



The CERT Team

EFFORT



Vol. 2, Issue No. 2

SPECIAL PREPAREDNESS ISSUE

April 1, 2016

Teton County, Wyoming Community Emergency Response Team News & More

COMING UP:

APR 13 — JH News & Guide's annual 'Volunteers' issue. Congratulate yourself!

APR 20 — Monthly VOAD meeting, 0800, First Western Trust (2nd Floor). Any CERT member may sit in.

APR 21 — **CANCELLED:** CERT meeting

APR 29 — **CANCELLED:** Red Cross DAT training

APR 30 — Red Cross and WHSTP '72 hrs Plus' Train the Trainer' class, 0800-1700, EOC.

MAY 7 — Teton Wildlife Protection Committee's Wildlife Preparedness/Health Fair Day, 0800-1400, Teton Rec Center—CERT BullEx Demos and Public Training. (It's FREE!)

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Rehab unit learned more lessons at Tucker

A February 26 ranch structure fire proved to be another great learning experience for members of the Teton Rehabilitation Unit (TRU) but a painful one for two of the responding firefighters, both of whom sustained moderate injuries.

Injured were Captain Brian Carr, who slipped on ice and sprained his ankle, and Captain Mike Tepe, who broke a rib and injured his back when he fell 10 feet in the building at Tucker Ranch.

Teton County Fire/EMS Chief Wily Watsabaugh, who praised all of the responders (including those from CERT) for their "professional and focused response," said his initial investigation of the injuries showed that neither of the injured firefighters had been engaged in any unsafe actions. Watsabaugh said they were simply victims of "unfortunate accidents." Both firefighters were expected to fully recover.

Chief Watsabaugh thanked the responders for working "as safely as possible" and for "communicating any unsafe areas or incident concerns."

The TRU's involvement in the incident began at 0852 with a Nixle callout by Teton County Emergency Management and CERT Coordinator Rich Ochs, who requested "from three to five" members to help set up and operate the rehab bus. First to respond was Chris Kendzierski, who arrived at 0915 and became Team Leader. As usual, the rehab bus was driven to the scene by Hap Johnson, its owner, who also owns Jackson Hole Security. The bus is stored at Johnson's business but is equipped by the county. With Hap was his son, Hal.

Fire/EMS Teton Rehab Unit coordinator Brenda Sherwin was next to arrive. CERT's TRU coordinator Al Zuckerman showed up at 1100 to complete the complement.

The TRU performed its usual function of warming up water, setting



out several food and drink items, and establishing a safe area for firefighters to rest, regroup, and rehydrate. This time, however, the team had to solve an immediate problem when no potable water could be found on the bus—which is parked outside and exposed to sub-freezing temperatures. Normally, the department's Support 19 vehicle—which DOES carry potable water—accompanies the bus to an incident. This time it was unavailable.

Nine or ten bottles of water were "scrounged up" from somewhere, Kendzierski said, but ran out quickly. (Some water was heated for drinks.) Also missing the bus were such small items as sugar and other sweeteners. That prompted a discussion about what items still need to be acquired and stored on the bus.

One problem arose due to the fire's location. Tucker Ranch Road is the single ingress/egress point for the neighborhood, and several vehicles passed directly through the main firefighting operation without any direction. Kendzierski said the rehab team could have helped to improve scene safety with only one or two more persons, equipped two-way radios and trained in traffic direction.

Another lesson learned had to do with other responders (EMS or law enforcement personnel), who were not in the immediate area but could have benefited from having refreshments and re-hydration items "or just a friendly encounter."

Overall, Kendzierski observed, "all of the firefighters seemed very grateful to CERT for the response, for the refreshment items, and for the overall willingness to assist in any way."

That note of appreciation was seconded by Ochs: "The Rehab unit is quickly becoming an integral part of incident response in the valley, and as such that increases the responsibility on CERT as an organization. I know that we are up to the challenge, and we have to make sure that we keep up on our training, participation, and response, to maintain the great reputation that we have."

(Chris Kendzierski contributed to this story.)

TCEM/CERT GUY FIRED 4/1

Rick Oaks, Teton County Emergency Mismanagement and CERT coordinator, was fired by the county commissioners either yesterday or the day before for "gross competency."

