City Receives Emergency Mobile Water Purification System through Homeland Security Grant

Information Release
November 30, 2012

Contact Information
Christine Kirk, Public Affairs Manager
503-635-0285

Kari Duncan, Water Treatment Plant Manager
503-635-0393

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Face it, we often take our household tap water for granted. But if clean, safe water wasn't available, it wouldn't be just an inconvenience; it could become a health emergency. It was the concern of an earthquake, flood, wildfire or other water-contaminating event that that led the City of Lake Oswego to apply for a $115,000 Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant for a mobile Emergency Water Purification System. The City's request was granted and we recently received the System.

The mobile Emergency Water Purification System can purify up to 30,000 gallons of water per day from any water source in the area - the Willamette River, Clackamas River or Oswego Lake - if the existing water system infrastructure were compromised or the water contaminated. The treatment technology, known as an ultra filtration membrane, can purify any fresh water source.

While the trailer-mounted mobile Emergency Water Purification System will reside in Lake Oswego at the Public Works Operations Division yard, it is considered a regional resource. "We applied for and received the grant, but this is an asset that is available to any organization in the five county USAI region which includes Clackamas, Washington, Multnomah, Columbia, and Clark county in Washington," said Kari Duncan, Water Treatment Plant Manager for the City of Lake Oswego.

"Clackamas River Water Providers and the Regional Water Providers Consortium members are all committed to making sure that we can provide clean drinking water during emergencies and we take this critical role seriously,"

said Kim Swan, Clackamas River Water Providers Water Resource Manager. “We are becoming recognized in this region for our emergency planning.”

Lake Oswego Public Works staff and representatives of the Emergency Planning Committee from the Regional Water Providers Consortium will be trained in the operation of the new system by the supplier on Monday, December 3. Over 30 people are expected to attend the training. The training will be in two parts with a classroom session and a hands-on portion where clean water will be made.

If there are further questions or if media would like to attend the training, please contact Kari Duncan, Water Treatment Plant Manager, at 503-635-0393 or kduncan@ci.oswego.or.us.

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http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/publicaffairs/city-receives-emergency-mobile-water-purification-system-through-homeland-security