

2021.04.26 Shingletown Prep.

PRELIMINARY PARTIAL CHECK LIST - Fire Preparedness / Evacuations / Information. This is a rough draft (lot more to cover). ADDITIONS AND CHANGES WILL BE MADE – BUT START YOUR PREPARATIONS NOW:

It is the responsibility of each individual and neighborhood to prepare. In an emergency, no one may be showing up to help you. Your trusted neighbor that does everything for you – left 2 hours ago. 911 may not be working, and you may have no electricity. Etc... . So, be prepared to take care of yourself, your family, your neighborhood, etc... .

Pre Incident Preparation:

Monitor (24/7) your Area / Neighborhood Ch 1 and Ham 760 (Ch10) & 505 (Ch 13) for alerts. The community needs to do this. Everyone is a volunteer in securing the safety of themselves, their family and their neighborhoods. Get your neighborhood on board. Focus on those that are helping out. We must all recognize that no matter what we say or do, we will never be able to convince some people. So, move on. Use our limited energy in a productive manner.

Some considerations:

Radios – with Mag Mount antenna on roof of vehicle for communications during evacuation.
Extra Batteries for your radio and ability to connect into vehicle electrical system.
Back up radios (things break and stop working).
Cell phones / batteries / charged.

Hams should have Go Boxes with 50 Watt radios, large antenna, batteries, maps, etc..., to enable them to act as Net Stations from local areas PLUS acting in such capacity from locations distant and safe from the area under evacuation (e.g., 30 miles away from area under evacuation).

Practice SER Radio Communications weekly. Hams and Non Hams need to coordinate during an emergency evacuation. Do it right. Use your Area tactical (non Hams); Hams call signs; Net Controls your tactical (e.g., “Fire Control” , Ember Patrol Wilson”, “Wilson Camera”, etc...). The SER Net weekly practices do exactly this – they coordinate Ham Nets and Neighborhood nets (example using Area Coordinators – licensed Hams).

Go bags always at the ready.

Gas tank in Car FULL at all times.

Food and water at the ready for evacuation.

Emergency supplies at the ready for evacuation (including medications, important papers, cash,

etc...).

If there is a Wildfire Fire in area:

Call and report it on 911.

Activate Fire Nets (if deemed necessary – use common sense). SER Levels at this time are (need volunteers):

- Silent monitoring (no alerting, monitoring situation);
- Advisory;
- Full activation.

Fire Net Activations are to be on:

- Ham - Fire Net 760 (CH 10) and/or 505 (CH 13)
- Areas / Neighborhoods – Ch 1 Fire Net

Conduct QWA procedure, as appropriate.

Conduct Ember patrols, as appropriate.

Be prepared to give accurate reports as to where you see smoke / fire (e.g., compass bearing from a certain road marker, etc...) and estimated distance. Telling 911 that there is a “fire over there” is “not real helpful”.

Activate your Area Chain saw crews (as appropriate). Example: on stand by to clear roads which may become blocked preventing egress (e.g., fallen trees....) - CH 1 (Fire control) CH 3 (Chain Saw Crew). Does your Area / Neighborhood Crew monitor 24/7? They don't? Really? When there are no phones, etc... , how are they going to help?

Activate your Area Welfare Check Teams (as appropriate) for elderly / disabled. – (CH 1 Fire Control) (CH 3 Welfare Teams).

Activate your Area / Neighborhood plan to evacuate elderly / disabled.

School buses for evacuations (e.g., disabled, elderly, etc...).

If your neighborhood is not working on the above matters, start now.

EVACUATION:

If concerned for safety – leave area. You don't have to wait until officials advise you to leave.

If there is an order to evacuate, then evacuate. Neighborhoods should work out evacuation routes and procedures. In the Village, we are planning on working with OES / Sheriff in this regard and will share with others interested.

If you hear an order to evacuate given by the Sheriff, remember that OTHERS MAY NOT HAVE HEARD IT. WRITE IT DOWN EXACTLY AND RELAY IT OVER THE RADIO EXACTLY AS GIVEN BY THE SHERIFF! Do not change it. Do not give your “opinions” AND do not speculate! State only the Facts!.Also, Evacuate!

As you leave your local area / neighborhood (e.g., Village), blast your car / truck horns, air horns, whatever you have, to alert your neighbors. Use 5 LONG BLASTS (1 to 1-1/2 seconds each) IN A ROW. We did a test in the Village last year and car horns are not very effective, but hopefully, many horns will wake people up. The Radio alerting Plan seems to work the best – but as they say – you can lead a horse to water, but

Do not stop on the road to talk to people. You may be blocking traffic and cause people to become trapped. Your neighbors are going to have to take some personal responsibility (i.e., get off the sofa and help out – talk doesn’t cut it). There is a Shingletown Emergency Radio PLAN available for all. But, it is only as good as community participation. Ask your neighbors to help out. They need to get on board.

Stay Calm. Think before taking action. Prepare and Practice in advance. Such can reduce stress by knowing that you can do this. Practice shows what works and what doesn’t.

COMMUNICATIONS DURING EVACUATION:

If people hear a lot of horns, they should turn to your area / neighborhood CH 1 (which should have already been on!). Neighborhoods must be monitoring 24/7.

Turn to the local news.

While loading your vehicle, and evacuating, Monitor your CH 1 while in your neighborhood and also (as appropriate) monitor Ham (760 (Ch 10) and/or 505 (Ch 13)); Cal Fire (Ch 20); Sheriff (Ch 21) and/or your other news sources (if available).

Once you have left your Neighborhood, go to the Ham Frequency 760 (Ch. 10) and/or 505 (Ch. 13). After leaving your Area / Neighborhood, do not stay on your CH 1 – you may be interfering with other neighborhoods. Remember, Non Hams must go to Ch 55 or Ch 58 to be able to transmit on Ham frequency – but use such only FOR AN EMERGENCY TO SAVE LIFE.

All persons should try to have mag mount antennas on their vehicles. We live in the mountains and radio communications may not work at all locations.

Use Ch 40 for general talk (e.g., between vehicles).

LIFE SAVING INFORMATION DURING EMERGENCY EVACUATION:

Report emergencies – call 911.

Additionally, use your Radio to inform Ham Fire Control (760 (Ch 55) / 505 (Ch 58)) as to evacuation conditions – e.g., traffic accident blocking a specific road. Burning trees on roadway blocking road way.

As you are evacuating you HAVE INFORMATION THAT NO ONE ELSE MAY HAVE. LET PEOPLE KNOW IT. SUCH INFORMATION MAY BE CRITICAL TO SAVE LIFE. GIVE THE FACTS, NO OPINIONS, NO SPECULATION! Others listening can hear this life saving information. You may be the only source of that life saving information as it is happening. Follow instructions of Fire Control (Net Control). Only one person can talk at a time!

- Fire Control may ask for road / traffic conditions. Example –

‘This is FIRE CONTROL, need traffic flow and road conditions, highway 44 East bound from Wilson Hill, OVER’.

Who can respond?

If a Ham has the information, please provide it.

If no ham comes on, then Non Hams can provide that life saving information.

Example of Response (assuming no Ham is responding):

Fire Control: “No hams responding, any station respond”

Non Ham: “Village Foxtrot 8”

Fire Control: “Village Foxtrot 8, go”.

“Non Ham: “Fire Control, this is Village Foxtrot 8, my location is Highway 44 east bound at Wilson Hill – Road has heavy traffic, traffic steadily moving east bound at 25 mph, out”

Fire Control: “Roger”.

THIS IS WHY ALL PERSONS SHOULD BE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE WEEKLY SER NET COMMUNICATION PRACTICES. DURING AN EMERGENCY IS NOT THE TIME TO START FIGURING OUT WHAT BUTTON TO PUSH. AREA LEADS, WORK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS AND TEACH THEM GOOD CRISP RADIO PROCEDURE. PRACTICE NETS ARE NOT FOR SOCIAL CHIT CHAT. USE THEM FOR TRAINING AND EFFICIENCY. YOU MAY NOT BE THERE, SO YOU ARE NOT HELPING PEOPLE BY NOT TRAINING THEM.

Here is what we are preparing for. View this photo – Ask yourself, How valuable is my ability to communicate?

<http://www.shastadefense.com/ParadiseFireEscape.jpg>

<http://www.shastadefense.com/SER-WHYtheSERplan.htm> (watch the video of family driving through road surrounded by fire).

USE OF RADIO:

- No chit chat.
- Think of what you are going to say before you transmit. Talk no more than 10 seconds. Then, stop transmitting, and pause. This way emergency traffic can come in.
- Use your neighborhood tactical (e.g., Village Foxtrot 1) or if ham, your call sign. This way a Net Control station (Ham or Area / Neighborhood) can reach you. Hey, there are a lot of “Jim Bobs” out there. If you are a Ham Net Control Station, USE YOUR TACTICAL (you only have to ID every 10 minutes under FCC rules, and your call sign is not descriptive of the job you are doing. “Fire Control” is.).
- Need Hams to be able to step in when other Hams need to evacuate. So, yes that fire is 10 miles away from you and you don’t care; but it is 5 houses away from the other Ham who activated the Ham Net and let you know what is happening. So, please stop watching “leave it to Beaver” and help out. After all, you might be in that same situation in a matter of hours, or even minutes.
- Obviously, we need Hams to volunteer, step up to the plate, and help out.

END.