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Media advisory: BPA bird to aid Ashland in solving water woes

Bonneville Power Administration

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Ashland homes and businesses are without running water after floods last week damaged the city's water filtration plant and wiped out the road to the facility, making repairs impossible. A Bonneville Power Administration helicopter from Portland will fly to Ashland and transport city workers and a boat to the plant where they will clear debris and make repairs.

Who: BPA account executive John Lebens and helicopter pilot Eric Rairdon.

What: A mechanic from BPA will help city workers load a boat, chain saws and other equipment into a basket attached to the agency's helicopter. City workers will board the helicopter and fly to the city's water filtration plant, which cannot be reached by ground transportation at this time.

When: The helicopter will depart from the Ashland Municipal/Skinner Aviation Airport Thursday, Jan. 9, at 9 a.m.

Where: The Ashland Municipal/Skinner Aviation Airport at 403 Dead Indian Memorial Road, (541) 482-7675

Significance: Ashland's 18,000 residents have been without running water since the beginning of the new year. The BPA helicopter is being used to fly this special mission in order to help restore a basic necessity and speed flood recovery efforts.

Without air transportation, the city would have to wait until the road is repaired - which could take several days.

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