



August 2015

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

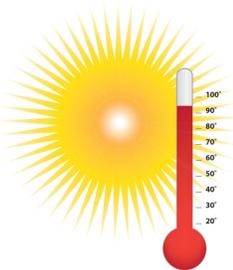
Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Background Checks | 1 |
| Cascadia's Fault | 2 |
| Earthquake Awareness | 2 |
| FUN Activities | 3 |
| Membership | 3 |
| HeartSaver CPR | 3 |
| Training Calendar | 4 |

Next Meeting Dates:

General Meeting:
 August 12, Fire Station 1.
 Dr. Sharon Lee - ticks.
 Meeting starts at 6:30 with
 doors open at 6:00 PM.

Leadership Meeting:
 August 26, Fire Station 1.
 Meeting starts at 6:30 with
 doors open at 6:00 PM.



Background Checks and You

The Ashland CERT program has made huge leaps and bounds in preparing members and the community in all aspects of emergency response. Community members benefit in having the ability and enthusiasm to become a Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) and Firewise community. The CPR program has been extremely popular and now students in seventh grade are getting trained in hands-only CPR each year in Jackson County. Our MYN goal is the addition of ten neighborhoods annually which we have already exceeded for 2015. The community at large has become more aware of the dangers and risks where we live and have made necessary alterations, or additions depending, to be better prepared. Our Ashland Is Ready (AIR) event saw nearly sold-out sessions in 2014 and with its popularity has prompted a change in venue to accommodate public interest.

Members have been given the knowledge and tools used by emergency responders, such as fire and police, known as Incident Command Systems (ICS) to uphold communications and productivity on incidents. The ICS model allows agencies to utilize the same terminology in an organized structure making seamless efforts much more impactful during catastrophes. Many CERT members have embraced other areas of expertise including becoming HAM radio operators, working with partner agencies such as the American Red Cross, completing additional knowledge and skills training such as sandbagging, weather spotters, swift water awareness, and more.

Today we evolve by making ourselves more readily capable of responding with surrounding agencies by providing all members pass a background check. The County requires that volunteers pass a background check to respond on their behalf. The surrounding CERT programs, including Central Point and Jacksonville, have been processing checks on their volunteers for some time. The initial process for Ashland CERT has been extensive considering we have over 200 members. Once we get all of our current members through the initial process future undertakings will be a piece of cake.

There have been some complaints, mostly concerning the company process, but let me assure you providing our members have background checks ensures public confidence both from community members and partner agencies. Providing a bit of credentialing assures credibility. CERTs nationally are highly reputable and Ashland has been a model program with large volunteer numbers per number of residents. In April 2015, the City of Austin Texas recognized 400 active members involved in a city with a population of more than 885,000 residents according to the most current US Census information. Ashland has been blessed with over 200 active members in a population of more than 20,000. Highly trained community members who volunteer to assist others in crisis are nothing short of commendable and the City of Ashland values its volunteers tremendously.

Thank you for your continued support and growing with our changes in making the Ashland CERT program strong and positively responsive. You make the CERT program shine!



Cascadia's Fault

The New Yorker recently published an article providing national attention towards the upper west coast's earthquake potential. The article, entitled "The Really Big One" highlights some of the recent scientific findings from geologists and others around the globe verifying a substantial catastrophic earthquake is destined to strike some 700 miles of coastline from Cape Mendocino, California to Vancouver Island, Canada. Ocean and land soil samples have been heavily looked upon to determine the extent of past eruptions concluding the fault has experienced mass eruptions of up to a magnitude 9+ on the Richter Scale with recurrence intervals of 243 years. The last recorded Cascadia earthquake occurred in January 1700 some 72 years more than the average recurrence interval indicating the northwest is due and destined to experience a massive earthquake followed by an imminent tsunami at any moment.

The Oregonian responded with a few highlights including potential shaking lasting 15 minutes, a tsunami 20-100 feet high, proposed death toll of 13,000 people and 27,000 injured, 90,000 square miles affected, power grid failure, loss of potable water, and much more.

As a child growing up on the east coast my peers idolized the west, specifically California, each of us wanting to move out west and make it big. Big took on a totally new meaning after several years residing in the west and learning of the potential mass earthquake caused by a Cascadia eruption due to the irony of my mother's words in her attempt to deter me from moving so far away. Her words, "why would you want to move to California; they are going to have a big earthquake and half of it is going to fall off into the ocean." Now at the time that seemed an absurd comment, but after the two articles made headlines I had a good reminiscent laugh. I haven't informed my mother of her accuracy quite yet, but I am certain she will reply with her famous "I told you so" comment.

Our generation knows all too well the investment needed to secure life, property, and the environment before this massive earthquake impacts the modern day northwest, and we should not sit idly thinking it will not occur in our lifetime. The time to prepare is before the disaster; once the disaster strikes the time to prepare has passed.

For more information

The New Yorker link: <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/07/20/the-really-big-one>

The Oregonian link: http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2015/07/the_new_yorker_lets_cascadia_r.html

Earthquake Awareness

The Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) is gearing up for the 2015 Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill. To promote the event, the SCEC will host a series of weekly Twitter chats at 2 PM ET/11 AM PT every Wednesday from now through August 26.

Each week the Twitter chats will highlight one of the "Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety":

- July 15: Secure your Space (Step One)
- July 22: Plan to Be Safe (Step Two)
- July 29: Organize Disaster Supplies (Step Three)
- August 5: Minimize Financial Hardship (Step Four)
- August 12: Drop, Cover, and Hold On (Step Five)
- August 19: Improve Safety (Step Six)
- August 26: Reconnect and Restore (Step Seven)

Follow along each week to learn how to stay safe before, during, and after an earthquake. Also, be sure to check out the *How to Prepare for an Earthquake* guide from America's PrepareAthon! for valuable information about this hazard on-line.



Fun Activities on the Horizon

The second annual CERT BBQ will be Saturday, August 22nd at noon. The BBQ will once again be held at Emigrant Lake (Pavilion A) and volunteers are welcome to bring friends and family. Feel free to bring a dish to share if you like or something to grill.

There is a small entrance fee of \$4 per vehicle which is the responsibility of those attending. CERT cannot pay parking fees unfortunately.

Fun activities include GeoCaching, Radio Games, and much more. Please RSVP for planning purposes.

Membership - Background Checks - More Information

In order to make the background checks more efficient the CERT office will be asking folks to schedule a date for their background check to be completed at Station 1 in person. While it may seem an inconvenience we cannot prolong the process of completion. We absolutely need to have updated phone trees and updates to the Everbridge system to activate members. Ashland Fire & Rescue is **announcing a deadline of August 10 to complete background checks or turn in gear.** I will be personally phoning everyone that has not responded and / or needs to respond in some fashion to either return gear or set up time to complete their background check.

Continuing volunteers:

Step 1: Complete the authorization form (and long form paper form if necessary) and make an appointment with CERT at Station 1 where you can verify your information.

Step 2: Attend your scheduled appointment, log-in and verify your information by **August 10, 2015.**

Resigning members:

Return your CERT issued gear to Station 1 including hard hat, vest, and identification card by **August 10.** Issued gear is the property of the City of Ashland and it is required you return it if you are resigning.

American Heart Association HeartSaver CPR Course

HeartSaver CPR AED is a classroom, video based, instructor led course that teaches adult CPR and AED use, as well as how to relieve choking on an adult. This course teaches skills with American Heart Association's research-proven Practice-While-Watching technique, which allows instructors to observe the students, provide feedback and guide the students' learning of skills.

This course is for anyone with limited or no medical training who needs a course completion card in CPR and AED use to meet job, regulatory, or other requirements.

When: Saturday, August 15th - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: Ashland Fire Station 2 ~ 1860 Ashland Street

The cost for this course is \$35, which includes a student study book and card*. The class takes approximately 3 hours to complete. All fees must be prepaid prior to the class date to confirm reservation.

Please register early to reserve your space.

TO REGISTER:

Registration is first-come, first-served according to when class fees are paid. Classes are typically limited to 8 people. Participants may register by mailing a check or by paying in person between 8 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday at Fire Station 1, 455 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, OR 97520. Make checks payable to City of Ashland. Credit cards accepted as well.

*Upon successful completion, students will receive an American Heart Association Heart-Saver CPR AED Course Completion Card that is valid for two years.



For more information or to register contact: Ashland CERT Program
541-552-2226 | cert @ ashland.or.us



CERT 2015 Calendar of Events

| January 2015 | February 2015 | March 2015 |
|--|--|--|
| General Meeting Jan 14 Movie Night: Cascadia Fault CERT Luncheon - Jan 20 Leadership Meeting Jan 20 - CERT Handbook JoCounty CERT Training - JAN. 30 - FEB. 1 | General Meeting Feb 11 Avista: Carbon Monoxide Awareness Emergency Food Prep Challenge CERT Luncheon - Feb 17 Leadership Meeting Feb 25 - Everbridge Training | General Meeting March 11 - ECSO Tour CERT Luncheon - March 17 NO Leadership Meeting Base Inventory - March 7 |
| April 2015 | May 2015 | June 2015 |
| General Meeting April 8 - Building Triage CERT Luncheon April 21 Leadership Meeting April 22 (Basic Planning) | Basic Training General Meeting - Mercy Flights Leadership Meeting - Basic AAR Base Bike Ride - May 31 | Firefighter Rehab Mission - June 6 General Meeting - Basic Graduation CERT Luncheon - June 16 Leadership Meeting - Parade Planning |
| July 2015 | August 2015 | September 2015 |
| Parade Support - July 4 General Meeting July 8 - Radio Communications Evacuation Training - July 11 CERT Luncheon - July 21 Leadership Meeting - July 22 - Parade AAR | General Meeting Aug 12 - Dr. Sharon Lee guest speaker - TICKS CERT Luncheon - August 18 Leadership Meeting August 27 - Advanced Radio CERT BBQ - August 22 | General Meeting Sept 9 - Opening Bases CERT Luncheon - Sept 15 Leadership Meeting Sept 23 - Basic Planning |
| October 2015 | November 2015 | December 2015 |
| Basic Training - October 1-3 and 8-10 General Meeting Oct 14 - Basic Graduation CERT Luncheon - Oct 20 Leadership Meeting Oct 28 Base Bike Ride - October 18 | Certified Driver Training - Nov 14 NO General Meeting CERT Luncheon - Nov 17 Leadership Meeting Nov 18 - Annual Planning | CERT Annual Review - Dec 9 CERT Luncheon - Dec 15 HOLIDAY SEASON - Training Stand Down |

Note: General meetings are open to the public. Doors open at 6pm. Meetings are from 6:30pm-8pm at Fire Station 1.

Ashland CERT
 455 Siskiyou Boulevard
 Ashland, OR 97520

TO: