



September 2011

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

Ready Neighbor News

Reverse 9-1-1 System to Automate Phone Tree

One of the critical components of disaster preparedness is to stay informed. A new emergency notification system that calls or emails information about emergencies is available for use by CERT members. There is no cost and registration is very easy.

The system, called "Citizen Alert!," is a powerful communication tool that can contact tens of thousands of people per hour, and enables Ashland and County officials to quickly provide citizens with emergency information such as the evacuation of a neighborhood.

In addition, Ashland CERT members will be part of several pre-planned system groups organized according to a member's assigned base. This capability will essentially automate the Ashland CERT phone tree call out procedure. The pre-planned CERT groups will be administered only by CERT staff and leadership.

The phone tree will remain a backup to the Citizen Alert! system in the event the system fails. CERT members will continue to update the phone tree and test it annually.

"The unique advantage the system provides CERT is that we can alert our members if we believe there is pending danger or a potential mobilization, providing important lead time to prepare," commented Richard Randleman, CERT Program Coordinator.

Fire Chief John Karns strongly encourages all Ashland residents and businesses to opt-in to take full advantage of the system's capabilities. "Telephone landlines from the 9-1-1 database are already in the system, but many people don't have a landline or aren't home to answer the phone when an emergency occurs," said Karns. By opting in, citizens can be notified of emergencies just about anywhere.

CERT members can register several ways in which to be contacted, including mobile phones, work phones or email, in the priority they specify. The system will continue trying to reach subscribers using each contact point until the subscriber confirms receipt of the message.

CERT members can register by going to www.ashlandcert.org. For more information contact Ashland CERT at 541-552-2226 or cert@ashlandcert.org.

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Next Meeting Dates:

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

Leadership Meeting:
September 21, Fire Station 1
Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.



CERT Base Gets Naturescape Exterior

Ashland CERT Lincoln Base members are in for a pleasant surprise next time they go to the base.

Thanks to the work of Whitney Wallis, a recent graduate of SOU and review by Ashland CERT's base committee, Lincoln Base has a wonderful new façade.

Wallis, who earned a Bachelors of Arts degree majoring in art in June, undertook the significant task not only to promote the Earthtribe Community Garden but also as the capstone project for her degree.



Lincoln Base helps promote Ashland's Community Garden

The art depicts four seasons of companion plants and expresses the goal of the garden to create a community dedicated to practicing sustainable, organic agriculture.

The painting creates a naturescape that blends in with its surroundings instead of obscuring them.

Ecology Center of the Siskiyou (ECOS) the facilitator of the Earthtribe Community Garden sponsored the project by providing all the materials.



Whitney Wallis at work applying finishing details

Wallis, a wildland firefighter and advocate for the outdoors, is passionate about public art. She hopes to travel to Mexico and Latin America after the fire season is over to pursue her career in art.



September 11, 2001, Thomas E. Franklin's iconic image of Firefighters raising the U.S. flag

September 11 Remembrance Ceremony

Ashland CERT members are invited to join Ashland Fire & Rescue on Sunday, September 11, 2011, at 6:45 a.m. on the steps of Fire Station 1, Siskiyou Boulevard and East Main, to reflect and remember September 11. On this 10th anniversary of 9/11, the department will offer a moment of silence and a traditional fire service bell ceremony to remember those who perished that day.

Ashland Fire & Rescue is honored to be a recent recipient of a steel artifact from the World Trade Center. Almost two years after the request, Ashland Fire & Rescue was chosen to receive this item of remembrance.

The artifact is a steel beam that will go on display in the Fire Station 1 lobby for the first time on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

Advanced Training Scheduled for November 18-19

Ashland CERT will conduct its Advanced Training on November 18 and 19 this year. Advanced training helps CERT members acquire the skills necessary to become leaders of CERT mobilizations and CERT teams during emergencies.

This year, participants will receive training and tasks that incorporate live radio communications with Ashland Fire & Rescue personnel and Ashland EOC staff both of whom will be conducting real-time emergency scenarios.

In addition, participants will learn how to provide status and damage reports to Incident Command, in-process and stage volunteers for assignment, and recover volunteers after their assignments are completed.

The training coupled with good food, some problem solving and leadership activities, and friendly conversation should prove to be a fun and rewarding day for all.

There are a limited number of spaces available and priority goes to existing members of the Leadership Team. If you would like to participate in Advanced Training, please notify Richard.



AF&R 8801 in initial attack during the Oak Knoll Fire

FREE Disaster Training Opportunities!

ICS 100 & 700 - September 23

Jackson County Medical Reserve Corps is offering free ICS 100 and 700 courses. The courses are the base level of ICS training appropriate for CERT members. Although the courses are offered online, often times a classroom setting is much more enjoyable.

Training will be held at 400 Pech Road, Central Point, from 1 to 5 p.m. on September 23. Register at www.surveymonkey.com/s/6XMG7TB or email mrc@jacksoncounty.org or call 541-774-8029.

START Triage - September 10 & 30

Jackson County Medical Reserve Corps is offering free START Triage training Saturday September 10, from 9 to 11 a.m. or September 30 from 1 to 3 p.m. The classes will be held at the Community Justice Building, 1101 West Main Medford.

Register at www.surveymonkey.com/s/TB5NHPW for the September 10 class, or www.surveymonkey.com/s/TH72TSH for the September 30 class.

You may also email at mrc@jacksoncounty.org or call 541-774-8029.

CERT SOU Fall Basic Training - Tuesdays and Thursdays in October

Southern Oregon University is hosting CERT Basic Training again this fall. The class is a three credit hour course for students attending SOU. For those not seeking credits, the course is free of charge.

The course will be held on the SOU campus from 2 PM to 5 PM every Tuesday and Thursday in October except during the final disaster scenario which will be held at The Grove.

For more information about CERT Basic Training, go to www.ashland.or.us/basic

CERT 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

September 2011	October 2011	November 2011
National Preparedness Month General Meeting September 14 <i>(Disaster Preparedness Review)</i> Leadership Meeting September 21 <i>(Advanced Training Design—Skit Rehearse)</i>	SOU Basic Training Tue -Thu Oct 4-27 General Meeting October 12 <i>(CERT ICS Demonstration)</i> Leadership Meeting October 26	General Meeting Nov 9 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting November 16 <i>(Pre-Lessons for Advanced Training)</i> Advanced / Leadership Training Nov 18-19
December 2011	January 2012	February 2012
CERT Year in Review / Awards December 7, 6:30 to 8:00 PM No General Meeting Holiday Season Training Stand Down No Leadership Meeting	General Meeting January 11 <i>(Phone Tree Training)</i> Leadership Meeting January 25 <i>(Phone Tree 9-1-1 System Management)</i>	SOU Basic Training Tue-Thu, Feb 1– 24 General Meeting February 8 <i>(Guest Speaker)</i> CERT Annual Phone Tree Test Leadership Meeting February 29
March 2012	April 2012	May 2012
General Meeting March 14 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting March 28 <i>(Planning for Basic Training)</i>	General Meeting April 11 <i>(Basic Training, Volunteer Training)</i> Leadership Meeting April 25 <i>(Final Prep for Basic Training)</i>	Basic Graduation - General Meeting May 9 Leadership Meeting May 23 (Basic Training AAR)
June 2012	July 2012	August 2012
General Meeting June 13 <i>(CERT Evacuation Training)</i> Leadership Meeting Jun 27 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson & Final Planning for 4th of July)</i>	General Meeting July 11 <i>(CERT Fire Mission Training)</i> Leadership Meeting July 25 <i>(4th of July AAR – Fire Mission Planning)</i>	General Meeting August 8 <i>(Guest Speaker)</i> Leadership Meeting August 22 <i>(Fire Department Communications)</i>

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TO: