



## Let's Talk Disaster Resilience

By: Marge Jozsa, President, Board of Directors, STCEVC

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Become a Ham operator.

### Update – Otis Fire

Gary Dunn, Chair of the STCEVC Emergency Communications Committee, Dan Sheridan, CERT Lead and myself met with our Tillamook County Emergency Manager, Gordon McCraw, Brian Jones from the Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District (NRFPD) and Commissioner Mary Faith Bell to discuss the Otis fire. We had a very productive meeting. Gordon McCraw has already connected with his counterpart in Lincoln City and Jenny Demaris has agreed to include South County in their emergency communications network. All of us are committed to developing an emergency communications protocol that would be distributed to the residents of South Tillamook County. The STCEVC and the NRFPD agreed to work together to roll out Firewise USA, a program of the National Fire Protection Association, that teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire. More information will be forthcoming over the next few months.

We have learned that emergency communications are critical to receiving accurate information during a disaster. Each of us has a role in creating an active and responsive emergency communications' network. The first step for each of us is to have the tools to participate in our South County emergency communications' network. I encourage you to purchase a GMRS radio and/or become a Ham operator. Here on our website we suggest which radio to purchase and what is involved in becoming a Ham operator.

### Covid-19

Covid-19 cases are increasing in Tillamook County and sky-rocketing in Oregon and nationally. It is up to each of us to manage this pandemic. This holiday season will be tough. Remember it is the season of thanks and the season of giving. Be thankful you are healthy and give to others good health by redesigning your holidays. Celebrate Thanksgiving with only those in your household. Be creative! Facetime and Zoom are great tools to celebrate virtually with extended family and with your friends. Keep you and your household safe so that you will be able to enjoy many more holidays to come. Please remember that you do not know you are asymptomatic until it is too late. Have a **Happy Thanksgiving!** Stay safe and healthy!

**Mask up! Keep your distance! Wash your hands frequently!**