



## Let's Talk Disaster Resilience

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We are kicking off 2021 with our first on-line CERT Basic Training class. Our inaugural online class will be intentionally small so that we can get comfortable with the on-line modules and weekly 1-hour Zoom discussion groups. This course will only be the didactic CERT materials. We are planning on small-group, hands-on, mask-to-mask skills training late Spring or early Summer. We will host additional online CERT classes later in 2021!!

I am thrilled to share that we have two new board members who are great additions to our work: Shane Stuart from Hebo and Paul Pratt from Cascade Ranch.

Our Emergency Communications Committee is working diligently on a South County emergency communications' protocol. The protocol is intended to provide the residents of South County with a plan for the dissemination of information during a disaster.

COVID-19 infections continue to rise in Tillamook County with over 350 cases. Tillamook County has seen its first two deaths and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family members and friends of these individuals.

On the positive side, vaccines are beginning to be rolled out. Many members of the Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District (NRFPD) have received their first vaccine as well as many Adventist Health hospital staff. The following agencies have been approved to provide COVID-19 vaccines: Adventist Health, the Nehalem Bay Fire Department, Tillamook County Health Department and the Rinehart Clinic. Tillamook County is only getting a small percentage of the number of vaccines requested from the State. As of January 11, 2021, 450 Phase 1 persons of the approximately 1,200 eligible persons have been vaccinated. Please remember, this number changes daily.

Per Tillamook County Emergency Manager Gordan McCraw, our county's rate of positive COVID-19 cases continued to be very high over the past two weeks. He announced at the Tillamook County COVID-19 Medical Advisory Committee meeting on January 11, 2021 that he anticipates our county will continue to be considered Extreme Risk.

As more reliable and accurate information on the availability of vaccines is known, we will immediately post updates on our website.

Finally, with the recent heavy rains, high tides and flooded roads, the NRFPD has had to rescue several people from automobiles literally floating down streets. If the road is covered with water – turn around – don't drown or place your first responders at risk.

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