



May 2011

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

Ready Neighbor News

CERT Graduates Largest Basic Training Class Yet

Ashland CERT completed its Spring Basic Training course on Saturday April 23. Representing the largest class yet, with 28 graduates, students received their diplomas during a graduation held on April 27. See the KDRV 10 News story here; <http://tinyurl.com/3bpl3qy>. Ashland CERT has trained 538 citizens in how to be better prepared during disasters making the Ashland program among the most successful in the nation.



Spring 2011 CERT Basic Training Course Graduates

One of the unique aspects of this class is the CERT Management Team's planning and execution of the final disaster scenario as if it were a CERT mobilization. CERT advanced training participants established a

mobilization management team that planned and managed entirely the disaster scenario. As a result, the disaster scenario was a resounding success, during which basic trainees utilized what they learned during the basic course, while CERT management team members honed their skills and experience in managing CERT mobilizations.

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Next Meeting Dates:

General Meeting:
May 11, B Street Yard,
Ashland Fire & Rescue
Trauma Exercise at 6 PM.

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

General Meeting - AF&R Trauma Drill

The general meeting for May will be held at the B-Street Public Works Yard where CERT members may participate as victims or observe a mass-casualty incident drill conducted by Ashland Fire & Rescue fire fighters.

The drill will start at 6 PM and conclude no later than 8 PM and is the culmination event of half-day trauma training sessions. CERT members are welcome to volunteer to be victims who will represent casualties resulting from a multiple vehicle incident. This is great training for our firefighters and will also give CERT members a chance to observe pre-hospital trauma care.

Please volunteer to be a victim if you are available. There are several trauma drills, May 9, 11, and 12, at which you can be a victim. Contact Richard Randleman if you would like to volunteer.

Join Us
for the Largest
Earthquake Drill
in U.S. History.
October 20, 2011

www.shakeout.org

Prepare for Wildfire Season

Fire season in Southern Oregon typically starts in late May or early June and continues through late September or early October.

The greatest loss of life and homes occur when wildland fires burn dense neighborhoods such as the wildfires in Oakland (1991), San Diego County (2003), and South Lake Tahoe (2007).

Ashland is most similar to these communities in vegetation types, home density, and weather. What you do now, to protect yourself, your family, and your home, determines how well you will overcome the effects of a wildfire.

Firefighters have limited time and resources to put out fires and protect homes. The best strategy is to keep fire from igniting your home by assessing the hazards within 100 feet of your house, including the home itself, and then taking action to protect your home and property.

Step 1: Assess Your Home's Ignitability

During a wildfire, airborne embers are a major cause of home ignitions. It is extremely important that these embers do not find a place to land where they can ignite your home. Do the following to reduce the risk of ignition:

- ◆ Replace wood shake roofs with class B or Class A roofing material.
- ◆ Remove all combustible leaves and needles from rooftops and gutters.
- ◆ Clear a "fuel free" zone within 5 feet of any structure, including decks. Compost, dirt, and gravel are acceptable within a few feet of the home as ground cover.
- ◆ Check all exterior vents along the eaves, walls, and foundation to make sure the screening is intact.
- ◆ Move anything that can burn at least 30 feet from the house, uphill if possible. This includes lumber and firewood.
- ◆ Keep propane tanks at least 30 feet from a structure and clear 10 feet or more around them.

- ◆ Close off spaces under decks and exterior vents with 1/8 inch metal screening to prevent embers from entering.
- ◆ Keep spaces under decks free of all combustible materials such as lumber, leaves, and firewood.
- ◆ Clearly post your address on your home and at all driveway junctions. Numbers should be at least 4 inches tall and reflective for easy view in smoke or dark.

Step 2: Create Defensible Space:

- ◆ Grass and weeds should be cut to the ground to prevent fire from spreading. Ashland Municipal Code requires this be done by June 15th each year.
- ◆ Trim vegetation away from windows. Burning vegetation close to a window can break the glass, allowing fire to enter.
- ◆ Thin trees and shrubs to prevent interlocking canopies. Space trees at least 10 feet apart at branch tips, more if on a slope. Thin "ladder fuels" from under trees. The lowest limbs should clear vegetation underneath the tree by 3 times the height of the undergrowth. A good rule of thumb is prune to 8 feet on larger trees or 1/3 of the tree height on small trees.
- ◆ Use flower beds, walkways, rock walls, and lawn to break up the continuity of vegetation in this zone.
- ◆ Thin brush and limb trees within 30 feet of your driveway on each side, especially if it is more than 100 feet long. Increase the distance on the downhill side if the driveway crosses a slope.
- ◆ Leave at least 13.5 feet of clearance above the road surface for fire vehicles to pass under limbs.

For more information about preparing your home for wildfires, go to ashlandfirewise.org.

Be Ready to Evacuate

Ashland residents should be prepared to evacuate during any disaster. A wildfire, however, is the most likely scenario during which residents will likely need to leave their home.

You should evacuate when:

- Smoke or flames are within 1 mile of your home.
- Police or Fire officials notify you to evacuate.
- You hear a notification on 1700AM radio.
- You hear a recorded notification on 552-2490, the Ashland wildfire hotline.

When you evacuate you should:

- Not panic. You will think more rationally if you remain calm.
- Join family members and keep track of each other with a common meeting place.
- Gather pets and arrange for lodging that accepts pets.
- Wear long pants, long sleeved shirts, and boots or sturdy shoes for protection.
- Follow posted evacuation routes, unless the location of the fire compromises the route.
- Park cars facing out, windows up and unlocked. Keep keys with you. In the garage with door closed is okay. Know how to manually open your garage door.
- Leave a note in your home telling to where you evacuated and how you can be contacted.

You should have a disaster kit. Go to www.ready.gov for a list of supplies.

After packing your essential items, prepare your home if time allows by:

- Moving flammable and combustible materials such as wooden furniture, seat pads, garbage, lumber, chemicals, and gas away from the home.
 - Turn off propane tanks, BBQ included. Move them inside garage or away from your house into an open area. Keep them visible for firefighters.
 - Connect garden hoses to outside faucets and wet down shrubbery within 25 feet of your house, starting on the downhill side.
 - Turn on your sprinkler system just before leaving. Don't use water too early, firefighters might need the water capacity elsewhere.
 - Close windows, vents, doors, or non-combustible window coverings.
 - Leave doors unlocked so firefighters can gain access to your home without breaching the door.
 - Remove flammable curtains and move flammable furniture and materials away from windows and sliding glass doors.
 - Turn off the natural gas just before leaving.
 - Follow directions given by officials or from reliable sources such as 1700AM.
 - Follow posted Wildfire Evacuation Route signs. www.ashland.or.us/Files/Wildfire_Evac_Routes.pdf
- Go to www.ashland.or.us/evacuation for more evacuation information.

CERT 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

May 2011	June 2011	July 2011
<p>General Meeting May 11 <i>(AF&R trauma drill)</i> Leadership Meeting May 25 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson - Managing Fire Fighting Support Missions)</i></p>	<p>General Meeting June 8 <i>(Post Disaster Recovery Training)</i> Leadership Meeting Jun 22 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson - Action Plans & Final Planning for 4th of July)</i></p>	<p>Support of 4th of July in the Park General Meeting July 13 <i>(phone tree training)</i> Leadership Meeting July 27 <i>(4th of July AAR - SAR training planning)</i></p>
August 2011	September 2011	October 2011
<p>General Meeting August 10 <i>(Refresher Lesson - Search & Rescue)</i> CERT Semi-Annual Phone Tree Test Leadership Meeting August 24 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson - Managing Search & Rescue Missions)</i></p>	<p>National Preparedness Month General Meeting September 14 <i>(Guest Speaker)</i> CERT Refresher Training September 17 Leadership Meeting September 21</p>	<p>SOU Fall Basic Training Tue -Thu Oct 4-27 General Meeting October 12 <i>(Disaster Preparedness Planning)</i> Leadership Meeting October 26</p>
November 2011	December 2011	January 2012
<p>General Meeting Nov 9 <i>(Refresher Lesson – Damage Assessments)</i> Leadership Planning Meeting November 23</p>	<p>CERT Year in Review / Awards Event December 7, 6:30 to 8:00 PM No General Meeting Holiday Season Training Stand Down No Leadership Meeting</p>	<p>SOU Winter Basic Training Tu-Th, Jan 5– 31 General Meeting January 11 <i>(phone tree training)</i> Leadership Meeting January 25 <i>(annual planning meeting)</i></p>
February 2012	March 2012	April 2012
<p>General Meeting February 8 CERT Semi-Annual Phone Tree Test Leadership Meeting February 29</p>	<p>General Meeting March 14 Leadership Meeting March 28 Advanced / Leadership Training Mar 31</p>	<p>General Meeting April 11 CERT Spring Basic Training April 27-May 5 Leadership Meeting April 25 Awards and Graduation event May 2</p>

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TO: