

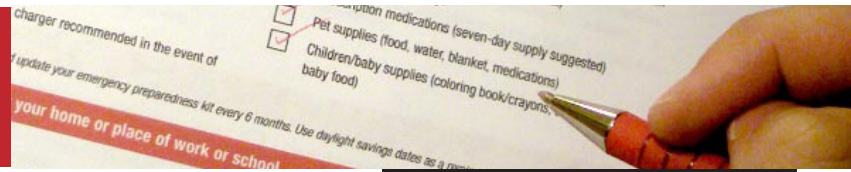
## COLUMBUS DAY STORM OF 1962 AND WINTER WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



### WHEEDLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP

Prepare before storms hit and be weather-ready! Find weather forecasts for your specific area at [TakeWinterByStorm.org/Weather](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org/Weather).

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Take Winter By Storm and Newspapers In Education are preparing you for winter storms. Join us on Tuesdays as we offer tips on winter weather emergency preparedness for you, your students and their families. Our journey begins with a look back at one of the Northwest's most powerful weather events, the Columbus Day Storm of 1962.

On Columbus Day, October 12, 1962, the strongest non-tropical windstorm ever to hit the lower 48 states in recorded American history struck the Pacific coast. The storm claimed 46 lives, injured hundreds more, and knocked power out for several million people. The Columbus Day Storm is considered the benchmark of all windstorms, against which all others are compared. The storm struck Northern California in the morning, moving quickly north along the Oregon and Washington coasts during the day before dissipating in British Columbia that night. Wind speeds peaked along the Oregon coast, with sustained winds of 150 mph and gusts up to 179 mph reported from Cape Blanco, and gusts to 138 mph at Newport. Many wind reports were lost because of power outages, with peak winds likely occurring after the power was out. The storm packed hurricane-force winds causing \$235 million in property damage (estimated at \$1.4 billion in 2001 dollars). In addition, it blew down over 15 billion board-feet of timber (estimated value at \$4.4 billion in 2001 dollars) from the West Coast to as far inland as western Montana.

Use Take Winter By Storm checklists to prepare **prior** to winter storms. You can find detailed lists, Emergency Contact Cards in multiple languages, and additional resources and tips in our Teacher's Guide at [seattletimes.com/NIE](http://seattletimes.com/NIE) and at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org).

## WINTER WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



### WHEEDLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP

Review and practice your Family Emergency Communication Plan twice a year. Use daylight-saving dates as preparedness dates for your family.

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### STATE OF EMERGENCY

#### What exactly is a "state of emergency"?

Washington state defines an emergency or disaster as "an event or set of circumstances which: (i) Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken community overtaken by such occurrences, or (ii) reaches such a dimension or degree of destructiveness as to warrant the governor declaring a state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.010." Governor Christine Gregoire declared a state of emergency during the snow and ice storm of January 2012.

You and your family will be better prepared for any future emergencies if you develop a Family Emergency Communication Plan. Refer to the Newspapers In Education and [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org) websites for more information. Emergency Contact Cards are also available on the websites, translated into multiple languages. There are several online tools available that can help you reunite with your family and loved ones after an emergency, such as social media channels, Google Person Finder and American Red Cross "Safe and Well" registry.

#### Review and practice your family plan

If a natural disaster emergency — like a winter weather storm or a catastrophe — strikes tomorrow, will you and your family know what to do? Review and practice your Family Emergency Communication Plan. Discussion points:

- The information on your Emergency Contact Cards, such as key phone numbers and how to call your designated out-of-area contact
- Locations and contents of preparedness kits in your home, vehicles and places of work or school
- How and when to call 911
- How and when to turn off utilities such as gas and water
- Alternate transportation routes to and from home and key destinations
- Where to meet up with your family if you can't get home, and an out-of-neighborhood meeting place in case your neighborhood is damaged and you are unable to get to your home
- How to help family, friends, neighbors and pets who may need assistance or have special needs



### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In the event of a natural disaster emergency, it can be much easier to reach someone out-of-area, such as a relative in another state. Your out-of-area contact can communicate with you about the location of other family members impacted. Before an emergency strikes, know your Emergency Contact Information:

- Identify an out-of-area friend or relative and name that person as your emergency contact.
- Identify a safe meeting place outside of your neighborhood in case your neighborhood is damaged and your family is separated. Know the contact information for your out-of-neighborhood meeting place, too.
- Print and complete an Emergency Contact Card for your family now. (Downloadable at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)).
- Make copies of your Emergency Contact Card for every person in your family to place in their bags, backpacks and wallets so they have them at all times.
- Post your completed Emergency Contact Card by your home phone.
- Cell phones may not be able to make calls, but the text message capability often works during emergencies. Know how to text message in case of an emergency.
- During an emergency it will likely take extra time to connect using a cellular phone (which will cause a drain on your battery), so have a plan for recharging if the power is out.
- Keep a corded phone in your home. Using a corded phone is the most reliable communication device during an emergency.



### WHEEDLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP

Is your Emergency Contact Card in your backpack? Does your teacher or school have your emergency contact information? Make sure everyone is aware of your family plan in case you are separated from one another during a natural disaster.

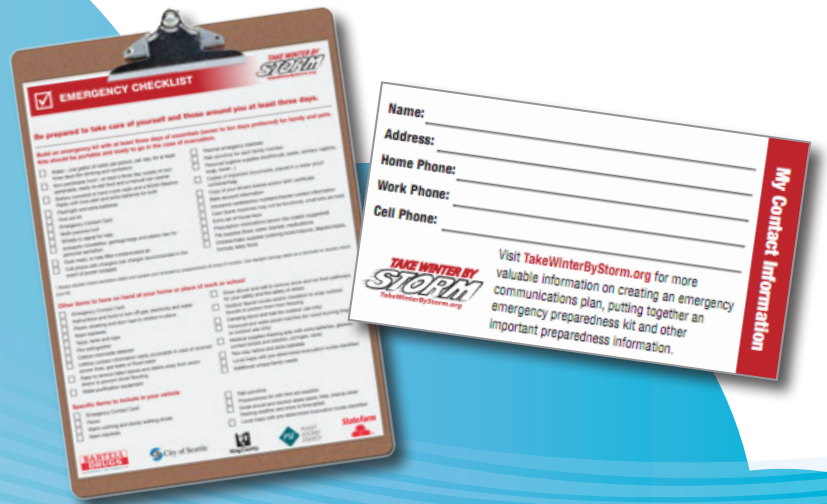
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Do any of your family members remember the Columbus Day Storm of 1962? What do they remember about it? How did they prepare? Interview a relative and record his or her experience with your parents at [Facebook.com/TakeWinterByStorm](http://Facebook.com/TakeWinterByStorm).



SCHEDULE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Columbus Day Storm/emergency preparedness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Windstorms and power outages
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy rainstorms
<input type="checkbox"/>	Snow, ice and freezing temperatures

Reference: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=38.52.010>



### COMING SOON!

In next week's Take Winter By Storm issue, we'll share strategies to help you prepare for windstorms and power outages.

Take Winter By Storm is a collaborative, public-private effort between King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, the City of Seattle, Puget Sound Energy, State Farm, National Weather Service/NOAA, American Red Cross, Bartell Drugs and various local retailers — which represent Washington state's largest counties and city emergency management offices and energy utilities, the leading insurer of homes and automobiles, weather forecasters, first responders during natural disaster occurrences and local businesses. These organizations have joined forces in this major public education program to raise community awareness of hazardous weather and help protect lives and property.



City of Seattle



PUGET SOUND ENERGY



Inspiring Students To Learn

To learn more or register for Newspapers In Education, please email us at [nie@seattletimes.com](mailto:nie@seattletimes.com) or call 206/652-6290.