

Rainier Neighborhood Disaster Communication Hubs (Proposal**)

What Disaster Hubs Are:

Rainier residents communicate by radio with neighbors, family and friends locally in the event of a disaster. Rainier is divided into neighborhood hub zones with corresponding radio channels (see map on reverse).

When Hubs Would Be Used:

During a time of disaster when there is:

- No cell phone service
- No Internet
- Limited mobility

Why Hubs Would Be Used:

- Combat boredom and cabin fever
- Moral support; neighbors helping each other cope with losses and issues
- Relay information and requests from the neighborhood to and from outside resources such as other neighborhoods, Rainier City Hall and ham radio operators
- Allow local hams to relay health & welfare information to outside of the disaster area

How Hubs Work:

Neighbors use low-cost “blister pack” radios (sold at Sunbird, Walmart, Amazon) to communicate reliably in their neighborhoods on their neighborhood’s assigned channel. These radios can be either unlicensed FRS or licensed GMRS models.



What’s Next:

We need volunteers interested in organizing and heading up their neighborhood hubs. Designated persons from each neighborhood hub would receive training on how to relay disaster messages via radio, and would be invited to participate in drills to practice these skills.

**This proposal is sponsored by the East Thurston County (ETC) Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Team. Learn more about this group at their web site: <https://etc-ares.org>. For more details contact the ETC ARES Team Emergency Coordinator, Ed Braaten at: ed@n7ekb.net.

If you’re interested in ham radio in our area, please visit: <https://yelmamateurradiogroup.org/>.

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FRS/GMRS Radio Channel Assignments

