



July 2010

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

Ready Neighbor News

CERT Members Assist at Structure Fire

On June 30, 2010 approximately 14 firefighters from Ashland Fire & Rescue and Jackson County Fire District 5 responded to a house on fire at 166 Sherman at approximately 4:30 p.m. Upon arrival they found smoke and flames had engulfed the structure. The home and the contents of the residence were destroyed. One person was home at the time of the fire and escaped without injury. Ashland Police Department, Ashland Water Department, Ashland Electric Department and Avista responded to assist with the fires.



Structure Fire at Sherman Street

Two CERT members from the neighborhood, Carol Rosin and Mark Stein, self-mobilized and were utilized to control onlookers from entering the incident scene. See the story "Self Mobilization" on page 2 for more information about helping out during disasters.

Investigators believe the blaze started in a closet and moved throughout the home including the attic. The blaze was allegedly the result of a juvenile playing with fire and took nearly an hour for crews to control.

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Next Meeting Dates:

Leadership Meeting:

July 28, Fire Station 1, 6:30 PM Start, doors open at 6:00 PM.

NOTE: All regularly scheduled meetings will now start at 6:30 PM with doors open at 6:00 PM.

National Preparedness Month



is fast approaching!

CERT Hams Work Crowd at Lithia Park

During Ashland's 4th of July Celebration in Lithia Park CERT radio operators, affectionately known as "CERT hams," toured assigned zones to assist firefighters in responding to emergencies and to help event patrons find their way around.

CERT hams communicated their observations and answered questions from patrons throughout the day while learning valuable mobilization and communications skills.

"Ashland Fire & Rescue requested the support and we were able to fulfill the request with six people on a schedule from 11:30 - 5:30, which was excellent,"

commented Dan Ragen, CERT ham lead. CERT hams kept an eye out for high risk incidents such as lost children, illegal fireworks, and signs of heat exhaustion or other medical issues.

Did you know you can become a radio operator for CERT without being a licensed operator?

CERT's presence at the event provided an immeasurable level of improved safety in a sometimes volatile environment.

CERT hams are currently meeting each month before the general meeting. For more information about being a CERT ham, contact Dan Ragen.

Self Mobilization... what is it and when is it used?

As many of you are aware, during a disaster CERT members should first secure themselves, their families, and homes. Only then should CERT members make an assessment of their neighborhood, and attempt to help or

Always secure yourself, your family and home prior to any mobilization. You are ineffective if you are worried about your family and or home.

begin preparations for a wider mobilization.

injuries increases significantly if you are distracted.

But what about an emergency in your own neighborhood such as a structure fire; should CERT members “self-mobilize” then?

According to FEMA, CERT members are encouraged to self-mobilize even during relatively moderate emergencies in order to gain practice mobilizing and assessing damage. Ashland Fire & Rescue supports the objective of using smaller events as preparation for larger events.

However, CERT members must respond in a way that is beneficial for emergency responders and CERT by following the informal procedures below.

If an emergency occurs in your neighborhood, you should follow the same procedure of securing yourself and family. If able to respond, put on your vest and hardhat and self mobilize to the incident scene. Don't forget your CERT I.D. and ready pack since you may be deployed awhile.

Upon arrival, as always, make a safety assessment and carefully approach the scene. Ask the Incident Commander (IC), usually a Fire Captain or Chief, if you can help. The IC may give you guidance to help with tasks like traffic or onlooker control, firefighter rehab, or may have no need for your help. If the IC requests your assistance, follow directions and you will be successful in your goal of helping and learning.

If the IC has no need for help, you will stand down. However, take a moment to write down your observations paying particular attention to unusual events such as people running away from the scene that may benefit

an incident investigation. Don't forget to log the times as well.

Keep in mind nothing precludes you from observing the incident from behind the crowd control area but never disregard the directions of a City of Ashland official because you may violate state and local laws by doing so and may cause irreparable harm to the CERT program.

For your own safety NEVER attempt to participate in an emergency event unless directed to do so by emergency responders. Also do not be part of the problem by responding to an emergency outside your team area unless mobilized by CERT.

Finally, CERT members should never self-mobilize to a non-emergency event such as a public concert unless it is an official event of Ashland CERT. If you do self mobilize provide the CERT Coordinator with an after action report of your activities by email or phone.

CERT will be conducting mobilization training and practice soon. If you have questions about self mobilizing please contact Richard.

Preparedness Month Planning Committee Members Needed

As indicated previously, CERT will be promoting a CERT Reunion and Volunteer Celebration event on September 25, 2010 at The Grove in Ashland. This event will be the culmination of several smaller preparedness month events hosted by CERT and Ashland Fire and Rescue.

We need CERT members to sit on a planning committee to plan and execute the preparedness month events.

The intent is to follow the incident action plan format, and organize the

committee around the Incident Command System complete with Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance / Administration sections.

If you have experience in public relations, planning, finance, or special event promotions, your skills would be greatly appreciated. You do not need to know the Incident Command System to contribute to the committee. A desire to help and learn is more important than anything else.

Some ideas for events include a

booth at Ashland Fire & Rescue's fund-raiser hosted by Blackstone Audio on September 11, a base bicycle ride, a refresher training course, and a friends and family disaster preparedness workshop all culminating in our CERT Reunion—Volunteer Celebration on September 25.

If you are interested in being on the committee please let Richard know by calling 541-552-2226 or email at randler@ashland.or.us.

CERT Calendar of Events

July 2010	August 2010	September 2010
Search and Rescue Training @ Leadership Meeting July 28	General Meeting August 11 CERT Semi-Annual Phone Tree Exercise - tbd CERT Base Bike Ride & BBQ - tbd Leadership Meeting August 25	National Preparedness Month General Meeting September 8 Leadership Meeting September 22 Reunion & Volunteer Celebration September 25 @ the Grove
October 2010	November 2010	December 2010
General Meeting October 13 SOU—CERT Basic Course (elective) tbd Leadership Meeting October 27	General Meeting November 3 CERT Fall Basic Training Nov 5-13 Awards and Graduation event Nov 17 (no leadership meeting)	No General Meeting Holiday Season Training Stand Down No Leadership Meeting
January 2011	February 2011	March 2011
General Meeting January 12 CERT Annual Tabletop Exercise and Planning Meeting Leadership Meeting January 26	General Meeting February 9 CERT Semi-Annual Phone Tree Exercise Leadership Meeting February 23	General Meeting March 9 CERT Advanced / Leadership Training—tbd Leadership Meeting March 23
April 2011	May 2011	June 2011
General Meeting April 13 CERT Spring Basic Training April 15-23 Awards and Graduation event April 27 (no leadership meeting)	General Meeting May 11 CERT Refresher / Leadership Training Leadership Meeting May 25	General Meeting June 8 WUI Walk – Fire Evacuation Training Leadership Meeting June 22

This is a planning calendar, please notify Richard if there are missing events or if you would like to add an event idea.

CERT Participates in Ashland’s 4th of July Celebration

Ashland CERT was very popular with the crowds during the 4th of July Celebration at Lithia Park. In addition to the great work of our hams, CERT volunteers handed out free water and electrolyte drinks while talking about disaster preparedness and CERT training. An Ashland Fire & Rescue ambulance crew was also on standby at the CERT booth which doubled as a recovery station for event patrons.

This year CERT attempted to reduce the environmental impact of distributing bottled water by using recyclable cups and water containers that can be used again for years to come. The result was CERT eliminated the introduction of over 400 bottled water bottles into the environment and saved money while having a more sustainable method to deliver water during future events and perhaps during disasters.

The Ashland Chamber of Commerce would like

CERT to participate again next year possibly in an expanded role to provide radio operators and venue guides.



CERT was popular with the crowd

Plan Now.
Work Together.
Be Ready.



Take steps this month to prepare your family, neighborhood and community for emergencies and disasters

- Put together an emergency supply kit
 - Make a family emergency plan
 - Be prepared to help your neighbor
 - Work as a team to keep everyone safe
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To learn more about how you, your family, your business and your community can prepare for emergencies and get involved, please visit ready.gov or call **1-800-BE-READY**, TTY **1-800-462-7585**

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
September 2010 | www.ashlandcert.org

JOIN US FOR ASHLAND CERT'S REUNION & VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 25, 2010 AT THE GROVE, ASHLAND OREGON