

Ready Neighbor News



May 2014

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

Ashland CERT Spring Basic Training

We had an exceptionally streamlined basic training final simulation, Saturday, April 26, given being a bit short handed. CERT members once again rose to the occasion and performed phenomenally as the trainees learned more about themselves, each other, the CERT program, and the community.

News 12 created a delightful piece which aired later in the evening (see the link on our website) highlighting the importance of Community Emergency Response Teams following disasters such as earthquakes. Participants were met with live victims encountering a multitude of mock injuries to determine, treat, document, and transport in a learning environment before an actual event occurs. Trainees were thrilled to work together and use the training they had received. The class of nineteen will graduate Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30 PM at Station 1 (open to the public). Please join in welcoming the new members and enjoy cake.

Trainees gained a sense of empowerment during this training session and several submitted words of appraisal (see below):

My CERT training was one of the most valuable avenues through which to become more acquainted with the wonderful citizens of this beloved town of Ashland. I'm relatively isolated, in that I'm a 65 yr. old disabled woman caring for her 92 yr. old mom on the outskirts of town. The Ashland Fire Department has responded so beautifully to my several 911 calls in the last year that when I learned of the Citizens Emergency Response training I was especially drawn to learn more, in order to gain some competency in handling myself and loved ones in an emergency. Yet I was reluctant to investigate further, feeling I would not be an asset due to my physical limitations. When my sister, who is visiting from Massachusetts was excited to participate in the program, I felt more comfortable in attending. I need not have had any fear of feeling unsupported, in that the gracious patience and professional experience of Terri, Shannon, Kelly and all the rest of the trainers, including the students, was encouraging and heartwarming. There was much I could not do, but was happy to observe. Some things I was reluctant to try, but with the gentle encouragement and assistance of the fire team, was able to have hands-on operation of a fire extinguisher, which was in itself an accomplishment for me.

Even though the subject of the training is grim indeed, the experience of going shoulder to shoulder with neighbors, in an atmosphere of humor and mutual aid, was one of the best.

Thank you to all,
Chris DeSmit

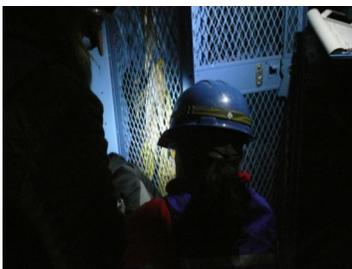
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Next Meeting Dates:

General Meeting:
May 14, Fire Station 1.
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.

Leadership Meeting:
May 28, Fire Station 1
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.



Basic Training ... continued ...

I took Ashland's CERT basic training last month because I have been anxious and frightened by the possibility of a large scale disaster in our area for sometime. I am aware that if a large earthquake, fire, or other disaster struck our community, emergency responders will be overwhelmed. I took the training to gain skills to help my family and neighbors.

The training was both informative and fun. Instructor Terri Eubanks perfectly blends the seriousness of what we were learning with a healthy dose of good humor, and fun hands on exercises. The guest speakers were interesting, helpful and appropriate. I learned a lot about helping my neighbors and preparing my family.

What surprised me was that, the more I learned about disasters, and about preparing for disaster, the more my anxiety eased. Gaining knowledge of how to prepare for, and respond to a disaster was very empowering. After taking the CERT training, I believe that with good preparations and a strong community, my family, and the community of Ashland, will likely survive and recover from any disaster. I now feel confident that I can prepare my family and help my neighbors.

I look forward to continuing with Ashland CERT, and I highly recommend the basic training to all of my neighbors. The more we are prepared, the better our outcomes in times of disaster.

Brandy MacDonald

Evacuations ~ Know the Protocol - An Update

Fire season is proving to be on the heels of the community. Dry, hot conditions threaten to make an early call as we move into May. CERT will likely be involved in many of the operational proceedings if additional support is needed especially in areas such as evacuation. Note that there are three evacuation levels currently being devised and used by Ashland Fire and other agencies in Jackson County. While the exact definitions may vary between now and final edition, if we consider them as Level 1 (Ready), Level 2 (Get Set), and Level 3 (GO), we should be in concert with the intent.

The latest version from the Oregon Sheriff's Association reads:

LEVEL 1 (Green): A Level 1 evacuation means "BE READY" for potential evacuation.

Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services *may* contact you via an emergency notification system.

LEVEL 2 (Yellow): You must prepare to leave at a moment's notice.

This level indicates there is significant danger in your area and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with friends or family outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. Residents may have time to gather important items but doing so is at their own risk. **THIS MAY BE THE ONLY NOTICE THAT YOU RECEIVE.** Emergency services cannot guarantee that they will be able to notify you if conditions rapidly deteriorate.

LEVEL 3 (Red) Go, leave immediately.

Danger in your area is current or imminent and you should evacuate immediately. If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand that emergency services may not be available to assist you further. Do not delay leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home. This is the last notice you will receive.

AF&R will be pushing out some public information nuggets about the upcoming fire season. One of the key points will be if you do live where wildfires are a threat, basically all of Ashland, you should heed most of the Level 1 items before fire season starts. Also, this evacuation program is intended for "all hazards" in the County.

BE READY:

OPTING IN to Citizen Alert may be the most effective means of evacuation notification. By OPTING IN residents maximize the system's effectiveness. For those homes without landlines they will **not** be notified by Citizen Alert if they do not OPT IN. OPT IN by visiting the City's website.