In disclosing an almost unanimous 1-0 vote with two assentions, one bored member said Oaks is "just too durned good at what he does. He's a big embarrassment to this entire county."

Bored spokeslaymanwomanperson D. D. Whizbanger issued a written statement saying Oaks was "organically hired" to "bring his reputed mismanagement skills to the table."

"However," Mrs. Whizbanger lamented, "his constant achievements have proved that he just doesn't have any, to speak of. He's our April fool's joke."

February 18 CERT meeting was Extremely Eventful!

By FRED WHISSEL

Emergency management personnel, first-responders, and even certain public officials are trained to respond quickly and efficiently to major disasters such as earthquakes, avalanches, fires, and floods.

To prepare for such disasters, they need to make a lot of educated guesses, about what resources will be needed in the kinds of emergency situations that are most likely to occur. It's up to them to invest their limited funds in the "right" resources, negotiate Memorandums of Understanding in advance, and develop complete plans for dealing with a lot of unknowns.

That's why they get "the big bucks," and how they earn the trust of their community. They are very adept in accurately accessing the potential threats, arranging for the appropriate resources, implementing their plans without delay, leading post-disaster recovery efforts, and assessing how well everything went—in order to adapt and prepare for the next time.

But what would happen if Average Joe or Ordinary Jane had to make all of those same decisions? How well would they do?

That question looms large at the National Academy of Sciences. In conjunction with the Marian Koshland Science Museum and ResilientAmerica Roundtable, the NAS is hoping YOU will help answer it, in a tabletop exercise called "Extreme Event."



One Hap-py Game Player

The game-like activity is being played around the nation by first-responders, government bodies, businesses, members of service clubs and civic organizations, and even homeowners.

Taking about two hours to complete, the exercise may be found on-line or set up locally and involve from 12 to 48 players at a time. It comes about as close as possible to learning what untrained persons would do if they were suddenly thrust into decision-making roles during an emergency situation.

To predict how well the game might play out in Teton County, some two-dozen CERT members played a "high-tech," digitized version of the game on February 18 at the Emergency Operations Center.

"I wanted to see whether or not this activity would be appropriate for almost any group in Teton County in need of a worthwhile activity," said Rich Ochs, coordinator of both CERT and Teton County's Emergency Management agency. "If the CERT members—a cross-section of our community—enjoyed playing it, I was pretty certain that other local groups would as well."

Ochs prepared to "facilitate" the game by watching a one-hour seminar, reviewing the list of required materials, ordering some supplies from the makers, and having a local printer run off several different items.

To play the game, a room is set up with six tables, each of which has four (or more) chairs, a laptop computer with internet connection, a floor-standing easel (to display a "Problem Board"), a set of "resource" cards, a sheet explaining the nature of those resources, and sets of rules.

Like a real emergency situation, the game is divided into four phases: preparation, response, recovery, and assessment/adaptation.

As the players arrive, they each receive a "Character Name Tag" which also indicates which community "Sector" (or "discipline") they will belong to, and which neighborhood they

will live in. The six "sectors" include household member, business owner, community organization member, first-responder, local or state government official, or Federal Government representative.

At the outset, all members of the same sector sit at the same table, where they have a deck of 24 "resource" cards. They have only a few minutes to review the characteristics of each resource and come to an agreement about which 12 resources they should "invest" in, considering the overall needs of "River City" and what threats it might face. The 12 unused resource cards are set aside.

One of the resources a homeowner might choose is the construction of an underground concrete shelter. A local business owner might want to buy a number of fire extinguishers. A local government official might want to purchase more buses.

After the members of a common "discipline" invest in their 12 chosen resources, they follow the information on their name cards and re-seat themselves at six "neighborhood" tables: Clearwater, Waterview, Meadowland, Lakeshore, Riverside, and Downtown.

Then the fun begins. In the "high tech" version of the game—which could be played at the Emergency Operations Center due to its multiple monitors, internet hook-ups for computers, and sound system, Ochs (the facilitator) issued a storm bulletin that warned about the potential for severe flooding.

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The CERT Team EFFORT is a quarterly publication of Teton County Emergency Management, 3240 S. Adams Canyon Dr., Jackson, WY 83001. Any opinions expressed may not be held by TCEM or the Teton County Citizen Corps Council, which guides and primarily supports the Teton County CERT team. To comment on our articles, suggest story ideas, or to contact us for any other reason, please email us at em@tetonwyo.org.

