

Ready Neighbor News



June 2015

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

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Next Meeting Dates:

General Meeting:

June 10 - Basic Graduation. Event begins at 6:30 PM with doors opening at 6PM. All are welcome.

Leadership Meeting:

June 24. Fourth of July Planning. Doors at 6PM with meeting at 6:30. Station 1.

Financial Assistance available in SW Jackson County for Wildfire Abatement Projects

The Oregon Department of Forestry is helping eligible residents in the Bear Creek and Applegate River valleys with fire hazard fuel reduction projects. Eligible projects are usually within the 1-5 acre range and are paid at a rate of \$500 per acre of work. Landowners who live near the areas listed below are encouraged to call 541-664-3328 to schedule a free/no obligation property assessment.

In order to qualify for these cost-share grants, a landowner/agent needs to contact ODF to schedule an appointment, agree to the area and project parameters, and complete the work. Once the project is finished and the project area passes final inspection, the landowner/agent will receive a check in the mail. The landowner/agent is responsible for completion of the project, whether they perform the work themselves or hire it out. All projects are paid on a rebate basis and funds will only be awarded after the completion of identified projects.

Grants are available in the following areas:

- Wagner Creek Road – Anderson Creek Road
- Pioneer Road – Coleman Creek Road – Griffin Creek Road
- South Stage Road – Parts of Jacksonville
- Sterling Creek Road
- West Griffin Creek Road – Poorman Creek Road
- Highway 238 from Jacksonville to Provolt
- China Gulch Road – Forest Creek Road
- Upper Applegate Road from Ruch to Little Applegate Road
- Hamilton Road Area
- Thompson Creek Road – Humbug Creek Road
- North Applegate Road from Applegate to Kubli Road

If landowners outside of the grant areas are interested in having a free/no obligation property assessment with regard to wildland fire safety, they are also encouraged to call 541-664-3328.

Firewise

The Oregon Department of Forestry has a small budget available to help rural neighborhoods to become accredited as a Firewise Community. Residents in Jackson County that live near areas of potential wildfire risk and would like to learn more about becoming a Firewise Community are encouraged to call 541-664-3328 or visit Firewise online.

For more information about the fuel-reduction grant program, and to schedule a free on-site fire risk assessment, call Derick Price at ODF's Medford office, 541-664-3328.

Understanding Red Flag Warnings

Red Flag Warnings begin as a Fire Weather Watch. A Fire Weather Watch means that weather conditions are predicted to occur that will support rapid wildfire growth and rates of spread 24-72 hours from when the watch is issued. When the conditions are predicted to occur within 24 hours or are already happening, a Red Flag Warning is issued.

So, what are these conditions? Well, that depends. In the broad sense, the weather conditions will be high temperatures, high surface winds, low relative humidity, (dry air) and low fuel moistures, (dry vegetation). However, these vary state to state.

Each year, the National Weather Service coordinates with each state to implement a State Operating Plan related to fire weather services. According to NWS Fire Meteorologist Chris Cuoco, these meetings take place at the Geographic Area Coordination Centers where the state and federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Interior are represented. Red Flag criteria and other fire weather products are discussed and set in these meetings. The Red Flag Warning criteria

varies state to state mainly around relative humidity and fuel moistures. In the humid Southeastern U.S., relative humidity of less than 30% can trigger a Red Flag, but is no big deal in the arid West where critical relative humidity is often in the single digits. The same goes for fuel moisture values. And it is usually not any one condition, but the combination of conditions that cause Red Flags to be issued.

The NWS has been active in making the public more aware of these Watches and Warnings. Cuoco said, "The hope is that when the public is using fire, they will use the caution implied in those products."



Ashland is FireWise

Ashland's inaugural Firewise Communities/USA participant was welcomed into the national program in May 2011. Later that year, six more communities also completed the program's criteria and since then the City of Ashland has consistently continued to develop new participants. Thus far in 2015, five more communities have received their official national recognition bringing the total number of active communities to twenty-three; all proud to say they're working diligently to reduce their wildfire risk.

Recently, the seven newest communities attended a recognition event at Ashland Fire & Rescue's Station 2, where the department hosted twenty-five guests that included representatives from the new communities and some that have been with the program for multiple years. Ashland currently has the third highest number of recognized Firewise Communities in a single city - a major accomplishment considering there are more than 1,170 sites throughout the nation.

As a result of the Firewise program, widespread hazardous vegetation (Italian Cypress, Leyland, blackberry and juniper) has been removed throughout communities and homeowners are taking steps to harden their homes and make them less vulnerable during a wildfire. AF&R has been extremely successfully engaging the communities they serve to participate in wildfire risk reduction activities.

Firewise is a key component of the fire adapted communities approach. Firewise promotes defensible space in a neighborhood while the fire adapted community concept addresses an entire community and the landscape around it. Fire adapted communities, a collaborative approach that connects all those who play a role in wildfire education, planning and action with comprehensive resources to help reduce risk, combines Firewise elements with many others (fuel buffers and hazardous fuels mitigation, safe zones, codes and ordinances, Ready, Set, Go! etc.) to address risk on a much larger scale.