Training Opportunities

County Wide Disaster Simulation Drill - CERT to test regional member call-out, communications, team abilities, and much more. The County is offering free lunch for those that participate in this field-based earthquake drill. This simulation will be conducted in Central Point and transportation services provided by RVTD at no cost. RVTD will be testing their capabilities to respond to evacuees during earthquake disasters.

When: Saturday, May 3 from 7:30 am (bus pick up at Station 1) – 3:00 pm. Members must bring CERT gear (hard hat, vest, and ID) and additional ready items as needed (Dress for all weather), wear close-toed shoes and long pants, and consider needs for refreshment and rehab in the field; pizza lunch provided. *Not too late to join.*

Base Inventory – Annual base inventory day, **Saturday, May 10** beginning at **9:00 AM**. All members requested to assist in cleaning, organizing, and taking inventory on the contents in their local base. I will come around to each base to answer questions, but expect delays as I go from base to base.

May Base Bike Ride – Following basic training and organization let's get out and tour the bases, open them and look inside, and meet fellow CERT members. Carpooling allowed; please join. Begin at **Briscoe Base 9:00 AM Saturday, May 17.**

CPR Night – Non-certification CPR course free and open to the public. Limited space available; Please RSVP with the CERT office. **When: Thursday, May 22 from 5:00-8:00 PM.**

Auxillary Communications Emergency Solutions (ACES) which provides emergency communications for groups such as ARES in Oregon. Is hosting a training which covers most aspects of Emergency Communications as well as ICS elements. The class provides for the participants to have the ARES Basic Level Certification. **When: May 30, 31 and June 1.** It is a weekend intensive course starting Friday evening and continuing until Sunday late afternoon. It is both a lecture and hands-on course. The cost is **\$25 per student** which includes the student workbook and the class will be limited to about 25 participants. The class will be held in the training room at the **Sheriff's Office on Crater Lake Hwy.** *All of the participants must have completed the ICS 100, 200 and 700 courses.* **Contact: Don Montgomery at: donm12@charter.net**

Wildfire Hotline: 541-552-2490 | CERT Hotline: 541-552-2378 | 1700 AM Radio

HeartSaver CPR Adult class offered at Ashland Fire & Rescue

HeartSaver CPR AED is a classroom, video based, instructor led course that teaches adult CPR and AED use, as well as how to relieve choking on an adult. This course teaches skills with American Heart Association's research-proven Practice-While-Watching technique, which allows instructors to observe the students, provide feedback and guide the students' learning of skills.

This course is for anyone with limited or no medical training who needs a course completion card in CPR and AED use to meet job, regulatory, or other requirements.

When: Saturday, May 31 - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: Ashland Fire Station 1

The cost for this course is \$35, which includes a student study book and card*. The class takes approximately 3 hours to complete. All fees must be prepaid prior to the class date to confirm reservation.

Please register early to reserve your space.

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.

*Upon successful completion, students will receive an American Heart Association HeartSaver CPR AED 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 2014 Calendar of Events

January 2014	February 2014	March 2014
General Meeting January 8 <i>(Cold-weather Shelter Operations)</i> Leadership Meeting January 22 <i>(Member Mission Compilation)</i> EOC TRAINING - FEBRUARY 1	General Meeting February 12 <i>(Avista~ Gas Water Heaters)</i> Emergency Food Prep & Tasting Saturday, February 8 Leadership Meeting February 26	General Meeting March 12 <i>(Preparing for Wildfire)</i> Spontaneous Volunteer Management - March 8 NO Leadership Meeting
April 2014	May 2014	June 2014
General Meeting April 9 <i>(Radio Communications)</i> Leadership Meeting April 23 <i>(Basic Planning)</i> Basic Training April 10-12 & 24-26	Base Inventory - May 10 Basic Graduation - General Meeting Leadership Meeting May 28 Base Bike Ride May 17 (9AM-1PM) CPR Night - May 22	Annual Phone Tree Test General Meeting June 11 <i>(Safe Drinking Water)</i> Leadership Meeting June 25 <i>(Planning for 4th of July)</i> Firefighter Rehab Mission Training
July 2014	August 2014	September 2014
General Meeting July 9 <i>(Mass Casualty Incidents)</i> Evacuation Training—July 2 (8AM-1PM) Leadership Meeting July 23 <i>Disaster Relay Games— July 19</i>	General Meeting August 13 <i>(POD Training)</i> Leadership Meeting August 27 <i>(Phone Banks)</i> CPR Night—August 7	General Meeting September 12 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting September 26 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson)</i>
October 2014	November 2014	December 2014
Basic Training October 9-11 & 16-18 General Meeting October 8 Leadership Meeting October 24 Base Bike Ride—October 25	General Meeting November 12 <i>(Basic Graduation)</i> <i>Refresher Training—November 15</i> Leadership Meeting November 19	CERT Year in Review /Awards December 10, 6:30 to 8:00 PM No Meetings Holiday Season Training Stand Down

Note: General meetings are open to the public. Doors open at 6pm. Meetings are from 6:30pm-8pm at Fire Station 1.

Ashland CERT
 455 Siskiyou Boulevard
 Ashland, OR 97520

TO: