



# MARION COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## Support to the Suburban East Salem Area

Marion County Emergency Management has been working hard on three goals in the unincorporated areas of East Salem:

- Goal 1: Better understand the community;
- Goal 2: Build partnerships and community capacity;
- Goal 3: Reduce the impact of emergencies and disasters on the community.

### Background

Since 2016, we actively involved representatives from the East Salem Suburban Neighborhood Association (ESSNA) into the development of the Marion County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. At those community meetings, we learned how ESSNA neighborhoods are impacted by small flooding events. We also learned that there are lots of people in the area who are very interested to get involved and assist their neighbors. Through this conversation, working with ESSNA leadership, the East Salem Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was born. Working in partnership with Marion County Emergency Management and Marion County Fire District #1, the team now has 35 members who have been active in their community, and across Marion County. Additionally, more than 800 people from the East Salem area have received preparedness training.

### Snow event

In January 2017, members of East Salem CERT participated in a deployment to Detroit and Idanha to assist those communities. A major snow storm had dumped several feet of snow, and CERT volunteers went door to door and checked on people.



### Water crisis

On May 29, 2018, the Salem area experienced a water crisis. Marion County Emergency Management quickly organized an effort to distribute water to the community, with emphasis on East Salem.

Over the next month, assisted by over 150 volunteers from across the region and the Oregon Army National Guard, Marion County delivered bulk water to nine points of distribution. We also operated four distribution points, including Chemeketa Community College, and AMF Firebird Lanes. Marion County also worked with Marion Polk Food Share, volunteers, and local medical businesses to deliver water to the homes of people who could not travel to a water point.



## Preparedness training

Marion County Fire District #1 and Chemeketa Community College support regional planning, and provide Marion County Emergency Management with access to their facilities to support emergency response, training and exercises.

In June 2018, Marion County Fire District #1 Station 4 provided a training area for a countywide CERT Disaster Simulation exercise. CERTs from all over Marion County participated, while maintaining staffing at our water points of distribution! Each winter Marion County Emergency Management opens a sand bag site at the MCFD #1 main station at 300 Cordon Road. Residents can pick up sandbags and sand to protect their property free of charge.



Other organizations that have hosted events, trainings, or exercises include numerous faith groups, Mano a Mano, Steam Up, MacLay Grange, IBM, Northwest Natural Gas, and Carlos Houck Middle School. Last year, volunteers from East Salem CERT helped Marion County Emergency Management to participate in over 80 preparedness events.

## How can I get involved?

People interested in getting involved or supporting Marion County Emergency Management's efforts in East Salem can get additional information from the following sites:

- [www.co.marion.or.us/PW/EmergencyManagement](http://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/EmergencyManagement)
- [Eastsalemcert.org](http://Eastsalemcert.org)
- [Mccitizens.org](http://Mccitizens.org)
- [MCstopbleed.org](http://MCstopbleed.org)

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

