

Notes for annual meeting Aug2016

Some of you may be aware that for several years, DBR has been within the service range of the Blyn Fire Station, which is part of Clallam County Fire District 3. Although we are residents of Jefferson County, we are just barely within Fire District 3's range. A few months ago, they announced that they would reduce the service hours at the Blyn station from 24 hours to about 12 hours – from 8 PM to 9 AM. No coverage during the day. Three Safety Team members attended the local meeting at the Gardiner Center, when the Chief tried to explain this strategy.

This is a three month experiment to see if they can do a better job of distributing the service call load among the fire stations. Sequim only has 50% of the responders, but it covers 68% of the calls; Blyn has 25% of the staff but covers just 7% of the calls. IF at all possible, they will avoid raising taxes to keep coverage reasonable – after the first 6 weeks, the data showed that response times increased about a minute (10-11min). This encouraged them to shift their experiment – starting Aug 1st, Blyn daytime staff will only be called into Sequim to cover if both teams in Sequim were already out on calls.

Once the experiment is finished, Fire District 3 may try other things to be sure they are doing the best job possible of covering their service area. Here in the Gardiner area, we are tremendously lucky to have Diamond Point volunteer responders like Marydee Countryman, who most times beat any fire station staff out to a call, and who are completely capable of handling most calls on their own if necessary.

So now for some good news

Recent emergency preparedness activities, such as the “Cascadia Rising” exercise, have resulted in an agreement between the two Counties that, in the event of a major disaster such as the predicted 9.0 earthquake, Clallam County will be responding to us, not Jefferson. This means that last Summer's estimate from Jeff County that we couldn't expect help before 90 days has been revised ... Clallam County has told us that they expect to respond within 30 days. YAY!!!!

Dan Orr, who is the Assistant Chief with Fire District 3, has lately become a great ally of the Park. He enthusiastically presented the Cascadia Rising talk here in June, to a very engaged audience. Since then, we have made plans for free CERT training classes to be held here at the Park; about 20 women have signed up. Today, at 2 PM, we will have a hands-on fire extinguisher training in the office parking lot – bring a chair, bring your fire extinguisher, bring a cap or some sunscreen and a beverage of your choosing – although if you drink alcohol, you probably won't be allowed to participate....

Because of our newly cozy relationship with Fire District 3, they have just told us that we will be the beneficiaries of the majority of a \$2000 donation to their organization – which was the result of a casual conversation that Bonnie Del Boca had with her insurance agent! Back in June, Bonnie mentioned that the Park was going to have the Cascadia Rising presentation done, and it just so happened that the agent knew that one of the insurance companies she worked with was looking to give \$2000 to a Washington fire department - for community education activities ... so she told the insurance company about Sequim, and they decided to donate to Fire District 3 – and the Fire District decided that since DBR has become so motivated to learn about preparedness, they will focus on making sure that we are supplied with CERT equipment –we aren't sure what the gear will be, but this is a pretty cool deal!

And now for a really quick review of the year

This Spring, due to efforts by Linda Createore to get the highway department to realize that for years now, the striping on the highway allowed people to PASS as they approached our turn lane – FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS – due to Linda's emails they finally came out and correctly striped so no one can pass anymore.

I would LOVE to properly acknowledge everyone who has either worked on the Team, or contributed in some way to it – but instead from now on I'll not mention names, but I at the end of my talk I will ask people to stand if they have been on the Team or helped us in some way. I'll be surprised if the whole room doesn't stand

For example – a fish taco fundraiser was held last Fall – we raised a total of 385 dollars!!!! That was a door take of 179, \$10, 20, 116, and 58 from a 50/50 – which really should be called a 100/0 because no one every keeps the 50% they win!

NEXT, Please 2

We were lucky enough to have funds donated to purchase two water filters, which we could use in an emergency to purify water for drinking. Each one can filter up to 4500 gallons of water. We also purchased some walkie talkies, and some safety vests for the Team.

NEXT, PLEASE 3

Two AEDs, or defibrillators, were donated, and installed this Spring. One is down at the lower women's restroom, and the other is at Radclyffe since we hold so many large events there.

A Spring fundraising effort - to purchase a device to get the water up out of our well in a prolonged power outage or disaster of some kind – was HUGELY successful – wouldn't you say so, Brook? However, Clallam County is telling us that they are working on a better idea and will tell us soon what we can do that will be more simple and less expensive. So we still have those funds in the bank - \$1210 from that effort alone - and that's twice the price of the device we nearly bought!

Also, a generator was donated and is situated up at Radclyffe, on the deck outside the window near the propane fireplace – ready to use in an emergency. Barb makes sure it starts on a regular basis – right Barb?

NEXT, PLEASE 4

Just a few days ago, some kind soul paid to rent a log splitter, and another kind soul fetched it for us – then a crew formed out at the woodpile along the nature trail, and for hours and hours, worked with Barb and Dave, tossing logs, splitting logs, carrying logs, and stacking logs. The result – maybe more than 2 cords of wood – to be rotated into firepit use and replaced, as time goes on, so we always have some for emergency use.

NEXT PLEASE 5

Over the Summer, we have continued to pursue getting our ham radios working properly, and tracking down last Summer's promise of a base station - so maybe soon we'll get things squared away.

NEXT, PLEASE 6

AS I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW Last Winter the Safety/disaster preparedness manual was updated. And over the Spring, the Safety Team's part of the website was created So of course everyone is very well educated and motivated to work on their preparedness.

To explore our preparedness, this Summer we asked people to participate in a survey so we could get a picture of how well people are prepared, and what our resources and needs are in the Park. Our findings, out of 47 responses (from a total of 115 lots):

We have plenty of propane – our 120 gallon tanks in the park are a total volume of 5400 gallons, and if they are on average half full, we'll have 2700 gallons.

NEXT, PLEASE 7

On average, people have 1-2 weeks of a food supply – which is not even half of our 30 days needed. Barb Vittitoe is clearly the exception. Most of us need to work on this!

We have Medically trained folks, and some with CERT training, also.

Respondents reported ten pieces of critical medical equipment that we will need to plug in – CPAP machines, and an electric wound vac. So we will need to be sure to provide electricity for those people.

NEXT, PLEASE 8

Respondents reported 12 rainbarrels and 2 hot tubs and now, we have one pool! Our pool holds 19,000 gallons of water which, not only has chlorine, but also has bromine, which is poisonous if you ingest it in large quantities, and does not degrade like chlorine. But we can definitely use pool water for washing up. **NOTE ADDED LATER – THE BROMINE WAS AN ERROR – THE POOL WATER ONLY HAS CHLORINE, WHICH DEGRADES SIGNIFICANTLY IN 24 HOURS, SO THE POOL WATER COULD BE USED AS DRINKING WATER AFTER IT PASSES THROUGH ONE OF THE WATER FILTERS MENTIONED EARLIER.**

Forty seven people reported 37 dogs and 13 cats – so we may have at least as many pets as people.

NEXT, PLEASE 9

Now for a truly inspiring finish, I'd like to remind everyone that two buckets, not one, are needed to create your own composting toilet. It's a wonderfully simple solution to a basic life issue so if you need another one, just pick it up the next time you're in Home Depot. AND BE SURE YOU HAVE TWO LIDS!

Before I go -

Fire extinguisher training at 2 PM in the office parking lot! PLEASE DO NOT PARK THERE AFTER 1:30 TODAY SO WE CAN SET UP A SAFE AREA.

And now, will you all please help me thank everyone who has been so generously supportive, financially or otherwise, over the past year – **will those people please stand** so we can acknowledge you I'll be surprised if the whole room doesn't stand – we've had tremendous support over the year

THANK YOU!