

Trout Lake Emergency Handbook

Make an Emergency Plan

For help creating an emergency plan visit [Ready.gov/plan](https://www.ready.gov/plan). This comprehensive, official website of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) will guide you through the process of making a customized emergency plan for your specific setting and situation.

The time to start planning for an emergency is **now**. See [Ready.gov/plan-form](https://www.ready.gov/plan-form).

- Keep it short.
- Write it down.
- Post it.
- Involve the whole family.
- Rehearse it twice a year.

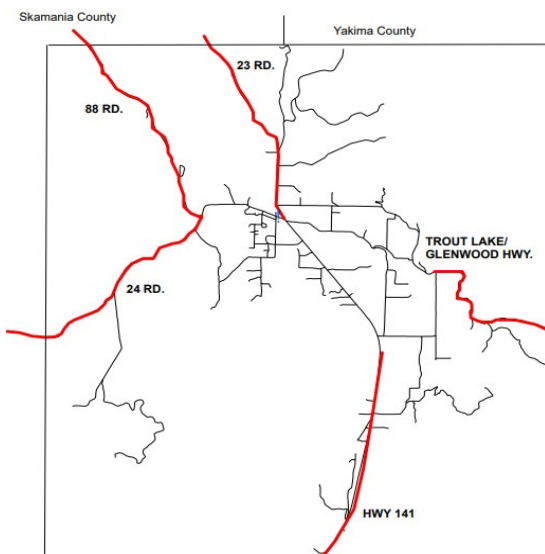
Stay Informed

Sign up for Klickitat County's Emergency Notification System and download the FEMA App:

- [KlickitatCounty.org/1235](https://www.klickitatcounty.org/1235)
- www.fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/mobile-products

Follow these Facebook pages for more local information:

- [Mt. Adams Area Emergency & Info](#)
- [Trout Lake Volunteer Fire Department & EMS](#)
- [Klickitat County 911 / Emergency Management](#)



Plan for Evacuation

Know routes out of and safe places in the valley. Keep Forest Service maps in vehicles.

Keep car gas tanks at least half full at all times.

Know your neighbors, especially the aged, disabled, and those with special needs. Set up a buddy system wherein you check on each other.

In winter keep boots, hats, gloves, warm coats, and emergency kits (page 2) in vehicles.



Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Make an Emergency Plan | 1 |
| Build an Emergency Kit | 2 |
| Wildfires | 3 |
| In Case of Wildfire..... | 4 |
| Severe Storms..... | 4 |
| Power Outages | 5 |
| Floods & Lahars | 6 |

About This Handbook

The Trout Lake Valley Emergency Handbook focuses on the basics of preparing for emergencies – those things every family should do to prepare for the most common emergencies – and goes into depth about situations most likely to occur in our community: wildfires, severe storms, power outages, floods, and lahars. This publication is a project of the Trout Lake Community Council.

FEMA's Ready Campaign

FEMA's [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) website educates and empowers Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies, including those from natural hazards and man-made disasters.

Ready asks individuals to do three things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and appropriate responses.

Everyone should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive several days if an emergency occurs. This list of emergency supply kit items is only a starting point. It is important that individuals review this list and consider the unique needs of their family, including pets, for items to include.

Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.



FEMA

Build an Emergency Kit

After an emergency you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for several days. An emergency supply kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.



Make sure your emergency kit is stocked with the items in the checklist below. Once you take a look at the basic items, consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets and seniors. Additional ideas available at [Ready.gov/kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit).

Basic Emergency Supply Checklist

Store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

- ☐ Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- ☐ Food (at least a several day supply of non-perishable food)
- ☐ Cell phone cords and chargers and a backup battery or power supply
- ☐ Battery powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Whistle to (signal for help)
- ☐ Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- ☐ Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- ☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- ☐ Non-sparking wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- ☐ Manual can opener (for food)
- ☐ Local maps

Additional Emergency Supplies

Consider adding the following items to your emergency kit based on individual needs.

- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records
- ☐ Masks, soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes
- ☐ Prescription medications and glasses
- ☐ Feminine and personal hygiene items
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Pet food, water and supplies
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and disposable utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Complete change of clothing for each person including a long sleeved shirt, long pants, sturdy shoes, winter coats, hats, gloves and boots
- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- ☐ Books, games, puzzles, activities, etc. for children

Wildfires

Use these resources to help protect your home and family in the event of a wildfire that threatens our community.

Make a Wildfire Emergency Plan

- Make an emergency plan, stay informed, know your evacuation routes, and build an emergency kit. See pages 1 & 2.
- Make sure everyone in your household knows what to do in case of wildfire and the need to quickly evacuate. See page 4 and [Ready.gov/evacuation](https://www.ready.gov/evacuation) for more information.
- Make sure your insurance policies and personal documents, such as ID, are up to date. Make copies and keep them in a secure password-protected digital space.

Prevent Wildfire

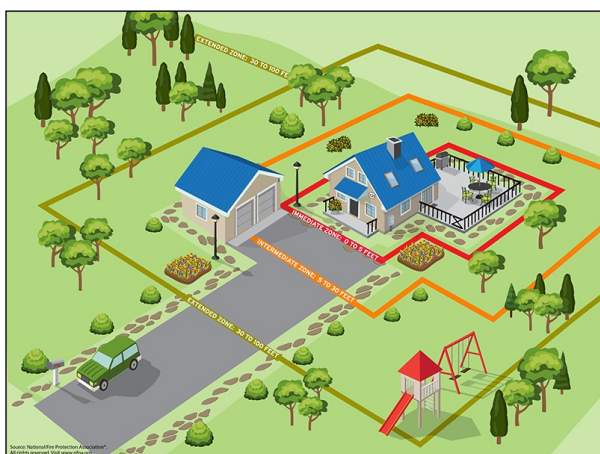
Know when it is okay to burn outdoors. For burn bans and weather conditions see TroutLake.org/faq or KlickitatCounty.org/1242.



“Wildfire is an unavoidable part of the life and landscape of Mt. Adams Country. The question is: when, not if.”

Prepare for Wildfire

- **Install a 4” blue reflective address sign** by your driveway to help emergency personnel locate your home. Contact the Trout Lake Volunteer Fire Department, 509-366-8418, for a free sign.
- **Create a defensible space** – a buffer between your home and the surrounding grasses, trees, and wildlands – to slow the spread of wildfire and create a safe space for firefighters to defend your home.
- **Make sure your driveway and its entrance are wide enough for fire trucks** to enter and there is space where they can turn around.
- **Request a free Home Assessment** to identify wildfire risks on and around your home from [Mt. Adams Resource Stewards](https://MtAdamsResourceStewards.org), 509-637-3701.
- **Sign up for a Forest Health Evaluation** from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, 509-638-3118, WildFireReady.com.
- **For detailed information on creating a defensible space** see [Firewise USA](https://FirewiseUSA.org) and ReadyForWildfire.org.



Immediate Zone (0-5 ft)

Install noncombustible ground cover. Use fire-resistant or noncombustible materials for decks, porches, railings, or fences attached to buildings.

Intermediate Zone (5-30 ft)

Plant trees no closer than 30 feet to the home. Space tree crowns 18 feet apart or further on slopes. Trim branches up to 6 to 10 feet from ground and at least 10 feet from structures.

Extended Zone (30-100 ft)

Remove vegetation next to outbuildings. For trees 30 to 60 ft from the home, space so mature canopies are at least 12 feet apart; for 60 to 100 feet from home, space so tree canopies are at least 6 feet apart.



About FACT

[Fire Adapted Community of Trout Lake \(FACT\)](https://TroutLake.org/FACT) strives to raise awareness and increase knowledge about wildfire risk and preparedness, and guide the community to become resilient to wildfire.

FACT is a community group with representation from the Trout Lake Fire Department, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards (MARS), Trout Lake Community Council, and other concerned citizens. FACT partners with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, WA Department of Natural Resources, and Underwood Conservation District.

If you would like to get involved or learn more contact:

FireAdapted@MtAdamsStewards.org

Trout Lake Wildfire Risk Mitigation Guide

Mt. Adams Resource Stewards (MARS) has prepared a comprehensive Wildfire Risk Mitigation Guide for Trout Lake.



Mt. Adams Resource Stewards

The guide includes helpful information for:

- Wildfire Risk Assessment
- Local Contractors
- Home Hardening
- Emergency Preparedness
- Financial Assistance, and
- Additional Resources

[Click here to download the guide.](#)

MtAdamsStewards.org

In Case of Wildfire



- ☐ Initiate your emergency and wildfire plans.
- ☐ Find out if you are under a potential evacuation order.
- ☐ Prepare to evacuate:
 - ☐ Get vehicles out of the garage and pointed toward your escape route.
 - ☐ Load vehicles with your emergency kit and other items that may be difficult or impossible to replace (legal records, family photos, computer equipment, etc.).
 - ☐ Turn on and leave on an inside and outside light so firefighters can find your house in the dark.
 - ☐ Turn off the valve at your propane tank.
- ☐ If time allows:
 - ☐ Call or email the emergency contacts in your Emergency Plan. Tell them when you left and where you are going.
 - ☐ Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
 - ☐ Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions, small appliances. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding.
 - ☐ Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a hat for protection.
 - ☐ Close and lock all doors and windows.
 - ☐ Check with neighbors who may need assistance or a ride.
 - ☐ Take a chain saw and extra fuel when you evacuate to clear any potential trees blocking your route.
- ☐ Evacuate:
 - ☐ Don't wait until the last minute, especially if escape options are limited.
 - ☐ Go to your safe, prearranged meeting place.

Thunderstorms & Lightning

Thunderstorms are dangerous storms that include lightning and can create or cause wildfires, powerful winds over 50 mph, hail and flash flooding. Know what to do:

- **Stay informed.** [The Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#) and [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Weather Radio](#) provide emergency alerts.
- **Strengthen your home.** Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling on your home. Consider buying surge protectors, lightning rods or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances and electronic devices.
- **Make an emergency plan** so your family knows what to do, where to go and what is needed to stay protected from the effects of a thunderstorm.
- **When thunder roars, go indoors!** Move from outdoors into a building or car with a roof.
- **Avoid using electronic devices** connected to an electrical outlet
- **Avoid running water.**
- **Turn Around. Don't Drown!** Do not drive through flooded roadways. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- **Watch for fallen power lines and trees.** Report them immediately.

Power Outages

Prepare for an Extended Power Outage

- **Use your emergency plan** (see pages 1 & 2) **and make sure everyone in your household knows what to do in the event of a power outage.** See [Ready.gov/power-outages](https://www.ready.gov/power-outages).
- **Heating: Wood stove** – have plenty of fuel. **Propane furnace** – have plenty of fuel and an alternative method for ignition. **Electricity** – have a generator with plenty of fuel, a portable electric heater, and enough heavy duty extension cords to reach the generator (which must be outside). ***Never use a generator, BBQ, camp stove or propane heater indoors, even in a garage, as they emit carbon monoxide which can kill you!***
- **Lighting:** Have flashlights and battery lanterns and plenty of extra batteries. Small solar powered lights are available online and in stores. Some can charge mobile phones.
- **Phone: Landlines** may or may not work. Cordless home phones work for a while if there is a battery in the base station. **Mobile phones** may or may not work. Have a fully charged power bank on hand.
- **Water:** It is important to conserve water in a power outage. **Wells** – keep several gallons of water on hand at all times. Have a generator connected to your well pump and/or fill a bathtub when a storm is expected. **Glacier Springs** – is gravity fed and should not be interrupted. **Pump septic systems** – find out which type of system you have (timer or on demand) and follow the manufacturer's advice.
- **Surge protectors:** Consider a whole house surge protector at your power source. Protect electronics with a battery powered Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) to protect against spikes and blackouts, or surge-protecting power strips.
- **Cold and frozen food storage:** A generator, run for periods of time, is best for keeping temperatures in refrigerators and freezers at a safe level. An instant read thermometer will help you know when temperatures are unsafe.



In Case of a Power Outage or Flickering Power

- ☐ **Check breakers and/or fuses:** Overloading can cause breakers to trip and fuses to blow causing a power outage in your home. Check these first.
- ☐ **Check with a neighbor:** If other's lights are off/power is out, the outage is not limited to just your home. Find out if they have already called the PUD (Public Utility District), and if not, who will/is able to call.
- ☐ **Contact the PUD:** Call 509-493-2255 or 800-548-8358.
- ☐ **Be ready for at least one power surge when power is restored:** Turn off and unplug electrical equipment, especially sensitive electronics. Major appliances can be disconnected by flipping breakers.
- ☐ **Perishable food:** Keep the doors of the refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible. Check the temperature with an instant read thermometer whenever you need

to open the door. If you have a generator, run your refrigerator and freezer every four hours until it cycles off. If you don't have a generator and it is cold outside, put perishables into coolers out of doors and consume them first. Open the coolers as seldom and for as short a time as possible, checking the temperature. **Do not eat perishable food once it warms to 40°F for more than two hours – throw it out.**



Disclaimer

This handbook is intended to offer general guidance relating to disaster preparedness. It is provided with the understanding that every effort was made to provide the most current and accurate information. However, errors and omissions are still possible. Any use or misuse of the information contained herein are solely the responsibility of the user, and the authors and publisher make no warranties or claims as to the truth or validity of the information. The authors and publisher shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused, or alleged to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the information contained in this handbook. This handbook is not intended to give professional dietary, financial, or medical advice.



Lahars

Mount Adams is not a frequently active volcano. However, avalanches, landslides, mudflows (lahars) and floods have occurred in the recent past that affect valleys around the mountain. To learn more about lahar monitoring visit the [Trout Lake Community Council Volcano Monitoring](#) page.

6

Floods

Know the potential impact of flooding on your family and home. Flooding occurs along the four rivers and creeks in the valley: the White Salmon River, Trout Lake Creek, Bear Creek and Cave Creek. Most of the valley is not subject to serious flooding, but bridges and culverts might be destroyed, so access around and out of the valley might become difficult. Some homes may be isolated by road closures. See [Ready.gov/floods](#).

- **Know where floods are likely to occur.** Know where high ground is closest to you. Stay aware of weather conditions especially in late winter and early spring.
- **Make sure you have adequate flood insurance** if you are in a flood zone. See [FloodSmart.gov](#).
- **Stockpile sandbags.**

In the Event of a Flood

- ☐ **Sandbag** your house if there is time.
- ☐ **Take your emergency kit.**
- ☐ **Evacuate** to higher ground/your prearranged emergency location.
- ☐ **Turn Around. Don't Drown!** Do not drive through flooded roadways. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- ☐ **If you are high and dry,** try to help others who are not.



The Trout Lake Community Council is an elected body through which citizens of the Trout Lake School District can have a voice in developing solutions to local concerns.

The Council supports the Trout Lake, Washington community in securing a sustainable future as envisioned in the Trout Lake Subarea Comprehensive Plan and through public outreach and education such as this Emergency Handbook.

To learn more visit:

[CommunityCouncil.TroutLake.org](#)

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Download the Handbook and view additional resources online at: [EmergencyHandbook.TroutLake.org](#)