



CAMANO PREPAREDNESS GROUP

March 2019 NEWSLETTER

Monthly Meetings: Every Second Thursday 7-9pm

Vista Madrona Fire Station – 273 N. West Camano Dr.

February Snowmageddon



As beautiful as our February snows were, they also created a lot of headaches for a lot of Camano Islanders. Camano has no snowplows. We have less than a handful of trucks with attachments. We also have a very limited road crew, the individuals of which were working 12- and 14-hour days, making it difficult to clear and maintain the most crucial routes. Most side and no private roads were cleared. Hence, many of us were left stranded in our homes for two weeks. We were fortunate that no prolonged power outage accompanied the storms. So, how did you fare? Did you have sufficient food, water, and medications on hand? Were you able to stay warm and dry? Here on the southern tip of the island, neighbors volunteered to deliver groceries and other supplies or to pick up those who could not get out and ferry them to and from the stores. Across the island, volunteers jumped in to make sure that meals on wheels were delivered and that individuals who needed to get to kidney centers for dialysis or to locations for cancer treatments were able to do so.

In the overall scheme of things, this was little more than a minor inconvenience. It could have been far worse had there been major winds, trees and powerlines down, and/or major and prolonged power outages. Or, consider if we'd had a large earthquake at the same time the storms hit. There should be no need to remind

anyone of just how easily Camano could be cut off from the mainland and from our Department of Emergency Management located on Whidbey Island. Every resident must take responsibility for preparing themselves and their families. Every neighborhood must take responsibility for working together to assist those who need it. And our community must take responsibility for organizing and establishing a workable plan to reach and to care for those who are the most vulnerable among us. If you need information regarding personal preparedness, or if you are ready to organize your neighborhood under the Map Your Neighborhood project, please contact us. Using lessons learned from this event, community efforts are currently underway to organize and plan on a larger scale for our island, thanks to Karla Jacks and Commissioner Janet St. Clair. The bottom line, however, is that preparedness begins with every individual and every neighborhood. If we are prepared and if we work together, we can 'weather' anything.

Sound Water University

Sound Water Stewards provide a remarkable event called Sound Water University on the first Saturday of every February at the South Whidbey High School in Langley. We lucked out, this year, with the event falling on the day just before the first of the snows arrived. The 2019 University offered a total of fifty-eight classes and included seventy-three presenters. This is the third year that Sue Ryan and Rhonda Paulson, along with Eric Brooks and Jody Jeffers of ICDEM and ICCERT were invited to participate, and the second year that we were granted a double session for the 'Getting Ready to Rumble' preparedness class. Due to last minute issues, Sue and Rhonda ended up covering the whole of the double session on their own, this time. It was a full house for both sessions, with lots of questions and enthusiasm for learning more about MYN and CERT.

Upcoming 2019 CPG Events & Meetings:

March 14 – Helping Your Home Survive Wildfire – Ashley Blazina – Vista Madrona Fire Station, 273 N. West Camano Dr. – 7pm

March 16 – MYN Meet with Neighborhood Leads – Country Club Fire Station 1326 Elger Bay Road

March 23 – 55 – Plus Fair – Camano Community Center 606 Arrowhead Rd., - 9:30am – 2:30pm

*****Spring CERT Training – April 12-14** – Country Club Fire Station 1326 Elger Bay Road. See the CPG website for details.

Planning Ahead: Items for this month

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

Purchases:

Camping or utility knife

Work gloves

Safety goggles

Disposable dust masks

Hard hat

Actions:

Photograph the contents of your home and store in a lockbox or with a friend who lives out of the area.

Inventory your supplies and list outdated or missing items for replacement.

Useful Tips

- Obtain an EMI (Emergency Medical Information) kit from the CPG or from CIFR.
 - Keep contact information for friends, immediate family, out-of-area contacts, fire, sheriff, and doctors in a safe and easy-to access location.
 - Establish a plan for where and how to meet your family if you or they are on the island but away from home.
 - Have a plan in place if part of your family is caught off-island and the rest on-island at the time of a disaster.
 - Keep three disaster kits with supplies including first aid items, food, and water – one in the home and one in the car, with a third that will serve as an evacuation bag, should you have to leave your home at short notice.
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Useful Preparedness Websites:

- **CPG** – camanopreparednessgroup.org
 - **FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)** – Training.fema.gov;
**Very good free online preparedness info / courses
 - **CIF&R** – camanofire.com
 - **ICDEM (Island County Dept. of Emergency Management)** - islandcountywa.gov/dem/pages/home
 - **Earthquake Country Alliance** - <https://www.earthquakecountry.org/prepare/>
 - **Map Your Neighborhood** - <https://rtcil.drupal.ku.edu/sites/rtcil.drupal.ku.edu/files/images/galleries/MapYourNeighborhood.pdf> - This brings up the MYN booklet and lets you download it.
 - **Amateur Radio** - scarcwa.org – Information regarding the Stanwood/Camano Amateur Radio Club; arrl.org – Information regarding the Amateur Radio Relay League
 - **Robert Mitchell, MD, FACOG Disaster Medicine Project**
Director of Community Disaster Medicine
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Fellowship in Disaster Medicine
An Affiliated Fellowship of the Harvard Initiative
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***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.



Just be prepared!
