



June 2011

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

Ready Neighbor News

Responders Ask for Less Help in Joplin Missouri

Although people wishing to help disaster victims by volunteering or donating goods have the best intentions in mind, they may be adding to the problems faced by emergency responders.

Recently, emergency managers in Joplin Missouri, following a deadly tornado, requested people stop sending unsolicited goods (clothing, household items, food, etc.) and for volunteers who are showing up without official requests to stop coming.



Responders are overwhelmed with donations and volunteers

Responders indicated that critical resources are being redirected from the important work of response and relief to manage the impact of unneeded donated items and unaffiliated volunteers. Still, social networking sites continue to promote collection drives, while radio stations, businesses, fraternal organizations and churches fill trucks with items that threaten to crowd warehouses and overwhelm distribution channels in the impacted area.

Volunteers are needed, and in Ashland are an important part of Ashland Fire & Rescue's disaster response. However, unaffiliated volunteers are often manpower intensive to organize and manage. Based upon our own experience from the Oak Knoll Fire, Ashland CERT will develop a post disaster plan to help facilitate the processing of donations and unaffiliated volunteers. Emergency managers indicate, cash to a recognized voluntary agency, such as the American Red Cross, is still the single best way to help disaster survivors. Cash is preferred because it doesn't need to be sorted, stored or distributed, and it allows the volunteer agency to apply resources where they are most urgently needed.

General Meeting - Karin Guy, Guest Speaker

The next CERT general meeting will host Karin Guy, Director of Volunteer & Spiritual Care Services, Asante Health System. Karin is responsible for supervising program staff and over 700 volunteers including Auxiliaries, Junior Volunteers, and therapy dogs.

Karin will discuss how important volunteers are to the success of service organizations and the benefits volunteers bring to such organizations. She will also speak to the challenges many organizations face with the ongoing need for more volunteers especially during a difficult economy.

There will be time for an open discussion following Karin's presentation. Please join us for the meeting and welcome Karin as our guest speaker.

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Next Meeting Dates:

General Meeting:
June 8, Fire Station 1.
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.

Leadership Meeting:
June 22, Fire Station 1
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.



Free ICS 200 Class Available

Southern Oregon University will host a free ICS 200 class entitled Single Resources & Initial Action Incidents.

ICS 200 is one of the recommended courses for CERT members and although it is available online, many people indicate taking the class in a live setting is more enjoyable and they learn more.

The class will be held in Cox Classroom, at Cox Hall, Southern Oregon University on June 14, 2011 from 9:00am-5:00pm with a one hour lunch break.

If you wish to participate in the class email Heather Freiheit to enroll at Freiheite@sou.edu. For more information call Heather Freiheit, SOU Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, at 541-552-8152.

Fire Season Will Start Late - Predicted from July through October

Fire season in Southern Oregon typically starts in late May or early June and continues through late September.

Because of one of the wettest springs in recorded history, wildfire experts are predicting that fire season in Oregon will be three to four weeks late.

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) provides the following outlook for the Northwest United States;

The combination of cumulative precipitation coupled with continued cool weather will lead to below normal significant fire potential through June over most of the Northwest Geographic Area.

Temperatures across the Area continued to remain below average through May as has been the case throughout the spring. Precipitation through May was above average in Washington and mixed across Oregon.

Snowpack is diminishing over the higher terrain but occasional frontal systems and

CPR Classes - Discounted Fees

Ashland Fire & Rescue reintroduced its popular CPR program almost a year ago. Since then, Ashland residents, several businesses, and CERT members have taken advantages of the classes that teach participants how to perform life saving CPR when someone experiences cardiac arrest.

Statistics indicate that CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest, can double or triple a victim's chance of survival. Therefore, everyone should learn CPR if possible.

Active CERT members receive a \$10 discount on any regularly scheduled CPR class. First aid—CPR classes are typically available every quarter.

To obtain a current schedule of classes go to www.ashland.or.us/cpr

continued cool weather is delaying the rate of melting.

The potential for significant fires is expected to be normal or below through September across the Northwest Area. Temperatures across the Area are expected to remain below average through July and possibly through August.

September is expected to be warmer and drier than usual. Cooler summer conditions combined with the effects of a wet and cool spring that brought heavy accumulation of snow to higher elevations mean that outbreaks of significant wildfires are not likely before early August.

Dry conditions continuing in late summer indicate fire season could extend through September.

For wildfire outlooks go to: www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/predictive.htm

For information about wildfires, go to www.nifc.gov/

4th of July Celebration Support

Ashland Fire & Rescue requested Ashland CERT provide support for the 4th of July Celebration at Lithia Park. Despite the fact that over 25,000 people are expected to attend the Ashland Parade and 4th of July Celebration, Ashland Fire & Rescue must maintain ongoing service levels while mitigating the effects of injuries or illness for patrons of the parade and celebration.

Ashland CERT will have a significant role in helping Ashland Fire & Rescue mitigate the effects of injuries or illnesses and maintaining safety at the 4th of July Celebration. Although the details have not been worked about by the CERT Leadership Team, we propose for CERT to accomplish this task by providing the following:

1. **Respite / Information Booth:** CERT will staff a booth adjacent to the vendor booths on Windburn Way at Nutley. The respite booth will provide a place for patrons to obtain water for themselves and their pets, a recovery area with shade, information about the venue, and transportation up Nutley for those folks with mobility challenges. This service can have a significant impact on the safety of patrons especially if it is hot. Last year people were very grateful for CERT's support and we had a great opportunity to talk to citizens about CERT.
2. **Standby Area for Ambulance & Crew:** CERT will establish and support an area for an onsite ambulance and crew. The ambulance will treat patrons onsite or can be dispatched if necessary. The ambulance and crew are an important element in mitigating the effects of

injuries or illnesses that may occur during the 4th of July Celebration.

3. **Roving Radio / Information Teams:** Last year, thanks to Dan Ragen and his team of Ham Radio Operators, CERT provided a valuable reporting and information distribution capability. Ashland Fire & Rescue would like CERT to expand on that service by equipping teams with venue maps and information they can provide patrons.



CERT Provided an Important Safety Service at the 2010 4th of July Celebration

Last year CERT had several shifts, so even if you can only participate for a portion of the day, your help would be appreciated. There are many different opportunities for volunteers ranging from operating radios to handing out CERT information.

CERT's Leadership Team is beginning the planning to support this event. The timeframe during which CERT will provide support for the event is on the 4th of July, following the parade from approximately 9 AM to 5 PM.

If you would like to volunteer, please notify Richard or your area / base coordinator.

CERT 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

June 2011	July 2011	August 2011
<p>General Meeting June 8 (Guest Speaker - Volunteering) Leadership Meeting Jun 22 (Advanced Training Lesson - Action Plans & Final Planning for 4th of July)</p>	<p>Support of 4th of July in the Park General Meeting July 13 (CERT Skills Training) Leadership Meeting July 27 (4th of July AAR - Fire Mission Planning)</p>	<p>General Meeting August 10 (CERT Skills Training) CERT Semi-Annual Phone Tree Test Leadership Meeting August 24 (Advanced Training - Managing Fire Missions)</p>
September 2011	October 2011	November 2011
<p>National Preparedness Month General Meeting September 14 (Disaster Preparedness Training) CERT Refresher Training September 17 Leadership Meeting September 21</p>	<p>SOU Fall Basic Training Tue -Thu Oct 4-27 General Meeting October 12 (Guest Speaker) Leadership Meeting October 26</p>	<p>General Meeting Nov 9 (CERT Skills Training) Leadership Meeting November 16 (Annual Training Planning)</p>
December 2011	January 2012	February 2012
<p>CERT Year in Review / Awards Event December 7, 6:30 to 8:00 PM No General Meeting Holiday Season Training Stand Down No Leadership Meeting</p>	<p>General Meeting January 11 (Phone Tree Training) Leadership Meeting January 25 (Phone Tree Management)</p>	<p>SOU Winter Basic Training Tu-Th, Feb 1- 24 General Meeting February 8 (Guest Speaker) CERT Semi-Annual Phone Tree Test Leadership Meeting February 29</p>
March 2012	April 2012	May 2012
<p>General Meeting March 14 (CERT Skills Training) Leadership Meeting March 28 (Pre-Lessons for Advanced Training) Advanced / Leadership Training Mar 31</p>	<p>General Meeting April 11 (Basic Training Volunteer Training) Leadership Meeting April 25 (Final Prep for Basic Training) CERT Spring Basic Training April 27-May 5</p>	<p>Basic Graduation—General Meeting May 9 Leadership Meeting May 23 (Basic Training AAR)</p>

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TO: