



CAMANO PREPAREDNESS GROUP

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Meetings

Board Meetings –

1st Tuesday of the month; Vista Madrona Fire Station unless otherwise indicated; 1-3 pm.

General Meetings – 2nd Thursday of the month; Vista Madrona Fire Station; 7-9 pm.

The Tuesday, March 4th board meeting will be held at 1 pm, at the Vista Madrona Fire Station, 273 N West Camano Dr.

Thursday, March 13th will feature Island County Hydrologist, Chris Kelley, PhD to discuss the aquifer/s that supply our water. Bring your questions concerning our water's source, how the aquifer/s works, etc. This is your chance to get your questions answered!

Looking Back

Our February meeting featured our new Camano Island Fire Chief, Jason Allen, who introduced himself and provided a bit of his personal background. Chief Allen also discussed the CIFR accomplishments since the passage of the Fire Levy, and what those funds will help to accomplish moving forward. *Jason will be formally sworn in on March 12th, 6pm, at the Vista Madrona Fire Station.

Making Plans - Weather

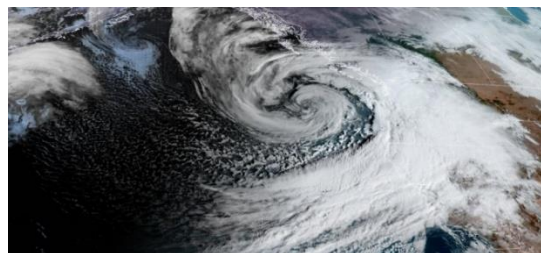
Camano's greatest risk concerning disasters is severe weather.

Understanding weather can help you become better prepared.

Information for this portion of our newsletter comes from NW Meteorologist Ted Buehner; from NOAA; from the National Weather Service; from the Weather Channel; and from Island County Dept. of Emergency Management.

The term 'bomb cyclone' has recently become a part of the weather vocabulary. While meteorologists have used the term "bomb" regarding storms for decades, it was only after the term showed up in a Washington Post story that the term took on a life of its own.

Bomb cyclone is a shortened version of the term 'bombogenesis' which refers to a storm system that undergoes a rapid intensification process with the atmospheric pressure in the storm dropping at least twenty-four millibars in twenty-four hours. This rapid and steep drop causes the storm to strengthen explosively, which results in violent weather. This can happen when a cold air mass collides with a warm air mass. They occur most often over open water and are more common during winter months. They are most notable in regions like the eastern U.S. near the North Atlantic. As of 2021, there were only about eighteen bomb cyclones a year worldwide. They are, however, becoming more frequent. And for the PNW, when a bomb cyclone combines with an atmospheric river, the consequences are likened to an out-of-control fire hose.





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Upcoming Meetings and Events

CPG Meetings

March 13 – Hydrologist and PHD Chris Kelley

April 10 – Weather Phenomena with KING 5 Chief Meteorologist Mike Everett

May 8 – Situational Awareness with Dawn Mettler

June 12 – Your House Can Survive a Wildfire with Sue Ryan

July 10 – EMS Levy with Fire Chief Jason Allen

September 11 – Geology of Camano and the Effect of Earthquakes with Gabriel Lotto from Pacific Northwest Seismic Network.

Events

*March 8 – 55-Plus Fair – See Flyer

April 5 – Camano 101 – Camano Community Center – 10 am-1 pm. This open house event offers Camano residents ways to enjoy and protect our island, learn about our parks and trails, discover preparedness measures, and find opportunities to volunteer!

****April 25-27 – CERT Basic Training!!!! This course runs Friday evening from 6-9:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9am-6:30pm. The course is free, though we do ask \$25/attendee to cover the cost of the basic PPE (personal protective equipment). We cover the cost of the backpack and the other items contained in it. CERT training covers basic preparedness; organizational skills; disaster medicine and medical logistics; disaster psychology; terrorism; fire and utility safety and fire suppression; and light search and rescue

including victim extrication and carry techniques. We strongly recommend at least two individuals from every neighborhood be CERT trained. The class size is limited, so if you wish to attend, you should register now. To do so, contact Rhonda Paulson at rspaulson.rp@gmail.com.

Planning Ahead for March

For those of you who are new to our newsletter, this segment allows for an ongoing look at spreading the cost of preparedness over a year rather than trying to acquire everything all at once. Also included are measures you can take to prepare for any emergency/disaster. For those who have been receiving our newsletter, it provides the opportunity to review your supplies and your plans.

Items to locate or purchase

Pencil & paper

Waterproof note pad & pen

Easily portable kids' games

Screwdriver Wrench

Hammer Saw

2 rolls paper towels 3 boxes Kleenex

4 rolls toilet tissue

Safety pins

Actions to take:

Learn about local disaster risks. Understand what the commonality is regarding the consequences of these disasters and how to prepare for them. Know the locations of water and gas meters and how to shut them off. Keep an appropriate weather-protected wrench near the locations. Work with your children/grandchildren or



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other children in your care to assemble an activity kit for them.

News from CIFR

The Camano Island Fire and Rescue (CIFR) Board of Fire Commissioners will meet on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the Fire Administration Office (811 N. Sunrise Blvd.) to discuss placing an EMS levy renewal on the August 5, 2025, primary election ballot. The public is encouraged to attend and provide input.

Emergency medical services now account for 68% of all calls. Meanwhile, inflation has significantly increased costs for emergency personnel, equipment and apparatus.

“We want to be transparent with the community,” Fire Chief Jason Allen said. “Revenue is struggling to keep pace with the costs to provide service. Our priority is to ensure rapid, 24/7 medical response for the community, but we are stretched thin.”

CIFR funds daily operations through two property tax levies – one for fire and another for EMS. In 2021, voters approved a \$0.50 EMS levy per \$1,000 of assessed property value. However, “levy erosion” — a cap limiting revenue growth to 1% annually despite rising property values — has reduced the rate to \$0.37. Over the past four years, the Consumer Price Index has surged nearly 22%, while EMS-related costs have escalated.

To address these challenges, the Board of Fire Commissioners is considering asking voters to restore the EMS levy – which must be renewed every six years – to the previously approved rate of \$0.50 in the August primary election.

If approved, the EMS renewal would fund additional emergency personnel, advanced training, and replace an ambulance. It would also pay for life-saving medical equipment, including a new cardiac monitor/defibrillator and a LUCAS Device (for automated chest compressions) to improve patient survival rates.

The proposed \$0.13 levy renewal would cost the owner of a \$650,000 property (the median assessed value for the area, per the County Assessor) an additional \$7.04 per month or \$84.50 annually.

For more information, visit www.camanofire.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

March 8th 55+ Fair 9:30 am – 2:30 pm with setup at 9 am and takedown immediately following the event.

Looking for individuals interested in learning to staff our tables. Requirements: a willing smile for greeting people and an enthusiasm for sharing who we are. Time commitment – 2.5-3 hours.

April 5th Camano 101 10 am – 1 pm

Setup begins at 8 am and takedown immediately following the event.

Looking for individuals interested in learning to staff our tables at various events. Requirements: a willing smile for greeting people and an enthusiasm for sharing who we are. Time commitment – 1.5-2 hours.

April 27th Final day of Basic CERT Training

Sincere thanks to all who have stepped up to volunteer! We now have the final exercises for this course covered. We cannot begin to express how much we appreciate your assistance and support!



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From Island County DEM

For anyone interested, we have an opportunity to help with the Community Emergency Response Team on Whidbey Island.

Island County is running a CERT Basic Course on March 7-9 at South Whidbey Fire and EMS, at 5579 Bayview, Langley.

We will need some volunteers to assist with the exercise as casualties and bystanders on **Sunday afternoon, from approximately 1pm to 5pm, on March 9th.**

This is a large class, with almost 30 registered at this time, so the more volunteers we can get, the better their training will be.

We will have coffee and refreshments available.

Anyone interested in participating should email DEM@islandcountywa.gov.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Island County Emergency Management

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/170/Departmentof-Emergency-Management>

Earthquake Country Alliance –

www.earthquakecountry.org/prepare/

Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club –

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://youtube.com/watch?v=xnNHM4OLkvE>

Disability Related Preparedness Resources –

****Google:** [Inclusive Preparedness Resources](#) | [American Red Cross](#)

WSDOT –

<https://wsdot.com/travel/real-time/map>

CPG Contacts:

Rhonda Paulson, President; Camano Neighborhood Ready Coordinator; CERT Trainer –

rspaulson.rp@gmail.com

Sue Ryan, VP; Program Director –

kk6sue@gmail.com

Bill Swander, Board member; CERT Trainer –

bswander44@gmail.com

Useful Websites:

*Should any of these links fail to work, try doing a copy and paste to your browser.

CPG – www.camanopreparednessgroup.org

CPG Facebook –

www.facebook.com/CamanoPreparednessGroup

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

CIFR – <https://camanofire.com>

ICDEM (Island County Dept. of Emergency Management) –





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**We will never be Disaster
Proof, but we can be Disaster Ready!**

Remember – preparedness is not a mindset of doom and gloom. It is your insurance to help you manage and recover from a crisis.



**Preparedness is
A State of Mind!**



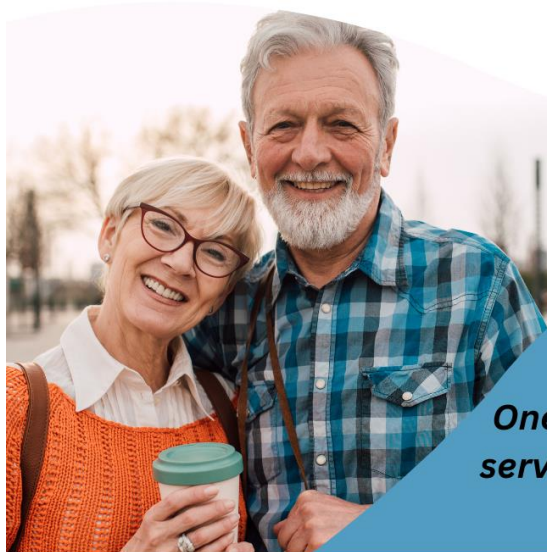


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55+ RESOURCE FAIR

Complimentary
Lunch
11:00 - 1:00



Saturday, March 8, 2025
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
AT THE CAMANO CENTER

*One convenient place to get information about
services, programs, and activities tailored to the
55 and over age group.*

PRESENTATIONS:

Memory
Screenings
available

10:00 - 11:00

Maintain Your Brain

11:30 - 12:30

Your Home: Options for Staying in
Place and Considerations for Moving

1:00 - 2:00 Estate & Long-Term Care Planning Basics

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:



STANWOOD HEARING



606 Arrowhead Rd., Camano Island 360-387-0222

www.camanocenter.org