high probability the Willamette Valley will experience a very large earthquake within the next 50 years; *it's not a matter of if, but when*. The Governor's Task Force concluded few communities in Oregon are prepared for a major event similar to the magnitude 9 earthquake that struck Japan in 2011 and issued a call to action.

## What could happen to our water system?

Drinking water systems are especially vulnerable to earthquake damage:

- Water pipelines are susceptible to rupture during sudden ground movement.
- Pipelines are subject to failure where they connect to structures: intake structures, filtration plants and reservoirs, as well as to homes and businesses.
- Reservoirs that do not have seismic upgrades are vulnerable to damage that could make them inoperable.

In summer months **there is only a one or two day supply of water** if something happens to disrupt our water system. Emergency interties with our smaller, neighboring utilities cannot provide enough water to meet Eugene's minimum water needs. The lack of additional sources of drinking water could result in unacceptable public health, safety, and economic risk should a prolonged water outage occur.



**In 2014, EWEB and the Red Cross will begin selling discounted 3-gallon storage containers with preparedness “how-to” tips.**

## Learn More

Safe drinking water is vital to our public health and economy. The EWEB Commissioners want to ensure everyone has an opportunity to learn more and provide input on decisions to invest in water reliability.

**Get prepared now!**

**Visit our website**

[eweb.org/waterreliability](http://eweb.org/waterreliability)

**Questions?**

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**American Red Cross**  
Oregon Pacific Chapter

## What is EWEB doing to prepare?

### **EWEB IS WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

with neighboring water utilities, local public agencies, the Oregon Pacific Chapter of the American Red Cross and other emergency responders to assure a well-coordinated response. A sound, well-rehearsed action plan can make a difference.

Meanwhile, EWEB is making strategic investments in key components of a more resilient water system. The biggest step in assuring water system reliability is **developing a diverse water supply portfolio**, including an alternative intake and water filtration facility on the Willamette River to augment the primary plant at Hayden Bridge. Other projects include seismic upgrades to the primary filtration plant, water mains, reservoirs, and pump stations. The goal is to minimize community-wide service disruptions longer than 72 hours.

## What can businesses and residents do?

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.**

EWEB and the American Red Cross recommend a minimum 3-day supply of water (one gallon per day for each person and pet) to meet basic drinking water needs in case of a prolonged disruption of water service. In 2014, EWEB and several partner organizations will begin selling 3-gallon BPA-free plastic storage containers to interested residents at a discount price. All proceeds from sale of the water storage containers will be donated to the American Red Cross.

**IN AN EMERGENCY,** water restrictions to prioritize the most critical needs such as medical services and fire protection may be required.

**How Much Water Do You Need?**



**1 gallon PER DAY**

**for each:**



**for 3 days**

*Rely on us.*