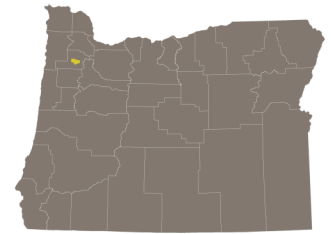




OREGON RESILIENCE CASE STUDY

MCMINNVILLE WATER & LIGHT

McMinnville Water & Light provides electric and water utility services to about 17,000 electric and 12,000 water customers in the McMinnville area.



Facilities Planning

McMinnville installed a diesel generator at its headquarters in 2017. In the event of a large emergency like a Cascadia quake, the generator would help keep operations running. The utility also owns its own fuel truck, which holds up to 2,000 gallons of diesel and 250 gallons of gasoline. They keep the tank at least half full at all times in case of emergency.

McMinnville facilities are also prepped with stockpiled food for emergencies. The headquarters is close to the South Yamhill River, so the utility has portable filters to gain water access.

The utility is also working on dispersing materials to different sites around the service area, especially to areas outside the immediate city where crossing a bridge may be impossible.



McMinnville's generator will help keep operations running after an emergency.

Emergency Response

Employees at McMinnville Water & Light have a pocket-sized guidebook for emergency response. The guidebook includes contact information, pertinent addresses, supplier information, and response activities. It includes a business continuity plan, including what managers are responsible for which activities. The guidebook is updated annually, and staff often have more than one copy in multiple locations.

The emergency response team at McMinnville has developed an ongoing task list of emergency preparation activities. They meet every other month to report on task progress and update the task list as needed.

Personal Preparedness

McMinnville is actively training its employees in emergency response. Managers are completing FEMA classes, and an in-house training will focus on implementing an Incident Command System.

Utility management is also urging staff to have credit cards on hand after an emergency. In many cases, help will come from outside of the state, so cash is not ideal. Remote-pay may be the only option.

Communications

Three satellite phones are dispersed among on-call staff, with one permanently located at the utility's treatment plant.

McMinnville also built a portable communications center. It purchased a trailer, and fitted it with a HAM radio and portable generator.

Moving Forward

McMinnville would like to build its own fuel facility at its headquarters to provide diesel for its generators. The utility estimates the cost would be up to \$1.5 million, and could keep operations running for up to six months. Ideally, the utility could use the fuel until it is drawn down by half, and then refill on a rolling basis.

The utility is also planning to have an engineer complete a seismic assessment on all buildings, including headquarters, substations, reservoirs, treatment plant, and others. The estimated budget for the assessments is \$80,000. Once the assessment is complete, McMinnville will prioritize actions to protect buildings – or identify which buildings they assume will be unusable after an event like an earthquake. The utility also has two dams; one is rated to a 7.5 earthquake, while the other is not rated. If they have to retrofit, it would be a large project done over time.

McMinnville is looking into having engineering staff complete Applied Technology Council (ATC) 20 Post-earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings training, so staff can assess whether or not a building is safe to enter after an emergency.

McMinnville has also budgeted to build a new steel building at the service reservoir, which can act as an alternate operations center. The utility is getting close to ordering the building, and hopes to have it completed by the end of 2018.



McMinnville's fuel truck holds up to 2,000 gallons of diesel and 250 gallons of gasoline.