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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PORTLAND OR
400 AM PDT THU OCT 7 2004

...THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 3-9 IS WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN
IDAHO...OREGON...AND WASHINGTON...

WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK CONTINUES THROUGH OCTOBER 9th IN
THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. THIS IS AN EXCELLENT TIME FOR ALL
INDIVIDUALS...FAMILIES...BUSINESSES...SCHOOLS...RADIO AND TELEVISION
STATIONS TO REVIEW THEIR WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS PLANS.

MORE PEOPLE DIE IN FLOOD RELATED EVENTS THAN FROM ANY OTHER
NATURAL DISASTER. THE MAJORITY OF FLOOD RELATED DEATHS INVOLVE
TRYING TO DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED AREAS. FLOODING IN THE PACIFIC
NORTHWEST CAN BE CAUSED BY HEAVY RAINFALL...MELTING SNOWPACKS
COMBINED WITH RAIN....OR ICE JAMS. FOR MANY PEOPLE LIVING IN THE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST...FLOODS ARE A NATURAL AND AN INEVITABLE PART OF
LIFE...ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO LIVE...WORK AND PLAY ALONG OUR
MAGNIFICANT RIVERS. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY FLOODS IN THE HISTORY OF
THE NORTHWEST...WHICH INCLUDE THE DEVASTATING FLOODS OF
DECEMBER 1964 AND FEBRUARY 1996. THE SEVERE FLOODING THAT
OCCURRED OVER OREGON...WASHINGTON... IDAHO...AND WESTERN
MONTANA IN FEBRUARY 1996 PRODUCED \$1.2 BILLION IN DAMAGE AND
CLAIMED 9 LIVES. COASTAL FLOODING CAN ALSO OCCUR DURING THE
WINTER MONTHS AND POSE A THREAT TO LIFE AND PROPERTY. WINDS
GENERATED FROM VERY STRONG LOW PRESSURE SYSTEMS OFFSHORE CAN
DRIVE OCEAN WATER INLAND AND CAUSE SIGNIFICANT FLOODING ALONG THE
IMMEDIATE COAST AND ESTUARIES.

IF YOU LIVE...WORK OR PLAY ALONG OUR BEAUTIFUL RIVERS OR COAST
LINE...THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS YOU CAN DO IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE
YOUR RISK FROM FLOODS. KNOW WHICH LOCAL STREAMS AND RIVERS
FLOOD EASILY IN YOUR AREA. IF ADVISED TO EVACUATE...DO SO
IMMEDIATELY! NEVER TRY TO WALK OR DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED AREAS.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT APPROACHING WINTER STORMS AND FLOOD RISKS
BY LISTENING TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL MEDIA
SOURCE FOR THE LATEST FLOOD OUTLOOKS...WATCHES...WARNINGS...AND
ADVISORIES. WHEN FLOOD WATERS THREATEN...BE PREPARED TO MOVE TO
A PLACE OF SAFETY.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ISSUES FLOOD POTENTIAL OUTLOOKS AND

FLOOD WATCHES WHEN THERE IS A CHANCE FOR FLOODING TO DEVELOP. WHEN THE THREAT OF FLOODING BECOMES MORE CERTAIN OVER A SPECIFIC AREA...FLOOD WARNINGS ARE ISSUED.

THIS MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STAFF AND YOUR LOCAL AND STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS.

