



**Prineville City Manager Robb Corbett
July 10th, 2007**

Staff Report

Topic: Emergency Management - Disaster Preparedness

Department: Police

Staff: Chief Eric Bush

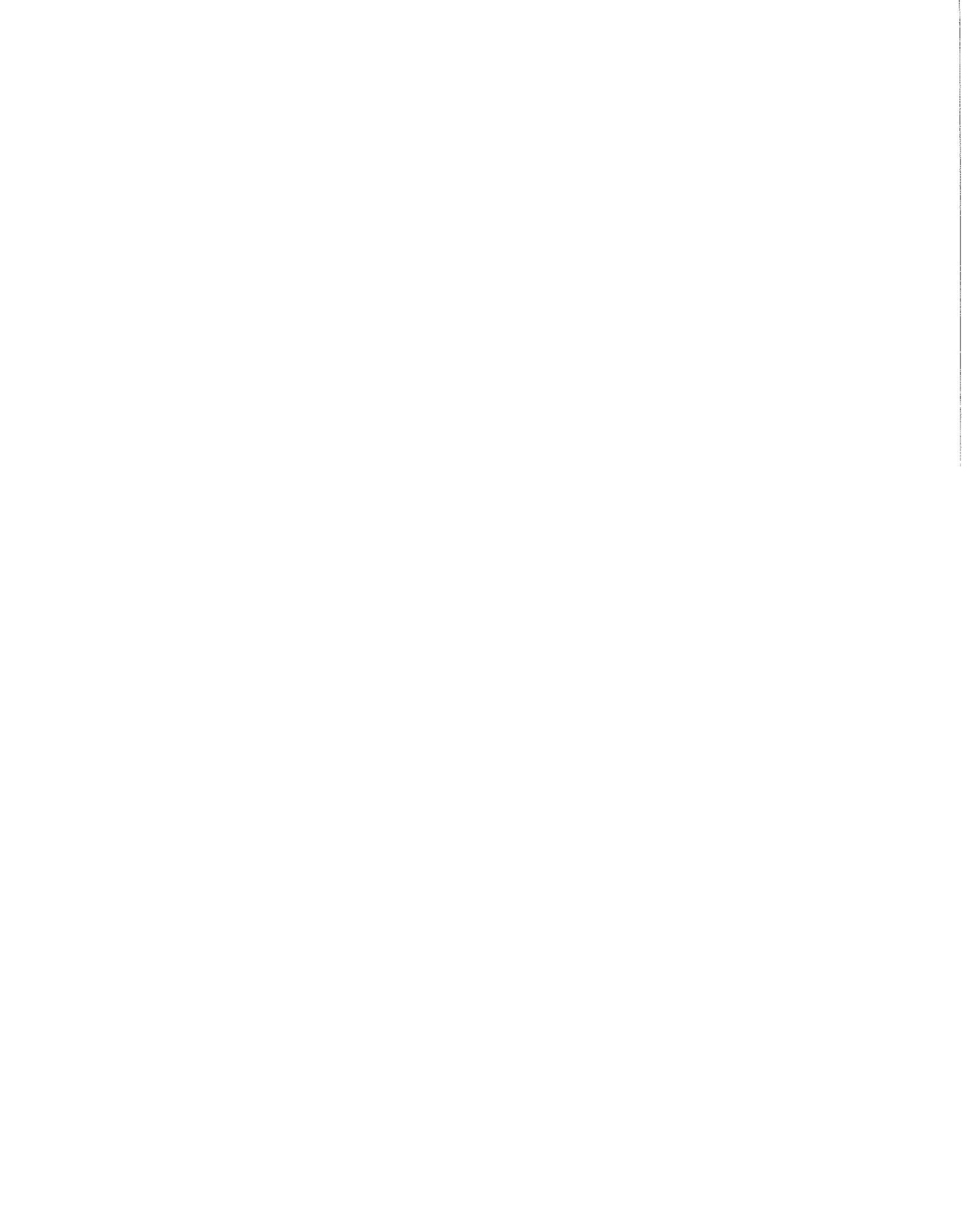
Overview:

Local Government has a responsibility to effectively plan and execute operations in times of natural and man-made disasters. Events like "911", Hurricane Katrina and our own floods have taught us that having flexible, rehearsed and effective plans in place is the best way to deal with these types of emergencies.

State law regulates the establishment of emergency management agencies. ORS 401.015; "...preparations for emergencies and governmental responsibility for responding to emergencies be placed at the local level." ORS 401.035; "Each county in this state shall, and each city may, establish an emergency management agency....".

Currently the Crook County Sheriff's Office has the equivalent of one full-time Sheriff's Sergeant assigned as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Crook County. Emergency Management responsibilities for the City have traditionally been handled by the Police Department as an extra assigned duty to the Chief of Police.

In Prineville in 1998 more than 400 homes were flooded and evacuated in a 12 hour period. More than 80% of those homes were in the City.



Numerous lessons verify this statement attributed to the State Emergency Management Office; “Most disaster problems are management problems, not skill problems; yet, most disaster training is focused on skills training.”

City Options/Recommendation:

- Review and adopt an Emergency Management Ordinance. Refer to attached draft / example.
- Consider future funding for staffing and equipment that would allow the City of Prineville to effectively plan, train and respond to natural and man-made emergencies as defined in ORS chapter 401 and are relevant to our community.
- Participate in mandatory and voluntary training provided by adequately resourced emergency management staff.

