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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – DECEMBER 1, 2021:**

**Water providers work together to make water infrastructure and the region more resilient to emergencies, plus free “Start with Water” emergency preparedness kits available to their customers**

Beaverton, City of  
Clackamas River Water  
Cornelius, City of  
Forest Grove, City of  
Gladstone, City of  
Gresham, City of  
Hillsboro, City of  
Lake Oswego, City of  
Milwaukie, City of  
Newberg, City of  
Oak Lodge Water Services  
Portland, City of  
Raleigh Water District  
Rockwood Water PUD  
Sandy, City of  
Scappoose, City of  
Sherwood, City of  
South Fork Water Board  
Sunrise Water Authority  
Tigard, City of  
Troutdale, City of  
Tualatin, City of  
Tualatin Valley Water District  
West Slope Water District  
Wilsonville, City of

Regional water providers work every day to prepare for emergencies, adapt to changing conditions, and secure long-term reliable drinking water supplies. Here in the greater Portland metro area, water providers have a long-standing history of cooperation, coordination, and partnership through a group called the Regional Water Providers Consortium\*.

“We are stronger and more resilient when we work together,” said Rebecca Geisen, Managing Director of the Regional Water Providers Consortium. “Over the past 20 years, we have learned a great deal about the importance of partnerships. It has taken a lot of effort, but the result is that water providers in our region actively work together to share resources and learn from one another. This work, and these relationships, are important in our daily work and crucial in an emergency.”

In February 2021, Oregonians experienced the most destructive freezing rain event in 40 years and over 350,000 residents lost power. Water providers were able to keep water flowing during and after the storms despite the challenges posed by the power outages. Water systems rely on electrical power to operate water pump stations that move water through the pipelines, and power equipment in water treatment and filtration plants.

“Through partnerships and connections between individual systems, we were able to supply drinking water during the emergency and get water where it was needed. Without those partnerships and cooperation among fellow water providers, challenges from the storm would have been much more significant for customers who were already suffering from power outages and other storm impacts,” said Todd Heidgerken, General Manager of Clackamas River Water.

This was not the first time that water providers supported one another through emergencies. In fact, the Consortium and its members have a long history of working together to help each other and collectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. Water providers also aided one another during the September 2020 wildfires and sent water distribution

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RegionalWaterProvidersConsortium

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trucks to Salem in 2018 during their water quality event that caused the city to distribute emergency water to its customers for much of the summer. This month, the Consortium is organizing an interactive webinar with its 25 water provider members to debrief on lessons learned through the past 20+ months of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies that occurred.

**Do your part to help make the region more resilient by getting prepared for emergencies**

To be more resilient as a region, we all need to prepare together. Start your emergency prep with a FREE kit from the Regional Water Providers Consortium, available in English and Spanish. Kits are available to customers of [Consortium members](#), through December 2021 or while supplies last. Limit one per household. Each kit contains information about accessing and storing emergency water, disaster sanitation stickers, and a one-gallon emergency water bag. Order yours today at [www.regionalh2o.org](http://www.regionalh2o.org).

Get more preparedness information at [PublicAlerts.org](http://PublicAlerts.org) where you can sign up for free, local emergency alerts via text, email, or voice message. The website also includes detailed information about building an emergency kit including a toilet, disaster planning, and ways to get involved.



**\*About the Consortium:**

The Regional Water Providers Consortium provides leadership in the planning, management, stewardship, and resiliency of drinking water in the Portland, OR metropolitan region. The Consortium is comprised of 25 members which are located in Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill Counties. Find out more about the Consortium, its members, and its work in [emergency preparedness](#), [water conservation](#), and [regional coordination](#) at [regionalh2o.org](http://regionalh2o.org).

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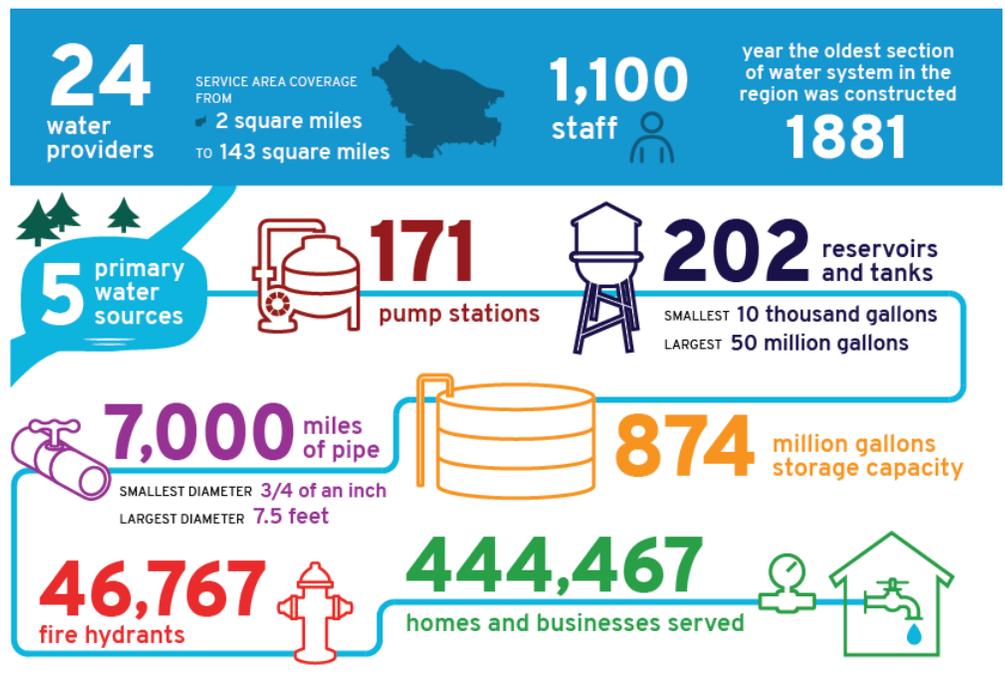
# Drinking water

## BY THE NUMBERS

A snapshot of what it takes to bring drinking water from its source to your home or business in the Portland, OR metropolitan region.

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Get more information and resources at [www.regionalh2o.org](http://www.regionalh2o.org).



Content represents information from most public drinking water systems in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. It is not intended to be a comprehensive set of data; graphic comparisons are not to scale. The Regional Water Providers Consortium is not liable for the misuse of this information.