



March 2011

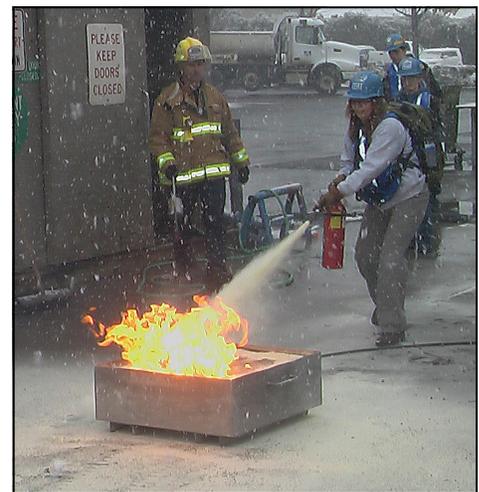
Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

Ready Neighbor News

Ashland CERT Graduates 500th Basic Trainee

Ashland CERT completed its winter SOU basic training course on February 24 with a disaster simulation exercise despite heavy snow from the recent winter storm.

This graduating class is significant because not only is it the largest class, with twenty-six graduates, since CERT was founded in 1999, it also represents the 500th citizen trained to be prepared when disaster strikes.



A recent partnership with Southern Oregon University has bolstered the number of people participating in CERT's basic training and the program is on track to add over fifty new members this fiscal year.

Participants in CERT basic training learn to help themselves, their families, and community members immediately following a disaster when emergency services are typically overwhelmed and unable to help everyone immediately.

Through training ranging from disaster kits to search and rescue, graduates are able assemble a team to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people following a disaster. People with no previous experience will likely find they can do more to help the community during a disaster than they ever imagined.

The intensive version of the basic training class will be offered starting April 15th and encompasses two Friday nights and two Saturday days to complete the 24 hours of instruction .

More information about CERT basic training can be found at www.ashland.or.us/basic or by contacting Richard Randleman, the CERT Program Coordinator at 541-552-2226 or randler@ashland.or.us

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Next Meeting Dates:

General Meeting:
March 9, Fire Station 1

Leadership Meeting:
March 23, Fire Station 1

Both meetings start at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.



First Refresher Training Held February 26th

On February 26, thirty-two CERT members participated in our first refresher course. Based upon feedback from members and the leadership team, it was determined that a course to reinforce the basic training of CERT members was needed to keep skills current.

The training included four lessons;

- ◆ Disaster Review and CERT Organization
- ◆ Fire Safety
- ◆ Disaster Medical
- ◆ Search & Rescue

Instruction was followed by five training stations where participants applied each lesson through hands-on problems. At each station, participants traded roles so that everyone got exposure to being a leader, scribe, or radio operator.

Based upon the feedback during the training debrief, participants enjoyed the training and found it useful although the next course will need to be longer than five hours to include a radio communications lesson, and longer station training. Refresher training will likely be offered at least annually in the future.



Participants also traded their old CERT vests for the new ones shown in the picture above. Old vests will be recycled by distributing them to the bases for use by members who are missing their gear. The new vests feature a zipper closure, four pockets and are ANSI approved.

CERT members may trade their old vest in for a new one at the next of several general meetings.

Participate in Refresher Training at General Meetings

During recent leadership meetings and following the refresher course debrief, it was recommended that we offer our refresher course lessons during CERT general meetings.

The first refresher lesson will be “Fire Suppression” during the April 13th general meeting where participants will revisit turning off utilities, conducting a size up, fire suppression using fire

extinguishers, and creative fire fighting tools and tactics.

Please review the annual training calendar on page four to determine when the next refresher trainings are available.

Unfortunately, many of the skills CERT members acquire degrade over time without reinforcement or application.

Periodical refresher sessions coupled with an annual refresher course

should mitigate the impacts of time and maintain our members’ readiness to respond to disasters.

CERT members are welcomed to participate as instructors as well which may be another way for our more experienced members to hone their skills as leaders and trainers.

If you are interested in participating as a trainer, please let Richard know.

FEMA: Lessons Learned, CERT used to Notify Residents

Incident Overview:

Beginning Friday March 12, 2010 and continuing into Sunday March 14th the Township of Little Falls New Jersey along with the entire Passaic Valley basin, experienced a Nor'easter storm which resulted in extensive wind and water damage throughout the Township.