Earthquake Awareness

A series of earthquakes have recently occurred off the Oregon Coast. Thus far nothing has been far beyond a magnitude six. These quakes were not recorded to occur that deep into the earth's surface. Scientist warn individuals and officials should be prepared for strong ground shaking followed by a tsunami at any time due to the active fault (Cascadia Fault) stretching off the coast from Washington to northern California; however the quakes that have recently occurred did so in a completely different area called the Blanco Fracture Zone. The fault forms the southern boundary between the Juan de Fuca Plate and the Pacific Plate and frequently generates earthquakes.

If traveling to the coast be aware of your surroundings and know your evacuation routes. These earthquakes were recorded just off the coast near Newport which is farther north slightly southwest of Portland and directly west of Albany. Local officials are aware and have received calls from residents who felt the movement.

DROP, COVER, and HOLD-ON during shaking.

Donating to CERT

Several calls have come in recently regarding donating items to CERT and I would like to give some clarification to assist those interested in donating appropriate items. Disaster supplies are typically welcome including bottled water, Band-Aids and other bandaging material (first aid materials are generally acceptable as long as it is unopened in original packaging and not expired), blankets (clean / laundered, sturdy wool preferred), specialty items such as gas turnoff tools, hand crank radios, flashlights, etc (must be in working

order), batteries and more may be accepted with approval.

Please do not drop off donations without scheduling with the CERT program coordinator to avoid confusion and the drop-off of unneeded / unwanted items.

There are many charitable opportunities throughout Ashland and beyond if you have other items to donate. Visit the web or local phone book to learn more. CERT also has a short resource list available at Station 1. Thank you.

American Heart Association HeartSaver CPR Course

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 card*. The class takes approximately 4.5-5 hours to complete. All fees must be prepaid prior to the class date to confirm reservation. Please register early to reserve your space.

When: June 13, 2015

Where: Ashland Fire Station 1

Time: 9am-2pm

Cost: \$55

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 & 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 BLS for Healthcare Providers Course Completion Card that is valid for two years.

For 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 January 14 <i>(Cascadia Fault- Movie Night)</i> CERT Luncheon SSBC - Jan. 20 Leadership Meeting January 28 <i>(CERT member handbook)</i> JoCounty CERT Training – JAN.30-FEB. 1	General Meeting February 11 <i>(Avista - Carbon Monoxide Awareness)</i> Emergency Food Prep, Tasting Challenge Feb. 28 CERT Luncheon SSBC – Feb. 17 Leadership Meeting Feb. 25 <i>(Everbridge Training)</i>	Base Inventory – March 7 General Meeting March 11 <i>(ECSO Tour)</i> CERT Luncheon SSBC – March 17 No Leadership Meeting
April 2015	May 2015	June 2015
General Meeting April 8 <i>(Building Triage)</i> CERT Luncheon SSBC – April 21 Leadership Meeting April 22 <i>(Basic Planning)</i> Spontaneous Volunteer Management RESCHEDULED – MAY 9 – ST # 2	Basic Training – April 30-May 2 & May 14-16 General Meeting – <i>(Mercy Flights)</i> CERT Luncheon SSBC – May 19 Base Bike Ride – May 31 (2PM) Leadership Meeting - JUNE 11 - <i>(Basic AAR)</i>	Annual Phone Tree Test – TBA General Meeting June 10 <i>(Basic Graduation)</i> CERT Luncheon SSBC – June 16 Leadership Meeting Jun 24 <i>(Parade Planning)</i> Firefighter Rehab Training - June 6 (9AM)
July 2015	August 2015	September 2015
Parade Support – July 4 General Meeting July 8 <i>(Radio Comms)</i> Evacuation Training – July 11 (9AM-St#2) CERT Luncheon SSBC – July 21 Leadership Meeting July 22	General Meeting August 13 <i>(Life-saving techniques)</i> CERT Luncheon SSBC – Aug 18 Leadership Meet Aug. 27 <i>(Advanced Radio Comms)</i> CERT BBQ – TBA	General Meeting Sept. 9 <i>(Opening Bases/ICS)</i> CERT Luncheon SSBC – Sept. 15 Family & Friends CPR September 19 Leadership Meeting Sept. 23 <i>(Basic Planning)</i>
October 2015	November 2015	December 2015
Basic Training - October 1-3 and 8-10 Basic Graduation October 14 CERT Luncheon SSBC – Oct. 20 Disaster Psychology Advanced—October 24 Leadership Meeting October 28 Base Bike Ride - October 18 (2PM)	Certified Driver – November 14 No General Meeting Nov 11 <i>(Labor Day)</i> CERT Luncheon SSBC – Nov. 17 Leadership Meeting November 18 <i>(Annual Training Planning Session)</i>	CERT Year in Review /Awards December 9 ~ 6:30 to 8:00 PM No Meetings Holiday Season Training Stand Down CERT Luncheon SSBC - Dec. 15

Note: General meetings are open to the public. Doors open at 6pm. Meetings are from 6:30pm-8pm at Fire Station1.

Ashland CERT
 455 Siskiyou Boulevard
 Ashland, OR 97520

TO: