



December 2011

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

# Ready Neighbor News

## Holiday Hazards: What to look out for!

There are many things that can go wrong during the holiday season and Aunt Bertie pinching your cheeks is the least of your worries.

Let's make this holiday season about safety. There are many fire dangers during the festive time. Unsupervised holiday candles, dried out Christmas trees, and electrical outlet overloads are just a few of the major causes of holiday house fires.

### Christmas Trees

Dried Christmas trees are a major cause of concern. The National Fire Protection Association estimates there are approximately 210 annual house fires that started with a Christmas tree. Within three seconds, a dry Christmas tree can be fully ablaze; within five seconds, that fire is now at your ceiling; and sadly, within 40 seconds, the entire room is engulfed in flames. See the video at [www.ashlandcert.org](http://www.ashlandcert.org) to see how quickly a Christmas tree burns.

Careful consideration should be taken when purchasing a natural Christmas tree or wreath. Check for freshness, there should be no brown needles. When a tree is brought home, keep it watered to extend its life. Do not place your tree near a fireplace or other heat source, and encourage children not to pull or knock over the tree. Just remember, a wet tree is safer than a dry tree.



### Holiday Decorations

The Consumer Product Safety Commission, estimates about 12,500 people go to hospital emergency rooms for falls, cuts, shocks, and burns related to holiday decorating.” Just remember, if it looks like a bad idea, it probably is. Make sure you check your holiday lights for any signs of damage. Look for broken

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### Next Meeting Dates:

**General Meeting:**  
January 11, Fire Station 1.  
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.

**Leadership Meeting:**  
January 25, Fire Station 1  
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.



## Out with the Old and in with the New!

The New Year is fast approaching and is a perfect opportunity to begin replenishing your emergency supplies!

Major dates, such as holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, or even daylight savings are great reminders to begin replacing old or used emergency items.

Smoke alarms should be tested once a month; however, batteries should be changed annually. Smoke inhalation causes more deaths than fires



[www.3dofgreatest.com](http://www.3dofgreatest.com)

themselves, so you want to give your family as much notice of the danger as possible.

Never disable smoke alarms, despite the annoying sound because someone mistakenly burnt the Thanksgiving turkey.

Newer smoke alarms have a silencing feature that would be a better alternative than disabling the alarm.

Check your emergency supplies and replace food and medications that are about to expire. Water from your emergency supply should also be changed annually. Make this a fun activity. Pick a day and have your family pretend it is an emergency.

Use the opportunity to practice your family's emergency drills, eat your emergency food supply (since it will need to be replaced anyway), and find creative ways to spend your afternoon without electricity or cell phones.

Like my mom always said, "Practice makes perfect!"

## Holiday Hazards Continued...

signs of damage. Look for broken bulbs, frayed wires, and unsafe connections. Unplug the lights when making any repairs, and if there is smoke coming from the outlet, chances are, there's already a fire behind the wall. If you use multiple light sets, use only three strings of lights on one extension cord; any more



[Theirefixedit.com](http://Theirefixedit.com)  
Trent Fowlsworth

items may overload the outlets resulting in a fire.

### Children and Holidays

Some people do not consider the fact that alcohol poisoning is a concern for young children during the holidays.

That special eggnog or New Year's toast sitting on the coffee table is an enticing treat for curious children.

Unfinished drinks should be disposed of properly and promptly. As many parents may know, young children are always putting things into their mouths. Tree ornaments, small toys, and hard candy should be moved out of reach to prevent choking.

If children decide to nibble on holiday decorations, such as Holly, beware that Holly can cause skin inflammation and an upset stomach.

Also, mistletoe can be toxic if consumed.

Holidays are a time to enjoy the company of your family and friends.

Please take the time to prepare and ensure the safety of your family so that you may share many more holiday memories.



Sassy Starter

## CERT Annual Review and Awards Event

**When:** Wed. December 7th, 2011.

**Time:** 6 PM to 8:30 PM

**Place:** Ashland Fire Station 1.

The event will give Ashland Fire & Rescue and others the opportunity to express their gratitude for all the hard work Ashland CERT members have done. The event will include an awards presentation for Ashland CERT members.

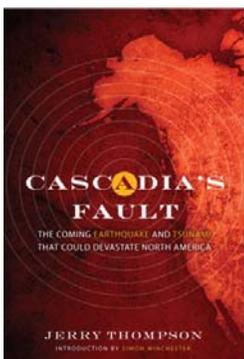
Everyone should come to congratulate those who have contributed so much toward the success of the Ashland CERT program.

The event will be open to anyone who completed Ashland CERT basic training and their guests and Ashland Fire & Rescue staff and their guests.

Refreshments will be served.



## Ashland CERT has a Library! [www.ashland.or.us/certlibrary](http://www.ashland.or.us/certlibrary)



CERT has a small collection of books related to disasters at [www.ashland.or.us/certlibrary](http://www.ashland.or.us/certlibrary)

Our feature book is *Cascadia's Fault*, written by documentary film producer Jerry Thompson.

This book goes into detail about how the Cascadia subduction zone was

unearthed and the relative damage it has caused and what damage it will cause again.

Books are free to check out, and are located at Ashland Station 1.

If you have disaster related books you wish to share, we are accepting donated books

as well.

If you are interested in checking out a book or donating books to our library, please contact Jessica at [bowmanj@ashland.or.us](mailto:bowmanj@ashland.or.us) or 541-552-2242.

*"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." ~Margaret Fuller*

## Advanced Training Recap

CERT Advanced Training on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> was a success!

The training session on Friday included presentations by Chief Margueritte Hickman on the importance of a Public Information Officer (PIO) and providing accurate information to the media and public.

Battalion Chief David Shepherd followed with a presentation about how to effectively communicate with Ashland Fire & Rescue. During the segment, participants listened to recorded dispatch calls and learned how to recognize the identification numbers of fire staff, the CERT vehicle, and other significant fire

vehicles.

The training on Saturday was held at Plaza Inn Suites, where participants enjoyed a continental breakfast and a tasty lunch!

Participants reviewed CERT Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and the corresponding ICS forms. Participants got the chance to test their skills in a table top exercise. During the exercise, CERT members established radio communication with Ashland Fire and solved field problems common to mobilizations.

In addition to the exercise there were two presentations and a short

film on the Cascadia Fault.

Dan Ragen presented the new radios for the CERT bases, and Jessica, presented a narrative on the book *"Cascadia's Fault."*

The book is available in the CERT library (see "CERT has a Library").

The film about the Cascadia Fault, can be viewed by visiting; [www.ashland.or.us/certlibrary](http://www.ashland.or.us/certlibrary)

Following this training, CERT plans to hold a joint communications exercise with Ashland Fire & Rescue this Spring followed by a joint field exercise.

# CERT 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

December 2011	January 2012	February 2012
<b>CERT Year in Review / Awards December 7, 6:30 to 8:00 PM</b> No General Meeting <b>Holiday Season Training Stand Down</b> No Leadership Meeting	General Meeting January 11 <i>(Phone Tree Training)</i> Leadership Meeting January 25 <i>(Phone Tree 9-1-1 System Management)</i>	<b>SOU Basic Training Tue-Thu, Feb 1– 24</b> General Meeting February 8 <i>(Guest Speaker)</i> <b>CERT Annual Phone Tree Test</b> Leadership Meeting February 29
March 2012	April 2012	May 2012
General Meeting March 14 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting March 28 <i>(Planning for Basic Training)</i>	General Meeting April 11 <i>(Basic Training, Volunteer Training)</i> Leadership Meeting April 25 <i>(Final Prep for Basic Training)</i> <b>CERT Spring Basic Training April 27-May 5</b>	<b>Basic Graduation - General Meeting May 9</b> Leadership Meeting May 23 (Basic Training AAR)
June 2012	July 2012	August 2012
General Meeting June 13 <i>(CERT Evacuation Training)</i> Leadership Meeting Jun 27 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson &amp; Final Planning for 4th of July)</i>	General Meeting July 11 <i>(CERT Fire Mission Training)</i> Leadership Meeting July 25 <i>(4th of July AAR – Fire Mission Planning)</i>	General Meeting August 8 <i>(Guest Speaker)</i> Leadership Meeting August 22 <i>(Fire Department Communications)</i>
September 2012	October 2012	November 2012
<b>National Preparedness Month</b> General Meeting September 12 <i>(Disaster Preparedness Review)</i> Leadership Meeting September 26	<b>SOU Basic Training Tue -Thu Oct 2-25</b> General Meeting October 10 <i>(CERT ICS Demonstration)</i> Leadership Meeting October 24	General Meeting Nov 7 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting November 21 <i>(Pre-Lessons for Advanced Training)</i>

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TO: