

FLRC Emergency Preparedness Committee

Minutes of December 8, 2017 Community Planning Meeting

Attendees

Anne Parrott	Columbia County Public Health
Tiffani Brown	Clatsop County Risk Management
Vincent Aartes	Clatsop County Risk Management
Linda Bodenlos	Columbia County CARES
Ed Bodenlos	Columbia County Amateur Radio Emergency System
Shawn Brown	Columbia County Emergency Management
Don Beck	Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD
Marilyn Tucker	FLRC Community Manager
Kevin Adolphson	FLRC Utilities Manager
Jim Dahlquist	FLRC Operations Superintendent
Linda Gunberg	FLRC Member
Carolyn Davis	FLRC Member
Elaine Faria	FLRC Member
Kat Browning	FLRC Member
Heather Cissna	FLRC Member
Patrick McGilvary	FLRC Board of Trustees Member
Sue McCullough	FLRC Member

The purpose of the meeting was to generate ideas to inform an emergency preparedness plan for the Fishhawk Lake community.

After introductions, the participants discussed the hazards and vulnerabilities involved in living at Fishhawk Lake.

Hazards include:

Natural disasters such as earthquake, wildfire, wind and snow storms, ice storms, flooding, lightning, and drought.

Other potential environmental hazards include: lack of reliable communication, frequent electrical outages, drowning, getting lost in the woods, biohazards from water pollution, loss of water supply, wildlife, remoteness, limited access and egress (one paved dead-end road), dam collapse, and human error or forgetfulness.

A major hazard is the fact that no emergency plan exists currently.

Participants identified and prioritized vulnerabilities related to these hazards.

Vulnerabilities include:

1. **Communication** (cell and landline loss, no internet, cybersecurity)
2. **Transportation** (inaccessible logging roads, very old Fishhawk Road bridge, one paved dead-end road, dam failure means Northshore Dr. loses accessibility)

3. **Public Health** (vulnerable elderly or disabled populations, children/parents separated, access to and distance from emergency services for medical emergencies, food security, water access, animal control & care)
4. **Utilities** (water source & plant, electricity supply, sewage treatment, propane)

Mitigation and Risk Reduction Strategies were discussed as potential solutions to these hazards and vulnerabilities and included:

1. Communication

- a. Obtain generator for FLRC office to be able to maintain communication of some kind.
 - i. Obtain radio equipment to become a part of the Amateur Radio Emergency System and train licensed Ham Radio personnel to operate it.
 - ii. Obtain Bgan equipment for satellite communications.
- b. Identify Incident Response Team and name an Incident Commander.
- c. Obtain Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) for designated personnel.
- d. Provide residents with an emergency resource phone list, and web sites for detailed emergency preparedness information.
- e. Identify where satellite phones, GPS equipment, Ham radios, CB radios, or other connections to the Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD are located through a Community Mapping exercise.

2. Transportation

- a. Distribute forest maps for Columbia and Clatsop Counties to all residents and include in the welcome packets for all new residents.
- b. Apply to Weyerheuser for keys to the locked gates on the logging roads for use in an emergency egress situation.
- c. Identify back-up helipads in case the current one is flooded or inaccessible.
- d. Identify who has an ATV, where it is located and where the key is located for emergency use if exiting on the logging roads is the only option.

3. Public Health

- a. Map our neighborhood in order to identify elderly or disabled persons needing assistance through a community mapping exercise.
- b. Identify where volunteer fire fighters, EMTs, nurses, doctors and other medical personnel live in the community.
- c. Identify gathering place(s) for assembling in an emergency to organize and facilitate emergency services under the leadership of the Incident Commander and the Incident Response Team.
- d. Store water and food in secure and accessible locations.
 - i. Obtain water purification systems (individual and systemic)
 - ii. Stockpile non-perishable food
 - iii. Collect rain water in rain barrels
 - iv. Obtain a Rocket Stove for emergency food preparation.

- v. Plan for a minimum of 2 weeks of isolation from any emergency responder or response.
- e. Obtain approval for temporary use of non-occupied houses that are intact by those who have lost their houses.
- f. Place an AED device in the FLRC office to be accessible in case of drowning.
- g. Have life-saving equipment available at the beach area.
- h. Establish neighborhood cluster teams through the community mapping process to provide support, communication, medical assistance, information about specialized health or medication needs, etc.
- i. Provide First Aid and CPR training on an annual basis to FLRC personnel and interested members.
- j. Continue and emphasize Fire Wise program.
- k. Consider having a locked key box in the office with a key to access each building in the community in case of broken water or gas pipes in unoccupied houses.

4. Utilities

- a. investigate use of rain barrels to collect rain water since an earthquake could break water pipes that are under or above ground and contaminate water supplies,
- b. Provide information to residents about personal water purification systems, such as Life Straw or Sawyer, and safe water storage tips.
- c. Explore generating power through alternative sources, e.g. solar, wind, hydro, to have for emergency use.
- d. identify where all generators and their fuel source are located through the community mapping process,
- e. Identify where there is wood heat available through community mapping.
- f. Require that each home have a fire extinguisher.

Resources

It should be assumed that Fishhawk Lake residents will NOT have access to emergency response resources for many days, or more likely, weeks following a major disaster. Those resources will be prioritized for more populated areas first. Thus, emergency preparedness is of paramount importance to be able to care for ourselves under extremely difficult circumstances.

The Fishhawk Lake First Responder is the Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD. They will want an Incident Commander to communicate with them. The Incident Commander and the Incident Command Team should attend Incident Command Training in order to be prepared to serve in this role. Fishhawk Lake personnel and members should be designated to participate in Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), a 21 hour training program.

The Risk Management and Emergency Management offices of Clatsop and Columbia Counties work through the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Department. Columbia County also has a Citizen Core Council, a non-profit organization of CERT personnel, emergency management and risk management personnel and volunteers. The Council is a potential source of funding for emergency preparedness equipment. Fishhawk Lake may have a representative on this council.

The Red Cross, Clatsop and Columbia Counties Risk Management and Public Health offices are highly supportive of the Fishhawk Lake emergency planning process and are available for additional consultation and assistance.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) are also supportive of this project and may have some surplus equipment to provide for our use.

Several web sites have valuable information for planning and implementing an emergency plan for the Fishhawk Lake community:

Public Health

www.tphfcc.org

FEMA/Homeland Security

https://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/areyouready_full.pdf

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90354>

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/7877>

<https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

Oregon Office of Emergency Management

www.oregon.gov/oem/hazardsprep/Pages/Individual-Preparedness.aspx

Pet Care in an emergency

https://www.aspca.org/sites/default/files/preparedness_for_pets_sep_2015.pdf

Fishhawk Lake

www.Fishhawklake.com

Mist Birkenfeld Neighborhood Watch

www.mbonwatch.org

And many others!

Policy and Procedures Recommendations

Based on the discussions at this meeting, the participants recommended the following:

1. Create an emergency plan for the Fishhawk Lake Community, one that recognizes that this community will potentially be quite isolated for many days, or more likely, weeks, before professional help will be available.
2. Conduct a Mapping Your Community exercise with members to identify resources, such as equipment, fuel, food, water, and housing, specific vulnerable populations such as those with medical, assistance or transportation needs and pets.
3. Create an Incident Management Team and name an Incident Commander.
4. Establish a Preparedness Committee to provide ongoing information, training, updating and support for the emergency plan.
5. Obtain emergency equipment including a generator, ham radio, satellite phone, weather cam, AED device, and emergency medical supplies.
6. Designate individuals to obtain CERT training, CPR and First Aid training, and licensed Ham Radio operator training.
7. Schedule regular drills to practice the emergency plan.
8. Communicate the importance of the emergency plan regularly with members through the web site, welcome packet, training opportunities, practice exercises, and meetings.