



Ready Neighbor News

www.ashlandcert.org

December 2020
Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

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Next Meeting Dates:

Appreciation Meeting:
December 9 - Remote Topic:
Volunteer Recognition—
UGLY Sweater Night.
Meeting starts at 6 PM with
open conversation at 5:30.

No Leadership Meeting:
Happy Holidays.



Fire scars, toxic soil and erosion

We welcomed winter weather this fall in southern Oregon. As the leaves blanket the ground in brightly colored mosaics, we all have hopeful thoughts of rain filling the lakes and reservoirs, snow adorning the mountains, and the dry soil softening for new spring growth. While the rain and snowpack are absolutely needed it will also pose new health concerns and hazards in a post-Almeda Fire environment.

The human caused Almeda Fire burned 3,200 acres, destroyed more than 2,600 structures, and displaced an estimated 5,000 residents in the worst fire in the history of southern Oregon driven by 40 mph winds and embers the size of tennis balls. The impact was devastating to life, property, and the environment. The acreage burned along roughly a 9-mile path including the riparian zone along Bear Creek home to native fish and other wildlife. Experts at the US Forest Service call it an urban conflagration, one that burned through dry grasslands, riparian areas with dense fuel loads from non-native blackberries, and of course, in urban areas with densely packed residences.

The weekends were speckled with rain and snow events during November and it has many worried. When water flows over burned structures and the contents that were once inside and now exposed, it can pick up anything that was

exposed in the fire, including lead paint, pesticides, plastics, rubber, solvents, and asbestos. During rain events, these harmful materials can get washed into local rivers and streams, which can be toxic to fish (and humans). Runoff from burned trees, shrubs and grasses can carry high levels of nutrients, which can lead to harmful algae blooms. Because the Almeda Fire burned with such high severity, the burned trees and shrubs lead to bare soil being left behind, which can become unstable during rainy weather causing severe erosion and increased sediments entering Bear Creek and other waterways. More sediment in our streams can harm fish, pollute drinking water sources, and can smother gravel in streambeds that salmon use for spawning. Additionally, less stable hillsides may increase the likelihood of dangerous mudslides.

Many government and private entities are working diligently to restore the banks of Bear Creek and preserve the natural space and wildlife who need it for survival. Contact Jackson County Parks to learn more about what you can do to support revitalization efforts and about the 20-mile Greenway Path which has been slowly reopening for public use. Visit: <https://jacksoncountyor.org/parks/Greenway/Greenway-Projects>



CERT Volunteer Recognition Night | Ugly Sweater Event

Volunteers, please join the Ugly Sweater Zoom celebration Wednesday, December 9 from 5:30pm-8:30pm. Email RSVP for the link in advance. Wear your ugly'est sweater. And enjoy the camaraderie of those from the best volunteer organization in Ashland!

The Appreciation Event will include stats, projects, and accolades from 2020 and some Zoom room fun. Hope to see you then.

Training Opportunities

DHS CISA Region 10 Active Shooter 2-hr Webinar December 15, 2020 10am-12pm PST

Objectives:

- Discuss the elements of active shooter incident response planning with guidance from expert instructors.
- Describe common behaviors, conditions, and situations associated with active shooter events.
- Discuss how to recognize potential workplace violence indicators.
- Provide information about best practices, communications protocols, and resources that will assist stakeholders to develop or enhance their emergency planning, preparedness, and response to active shooter incidents.

DHS Resources:

Resources on Active Shooter Preparedness can be found by visiting: <http://www.cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>

Products and information can also be requested by contacting the Active Shooter Preparedness team at ASworkshop@hq.dhs.gov

Registration: Registration for this event is free.

To register, click here or visit: <https://www.govevents.com/details/42743/cisa-active-shooter-preparednesswebinar--cisa-region-x/>

Registration closes on December 14, 2020 at noon (12:00 PM EST)

****Note:** An email with information to connect to the event will be sent after the registration closes.

EMI: Save on Tuition and Shorten Your Path to a Degree

If you have taken courses at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute, you may be able to transfer those credits toward a degree at University of Maryland Global Campus. Visit: <https://sites.umgc.edu/corporate/emi/index.cfm> to learn more.

Holiday greetings and gatherings

Happy holidays to each and all. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the world during 2020. We all found comfort in staying home, connection through phone calls and Zoom meetings, and frankly, we found a new attitude towards being flexible. Sometimes the upsets of closures, childcare, schooling, and employment and food insecurities left us angry and scared, but we have strength in helping each other, creating new normal, and simply getting through these difficult times. The pandemic forced many tough decisions for folks, but it also allowed new ideas and perspectives to emerge.

Take care this holiday season. Check on family and friends safely through phone and email. Wear a mask when visiting loved ones. Share moments together outside walking in the park. Be sure to gift the ones you love with precaution as we continue to learn the intricacies of COVID, long asymptomatic time frames, long term health impacts and more through frequent hand washing, wearing a mask, and keeping a safe distance. Celebrate your health by keeping healthy!



Hope for a better 2021

Internally, our local CERT Program took a huge economic impact hit with the reduction of the full-time coordinator to part-time leaving the longtime volunteers worrying the effects that the part-time status may scar the program's ability to maintain and sustain its current capabilities. COVID impacted in-person training and meeting opportunities and now the status reduction threatens future new volunteer training, advanced training opportunities, and more.

But there is hope. The City of Ashland still has the CERT Program Coordinator listed as a FTE classification in their pay scale system. There's still hope; write your current and future Mayor and City Councils members, inform them what is important to you in the community you live in. Write your current and new City Council and recommend the reorganizing of the Fire Department budget take priority and be sure to wish them happy holidays. The effects of COVID will be resolved.

CERT 2020 Calendar of Events

January 2020	February 2020	March 2020
Mental Health First Aid – January 4 General Meeting - January 8 (Stop the Bleed) Leadership Meeting - January 22	Response to Active Shooter Event – Feb. 8 Disaster Recovery Planning – February 10 General Meeting - February 12 (MYN) Leadership Meeting - February 26	WFA NOLS – March 7-8 General Meeting - March 11 (GPS Units) Leadership Meeting - March 25 (Basic Training Planning)
April 2020	May 2020	June 2020
Basic Training – CANCELED General Meeting – April 8 (Lyme Disease & Tick Talk) Leadership Meeting - April 22	General Meeting – May 13 (CERT Skills) EM Permaculture Tips & Tricks – TBA Leadership Meeting - May 27 (CERT & COVID)	General Meeting - June 10 (Radio Skills) Leadership Meeting - June 24 (Event Planning) ODOT EM Traffic Flagger – TBA in 2021
July 2020	August 2020	September 2020
Parade Support – CANCELED General Meeting - July 8 (Base Tours) Leadership Meeting - July 22 (Parade AAR) Leadership Training Retreat – TBA in 2021	General Meeting - August 12 (Urban Emergency Preparedness) Leadership Meeting - August 26	Hosler Dam Drill – September 9 General Meeting – Sept. 9 (Basic Planning) **All-Bases Radio Exercise – Sept. 19**
October 2020	November 2020	December 2020
Basic Training - October 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24 Jackson County Fire District 5 Open House October 14 5pm-7pm Leadership Meeting - October 28	Team Leadership Training – Nov. 7 Basic Graduation – Tuesday, November 10 Leadership Meeting – Tuesday, November 17 (Annual Training Planning Session)	CERT Appreciation Night December 9 - 5:30 to 8:30 PM Holiday Season ~ Training Stand Down

Note: ****Calendar items may be modified and are subject to cancellation. ****

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TO: