



CAMANO ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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Volunteers Needed During Emergencies

Upcoming Training Prepares Volunteers for Work in Emergency Operations Centers

Camano Island Fire and Rescue is looking for more than a few good men and women. It is looking for scores of good men and women to help out in the Island's Emergency Operations Center or EOC. "We need a large number of trained volunteers that can help staff the EOC on Camano and in Stanwood during emergencies," said Mike Simmons, CIFR Emergency Manager. Not all windstorms and snow events require EOC activation. But when the situation becomes more dire or drawn out, fire department staff require additional support to keep the information and coordination flowing.

"EOCs are a critical component of managing larger incidents," Simmons said. "They coordinate the resources needed by the incident commanders to support first responders." The first responders include fire, law enforcement, emergency medical, public works, communications, and transportation personnel. CIFR will orient and train qualified volunteers in the responsibilities of the EOC, as well as the various jobs and processes. "They should be ready to answer a lot of questions, make a lot of telephone calls, fill in logs, and write situation reports and activity summaries," Simmons added. "While we already have a group of amateur radio operators that support the EOC, more are always welcome. We are also looking for some special skills. For example, individuals who have worked with the media and can prepare press releases and pass information to the media, as well as individuals who can process information and formulate estimates of future needs."

Training is tentatively planned for two hours a month at the Administration Office, which doubles as the EOC. The initial meeting will be held Wednesday, April 14th, at 7 p.m. "While there are no physical restrictions to EOC work, volunteers need to be able to transport themselves to and from the EOC," Simmons said. "This is a great opportunity to help your neighbors and give back to your community." People interested in volunteering should call Mike Simmons at 360-387-1512 or via email at msimmons@camanofire.com. Emails should include a telephone number in addition to name and physical address.

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For more information about Camano Island Fire and Rescue, or to schedule a meeting with Fire Chief Mike Ganz, please call the Administration office at 360-387-1512.