Severe flooding impacted low lying areas after waters crested above flood stage during the next several days. Power outages were for the most part quickly brought back on line however residual water damage was more long term and prevalent.

Based on early predictions it appeared that low lying areas would be subject to some initial flooding however it was unknown as to the possible cresting of the already swollen rivers.

It was decided that written notifications would be carried out partially by the local Boy Scout Troop and CERT volunteers. A flyer was distributed throughout the anticipated flood areas by approximately 7pm, March 14th.

During the distribution of the flyers, predictions began to change and it was soon realized that a significant flood event would occur within the township and that an updated notification of residents was urgently needed to prevent residents from awakening early

Monday, surrounded by encroaching and rising flood waters. (It should be noted that during the event the most reliable prediction for flooding ranges came from the NOAA website that was accessed and used by LF emergency management personnel). This website was also monitored by numerous residents and proved to be a reliable indicator of anticipated flood levels.

Lessons Learned:

Attempts to notify each and every resident and household individually are both manpower intensive and time consuming. As was noted in this event, without the use of volunteers to hand deliver flyers, many residents would not have been informed of the pending flooding which was expected to occur. Even when this task was complete, because of a rapid change in expected activity the initial information that was supplied was almost obsolete by the time it was delivered.

A secondary telephone call list fashioned after a block watch system should be initiated.

Neighbors watching out for neighbors can become an asset in an emergency. Individual volunteers should be designated to call and relay messages as needed to previously identified neighbors either in their own neighborhood or surrounding areas.

Telephone lists should be compiled by the LFPD OEM and coordinated through that agency. Telephone lists should be updated yearly.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Course Scheduled

Ashland CERT is offering a Family and Friends Disaster Preparedness Course to be held through SOU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) every Wednesday from 11:00 to 12:30 PM beginning April 6, 2011. The fifteen hour, one credit class is designed to teach participants how to build a disaster kit out of household items, how to create a disaster plan, what to do during a disaster, how to be informed, and how to get involved so their family, friends and community are better prepared for a disaster. Ashland CERT members may participate as instructors during this course as well.

CERT 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

March 2011	April 2011	May 2011
<p>General Meeting March 9 <i>(Shelter Management Training-LIMIT 20)</i> Advanced / Leadership Training Mar 12 (LIMIT 30 Participants) Leadership Meeting March 23</p>	<p>National Volunteer Week April 10-16 General Meeting April 13 <i>(Refresher Lesson #2 - Fire Suppression)</i> CERT Spring Basic Training April 15-23 Awards and Graduation event April 27 <i>(basic graduation in lieu of leader meeting)</i></p>	<p>Base Bike Ride May 7 General Meeting May 11 <i>(Fire Fighter / Victim Rehab and Fire Evacuation Training)</i> Leadership Meeting May 25 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson - Managing Fire Fighting Support Missions)</i></p>
June 2011	July 2011	August 2011
<p>General Meeting June 8 <i>(Post Disaster Recovery Training)</i> Leadership Meeting Jun 22 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson - Action Plans & Final Planning for 4th of July)</i></p>	<p>Support of 4th of July in the Park General Meeting July 13 <i>(guest speaker)</i> Leadership Meeting July 27 <i>(4th of July AAR - SAR training planning)</i></p>	<p>General Meeting August 10 <i>(Refresher Lesson #4 - Search & Rescue)</i> CERT Semi-Annual Phone Tree Test Leadership Meeting August 24 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson - Managing Search & Rescue Missions)</i></p>
September 2011	October 2011	November 2011
<p>National Preparedness Month General Meeting September 14 <i>(Disaster Preparedness Training)</i> Leadership Meeting September 21</p>	<p>General Meeting October 12 <i>(guest speaker)</i> CERT SOU Fall Basic Training Tue. & Thu. 10/4 - 10/27 Leadership Meeting October 26</p>	<p>General Meeting Nov 9 CERT Refresher Training Leadership Planning Meeting November 23</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 <i>(phone tree training)</i> Leadership Meeting January 25 <i>(annual planning meeting)</i></p>	<p>SOU Basic Training Tue-Thu, Feb 2- 28 General Meeting February 8 <i>(guest speaker)</i> CERT Semi-Annual Phone Tree Test Leadership Meeting February 22</p>

Ashland CERT
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TO: