

# Ready Neighbor News



March 2015

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors...*

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## Next Meeting Dates:

**General Meeting:**  
March 11 - ECSO Tour.  
Meeting begins at 6:30 PM  
with carpooling beginning at  
6:00 PM.

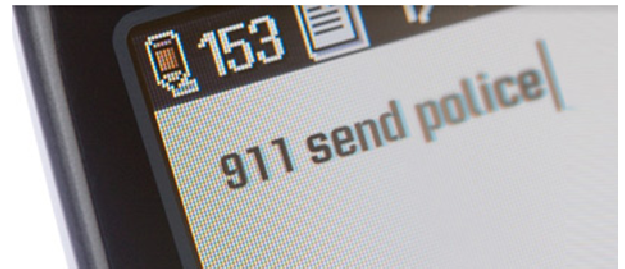
**Leadership Meeting:**  
NO LEADERSHIP  
MEETING IN MARCH  
Enjoy Spring Break



## Vermont & Maine lead the nation in text-to-911

On August 8, 2014, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted an order that will require all wireless carriers and other text messaging providers that enable consumers to send text messages to and from U.S. phone numbers to deliver emergency texts to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) that request them. Wireless carriers and other text messaging providers that are not already supporting text-to-911 must have been capable of doing so by the end of 2014, and must respond to PSAP requests to deliver text-to-911 by June 30, 2015, or six months from the date of the PSAP's request, whichever is later.

The four major wireless carriers (AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon) are already voluntarily providing text-to-911 service in areas served by their networks where PSAPs are prepared to receive texts. In fact, Vermont and Maine have had a fully functioning, prepared PSAP system since 2013. Vermont became the first state to adopt text-to-911 statewide. Vermont's decision to make the switch was easy because the state's public-safety system is centralized. Vermont is one of the few states in the country with a statewide emergency 911 phone system, making rollout easier. Maine had to complete considerable upgrades from 26 dispatch centers into a centralized next generation 911 system. The five-year ongoing contract to upgrade and maintain cost the state \$32 million.



As of November 2014, only 152 counties in 18 states were offering text-to-911 primarily on the east coast. The 152 counties actually incorporate 186 PSAPs. The FCC advises consumers that even in areas where PSAPs accept text-to-911 it is a complement to, not a substitute for, existing voice-based 911 service, so consumers should make a voice call to contact 911 during an emergency whenever possible. If you attempt to send a text to 911 where the service is not yet available, the FCC rules require all wireless carriers and other text messaging providers to send an automatic "bounce-back" message.

Cost has been one big hindrance to states, jurisdictions, and call centers not taking a more proactive approach. Interestingly, text-to-911 may have some other benefits including the capability for vehicles involved in car accidents to automatically contact 911 with accident information or send photos and/or videos of a person's injuries or perhaps a crime scene. Dispatchers will then be able to forward images to police, firefighters, hospitals and others responding.

## Text-to-911 *continued...*

For instance, if a person sends a photo of an injury in a car accident, doctors at a hospital could look at it and prepare themselves for the patient's arrival making text-to-911 a worthwhile cost to upgrade.

In the future, text-to-911 will be widely available in the United States. However, text-to-911 is currently only available in certain markets where 911 call centers, PSAPs, have elected to accept emergency text messages from the public. For this reason, unless you have confirmed that the PSAP in your area supports text-to-911, you should not rely on text to reach 911. Text-to-911 is currently not in available in Oregon.

Oregon's emergency communications professionals recognize that the ability to text to 9-1-1 would be useful in some situations (such as providing additional accessibility to emergency services for our speech and hearing impaired communities). Currently Oregon PSAPs and the State 911 program are planning the upgrade to Oregon's 911 infrastructure to allow text-to-911. When text-to-911 becomes available in Oregon, it will be on a state-wide basis. For now, remember 911 is voice only in Oregon.

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## Early Warning Earthquake Software tested in the Pacific NW

In his office last week, John Vidale, director of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network at the University of Washington, demonstrated the software package that translates signals from seismometers into a warning. Using data from the 2001 Nisqually earthquake, centered near Olympia, the computer screen displayed the words "moderate shaking expected" and a countdown clock that started at 13 seconds (the time it actually took the shaking to reach Seattle).

For nearby quakes, there is less benefit than to those which provide more warning further away. For more distant quakes, the time lag can be 30 seconds or more. In the case of a major quake on the offshore fault of the Cascadia Subduction Zone, Seattle and Portland could get as long as three or four minutes' notice before the ground starts heaving.

Tests of a prototype early warning system called ShakeAlert have been under way in California for several years. The University of Washington is part of a consortium working to expand the network to cover the entire West Coast. There is great debate as to the effectiveness of Early Warning Systems because there are so many unknown variables.

Vidale estimates it will be at least two years before the Northwest warning system can be rolled out on a large scale for businesses and the general public. There's no guarantee of steady funding, and several technical bugs remain to be worked out. A cell phone app is also being tested and planned to be offered to the public at no charge.

The last major eruption of the Cascadia Subduction Zone occurred in 1700 with an average interval occurrence of once every 200-500 years. Mitigation is currently the best practice of community members including making an emergency communications plan, building an emergency supply kit, and staying informed. Members of the public are encouraged to get involved with protection efforts as well. Being prepared is key to resiliency and survival.

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## Preparing now makes sense

The Disaster Registry is a service in both Jackson and Josephine Counties which provides emergency service personnel with the names and locations of people who need special assistance in the event of a disaster. Individuals must apply to the free database by providing a short application; however, providing your information for the Disaster Registry does not guarantee that you will receive immediate help first in a disaster. There are far more needs during a disaster than firefighters, police, and other emergency responders can help with at once. But if your name is in the Disaster Registry, they will at least know of your need for special assistance circumstances. This service is especially useful for the elderly and those with disabilities such as hearing impairments. Contact RVCOG to learn more or to register: 541-644-6674



## April showers bring another City-wide Disaster Drill

The City of Ashland is preparing for yet another large scale disaster exercise. What can CERT members expect? First we will be establishing a team of folks to deliver important information to residents living in the Hosler Dam inundation zone, second we will need folks who have trained on Emergency Operations Center

functions to assist in the EOC the day of the event (Wednesday, April 8), and area members to open bases and provide simulated real-time injects. As the scenario develops we hope to have as many CERT members responding as possible. **SAVE THE DATE.**

## Basic Life Support class for Healthcare Providers offered at AF&R

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 pre-paid prior to the class date to confirm reservation. Please register early to reserve your space.

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