



## CAMANO PREPAREDNESS GROUP

April 2022 NEWSLETTER

Monthly Meetings: Every Second Thursday



### What Happens When Communications Go Down?

One of the most critical issues in a major disaster is communications. With cell towers potentially knocked out and phone lines down, how do we get information about our circumstances out to those who need to know, and how do we get information in regarding updates and when we might expect help to arrive?

The first measure you need to take to prepare for such a possibility is to make certain you have an emergency contact person who lives out of the area/state. Get permission from this person to share their phone number with your family members and closest friends. In the event of a disaster, you can let your contact person know your status, and family and friends can check in with that person rather than clogging the likely already overloaded lines (assuming any lines are still functional) in the disaster area.

So, how to get information to that contact person? If there is any possibility that phone lines are working, send a text instead of calling. Texts take up less bandwidth and are more likely to get through. If there is zero phone communications, radio is the only option.

There are several layers to radio communications. First, have a battery/solar/and-or crank operated radio that can pick up NOAA and local radio stations. This will allow you to stay informed as to the scope of the incident, what is being done, and how soon you might expect assistance in your area. Second, we strongly recommend that every neighborhood have a set of FRS or GMRS radios. These are non-ham radios. FRS is Family Radio Service and requires no license to operate. Its range is perhaps one to three miles, depending on the terrain, forestation, and structures that may be in the line of sight. Their limited range still makes them ideal for communicating in fairly open and compact neighborhoods. Not everyone in the neighborhood needs to have a radio. They can be located strategically, allowing neighbors to work in teams to check on one another and report between teams

should additional assistance be required at a specific location. GMRS is General Mobile Radio Service and, with a range of up to five miles, can function in the same manner in larger neighborhoods. This radio does require a license, though there is no requirement to pass a test. You merely need to contact the FCC, apply for, and pay the license fee. I believe as of April 19<sup>th</sup>, the cost will \$35 for ten years (down from \$70). These are excellent options for staying connected within your neighborhoods.

The next level is amateur radio. ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) hubs are being established across Camano. These hubs will communicate information about the status of their area up the line to the appropriate authorities.

In the works – Efforts are currently underway to add the ability of the ARES hubs to monitor FRS and GMRS frequencies. This will enable neighborhoods to call in their status, allowing the ARES members to pass pertinent and critical information to the proper authorities. As was mentioned, this is in the works and may take a while to get established.

Amateur radio operators also have the ability to pass information regarding the status of you and your household on to an operator in the area of your contact person. That operator will see to it that your contact person is notified.

If you are interested in more information regarding radio communications, contact Rhonda Paulson – [rspaulson.rp@gmail.com](mailto:rspaulson.rp@gmail.com).

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### Meetings

The April CPG board meeting will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. If you are interested in attending, contact Rhonda Paulson.

The general meeting will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm at the Camano Community Center (606 Arrowhead Rd, Camano Island). Masks are required. Sue Ryan will present: **How to Protect Our Homes from Wildfires.**

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## Upcoming Special Event

Mark your calendar for 1-3 pm on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> for a double presentation at the Camano Center. Sue Ryan will offer her **Earthquakes & NW Faults** program and Bill Swander will offer his **Water Purification/Storage** program.

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## Planning Ahead for April

An ongoing look at spreading the cost of preparedness over the year, and at other measures you can take to prepare for an emergency/disaster.

### Items to Locate or Purchase:

Strapping/fasteners for water heaters  
Extra batteries and battery charger  
Crank or battery AM/FM radio  
Assorted plastic containers and lids  
Child-proof latches (works for securing cabinets during earthquakes)  
Sewing needles and thread  
Sewing scissors  
Household scissors  
Household chlorine (non-perfumed)  
Eyedropper (for adding chlorine to water)

### Actions to Take:

Learn about water filtration, purification, and storage. Place hardhat, goggles, gloves, heavy shoes and socks, and OK/HELP signs with tape or pins under or near your bed. Learn to use a map and compass.

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## Useful Websites

**CPG** – [www.camanopreparednessgroup.org](http://www.camanopreparednessgroup.org)

**CPG Facebook** –

[www.facebook.com/CamanoPreparednessGroup](http://www.facebook.com/CamanoPreparednessGroup)

**FEMA** – <https://training.fema.gov>

**CIFR** – [www.camanofire.com](http://www.camanofire.com)

**ICDEM (Island County Dep't. of Emergency Management)** –

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/DEM/Pages/Home.aspx>

**Earthquake Country Alliance** –

[www.earthquakecountry.org/prepare/](http://www.earthquakecountry.org/prepare/)

**Map Your Neighborhood** –

<https://mil.wa.gov/map-your-neighborhood>

[MapYourNeighborhood booklet.pdf \(ncna.info\)](#)

**Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club** –

[www.scarcwa.org](http://www.scarcwa.org)

**Robert Mitchell, MD, FACOG – Disaster**

**Medicine Project** –

<https://www.facebook.com/DisasterMedicineProject>

**US Coast Guard** – <https://uscgboating.org/mobile/>

**How to make a Crisco Emergency Light** -

<https://youtu.be/xnNHM4OLkvE>

**Disability Related Preparedness Resources** –

<https://www.ready.gov/disability>

<https://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/disabilities>

<https://www.wasilc.org/coalition-on-inclusive-emergency-planning>

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## CPG Contacts:

**Rhonda Paulson, President, Camano Map Your Neighborhood Coordinator** –

[rspaulson.rp@gmail.com](mailto:rspaulson.rp@gmail.com)

**Sue Ryan, VP, Program Director** –

[kk6sue@gmail.com](mailto:kk6sue@gmail.com)

**Bill Swander, Board member** –

[bswander44@gmail.com](mailto:bswander44@gmail.com)

\*\*\*The Camano Preparedness Group is a non-profit 501-C3 organization working to help Camano residents develop the skills necessary to make it safely through whatever major events we may encounter. We provide programs at monthly meetings, presentations for neighborhoods and local groups, and make available a wealth of materials at community events.

\*\*Tax deductible donations welcome and can be sent to CPG, P.O. Box 1325, Stanwood, WA 98292 or can be made through our FaceBook page. You can also designate us as your choice for donations through Amazon Smile.



Preparedness is a State of Mind.

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