Living in an Earthquake Zone: Info from Winterhaven
PTSA Safety Committee

Family Earthquake Plan: Keep at home, this is NOT an official PPS form you must still fill out the Emergency Dismissal Form and turn it in to the school

Why do I need this? See:
https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/article/504516

For full information see Portland Bureau of Emergency Management
https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/54418

Use this form to create your family plan, make sure all adults responsible for pick up have a copy and that the people listed are on the official school Emergency Dismissal Form (peach paper): only people on that list will be able to pick up your child

In case of an earthquake and YOU ARE UNABLE to pick up your student(s), and COMMUNICATIONS are down – no cell phones, no land lines – what is your family’s plan for having someone pick up your student(s) from school? Your backup people to pick up should be relatively close to the school during the day whenever possible.

Questions to ask: (See example plans on back.)

- Who will pick up my child(ren)?

- Under what circumstances will someone else pick up my child(ren) without communication from me?

- Where will they go after pick up?

Student name(s):

Person(s) who will/may pick up my child(ren):
Above individual(s) will come to school to get my child(ren) automatically, without contact from me, if the following occurs:

Where they will go after pick up:

Examples: (All assume a major earthquake and no communication method)

If an earthquake happens and communication is down, my children’s grandparents will go to the school to pick them up and take them back to our home if possible or the grandparents home if necessary.

Another parent and I at the school have an agreement to both go to the school as quickly as possible, and will pick up each other’s child(ren) if we are not there within 2 hours of the disaster. They will go to xx’s home.

My middle school child is to be released to go home, the child knows to try going home first, and then to go to xx’s house or return to school if they can’t reach our house or if it is not safe. My child will leave me a note at home to say where they have gone if they had to leave. The adult who will check on my child at home is.....

Our family plan is for both parents to go to the school as soon as possible and wait there for the other parent. If they other parent has not arrive after 30 minutes, we will go home or to another safe location. Our other locations for meeting are x, y, z. Our neighbor, sue smith, will also go to the school and will pick up our child(ren) if we are not home within 1 hour.

We have an agreement between 3 parents at the school and each family has a copy of this plan. Whoever arrives first will take everyone’s children home with them to their home at XYZ (nearby location). If their home is not safe they will first try to go to xx’s
home, then xx’s home. Final location is the city’s emergency beacon location xyz. Printable map @ https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/article/424349

Keys to strong plans:

- Does not rely on telephone or other contact – an earthquake triggers action on the part of the folks in the plan.

- Plans where to go after leaving the school to meet other family members, offers alternate location if first location unsafe or unreachable.

- Relies on people to pick up children who are on the east side of the river if available. River crossing may be unavailable (although we all hope the two new bridges will hold!)

- Locations where families agree to go, or to meet, also contain supplies needed for survival (water, food, alternate shelter, sanitation).