

# **Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response**

The Citizen Patrol works closely with the Multnomah County Office of Emergency Management. Citizen Patrol members must plan and prepare their own household for natural disasters or other situations such as civil unrest.



Although members may be asked and expected to help during a disaster situation, they will be unable to do so if they have not prepared for their own needs. For this reason, we expect Citizen Patrol members to have an adequate supply of water, food, work gloves, basic hand tools, and foul weather clothing etc. to care for their own needs. Be aware that it may take several days or more for the arrival of outside resources. Local emergency services could be overwhelmed. In a 2008 snow storm in the Portland-metro area, local emergency services were unable to respond to certain locations inside Multnomah County. Emergency workers were sometimes forced to hike to locations while carrying backboards, defibrillators and other equipment. Without power, some citizens were forced to melt snow on their woodstoves to obtain water.



4-Wheel Drive Patrol Vehicles were in Short Supply



MCSO Deputies walking to a call due to snow/ice

## **Citizen Patrol Response Expectations**

After insuring the safety of you, your family and your neighbors, you are asked to respond immediately to the Corbett SAT (Safety Action Team) Office and/or the main Corbett Fire Station (both are within about ¼ mile). Based upon the available personnel (other volunteers, fire department personnel, concerned citizens etc.), a coordinated

plan must be made to insure assist and/or recover others. The SAT office contains numerous bins of NERT rescue items. It also contains the numerous “go-radios” that can be dispersed throughout the community to coordinate effective communications (i.e. where to direct rescue equipment, personnel, water etc.). Based upon available personnel and radios available, Citizen Patrol members may be stationed at the SAT Office, the fire station, the school, the Job Corps, a check-point, road block, an aid center or even a local business or store that may be a community gathering point.

### **Radio Check-In after a Disaster**

If you have a radio at your residence or in your vehicle, Citizen Patrollers will conduct a “radio check-in” after a disaster for the purpose of contacting fellow members. Use the radio template to determine which channels you’ll use in the order listed. Members living in various locations around Corbett or the metro area will be able to give updates about conditions or resource in their area. For smaller incidents involving a moderate windstorm or power outage, members can still conduct a check-in. This type of practice will insure better communication during a large scale disaster.

### **Other Emergency Response Situations**

There may be other unforeseen situations where the Sheriff’s Office may contact you for your assistance. An example may be a mass shooting or other mass casualty incident such as a chemical spill. In these situations local government officials may be overwhelmed. If you become aware of these types of incidents, you are asked to contact your team leaders and potentially report to the main Corbett Fire Station or the SAT office. At the worst you may be turned away. However it’s very likely that you may assist with traffic control, scene security, staffing aid stations, setting up radio communications between gathering sites, assisting with the return of property or even allowing for the orderly reunification of children with their parents.

After the 2014 “Active Shooter” incident at Reynold’s High School, members texted and left phone messages for the liaison deputy asking to assist. However the deputy was on scene and unable to safely return the calls. In situations like these, that are rapidly unfolding, members may activate with a partner per normal protocols. Then report to the Command Post (if known) or the general vicinity. Do not proceed directly to the incident location. Be aware that a life-threatening situation may be unfolding and that your safety is paramount. Members may contact any officer or fire personnel in the vicinity. Then ask how you can assist.