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Emergency Communications Exercise

Portland Office of Emergency Management tests communication tools

Portland Office of Emergency Management will be leading an emergency exercise to test communication tools used during a natural or man made disaster. Volunteer teams with Portland Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will test amateur radio equipment that will be used if day to day communication systems such as phone lines, internet or cell phones are not operating during a disaster.

Amateur radio operators with Multnomah Amateur Radio Emergency Services will test emergency radio equipment, emergency go kits and work with other members of our community to ensure a clear communication is in place before a disaster hits. "This exercise is critical to maintaining a solid communication tool in case of a disaster. The amateur radio operators are life lines between communities and emergency responders when there is no other way to reach one another," said Carmen Merlo, Portland's OEM director. Amateur radio operators participating in the exercise are similar to the operators who played a key role for coastal communities hit hard by the floods of 2007. Amateur radio communications are proven to be the most reliable communication systems in all types of disasters or incidents. "We are grateful so many talented and dedicated volunteers are willing to do their part to prepare our community for a disaster," said Merlo.

What: Portland OEM Emergency Communication Exercise

WHEN: Saturday, October 9, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

WHERE: Portland Fire Bureau, Fire Station 3, 1715 NW Johnson Street, Portland, Oregon 97209.

The emergency exercise will bring together members of Portland's OEM's Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET), Portland Fire Bureau, Portland Emergency Coordination Center, Multnomah Amateur Radio Emergency Services and surrounding metro emergency agencies.

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The City of Portland will make reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities. Please notify us no less than five (5) business days prior to the event by phone at 503-823-4375, by the City's TTY at 503-823-6868, or by the Oregon Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900.

