



# CERT News

HSR3—Serving the citizens of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston Counties

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



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### When the Power Goes Out...Generator Safety

Many in Washington own electrical generators because life without electricity is at best inconvenient. There are big responsibilities inherent in safely operating a generator. Read through these and pat yourself on the back for those safety items listed that you practice, and for those you don't...implement them into your routine right away. *These safety procedures are not in order of priority. All the steps listed are essential to safety.*

- **Read the Instruction Booklet or Manual** and do what it says.
- **Never use a generator indoors or in an attached garage.** It produces Carbon Monoxide which is deadly.
- **Don't connect your generator directly to your home's wiring.** Doing so may cause power 'backfeed' into the power lines and kill any utility worker making outage repairs many miles away.
- **Make sure that the outdoor-rated power cord has a sufficient wire gauge to handle the electrical load.**
- **Don't overload the generator.** Doing so can seriously damage the appliances and electronics and also cause fires in the power cord.
- **Shut off the generator before refueling.**

- **Keep children away from portable electric generators at all times.**
- **Follow all gasoline use safety procedures.** *Do not store gasoline for the generator indoors. Gasoline should be stored in approved, non-glass safety containers. Don't store gasoline near a water heater or other fuel-burning appliance in the garage. Vapor from gasoline is heavier than air and can travel invisible along the floor. It could be ignited by a pilot light or other source of flame, such as an electric spark. Extinguish all flames or cigarettes when handling gasoline or the generator.*
- **Make sure your generator is properly grounded to avoid electrical shocks.**
- **Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.**
- **Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located near the generator.**
- **Be sure to get your generator tuned up once a year so it's ready for emergencies year round.**



## Preparedness Information When It's Needed Most

It is unlikely that any of us will get abducted by aliens, get hit with space junk or even a meteor, but each of the disasters listed below may hit any of us or any of those we care about. The Red Cross offers the following links to hand out for us to prepare for something much more realistic.

Get the facts you need — before, during, and after a disaster or emergency situation. As the nation's preeminent preparedness and safety training organization, the American Red Cross developed the following emergency-specific checklists using the latest research, science, best practices and expert opinion.

- Be Red Cross Ready (general preparedness) ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Earthquake Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Fire Prevention & Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Flood Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Flu Checklist ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Landslide Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Pets and Disaster Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Power Outage ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Returning Home after a Hurricane or Flood ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Taking Care of Your Emotional Health after a Disaster ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Thunderstorm Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Tornado Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Wild Fire Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Winter Storm Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
- And because some of us may travel this season...
- Heat Wave Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)
  - Hurricane Safety ([English](#) pdf | [Spanish](#) pdf)

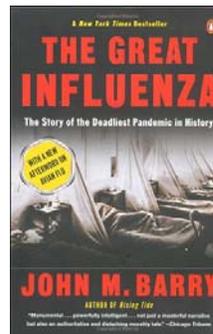
*Share this newsletter  
with your friends and neighbors!*

## Newest CERT Teams:

Yelm Fire Department  
Centralia CERT  
Vader CERT

Call (360) 754-3360 for details or to schedule your own class!

## The HSR3 Disaster Library



## The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History

At the height of WWI, history's most lethal influenza virus erupted in an army camp in Kansas, moved east with American troops, then exploded, killing as many as

100 million people worldwide. It killed more people in twenty-four months than AIDS killed in twenty-four years, more in a year than the Black Death killed in a century. But this was not the Middle Ages, and 1918 marked the first collision of science and epidemic disease. Magisterial in its breadth of perspective and depth of research and now revised to reflect the growing danger of the avian flu, *The Great Influenza* is ultimately a tale of triumph amid tragedy, which provides us with a precise and sobering model as we confront the epidemics looming on our own horizon. —*Amazon.com*

*By the way...**be sure to get your flu shot!***  
You can also learn more about flu symptoms, treatment, and prevention at [flu.gov](http://flu.gov).  
Find a flu shot clinic near you:

[www.flu.gov/whereyoulive/index.html](http://www.flu.gov/whereyoulive/index.html)



## The 2011 NW Citizen Corps Expo

On a toasty August 20th, the State Fire Training Academy in North Bend, WA hosted 335 disaster response trained citizens for the 2011 NW Citizen Corps Expo. CERT, Medical Reserve Corp. and HAM radio operators were all participants. This varied group allowed all to experience coordinated efforts with a variety of disciplines.

Activities included advanced training workshops and the opportunity to practice response skills by responding to a large scale disaster. 90 staff members coordinated efforts to prepare, supervise and evaluate the event. 45 "victims" contributed to the realism. Pictures are available for review at: <http://www.nwcitizencorpsexpo.com/>

All in all, our region was well represented! If you are interested in attending next year, mark your calendar for August 18, 2012 and keep an eye open for registration at the above link.



A "victim" is evacuated by a CERT team at the 2011 Expo

## First I was buried under debris, once I broke a leg and the last time, I died.

How about that for a sentence? It illustrates one of the best ways to practice your CERT skills and experience a rescue from the "other side" - serve as a volunteer victim at a training simulation, CERT and otherwise. Keep an eye out for any CERT class or any announced training simulation staged in your area, call the number listed and volunteer. CERT classes are always looking for volunteer victims and believe me that your call will be welcomed. Plus, if you're very lucky, a moulage artist will be there to make you look the part too!

## Call for Suggestions

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions or if you want to be added (or removed) from this emailing list - please let me know. My email address is [karanwj@gmail.com](mailto:karanwj@gmail.com).



## On Recalling Nearly Everything...

Have you wondered if that crib in your garage or the spinach in your fridge or the nasal spray in your medicine cabinet or that sassy used car is a potential hazard and has been recalled?

A multi-agency recall site, Recalls.gov, located at <http://www.recalls.gov/>, is an excellent place to investigate. This site provides recall and safety information and databases for the following agencies:

- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- US Food and Drug Administration
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

*For food safety and illness, food recalls and alerts as well as information sharing regarding food based illness and biological issues of concern and cosmetic alerts.*

- US Coast Guard

*For recalls and database information about boat and water safety issues.*

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

*For recall information including vehicle and equipment campaigns from 1966 to present. The campaigns include motor vehicle products which experienced a safety-related defect or did not comply with federal motor vehicle safety standards.*

Preparing Heroes  
One Class at a Time!

### HSR3 County and Tribal Websites

- Chehalis Tribe: <http://www.chehalis-tribe.org/>
- Grays Harbor County: <http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/DEM/>
- Lewis County: <http://lewiscountywa.gov/em>
- Mason County: <http://www.co.mason.wa.us/dem/index.php>
- Nisqually Indian Tribe: <http://www.nisqually-nsn.gov/>
- Pacific County: <http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema/>
- Quinalt Indian Nation: <http://209.206.175.157/>
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe: <http://www.shoalwaterbay-nsn.gov/>
- Skokomish Tribal Nation: <http://www.skokomish.org/>
- Squaxin Island Tribe: [www.squaxinland.org/emergency\\_management/](http://www.squaxinland.org/emergency_management/)
- Thurston County: <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/>

**Contacts:**

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*The CERT Newsletter is written and edited  
with abandon by Karan Wade James,  
CERT Volunteer*



U n i t i n g   C o m m u n i t i e s ~  
~ P r e p a r i n g   t h e   N a t i o n

If you are reading this newsletter and are interested in seeking *free* CERT training certification, please call or email Vivian Eason or Sonya Kroese - contact information above.



### Training in Action!



Vader CERT Team Simulating, Oct 2011  
*-Photo by Sonya Kroese*



CERT Team Disaster at New Market, May 2011  
*-Photo by Paul Peck*

*Prepare Because You Care*

# Emergency Preparedness Expo

Saturday, October 29, 2011

10:00 a.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

**FREE**

**Saint Martin's University**

Marcus Pavilion & Worthington Conference Center  
5300 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey

Wheelchair Accessible • ASL Interpreter Available

## Speakers include:

- 10:30 a.m. Ted Buehner, National Weather Service  
Preparing for this Winter's Weather
- 11:30 a.m. Timothy Walsh, Geologist, DNR  
Earthquake & Landslide Hazards in Thurston County
- 1:00 p.m. Vivian Eason, Thurston Co. Emergency Mgmt.  
Personal Emergency Preparedness

**PRIZES!**

## Highlights:

- Fire Extinguisher Safety
- Tiller Fire Truck
- Jaws of Life
- Generator Safety
- Germ City
- Thurston County Dive Team
- Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center

Vendor Booths, Preparedness Info, and More!!

**Details: 360-754-3360**  
[www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/expo](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/expo)

Partners:

Thurston County Emergency Management Council • St. Martin's University • KGY Radio  
ServiceMaster of Tacoma • The Olympian

