

AHHA Members:

Although the March meeting was cancelled I met with Jean Stephenson. She lives on Tillicum. She recently met with a Community Emergency Response Team leader from Mount Angel. There is also a Silverton contingent although somewhat smaller. They are part of a larger group organized by Marion County. They provided her some educational material that she shared with me.

She requested that AHHA distribute some information about community emergency preparedness. There is a Community Prepare Fair April 8, 2017 in Salem at North Salem High School from 10AM - 2PM. The focus will be on community preparation. While there will be exhibits about personal emergency preparation, much of what will be presented will be about neighborhood preparation such as having contact information, awareness of which neighbors have things like emergency generators or chain saws, knowing where utility shutoffs for individual homes are, which neighbors have mobility issues and other kinds of preparedness in case our area is cutoff from the surrounding Silverton area for several days. Our development is particularly vulnerable due to limited street access.

Available at the Fair will be material to identify who has what kinds of items that may be useful in an emergency. The material also has handy suggestions such as leaving fire extinguishers on a curb in case they are needed by our neighbors if vehicle access is restricted due downed lines or other restrictions, how to mark homes so that emergency personnel can easily determine if a home has people inside or is unoccupied and other suggestions to make responding to a community crisis more effective. It would be useful if someone could attend the Fair on behalf of AHHA.

Also in the educational handouts are lists for contact information and size of households. We have some of the work already done. We have current contact information for all of our members. We have underground electric and communication lines. Most of us know where our utility access points are although they aren't clearly marked on a map. What we don't have is a central place to access it or any plan to disseminate it in an emergency. Those are the kinds of decisions that are best made by the Board. I plan to bring this up at our next Board meeting. Most of the work is planning so that we know what do to and where to find various items that our members have. This could also be something that we can use the Welcoming committee to gather information from new residents. Another area of concern is that we have new neighbors in Vista Ridge that we

know nothing about but will also be a part of any area emergency. We may need to do some outreach with them.

I met with Silverton's new Director of Public Works, Chris Saxe. We discussed the storm drain problem on Chikamin Loop and Chee Chee Court. He is doing some research. He will contact us about what the City response will be. They may be able to install a vault to slow down the sudden surges of water that has resulted in flooding on Chee Chee Court.

Steve Barrett  
President AHHA