

Farmington News

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THE WIND EVENT OF 2011

In the early morning hours of December 1st, a severe windstorm began and continued throughout the day. Wind gusts reached over 100 miles per hour, causing extensive damage throughout Davis County.



Beginning at 3:00 am on Thursday, Farmington City had all hands on deck including the police, fire, and public works departments. Traffic, power and public safety emergencies were triaged. Electricity was lost in large areas throughout the county. Gas leaks caused by uprooted trees resulted in small fires, which were especially concerning without power; water could not be supplied to the city's water/fire hydrant lines.

The Emergency Operation Center opened mid-morning to coordinate efforts at a city level as well as engage help from outside agencies and organizations. Rocky Mountain Power worked efficiently to restore power, first to the water systems and

then to residences. Farmington City officials strategically developed a response to the damage. Mayor Harbertson, City Manager Dave Millheim and other city officials met with area emergency coordinators to assess damage and solicit assistance.

By Thursday evening the wind subsided, but a second storm was predicted for Monday. Davis County declared a state of emergency and on December 4th, Governor Herbert ordered the Utah National Guard, Utah Department of Transportation, and Public Safety to assist Davis County residents to prepare. In Farmington, a massive volunteer response focused on neighborhoods. Several thousand truckloads of debris and green waste were hauled to identified dumping sites. This extensive public effort allowed city forces to concentrate on clearing public spaces, considerably speeding up the overall cleanup effort. In one day, the sewer facility received the amount of green waste normally produced in 2-3 years. The city estimates that the work done by volunteers in one day would likely have taken the city crews until next spring to accomplish.

Analysis of the emergency response to the wind events will take place in a number of debriefing meetings.

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Farmington City has a reputation for safe, clean and well-kept streets, due largely to the high standards of its citizens and the hard work of city employees. Since the storms in early December, residents and city crews have joined forces to restore order and cleanliness to the town. Clean up is on going. Following is some information from the Public Works Department:

fact

24 black garbage cans & 9 blue recycle cans were lost/replaced

fact

12 black garbage cans & 2 blue recycle cans were damaged/repared

fact

216 Stop & Yield signs were replaced or repaired

fact

10 replacement address signs have been ordered for the area from 600 North to city limits east of Highway 89

fact

As of Dec 21st, Public Works had hauled 108 loads of waste to Wasatch Integrated Waste and 94 to the Sewer District. An unknown amount of waste was hauled by the National Guard.

BE SAFER and MORE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

Many lessons were learned from the early December wind event. Some residents realized that their individual emergency preparedness had not reached an adequate level. For some, better preparedness will be a goal in 2012. Following are steps you can take right now to ensure that you are better prepared in case of an emergency:

Take a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) course. Dates are on the city website www.farmington.utah.gov/emergencypreparedness.html	Make sure you know where your local fire department, police station, and hospitals are and post a list of emergency phone numbers near all the telephones in your home.
Find out who the block or neighborhood coordinator is in your area.	Take FEMA's online course entitled, "Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness."
Check and change the batteries in your smoke alarms and replace all alarms that are more than 10 years old.	Know what area of preparedness you live in by going to the map at www.farmington.utah.gov/emergencypreparedness.html
Organize and practice a family fire drill. Make sure your children know what your smoke detector sounds like and what to do if it goes off when they are sleeping.	Locate the utility mains for your home and be sure you know how to turn them off manually: gas, electricity, and water.
Keep your vehicles at least ½ full of fuel.	Get a generator for emergency power for your home.
Prepare a 3-day disaster supply kit complete with flashlights, batteries, blankets and an emergency supply of water and food (and pet food).	Check the expiration dates of all over-the-counter medications; discard medications that have expired and replace any that are routinely needed.
Get a 3-day supply of water for each member of your family: 2 gallons per person.	Make sure all cleaning products and dangerous objects are out of children's reach.
Create an emergency plan for your household, including your pets. Decide where your family will meet if a disaster happens: 1) right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire, or 2) outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Ask an out-of-town friend to be your "family contact" to relay messages.	Sign up for a first aid training course. Call your local American Red Cross chapter, the National Safety Council or American Safety & Health Institute to ask about courses in your area. www.redcross.org www.nsc.org www.ashinstitute.org

LIVING WELL WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Discover How You Can Control Your Health & Your Life

Davis County Health Department is promoting an evidenced-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program called "Living Well with Chronic Conditions." This program helps those in the community who have on going health conditions better manage their health by teaching them different self-management tools such as: 1) techniques to deal with problems like frustration, fatigue, pain and isolation, 2) appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance, 3) appropriate use of medications, 4) communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals, 5) nutrition, and 6) how to evaluate new treatments.

Workshops are being held throughout Davis County. For more information call Jessica at 801-525-5087. Registration is required. Call today. Workshops fill up fast.



Farmington City will pick up Christmas trees on Saturday, January 14. To take advantage of this service, please adhere to the following guidelines. Crews will only make one pass through neighborhoods. It may take a few days to complete, so please be patient: Place your Christmas tree on the curb no later than 7:00 am on January 14th.

Place trees near the sidewalk

Remove tree stands

Crews will not pick up trees taller than 8 feet, so if necessary, cut your tree into shorter lengths

It is your responsibility to keep your tree on top of fallen snow so crews can spot it easily



FARMINGTON CITIZEN CORPS

phone / 801-939-9269
email / citizencorps@farmington.utah.gov

Citizen Corps is a national service program that seeks to mobilize citizens of counties and cities to assist in recovery after a disaster. The Citizen Corps covers various emergency preparedness programs, which in Farmington include Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps, Fire Corps, Volunteers in Police, and USA on Watch.

Farmington Citizen Corps is led by Paul White, the city's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. The corps has recently moved into its first office, located inside the fire station at 82 North and 100 East. Fire Chief Guido Smith is pleased to facilitate the Citizen Corps program within the fire station, bringing the community to one central location for emergency preparedness and prevention education.

For additional information, please call or visit the Farmington city website at: www.farmington.utah.gov.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 2012

Jan 3	TUES	City Council Meeting 160 South Main Street	7:00 pm for agenda see farmington.utah.gov
Jan 12	THURS	Planning Commission Meeting 160 South Main Street	7:00 pm
Jan 16	MON	Martin Luther King Day City Offices Closed	
Jan 17	TUES	City Council Meeting 160 South Main Street	7:00 pm for agenda see farmington.utah.gov
Jan 18	WED	Town Hall Meeting at City Hall residents are invited to an open discussion with Mayor Harbertson and a City Council member	7:00 pm
Jan 19	THURS	Farmington Trails Committee Meeting 160 South Main Street	7:00 pm
Jan 25	WED	Historic Preservation Commission 160 South Main Street	7:00 pm public welcome
Jan 26	THURS	Planning Commission Meeting 160 South Main Street	7:00 pm

City Information

Scott Harbertson, Mayor
scottharbo@msn.com

City Council Members

John S. Bilton
jbilton@centershift.com
Nelsen Michaelson
nelsen.michaelson@gmail.com
Cory Ritz
critz@foragegenetics.com
Jim Talbot
hjtalbot@comcast.net
James Young
youngjm@ldschurch.org

City Operations / City Manager

Dave Millheim
dmillheim@farmington.utah.gov

City Phone Numbers

Main Number.....451-2383
Police Department.....451-5453
Fire Department451-2842
Public Works Department.....451-2624
Storm Water Maintenance.....451-2624
Parks & Recreation.....451-0953
Building Inspection.....451-2383
Water Department.....451-2624
Planning & Zoning.....451-2383
Historical Museum.....451-4850
Animal Control444-2200
Garbage 825-3800
Benchland Water District..... 451-2105
Weber Water District.....771-1677

After Hours Emergency

Davis County Sheriff.....451-4150
Emergency.....911

Farmington City Hall
160 South Main
P O Box 160
Farmington, Utah 84025

WERE YOU GUILTY?

Fortunately, crisis situations don't happen every day. Situations arise in a crisis that we're not sure how to handle, or simply haven't thought of before. In the recent wind event, responders experienced complications that were caused unknowingly be citizens just trying to do the right thing. Following are some common mistakes made by well-meaning citizens. Were you guilty of any of the following?

In the recent wind event there was no loss of life and very few injuries caused by the event itself. However, there were many injuries, some serious, resulting from the clean-up effort. During high winds, do not attempt to get on your roof or up in trees. Once the wind has subsided, be careful on ladders. Don't over-exert. The operation of heavy equipment or chainsaws should only be done by individuals who are trained in their use and aware of safety rules.

Stay off the phones, even cell phones. There is a finite amount of capacity in cell phone towers. It is vital to keeping airwaves clear for the communication of life-threatening situations.

9-1-1 was impacted by non-emergency calls. The system can become paralyzed handling calls that are not true emergencies. 9-1-1 dispatch reported calls during the December windstorm such as, "The tree in my back yard is down," and "My power is out." Even though it is alarming and sometimes confusing in the midst of a disaster, it is important to leave 9-1-1 lines open for true emergencies.



PARKS & RECREATION

Parks & Recreation 720 West 100 North 801-451-0953

8th annual storytelling festival

sat, jan 21st from 10am - 3:30pm

\$1 per person

community arts center

professional & amateur storytellers with an open mic for upcoming storytellers
make & take projects

art attack

when? jan 17th-feb 21st (session 1)
march 6th-april 17th (session 2)

days? tues
time? 4pm

register now through jan 16th

ceramics

when? jan 17th-feb 21st (session 1)
march 6th-april 17th (session 2)

days? tues
time? 5pm

register now through jan 16th

please check
the website
for more info

spring youth theater auditions beauty & the beast

who? ages 8-18
when? jan 5th from 4-6pm &
jan 7th from 9am-12pm
where? farmington community arts

come prepared to sing 16 bars of a
broadway style song
for more info please call park & rec

miss farmington orientation

who? females ages 17-24
when? jan 28th at 10am
where? farmington community arts

come hear about the great
opportunities you can receive by
participating in this
scholarship pageant

upcoming events

february 18th
farmington's got talent
auditions

march 10th
farmington's got talent
competition

march 21st-24th
spring youth theater
beauty & the beast, jr.

guitar

who? 12 yrs & up
when? jan 5th-feb 2nd
days? thurs
time? beginner: 5pm
intermediate: 6pm
advanced: 7pm

register now through jan 4th

ballroom dance

who? adults
when? jan 13th, 27th,
feb 10th, 24th,
march 16th, 30th,
april 13th, & 27th
time? beginner: 7:30pm-10:30pm
intermediate: 8:30pm-10pm

soccer

who? 3yrs-6th grade
when? april-may
days? weeknights

register jan 23rd-march 2nd
sign up for two seasons & save

picture a community



Farmington was hit hard by the December windstorm, but the cleanup activities were perhaps even more spectacular.

City officials took an organized approach to the post-storm efforts and there was an extraordinary volunteer response. In fact, volunteers cannot be thanked enough.

The surge of good will generated as young and old emerged from their homes seeking ways to help others was felt from border to border. It painted the picture of a community.



That Sunday, December 4th, was a cold day. In the early afternoon snow began to fall. Volunteers reported being cold, being tired. One woman said, "I twisted my ankle when I stepped into a hole and

had to wear a boot for the next week, but it was a great day." Another said, "My house wasn't disturbed too much—just a few shingles gone. So I headed over to the Somerset area. It was actually a really fun day." Still another volunteer reported, "My group sang and laughed. I wasn't expecting it to be so fun. We didn't really notice the cold."



Farmington residents did a good thing following the big windstorm of 2011. It was work that was better because it was done together. And the recipients of that work were not the only ones to receive. On that day in December the givers and the receivers felt the rewards of service.



Farmington City has assessed their reaction to the disaster and is taking steps to improve internal processes for future emergencies. Davis County officials will meet with local governments to identify areas of weakness in the emergency response process and plan for improvement. Governor Herbert will involve city and county government in conducting an analysis of regional response.

Farmington came through the windstorms comparatively well. City officials acted calmly and the decision was made early on to engage the community, which resulted in an unprecedented volunteer response. Effective coordination with religious organizations and community partners gave the city a focused and united emergency response and follow-up. Green waste dumping zones were identified and organized. Work groups and individuals were directed to take debris and green waste to centralized areas, keeping parking lots, roads and public areas open. Public Works crews assisted residents with property damage, continuing through December to pick up green waste left at the curbside.

An emergency, crisis, or disaster can happen at any time and at any place and to anyone. Truth is, there's no way to predict the time or place that it will occur. There is a saying, "Despair is most often the offspring of ill-preparedness." Developing and sustaining emergency preparedness is a difficult task for government and nongovernmental entities. There is no easy formula. While local government desires to help all its citizens, the reality is that their first responsibility is public safety, which can leave individual households on their own for a period of time. Ultimately, it is the duty of individuals and families to prepare and then manage their own plan for emergencies. A national study showed that 91% of Americans believe it is important to be prepared for emergencies; however, only 58% of households report having taken any steps at all to prepare. City officials encourage all Farmington residents to take the recent wind event as a wake-up call and use it as an opportunity to develop a personal/family emergency plan, or refresh the one already in place.

tips from the **WATER DEPARTMENT** 801-451-2624

If at any time you have no water or low water pressure in your home, what should you do? Call the Water Department.

In the winter when temperatures drop to around 10 degrees, it is a good idea to let the water run, just a trickle, from one of your indoor faucets to prevent frozen pipes.

In case of an emergency, it is important to know where the water shutoff is inside your home. The shutoff valve should be accessible at all times and not obstructed by boxes or any kind of storage. Following these few safety tips could prevent property damage if a pipe should break inside your home.



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