

# Ready Neighbor News



September 2013

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors...*

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### Next Meeting Dates:

**General Meeting:**  
September 11, at Fire Station 1. Disaster preparedness review. Meeting starts at 6:30 with doors open at 6:00 PM.

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



## Faces of Ashland CERT

September is Disaster Preparedness month; an entire month devoted to promoting awareness and preparedness at all levels nationally. National Preparedness month is an opportunity to gain knowledge of the many risks you are susceptible to, how to mitigate the risks of those potential hazards, and be prepared for those that are beyond your control; essentially readiness, response, and recovery efforts. In short, it's a time to be informed, make a plan, build or refresh your emergency kit, and get involved.

The Faces of Ashland CERT campaign has highlighted many individuals over the past months, but this month CERT focuses on the tenants of disaster preparedness month initiated nearly a decade ago. The September edition will focus on families. We all have one, we all love them, and we all owe it to each to be prepared. Several years ago a long time CERT advocate took her first steps towards training and since has encouraged others to do so including her father who has recently joined Ashland CERT. Preparedness is a shared responsibility and it takes a whole community. Introducing the father and daughter team in our team.

**Let's start by getting to know both Harry (age 73) and Vicki Purslow (age 50). Tell me a little bit about yourselves.**

**Harry:** I retired from AT&T with 32 years of service mostly as a switching equipment installation supervisor. Following AT&T I remained in the telecommunications business working for two small startup companies in the role of installation manager for one and quality assurance manager for the other.

**Vicki:** After 8 years in administrative at SOU, I returned to my passion: teaching music. I'm a professor at SOU and teach rock history, jazz history, history of music in film, and am musical director for the spring musicals. CERT has been on my radar since I moved to the area - I remember seeing adverts for the training program and always thought it'd be a wonderful training, whether or not I opted to be an active member. CERT's public presence over years has increased a lot - the community can rely on us at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and as other situations arise.



**ASHLAND IS READY (AIR)...  
ARE YOU?**

**Saturday, September 7  
8AM-12PM & 1PM-5PM.  
Historic Ashland Armory  
Costs: \$5. Tickets available at  
Ashland Fire & Rescue Station 1**

## Faces of Ashland CERT - continued...

### Where did you move from and why (what attracted you to the Rogue Valley/Ashland)?

Vicki: I came to Ashland in 2001 to be the director of SOU's Medford Campus. What attracted me to the Rogue Valley was the beauty of our region, both geographically and culturally. As a professor in SOU's music department, having access to high quality arts remains important to me.

Harry: My wife, Wendy, and I moved to Ashland in 2004 to be near our daughter who moved here in 2001. Before moving to Ashland we lived in Fair Oaks, CA for 15 years and before that in the San Francisco Bay area for 28 years. In leaving Fair Oaks our number one goal was to be close to at least one of our two children. We also wanted a place that would provide a slower pace of life yet one that would meet our cultural interests, provide opportunities for volunteer work and hobby interests and of course a place that would provide good and easily accessible medical care.

**Vicki, you have been a long time CERT member, why did you choose to join CERT?** I joined CERT because SOU had received a grant that provided for CERT training to be offered on campus. At the time, I was an associate dean and the CERT classes fell into my area. I thought that if I was going to recruit students and faculty to become a part of the program, I'd better experience it firsthand. I had been interested in CERT for years, so this was the perfect opportunity for me to jump in.

### How were you introduced to CERT/ how did learn about CERT?

Vicki: I remember reading about it in the Ashland Daily Tidings, but it was Heather Freiheit who really taught me about the program's value as she was seeking administrative support for CERT training to come to the SOU campus.

Harry: I first learned about CERT from my daughter Vicki who was/is an active member. At the same time, I live in a neighborhood covered by a homeowners association and a neighbor (also a CERT member) suggested that CERT training might be of benefit as part of a neighborhood awareness program.

**Harry, you recently became a member of CERT, was training encouraged by your daughter Vicki?** There is no doubt that my daughter Vicki was the catalyst for my involvement in CERT. She was already a member and we had discussed the idea that I should become a member. One day Vicki told me of an upcoming CERT training date and encouraged me to sign up. I did.

### Did you intend on actually joining when you signed up for basic training?

Vicki: Absolutely.

Harry: In honesty, I thought that in signing up for and taking training I was making a commitment to become an active member of CERT.

### What did you like best about basic training?

Harry: I am pretty much a hands-on person and feel I benefited most from the various disaster simulations and how to extinguish a fire.

Vicki: Learning about the protocols used by AF&R. Most of us have no idea what systems are in place, and how all of the agencies collaborate. It gave me such renewed and increased respect for the work of many agencies who come together in times of disaster.

### Now that you have become members what do you find most interesting about Ashland CERT?

Vicki: The people. CERT members are from all walks of life - we have different skills and life experiences that, when brought together, make us very strong. There is room for everyone - no matter age, physical ability, etc. - to participate in CERT.

Harry: I am still in the initial stages of becoming an active CERT member but realize there are a variety of areas within CERT that may be of interest to a wide audience. I like that CERT members don't need an emergency situation to make themselves known to the community. The recent "shooting on campus" activity or the Ashland 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade are examples.

### Are you involved with other volunteer organizations in the community and/or interests that you would like to share happening in the community?

Harry: Beside CERT, I am a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Vicki: I am a member of the Britt Board of Directors.

### Do you have other interests/hobbies etc you would like to share?

Harry: I have been an avid softball player for the past 25 years and especially enjoy tournament level play competing throughout the western United States. I also enjoy playing pickleball and once in a great while I find time to work on stained glass projects.

Vicki: I am an avid skier, and can be found at Mt. Ashland or Buck's Prairie on most weekends in winter. As a saxophonist, I have an active performance schedule.

### Have you taken other trainings offered through Ashland CERT?

Vicki: I have not.

Harry: I am currently working on completing a Federal Emergency Management Agency Independent Home Study program, Introduction to Incident Command Systems, which will help prepare me for additional CERT training.

### Did each of you build a 72 hour kit?

Harry: Once I obtain a decent portable radio my 72 hour kit will be ready to go.

Vicki: Yes, I sure did. We have a 10-day water supply as well.

**Vicki, you are employed with one of Ashland's largest employers; do you feel local employers are supportive of CERT and support business readiness?** Yes, I do. Most businesses think about emergency readiness, but CERT can provide a structure for it. Oftentimes, emergency response teams are comprised of higher level leaders.

CERT affords an opportunity for employees at all levels to become training and involved if needed. SOU has CERT trained students and employees in nearly every building on campus. This will be critical when a disaster strikes. CERT reminded me that it's not if, it's when.

#### How have you noticed CERT evolve locally?

Harry: Although I have lived in Ashland for 9 years I am new to CERT and therefore have not had the chance to witness CERT's evolution. However, I will say that I admire the dedication I have seen from active members and appreciate the hard work and time they expend making the program viable. Ashland is fortunate to have a program like CERT and I am confident members will be ready when needed.

#### Do you feel more families should partake in CERT training?

Vicki: Absolutely. Disaster may strike at any time, and we can't be sure who will be able to help out in any given location, be it at home, work, or somewhere else. Having more than one family member trained means being able to better extend help to neighbors and others in our community.

Harry: Even after receiving CERT training I'm not sure how I might personally react or respond in an emergency situation. However, basic CERT training gave me more insight to what it might be like and I feel better prepared. If for no other reason, CERT training should benefit any family.

#### Are you both supported by your other family members in your pursuit of preparedness?

Harry: Absolutely!  
Vicki: Absolutely. It was a really good reality check for everyone - it's so easy to delay emergency preparations and keep it at the back of our minds. CERT put it right back to the top of our

minds.

#### Anything else you would like to add?

Harry: I think CERT is one of those valuable community assets that not many people are truly aware of. If not for my daughter Vicki and the enthusiasm she shared about the program I might simply be one of those people.

Vicki: I want to challenge other families to get one or more members CERT trained. The training is rewarding and challenging, and I promise that your family will benefit from the engaging conversations CERT will stimulate over the dinner table. Thanks to CERT, my family has a 72-hour kit, a 10-day water supply, and everyone has a pair of shoes tied around the feet of the bed. Yep, learned that in CERT. In the event of a big earthquake, the last thing you want to do is walk barefooted across a room with broken window glass just to get to some shoes. I learned this and so much more in CERT. I promise it's a wonderful benefit for you, your loved ones, and the community.

#### Can we expect to see more Purslow family members come through our training program?

Vicki: not at this time, but I hope so in the next year or so.  
Harry: It would be terrific if we were all trained but probably not at this time.

Thank you Vicki and Harry for all that you do! CERT appreciates you both. I sincerely hope that other members will flag down our Purslow family when seen around town, say hello, and introduce yourself. Harry and Vicki have taken part in many CERT functions since they joined including Base Inventory. And as you can see are big advocates towards the mission of CERT. Take the opportunity to talk to *your* family this month in light of DPM.

## American Heart Association CPR Courses in September

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:** September, 14th, 2013

**Where:** Ashland Fire Station 1

**Time:** 9am-2pm

**Cost:** \$55

\*Upon successful completion, students will receive an American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers Course Completion Card that is valid for two years.

#### 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 8 AM - 4 PM Monday through Friday at Fire Station 1, 455 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, OR 97520. Make checks payable to City of Ashland.

**For information or to register contact the CERT Program Coordinator at 541-552-2226 | [cert@ashland.or.us](mailto:cert@ashland.or.us)**

The Family & Friends CPR Course teaches the lifesaving skills of adult Hands-Only<sup>®</sup> CPR, child CPR with breaths, adult and child AED use, infant CPR and relief of choking in an adult, child or infant. Skills are taught in a dynamic group environment by using the AHA's research-proven practice-while-watching technique, which provides students with the most hands-on CPR practice time possible.

Family & Friends CPR is for people who want to learn CPR but do not need a course completion card\* in CPR for their job. This course is ideal for schools and students, new parents, grandparents, babysitters and others interested in learning how to save a life.

**When:** Saturday, September 21, 2013

**Where:** Ashland Community Center

**Time:** 9am – 11am

**Cost:** \$5

\* This course does not provide a course completion card; however, students receive a tear-out participation card in their student manual.

# CERT 2013 Calendar of Events

January 2013	February 2013	March 2013
General Meeting January 9 <i>(Pacific Power Safety)</i> <b>MRE and Emergency Food Tasting</b> <b>Saturday, January 12 (12PM-2PM)</b> Leadership Meeting January 23	General Meeting February 13 <i>(Weather Conditions)</i> Leadership Meeting February 27 <b>MYN Night - February 26</b>	General Meeting March 13 <i>(Swiftwater Awareness)</i> <b>MYN Night – March 12</b> <b>Base Inventory – March 16</b> Leadership Meeting March 27
April 2013	May 2013	June 2013
General Meeting April 10 <i>(JC SAR)</i> Leadership Meeting April 25 <i>(Final Prep for Basic Training)</i> <b>Spring Basic Training April 11-13 &amp; 18-20</b>	<b>Basic Graduation - General Meeting May 8</b> Leadership Meeting May 22 (Basic Training AAR & 4th of July Planning) <b>Annual Phone Tree Test - May 18</b> <b>Base Bike Ride – May 19 (9AM-1PM)</b>	<b>Refresher Training—June 1</b> General Meeting July 10 <i>(Radio Communications)</i> Leadership Meeting Jun 26 <i>(Parade Support)</i> <b>Firefighter Rehab Mission Training</b> <b>June 22 (9AM-4PM)</b> Solar Storm Formidable Footprint June 29
July 2013	August 2013	September 2013
General Meeting June 12 <i>(START Triage )</i> <b>Base Painting Party – July 13 (8AM-11AM)</b> Leadership Meeting July 24	General Meeting August 14 <i>(Medical Operations Review)</i> Leadership Meeting August 28 <i>(Basic Planning)</i>	<b>National Preparedness Month</b> General Meeting September 11 <b>CPR Saturday September 21</b> Leadership Meeting September 25
October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
<b>Fall Basic Training—October 3-5 &amp; 10-12</b> General Meeting October 9 Leadership Meeting October 23 <b>Advanced Training October 19</b>	<b>Refresher Training – November 9</b> General Meeting Nov 13 <i>(Basic Graduation)</i> Leadership Meeting November 20 <i>(Annual Training Planning Session)</i>	<b>CERT Year in Review</b> <b>December 11, 6:30 to 8:00 PM</b> No Meetings <b>Holiday Season Training Stand Down</b>

**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: