

Dear Camp Fire Before and After School families,

As we head into the winter months, we wanted to take a moment and explain our inclement weather policies. In general, we follow what the school district decides about delays and closures, but there are some instances where we have to make our own decisions about closures.

We use the Flash Alert Network to make announcements about closures or delays. These will be posted on the local Flash Alert Network web page: <http://www.flashalertportland.net/closures-cats.html> and sometimes these messages make it to radio and television.

**We also recommend that you set up an account on the network to receive these notices directly to one or more emails or via text to your phone. When setting up your account add both your school district and Camp Fire Columbia as organizations you want to receive messages from. There may be instances that we send out an independent early/late closing message for a Before or After school program. (note: PPS has switched to using a text based alert system in the 2015-16 school year, but Camp Fire will still notify via Flash Alert!)**

**The Flash Alert Network account set up link is: <http://www.flashalert.net/news.html?id=4016>**

***If you signed up on the Flash Alert Network last year, please check your subscription status, as they often clean these out each year: <https://www.flashalert.net/login.html>***

Here are some basic guidelines that we follow:

- If the district announces **school closures**, then Camp Fire program is cancelled
- If the district announces a **two hour delay** in the morning, then morning Camp Fire programming is **cancelled**, NOT delayed (this to help keep youth and staff safe)
- If the district announces an **early school closure** in the afternoon, then there will be NO afternoon Camp Fire program, so you **MUST CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL AND LET THEM KNOW HOW YOUR YOUTH SHOULD GET HOME!!!**

Occasionally, the inclement weather does not become an issue until late in the afternoon and only affects our after school hours. Also, when we are running program on NON-SCHOOL days, the school districts do not announce decisions about inclement weather in the media, but inform us directly of building closures. In these cases, Camp Fire Columbia will make decisions as necessary and post information on the Flash Alert Network.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

**Kirsi Baird Barber**

*Before and After School Program Director*

**Camp Fire Columbia**

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**Light the fire within**