



August 2011

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

Ready Neighbor News

CERT Participates in National Exercise Series

Ashland CERT members recently participated in two “Formidable Footprint” Neighborhood Tabletop Exercises.

The first exercise, an influenza pandemic was held May 28 during which nine CERT Leadership Team members participated.

The most recent exercise, an earthquake scenario, was held July 30 during which sixteen CERT Leadership Team members participated.



CERT Members participate in a pandemic tabletop exercise

Created by Disaster Resistant Communities Group of Tallahassee Florida, the exercises are designed to help neighborhood and community based organizations strengthen their disaster readiness and enhance the knowledge of an organizations’ members on the roles they could play before, during, and after a disaster.

The exercises are delivered via the Internet, and last about three hours. The scenarios are complete with realistic news reports and situational maps and are devoted to neighborhood actions needed to reduce damage and loss of life while assisting in disaster response and recovery.

A future exercise in which Ashland CERT may participate is the wildfire scenario September 24, 2011. If you would like to participate please contact the Ashland CERT office and we will add you to the roster of participants.

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Next Meeting Dates:

General Meeting:
September 14, Fire Station 1.
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.

Leadership Meeting:
August 24, Fire Station 1
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.



CPR Saturday - September 10

Ashland CERT members are encouraged to participate in Ashland Fire & Rescue’s “CPR Saturday.” The class is a great opportunity for CERT members to renew their CPR skills in a hands-on “learn by doing” environment. The class takes less than two hours and uses the popular American Heart Association “Family and Friends CPR” curriculum that teaches participants hands only CPR, child CPR with breaths, adult and child AED use, infant CPR and relief of choking in an adult, child or infant.

Classes begin at 9 AM and the fee is \$5. To register, email or call the CERT office and we will put you on the roster. Payment of the class fee must be received by September 2 to guarantee your reservation.

Firefighter Rehabilitation Mission - CERT's Important Role

During the general meeting on August 10, members were introduced to the emerging role Ashland CERT will play in providing rehabilitation or “rehab” for firefighters responding to emergencies in Ashland.

Because firefighting is inherently dangerous and stress increases the danger significantly, the need for firefighter rehab support is clear. Rehab ensures the physical and mental well-being of firefighters does not deteriorate to a point where it negatively affects their safety or the safety of others.



Firefighters on a quick break following the initial attack of a fire in Ashland

Providing rehab is manpower intensive and distracts firefighters from their job when they are utilized to conduct it. Ashland CERT has illustrated it is a reliable manpower resource for Ashland Fire & Rescue making rehab a good mission for CERT.

Ashland CERT conducted rehab during the Oak Knoll Fire, with little training, after which many firefighters commented the rehab provided by CERT was among the best they experienced. This experience further illustrates the capability of CERT to provide this very necessary support.

Ashland CERT will partially mobilize to provide rehab during any emergency incident

projected to last over two hours or when environmental conditions require rehab sooner.

CERT will establish the “Rest and Refreshment Unit” providing rest, shelter, fluids, nutrition and the status of firefighters at rehab by maintaining a sign in log.

If you would like to volunteer to provide rehab support to firefighters, please email or phone the CERT office and we will put you on the rehab call out roster.

Sponsor a Hero Bear



“Hero Bears” are given to children by rescue crews during emergencies

Ashland Fire & Rescue has a new program to help reduce the anxiety children may feel following an accident or emergency.

When rescue crews arrive on a scene where children are involved they will provide them a “Hero Bear” adorned with a helmet and Ashland Fire & Rescue custom printed turnout clothing .

The fire department made the initial purchase of bears to get the program started. To help this on-going effort, citizens can buy a bear for ten dollars with all proceeds going toward buying more bears or sponsor a bear by donating five dollars for each bear.

To buy a bear, stop by Ashland Fire & Rescue Station 1 at 455 Siskiyou Boulevard, Ashland, OR 97520 between 8 AM and 5 PM weekdays. To sponsor a bear, you can stop by or mail your donation to the address above. Please make checks payable to City of Ashland.

