



February 2012

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

# Ready Neighbor News

## February is "Go Direct Month"

### Weatherproof Your Federal Benefit Payments

Switch from paper checks to electronic payments today before severe weather strikes. According to the National Weather Service, the United States is the most severe weather-prone country on Earth. Hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other natural disasters can strike without warning and force you to evacuate your home or cause disruptions in mail service.

Ensuring you get your money in the most reliable way is the reason why the U.S. Department of the Treasury is moving to all-electronic federal benefit payments. Everyone applying for federal benefits will now receive their payments electronically from day one, while anyone currently relying on paper checks must switch to electronic payments by **March, 1, 2013**. Paper checks will no longer be an option.



*Safe. Simple. Secure.*

*Source: The college of New Jersey*

If you are still receiving Social Security or other federal benefit payments by paper check, don't wait until the final deadline to make the switch. Mother Nature is unpredictable and a severe weather event could prevent you from getting your money on time. In recent years, severe weather has caused alternative delivery arrangements for millions of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) paper checks.

It's fast, free and easy to make the switch!

A paper check is no match for a natural disaster – so don't chance it. Switch to electronic payments today!

*Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service*

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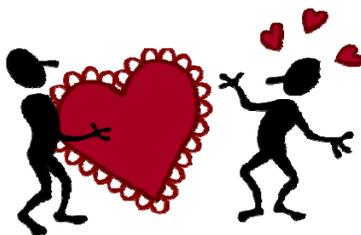
### Next Meeting Dates:

#### General Meeting:

February 8<sup>th</sup>, Fire Station 1.  
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.

#### Leadership Meeting:

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fire Station 1  
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.



## Basic Training Cancelled

Please be advised that due to lack of enrollment the February basic training has been canceled. In cooperation with the Ashland Fire Department, the leadership team and other CERT members will participate and lead a disaster scenario during our next training session. This training is scheduled for April 27-28 & May 4-5. Volunteers are encouraged!



## Welcome Terri!

Let's all welcome Terri back to the CERT office. Terri spent about a year with us as an AmeriCorps Volunteer for CERT last year and was a great asset to the organization. She also finished her teaching degree during that time. Since the hiring market for teachers is a little slow, Terri has

agreed and is excited to come back to work with us while Richard is absent. Terri has a passion for emergency preparedness and has worked on a program to get emergency preparedness education in the schools.

Welcome back Terri!



## Winter Storm Weather

During mid to late January, the Oregon coast and the Coast range have had severe weather. The American Red Cross has provided assistance to families and communities impacted by these storms. Their preparation began early. Their sites were stocked with supplies for immediate use and shelter teams were on standby.

This winter has been a pretty mild and warm winter. These recent severe weather scares have reminded us how quickly a good situation can become a bad one. Entire communities can be immobilized in a matter of a few seconds. Here are a few key terms and tips for winter weather and severe storms:

**Winter Storm Outlook-** Winter Storms are possible in the next 2-5 days.

**Traveler's advisory-** ice and snow are expected to hinder travel

**Winter storm watch-** indicates severe weather conditions within the next 36-48 hours: freezing rain, sleet, heavy snow. Avoid unnecessary travel.

**Winter storm warning-** severe weather is or is about to occur. Take precautions immediately, stay indoors, and avoid travel.

If your power goes out during a winter storm,



try to save your body heat. Wear warm clothing and wear a hat to bed. Keep moving around to help your body stay warm. Beware of signs of hypothermia: shivering, slow and irregular pulse, numbness, glassy stare, apathy or impaired judgment, or loss of muscle control. Late stage hypothermia may include no shivering or loss of consciousness. Try to lock the heat into your home. Pick one room on the sunny side of your house and close it off to keep the heat in. Blankets can be used to insulate the windows and doors. Tune into our emergency broadcast station 1700AM, and if you are able to use heat sources, use them carefully.

Source: FEMA and American Red Cross

## Ground Hog Day

Groundhog Day is a holiday celebrated on the second of February; however, not very many people know the history and significance of Groundhog Day. During the early morning of February 2<sup>nd</sup>, when the famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, emerges from his den, thousands of spectators wait to see what happens. If Phil sees his shadow, he will return to his cozy den to hibernate for six weeks, suggesting another six long weeks of winter. If, on this morning, Phil does not see his shadow, he interprets it as an early sign of spring and will remain outdoors.

According to folklore, this holiday began as a Pennsylvania German

custom in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The original origins are said to stem back even further and reside in Europe with the European Hedgehog. The German settlers in Pennsylvania chose the groundhog because it resembled the hedgehog and because they thought it was the most intelligent and sensible animal to carry on this tradition.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, whether or not Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, we should be prepared to endure another six weeks of winter. This past winter has been a mild one, and we should not become complacent. Winter storms, heavy rain fall, and strong winds are common during winter

months.

Groundhogs may or may not have the ability to predict the weather, but they are a fun furry alternate to the weatherman we see every day!



## Basic Life Support (BLS) for Health Care Providers



**When:** Saturday March 10th, 2010

**Time:** 9am-2pm

**Where:** Ashland Fire Station 1

**Cost:** \$55

Basic Life Support (BLS) is intended for Healthcare providers and other students seeking training and certification in CPR. This course teaches critical concepts of high quality CPR, use of an automated external defibrillator, and relief choking for victims of all ages.

The cost for this course is \$55, which includes a student study book and certification card\* upon successful completion. The class takes approximately 4.5-5 hours to complete. All fees must be prepaid ten (10) days prior to the class date to confirm

reservation.

**Note:** Classes are limited to eight participants. Registration is based upon when participants pay the class fee. Please register early to reserve your space. Class fees are refundable only if the class is not conducted.

\*American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers Course Completion Card is valid for two years.

For information or to register contact:  
Jessica Bowman, Volunteer Coordinator

## Radio Training

For those of you interested in radio communications, there are some exciting opportunities in the near future!

### HAM RADIO TRAINING:

Jackson County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (JACARES) will sponsor a free amateur radio license class beginning Thursday [January 26](#), 2012. The class is from 7:00PM to 9:00PM every Thursday through [February 23rd](#) at the Fire District 5 station located at 5811 South Pacific Highway in Phoenix. A license exam session will be available

shortly after the last class session. To register for the class please contact Bob Wolcott by telephone at [\(541\)779-1683](tel:5417791683) or by e-mail at [jbw3@Charter.net](mailto:jbw3@Charter.net).



Source: [CB world](#)

### CERT RADIO GROUP:

The CERT Radio Group will hold monthly

meetings the fourth Tuesday of every month at Ashland Fire Station 1 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM Hosted by Dan Ragen. The next meeting is February 28. The group's mission is to grow a capable radio communications group to provide effective radio operations in support of CERT, Fire, SAR, ARES, and Community events. Go to [http://www.ashland.or.us/Files/CERT\\_Radio\\_Group\\_handout.pdf](http://www.ashland.or.us/Files/CERT_Radio_Group_handout.pdf) to download the group handout.

**Everyone with an interest in radio communications is welcome.**

## Interesting Oregon Facts

1. Oregon's state flag pictures a beaver on its reverse side. It is the only state flag to carry two separate designs.
2. Oregon has more ghost towns than any other state.
3. The Columbia River gorge is considered by many to be the best place in the world for windsurfing.
4. Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States and is formed in the remains of an ancient volcano.
5. Oregon and New Jersey are the only

6. Eugene was the first city to have one-way streets.
7. Pilot Butte, a cinder cone volcano, exists within the city limits of Bend.
8. At 329 feet the Coast Douglas-Fir in Oregon is considered the tallest tree in the state.
9. At 8,000 feet deep Hells Canyon is the deepest river gorge in North America.
10. The hazelnut is Oregon's official state nut. Oregon is the only state that

has an official state nut. The hazelnut is also known as the filbert.

Source: [www.50states.com](http://www.50states.com)



Source: [Maintenance script](#)

# CERT 2012-2013 Calendar of Events

January 2012	February 2012	March 2012
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> <b>CANCELED</b> General Meeting February 8 <b>CERT Annual Phone Tree Test</b> Leadership Meeting February 29	General Meeting March 14 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting March 28 <i>(Planning for Basic Training)</i>
April 2012	May 2012	June 2012
General Meeting April 11 <i>(Basic Training, Volunteer Training)</i> Leadership Meeting April 25 <i>(Final Prep for Basic Training)</i>	<b>Basic Graduation - General Meeting May 9</b> Leadership Meeting May 23 (Basic Training AAR)	General Meeting June 13 <i>(CERT Evacuation Training)</i> Leadership Meeting Jun 27 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson)</i>
July 2012	August 2012	September 2012
General Meeting July 11 <i>(CERT Fire Mission Training)</i> Leadership Meeting July 25	General Meeting August 8 <i>(Guest Speaker)</i> Leadership Meeting August 22	General Meeting September 12 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting September 19
October 2012	November 2012	December 2012
<b>SOU Basic Training Tue -Thu Oct 1-25</b> General Meeting October 10 <i>(CERT ICS Demonstration)</i>	General Meeting Nov 14 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting November 28	<b>CERT Year in Review / Awards December 12, 6:30 to 8:00 PM</b> No General Meeting <b>Holiday Season Training Stand Down</b>

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Address Service Requested

TO: