

DBR Winter Preparedness

Winter on the Olympic Peninsula can be a challenge. There are plenty of mild days with sunshine or gray skies. It can also drop below freezing and stay that way for a while. Rainfall can be a passing showers or downpours. Snowfall can be flurries or measured in feet. Wind storms are normal and can cause power outages. Being prepared is the key. We are isolated and may have to depend on ourselves and our neighbors for extended periods of time. Please read and follow the advice below to make your winter at DBR safe!

In the event of a park wide emergency, the Safety Committee will coordinate with the Park Manager and the board and let residents know if action is needed through email blasts, going door to door or One Call.

Inspect your water hydrant, hose, heat tape, hose insulation and test the GFCI receptacle in your electrical pedestal. All hydrants should have a towel and bucket covering the handle, as this is the area most likely to rupture during freezing weather.

It is recommended that water hydrants that are turned **OFF** during the winter also have heat tape & insulation on them. The drains in the hydrants are highly prone to failure, so even a hydrant that is turned off, could freeze and rupture. A winter repair could result in the neighbors on your street being without water for several days while we wait for a plumber to come make repairs. Do not leave faucets dripping to avoid them freezing.

If your home is vacant over the winter, please turn off your water hydrant and hot water heater when you leave. Since the severity of our winters are unpredictable, unoccupied homes should be winterized.

Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Sign up for community warning systems. Nixle provides local alerts (text your zip code to 888777). NOAA and The Weather Channel have mobile apps with alerts.

Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Do not forget the needs of pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.

Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep the gas tank full. Snow plowing in the park and on Hwy 101 is a challenge. Do not travel unless completely necessary.

Decks get extremely slippery during snow or freezing precipitation. Have ice melt by your door and invest in a snow shovel (or share with a neighbor). Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. If you choose to remove snow on a neighbor's lot be sure you have their permission.

Check on neighbors. We recommend everyone has a "buddy" that will check in with you during any kind of emergency situation.

Power Outages:

DBR typically loses power numerous times throughout the winter. Be prepared by having food, water and a supplemental light source close at hand. Many use a Mr. Buddy heater during power outages. They are made for indoor use, but still require fresh air to keep CO2 at a safe level. If you use a propane heater invest in a CO2 detector.

Unless absolutely necessary, do not use water or flush your toilet during a power outage. Our water and septic systems require electricity to operate properly. We have back-up generators to use in the event of an extended outage or extreme emergency.

When the power goes out, the Park Manager will contact Jefferson PUD to let them know. If you chose to call, tell them we have 60 residents without power. Repairs are prioritized based on the number of residents effected.

Updates will be posted on DBR Chitchat. Jefferson PUD has a Facebook page where updates are often posted, and their website has an outage map so you can see the extent of power outages in our area.

Consider investing in a backup battery so you can keep your phone and tablets charged during power outages. Internet "hot spots" (contact your cell provider) are also very handy during power outages when your regular internet is not working.