Meet our AmeriCorps Volunteer



Jessica Bowman, AmeriCorps Volunteer

As many of you know, Terri Eubanks, our previous AmeriCorps volunteer elected not to renew her volunteer service. Terri was a fantastic addition to our team, and although we will miss her, she is an active member of Ashland CERT so we hope to see her in the future.

We have selected a new volunteer, Jessica Bowman, who will be starting September 6 as CERT's Volunteer Services Coordinator.

Jessica is a recent graduate of Southern Oregon University with a degree in Biology. She hopes to be an Epidemiologist after obtaining her Masters of Public Health.

Jessica will concentrate on community outreach to include K-12 Preparedness Education, promoting the CPR program, and helping Eileen Polk with Map Your Neighborhood.

Everyone will get a chance to meet and welcome Jessica at the General Meeting on September 14. Welcome to Ashland CERT Jessica!

New CERT Vehicle Assigned

Ashland CERT has a new vehicle, previously ambulance 8836, that was decommissioned at the end of June. The CERT vehicle is now badged as unit 8889 and will be staged at Fire Station 1 so that it is readily available for use during mobilizations.

Unit 8889 has newly applied CERT decals including the program's web address and an "Are You Ready?" tag on the rear doors. There is also a CERT logo on the box roof along with the unit number so the vehicle can be identified from air units.



The New CERT Vehicle, assigned July 1, will reside at Fire Station 1

The vehicle is in excellent mechanical condition and will be maintained by the city shop. Because it has a "box" body style, there is ample room for the vehicle to serve as a mobile CERT base from which CERT members can operate if no base is nearby. The vehicle should soon be equipped with a trailer hitch to tow the CERT trailer for training purposes and during emergencies as well.

Future suggested improvements include additional radio equipment and a WIFI hotspot. There are several CERT members on the vehicle committee who are helping determine the best configuration and uses for the vehicle. The committee will also prepare an operation manual so CERT members can conduct safety and preventative maintenance checks required to keep the vehicle operating safely and reliably for many years to come.

If you would like to be a member of the vehicle committee, please email or phone the CERT office.

CERT 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

| August 2011 | September 2011 | October 2011 |
|---|--|--|
| CERT Semi-Annual Phone Tree Test Leadership Meeting August 24 <i>(Advanced Training - Managing the Firefighter Rehab Mission)</i> | National Preparedness Month General Meeting September 14 <i>(Disaster Preparedness Review)</i> CPR Saturday September 10 Leadership Meeting September 21 | SOU Basic Training Tue -Thu Oct 4-27 General Meeting October 12 <i>(Guest Speaker)</i> Leadership Meeting October 26 |
| November 2011 | December 2011 | January 2012 |
| General Meeting Nov 9 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting November 16 <i>(Annual Training Planning)</i> | 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 | General Meeting January 11 <i>(phone tree training)</i> Leadership Meeting January 25 <i>(Phone Tree Management)</i> |
| February 2012 | March 2012 | April 2012 |
| SOU Basic Training Tue-Thu, Feb 1- 24 General Meeting February 8 <i>(Guest Speaker)</i> CERT Semi-Annual Phone Tree Test Leadership Meeting February 29 | General Meeting March 14 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting March 28 <i>(Pre-Lessons for Advanced Training)</i> Advanced / Leadership Training Mar 31 | General Meeting April 11 <i>(Basic Training, Volunteer Training)</i> Leadership Meeting April 25 <i>(Final Prep for Basic Training)</i> CERT Spring Basic Training April 27-May 5 |
| May 2012 | June 2012 | July 2012 |
| Basic Graduation - General Meeting May 9 Leadership Meeting May 23 (Basic Training AAR) | General Meeting June 13 <i>(Guest Speaker)</i> Leadership Meeting Jun 27 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson & Final Planning for 4th of July)</i> | General Meeting July 11 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting July 25 <i>(4th of July AAR – Fire Mission Planning)</i> |

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TO: