



CAMANO PREPAREDNESS GROUP

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

***Membership

In order to help cover the ongoing administrative costs, the CPG has initiated a membership fee of \$5 per person per year. We ask all previous members as well as any who wish to become members to go to our website – camanopreparednessgroup.org – where you can complete the membership form. You may also fill it out and pay the fee at any of our meetings. No one is required to become a member in order to attend our meetings or events or to receive this newsletter. Having a membership, however, will help us continue to provide our programs.

Board & General Meetings

Board Meetings –

1st Tuesday of the month; Vista Madrona Fire Station, 273 N. West Camano Dr. unless otherwise indicated; 1-3 pm.

General Meetings – 2nd Thursday of the month; Vista Madrona Fire Station; 7-9 pm. All general meetings are open to the public and are free.

***** Meetings and events will be cancelled any time the Stanwood-Camano School District closes due to severe weather.*****

The February 3rd board meeting is back to the usual time and location for board meetings. See above.

Our February 12th general meeting will feature Brandi Mauk who will present Stop the Bleed. Brandi is a CIFR Captain/MSO/Paramedic.

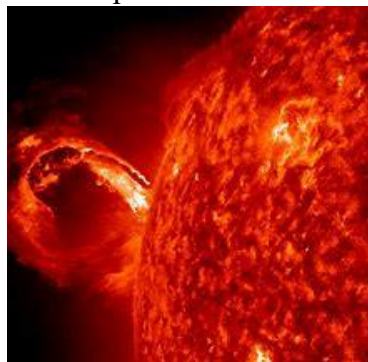
Calendar

CPG Meetings & Events

February 7 – Sunspots 101 – Camano Library, 11 am – Sue Ryan

There has been a lot of Sunspot activity recently. You may have seen more auroras than usual. What is going on? We will discuss what Sunspots are and how they affect the earth. No reservations are necessary. For more info contact Sue at kk6sue@gmail.com

Magnetic Loop



February 12 – Stop the Bleed – Vista Madrona Fire Station – 7 pm – Brandi Mauk, Captain/MSO/Paramedic Camano Island Fire & Rescue



It doesn't require a major disaster for critical injuries to happen. At home accidents, vehicular accidents, accidents on the job or at play – any of these can result in a serious bleed that can cause death in a matter of minutes. Knowing how to stop or control a major bleed in those critical minutes



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before EMTs arrive can save a life. Everyone should learn how to Stop the Bleed!

March 12 – Water Purification & Storage – Vista Madrona Fire Station (Station #4), 7 pm – Bill Swander

Bill is our Water Guru! Come learn various appropriate ways of filtering, purifying, and safely storing water.

April 9 – Impacts of Our Warming Oceans and Rains – Station #4, 7 pm – Mike Everett

We are delighted that Mike is returning to us for a third year. He is a dynamic, animated, and entertaining speaker and his presentations are always as delightful as they are educational. Join us to learn about our warming oceans/rain, the impact we are already beginning to experience, and what it means for the future.

CERT Calendar

February 11 – Camano CERT Workshop – Communications: Radio and Documentation (a critical disaster exercise regarding what information needs to be collected, where it goes, and how it gets there). – 6-8 pm; Vista Madrona Fire Station.

March 4 – Camano CERT Workshop – Stop the Bleed (review and hands-on practice!) – 6-8 pm; Vista Madrona Fire Station

***For all workshops, please register at rspaulson.rp@gmail.com

April 10-12 – CERT Basic Training – Vista Madrona Fire Station (Station #4)

Every neighborhood should have at least two CERT-trained individuals. This course provides training in organizational skills, basic preparedness

measures, disaster medicine and disaster medical operations, disaster psychology, fire and utility safety and fire suppression, light search and rescue, and touches on terrorism. The course is free. We do, however, have a \$25 fee to help cover the cost of the personal protective equipment (PPE) that is provided. Camano CERT covers the cost for the backpack and other items that are included. For information regarding registration for this course, contact Rhonda Paulson, rspaulson.rp@gmail.com.

Recent Events

Confusion was the name of the game for our January general meeting. Our apologies to all who braved the cold and darkness to attend, only to find that our meeting had been moved from Station #4, the Vista Madrona Fire Station to Station #2, the Country Club Station. Like those of you who attempted to attend, we learned of it when we arrived at the Vista Station to set up. CIFR tried to notify us that the lights in the Vista meeting room were not working and that they had therefore shifted us to the Country Club Station. They were, however, unable to reach us before we arrived. Like you, we found the note on the door. We have since provided them with additional contact information.

For those who may have shown up and decided to simply return home, thank you for making the initial attempt to attend. For those who went the extra miles (literally!) and joined us at the Country Club Station, our very sincerest thanks! We did, in fact, have a wonderful turnout with twenty-two individuals in attendance.



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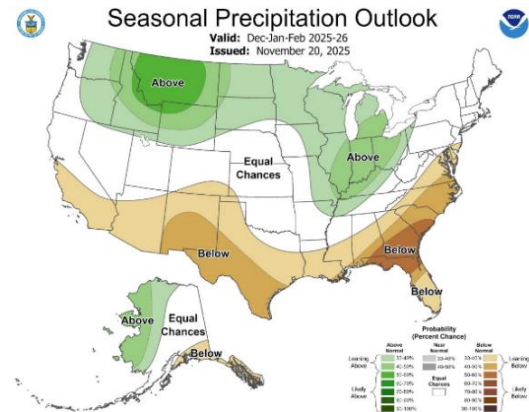


Weather

Camano's greatest risk for a disaster 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 Island County Department of Emergency Management; and from the Climate Prediction Center.

We have officially hit the midpoint of meteorological winter, which runs from December 1st to February 28th (or 29th). These are regarded as the three coldest months of the year. It is predicted that, while large sections of the country will experience warmer than average temperatures from February through April, here in the PNW, our temperatures are expected to be slightly cooler than average. Wetter than average conditions are likely across the northern states, including Washington.



Planning Ahead for February

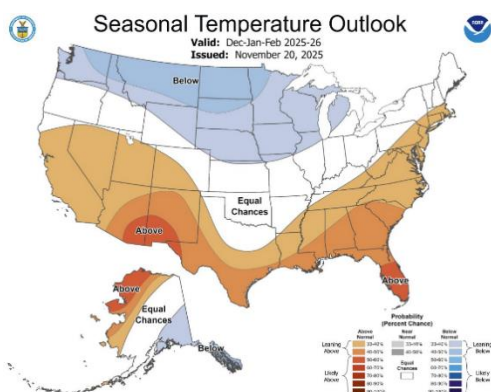
For those who are new to this newsletter, this segment allows for an ongoing look at spreading the cost of preparedness supplies over a year rather than trying to acquire everything all at once. Also included are measures you can take to prepare for any emergency/disaster. For those who have been receiving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

Items to locate or purchase

Compass Local map
Toothpaste and toothbrush
Denture products Liquid soap
Cleansing wipes Hand sanitizer

Actions to take

Verify that your out-of-area/state emergency contact information is up to date. Share any changes with all family and friends who may wish to check on your well-being when local communications are out.



Maps are from NOAA's CPC Winter 2025-2026 Outlook.



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Collect and store favorite herbs and seasonings in small packets. Date all perishables in your supplies and remove all expired items.

Know how to use a compass and a map!

Hold neighborhood disaster exercises. Imagine the following scenarios:

A major storm has made roads impassable and knocked out power, likely for several days.

A major earthquake has hit the area. Roads are gone and power and communications lines are knocked out. First responders will likely not be able to reach your neighborhood for days. Outside assistance with food and water may take even longer.

What items will you need as a household and as a neighborhood for each of these scenarios? Which neighbors are most likely to need assistance? How can you best help one another?

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) –

<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 –

[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, Treasurer; CERT Trainer –

bswander44@gmail.com

The Camano Preparedness Group's goal is to educate our island residents about potential emergencies, realistically what to expect, and how to prepare for them. CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) trains our residents in many aspects of managing the aftermath of a disaster, including first aid, light search & rescue, light fire suppression, and communications. We hold twice yearly basic training classes and four quarterly workshops. Our Neighborhood Ready program helps organize neighborhoods to be more resilient and communicate better so they can recover faster. We also have many preparedness related programs for our meetings and community events. Our ability to serve our community in this manner is dependent on donations. CPG is a 501c3 organization. We would welcome your support. Camanopreparednessgroup.org



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Just So You Know

The following are our CIGR stations:

Camano Island Fire Station #1 has been retired for several years and is now part of the Camano City Schoolhouse Foundation.

Fire Station #2 – Country Club – 1326 Elger Bay Road

Fire Station #3 – Terry Corner – 525 N. E. Camano Dr.

Fire Station #4 – Vista Madrona – 273 N. West Camano Dr.

Fire Station #5 – Mabana – 3651 S. Camano Dr.

CIGR Administration Building – 811 N. Sunrise Blvd.

Preparedness

A State of Mind!



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 security in times of recovery from a crisis. Being prepared is being responsible.

