

Neighborhood Drill?

We are trying to decide if we should conduct a neighborhood drill this year, tentatively on Saturday 4/28 from 9-11. Please RSVP to me if you are interested in participating. We had a low turnout last year and it's not worth doing if we can't get more people to participate.

Neighborhood Watch

Many of us have observed more and more dangerous driving conditions in our neighborhood including speeding, ignoring stop signs and many others. The NBPD has noticed it too. On March 1, there was a meeting with the NBPD traffic department. Peggy attended the meeting and reported that after hearing many resident complaints, the PD officers present said they will initiate a formal traffic study in our neighborhood to measure speeds, traffic flows and other issues. If average speeds exceed 32 MPH they will initiate traffic calming measures that might include narrowing as has been done in Costa Mesa or possibly speed bumps. They say they have issued more than 500 tickets in our area in recent weeks but it has had little impact. There are only 8 officers assigned to traffic issues for all of Newport.

CERT

This meeting's CERT topics included updates to our web site, neighborhood drill, a communications refresher, discussion of EMP risks and solutions and finally discussion on preparing for and recovering from a house fire.

Web Site Updates

I've added a page to our web site that provides links to the materials and notes from all of our recent meetings. Check it out at:

<https://dovershorescert.org/meetings.html>

Let me know if there are other things you would like to see added to the site.

Radio Refresher

We went over some of the more advanced features of our Wouxun radios including how to change channels if there is a problem with our normal channel 66 - DVRRPT and using it's FM broadcast radio capability.

Zello

For people who are not familiar, Zello is a smart-phone app that turns your phone into a push-to-talk radio. It only works if cellular data service is available but I think that would be true for the vast majority of emergencies that we face. Despite that

limitation it offers many benefits compared to our radios including voice recording, the ability to send text messages and photos, and the ability to send your current location as a position on a map. You can use Zello to chat with one person using a configured contact or to a whole group of people simultaneously using a configured channel. I created a channel specific for Dover Shores CERT.

I suggest everyone load Zello on their phones and add the Dover Shores channel to its configuration. Joining the Dover Shores channel requires a password for that channel to keep out the riff-raff. Email or text me if you need the password and I will send it to you by text message. Using Zello, especially its advanced features, is not obvious, but I think it's well worth the effort to learn. You can use it in many other situations besides CERT such as for family communications which is a good way to practice using it.

EMP and Radiation Monitoring

I'm not that paranoid about conspiracies and the like but I do have a sort of lurid fascination with nuclear war. One of the risks of a nuclear conflict is the potential for a large electro-magnetic pulse that would destroy electronics. This could happen in other situations besides a nuclear conflict including a natural solar flare. I think it's important to protect a radio and certain other electronics from an EMP so that you could at least learn what's happening. The way to protect these devices is to store them in a Faraday Cage. In the handout, I describe my attempts to build a reasonably effective Faraday Cage, which has been only partly successful so far.

Another issue when dealing with nuclear events is the fallout. It's relatively easy to provide basic protection from fallout but you face a tough decision on how long to stay sheltered. Radiation is cumulative so you can be exposed to relatively high levels with minimal danger as long as the exposure is brief. The solution is a Geiger Counter so you can measure the radiation around you. Peggy was kind enough to let me indulge my nuclear paranoia and purchase one ([Amazon \\$94.97](#)) The Geiger counter also goes in my Faraday Cage. In answer to how much is too much I found this:

Counts Per Minute CPM	Micro Sieverts per hour uSv/hr	Milli Sieverts Per year	Background Radiation Level Guide for detections 1 meter above ground
12	0.10	0.88	Average background, pre Fukushima Japan .081 uSv/hr, Australia .17 uSv/hr,
25	0.21	1.83	0.23 uSv/hr world average, USA average 0.34 uSv/Hr,
50	0.42	3.65	It is normal to occasionally get short duration peaks above normal background for any location.
60	0.5	4.34	Larger peaks of longer duration indicate detection of a hot spot, or a cloud of radiation is passing through!
100	0.83	7.3	Larger peaks of longer duration indicate detection of a hot spot, or a cloud of radiation is passing through!
150	1.25	10.95	Detections 1.0 uSv/hr and above you are getting into the very dangerous area of detection, shelter or leave immediately!
500	4.17	36.5	Even more dangerous, shelter or leave immediately!

Know what your local average background radiation level was pre Fukushima. Radioactive particulate inhalation is a very big risk in any area where you detect above your normal background radiation for any length of time. Leave the area or shelter until it passes if you are getting detections in the yellow, to red zones. World average yearly individual dose is 2 mSv/year. Every circumstance is different. This is a guide not a bible. any increase in your background radiation level increases risk.

Preparing for a House Fire

Having your house burn down is never good but if you take some prudent steps before hand you can make it less bad and get your family back on its feet much more quickly. The handout has some good suggestions including ways to make sure it doesn't burn in the first place!