CERT COORDINATOR: Rich Ochs
EDITOR: Fred Whissel

...Extremely Eventful

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

The “residents” of each neighborhood then viewed a chart that posed a particular problem—with two possible solutions. If they had chosen the “right” resources, they could put those cards in matching slots under Option A or Option B, and earn points. If they needed other resources, they would have to approach other neighborhoods and negotiate trades for them.

That’s where “real life” came into play. Even some CERT members—who have been trained in working together—were reluctant to relinquish ANY of their resources (whether they needed them or not), if doing so would allow other neighborhoods to score points. They might also hold out for a better deal with some other neighborhood. Would each neighborhood work on its own? Or would they all work together, in the best interest of the entire “River City”?

Some neighborhoods also quickly discovered that neither of the two options for solving their problem seemed to be very good—a situation that, unfortunately, often challenges real-life emergency managers.

Eventually, after enough horse-trading of resources enabled one neighborhood to solve its “problem,” a winner emerged. All scores were added up and reported to the game’s inventors, for evaluating its popularity and ease of play.

According to the originators, the activity “reinforces the fact that all people in a community—from individual households to large government agencies—have a responsibility to prepare and plan for disasters.” In real life, they noted, “everyone brings something different to the table.”

As he had anticipated, Ochs said the range of reactions from the 21 CERT members (and three guests) who tested the game in February ranged from “major confusion” to “great delight.”

One common reaction among the CERT players seemed to be that not enough “rules” and details about how to play the game were provided before the flood disaster occurred. One player unknowingly hit the point of the game right on its head: “How can you possibly know what you need until you know what you

need?”

Another player had a tougher problem: “Why in the world did I have a tag that said I was a hardware store owner?”

Ochs said it will take a few weeks to evaluate the CERT response to the

“Extreme Event,” but he will be glad to answer any questions from any other local organization about how to obtain or play the game. More information is also available at:

<https://www.koshland-science-museum.org/explore-the-science/extreme-event>.

Extremely Good Photos!



All extremely good photos by Fred Whissel



JH Horse Rescue is saving the best of the 'Old West'

There are now 22 members of the Teton County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). To better inform our readers about the capabilities and responsibilities of those organizations, THE EFFORT is running a series of articles on VOAD members.

SECOND IN A SERIES

A hand-carved, wooden sign on Teton Pass used to welcome visitors to "Jackson Hole: The Last of the Old West."

That "last" claim may not have been entirely accurate, or even original (several other places contend for the same fame and glory), but you can certainly SEE the "Old West" from the top of the Pass. Especially if you're sittin' in the saddle of a calm cayuse.

As someone once said: "Life is better when viewed from between the ears of a horse."

Horses played a huge role in the Old West. Even here, in mountain country, most trappers had at least one horse to keep them company, share their sorrows, and help them stay a few feet ahead of an approaching flight of arrows. Some horses even had a higher standing than some men. You took good care of your horse because it took good care of you.

Horses remain important residents of Teton County (along with our 10,000 cats and at least the same number of dogs). This is critter country, pal—our own version of Pettin' Place—and you can either like it or lump it.

All animals should have friends like those at Jackson Hole Horse Rescue,

which is one of the 22 member organizations in VOAD—Teton County's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

JHHR was founded in 2008 by Maury Jones and Colleen Gillings. "Jonesy," as he is better known to both horses and humans, is its executive director. (Gillings has since moved.)

"We saw a need to take care of old, abandoned, abused, lame, or ill horses," Jonesy reflected recently, "and we decided that we had to help them."

Gillings and Jones did just that, by placing most of the outcast horses in caring homes. In a few cases, regrettably, they had to turn to the life-ending compassion of one of the local vets who have been available "on a simple phone call." Over the past seven years or so, JHHR has cared for, sheltered, found accommodations for, or been there at the very end for almost 200 horses.

JHHR houses its horses on a 256-acre ranch just west of Jackson Hole Airport. In return for the donation of 60 acres of pasture to the JHHR, the owner of the ranch, his family, and guests are allowed to saddle up some of the steeds for trail rides.

In the summer, up to 100 horses could graze the 60 acres, which has two streams.

In the winter, only about 40 horses can be kept, but must be fed hay and supplemental grain. So, over the past three winters, JHHR has hauled its horses to a ranch near Crowheart, where it is warmer. All of the horses are inspected daily, and any with health issues are treated with medications and bandages.

In a disaster, Jonesy said, it is not likely that JHHR would be asked

to care for more horses than the pasture could handle. However, "I'm sure we could put the word out and people would come to our aid with hay, grain, medical supplies, and volunteer help." Like other VOAD members, Jonesy hopes JHHR will never have to deal with that disaster.

JHHR is strictly a volunteer operation. Jonesy said none of the several persons involved "has ever drawn a salary," because it is "strictly a labor of love." Over the years, local horse whisperers have included David and Giselle Found, Johnny Johnston, Russ Lucas, the late Dory Hammond, and Tim Hodgson of the Bar J Wranglers and his son, "who did a benefit for us."

Why get involved in such horsing around? Because, Jonesy said, "Saving a horse is a good reason to exist." What's more, "the best thing for the inside of a man or woman is the outside of a horse."

Jonesy is full of such aphorisms—probably because that is just the way they used to do things in the Old West, and...well, you know the rest.

You might think that it costs a lot to operate JHHR, and it does. All of its clients (sorry) "eat like a horse," and require other costly care. In the summer, of course, the grass is free. But in the winter, caring for even a healthy horse can cost \$65 a month—plus the bill for hauling them 105 miles to Crowheart.

Any supplemental grain must be purchased, along with "good alfalfa hay" from farmers in Star Valley. Some rolled barley is obtained from Farmer's Feed in Thayne.

Most of the money to operate the JHHR comes from Old Bill's Fun Run, although some grain is donated occasionally by twins Kelly Hatch and Kathy Flickinger of Jackson Hole Feed and Pet. Some hay also is offered by local farmers.

Whatever the cost, Jonesy said, the volunteers at JHHR are willing to pay it—but all donations are appreciated.

More information about Jackson Hole Horse Rescue may be obtained by calling Jonesy at 307-887-3356 or by emailing him at: JonesyJackson-Hole@gmail.com.



HORSING AROUND

Some of the equine guests of Jackson Hole Horse Rescue enjoy their 60-acre pasture near the airport. This photo and other JHHR ones elsewhere in this issue are by Maury Jones, executive director of JHHR.

Are you 'game' for more photos from our Feb. 18 'Extreme Event'?



What happens to a 72-hour kit when hour 73 clocks in?

In 1999, the Geologists of Jackson Hole conducted a study to pinpoint any areas in Teton County where the victims of a major disaster would essentially be on their own. They would not be able to evacuate their devastated area; they would not be able to receive any assistance from such “outside” sources as first-responders, medical treatment providers, or suppliers of any of the “necessities” of daily life.

By definition, the people and animals in

‘72 Hours and Beyond’!

If you’re interested in learning how to prepare for a long-term emergency—one that forces you to survive, on your own, for more than 72 hours, you may still be able to sign up for an April 30 class at the Emergency Operations Center on Adams Canyon Drive.

Sponsored by the Wyoming Homeland Security Training Program and Red Cross of Wyoming, the class will run from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break.

Called “The Road to Preparedness: 72 Hours and Beyond,” the class will be both a learning and a teaching event—the “train the trainer” participants will be certified to teach others what they have been taught.

Covered will be such topics as basic preparedness and survival skills, the kinds of disasters that Teton County most likely would encounter, terrorism, and how to think “outside the box.”

Due mainly to the geological characteristics of Teton County and its limited transportation system, a number of potential natural and manmade disasters could easily cause enough damage to cut off routes of ingress and egress—making it difficult for emergency responders, medical service providers, and other disaster helpers to reach injured persons and pets. The FEMA-suggested “72-hour kit” may be only a beginning for stranded residents in isolated areas.

For more information, to sign up, or to see if any seats remain, call Marty Roark at 307-358-1920.

those areas, whether residents or merely travelers passing through, would be physically isolated from their surroundings. (Cell or land-line phones might still work.) With any luck, they might need to survive without help for only a few days. In a “worst case” scenario, they might have to get by—on their own—for weeks or even months.

The Jackson Hole Geologists call those disaster-segregated areas “islands,” for the occupants would, in effect, be shipwrecked in a sea of widespread, perhaps total devastation. Whether or not they survive could depend upon how well they have prepared to respond to the inconveniences of their confinement.

Teton County was found to have at least 21 such “islands.”

Perhaps due to several nationwide campaigns, most Teton County residents might still believe that, following the occurrence of a major natural or manmade disaster, all they would need to do is hang in there for no more than 72 hours, and all would become right with the world. Sure, they might need to suffer a little bit—but eventually everyone would be rescued from their perilous predicament, treated for their injuries if necessary, and helped to recover.

Is that a fact?

The “72-hour” rule might apply in most locations, where a lot of emergency services could be provided via various ways and means to closely connected population centers. But in rural Teton County, with its population density of only 5.3 persons per square mile, the three-day rule might seem ridiculous. Whether or not the victims of a major disaster in Teton County live or die could well depend on whether or not they live in one of those 21 “island” areas.

No such geographically bounded island areas would be found on the typical map by anyone looking for them. They would come into being only in relation to the

SPECIAL REPORT

IF APRIL IS NATIONAL HEALTH MONTH (SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH), WHY ARE WE DOING A SPECIAL ISSUE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN APRIL? DO YOU REALLY THINK DISASTERS GO BY THE CALENDAR? NOT IN TETON COUNTY!!! NOW’S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY (MAYBE EVEN BETTER!) TO THINK ABOUT PUTTING TOGETHER A 72-HOUR –PLUS KIT!

occurrence of a major disaster.

Teton is not the largest county in Wyoming, but it is one of the most-underdeveloped ones. Its areas of even modest settlement are both few and far between, and uneven. Almost one-half of the county’s 23,000 residents (who feed and shelter probably twice that number of pets and farm animals) live in the county seat of Jackson. Almost the entire remaining 13,000 residents inhabit only five small towns and villages: Wilson, Teton Village, Moose, Kelly, and Moran.

Because Teton County fully encompasses Grand Teton National Park and—to the surprise of many—almost half of Yellowstone, the county is a major attraction to tourists. They either travel completely through the county on their way to or from the parks or spend a night or two in one of the dozens of hotels, motels, inns, and campgrounds. On any given summer’s day, it is estimated, the county’s 23,000 population can explode by a factor of three. (The recent Zac Brown concert alone drew more than 15,000 to Teton Village, including both residents and visitors, and the Fourth of July fireworks on Snow King can easily draw 10,000

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



'Sweetie' —before and after rescue



More photos from Jackson Hole Horse Rescue, a VOAD member

LEFT: 'Lulu,' an old mule, apparently was left for bear bait in a forest. Maury Jonesy's grandkids helped head her in the right direction. (They're still trying to make her move! Really stubborn mule.)

ABOVE: Seeing 'Cloud' had potential, JHHR paid pro Brian Thomas to train her. She was then placed in a good home.

TOP RIGHT: Jonesy's granddaughter Reese coaxes 'Grampy' the reluctant burro into a corral.

Right: 'Flower' was all skin and bones when JHHR came to her rescue. Too old to place in a home, she lived for three more years after a bit of TLC.



...reaching hour number 73

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

oglers.)

Is Teton County equipped to handle the aftermath of a major earthquake, avalanche, flood, terrorist attack, or other horrific event that could cause thousands of deaths and injuries among a potential population of 70,000? Would the residents of those 21 isolated "islands" be able to fend for themselves for even 72 hours, let alone days, weeks, or months?

The answers to those questions could well depend on what happens to the county's transportation system during a destructive event.

Teton County has no railroads. It has no commercial river transportation system. It has only one commercial airport, a few miles north of Jackson, with only one runway to accommodate several thousand incoming and outgoing passengers each day—as long as it is functional. On any winter's day, even a few inches of accumu-

lated snow, or even less ice, can shut down its ramps and runway for hours. It is difficult to predict what a strong earthquake would do to those surfaces, which need to be smooth and free of significant gaps and cracks, but it is well known that earthquakes tend to bend and break things like asphalt and concrete.

With Jackson Hole Airport at least temporarily out of commission, almost the entire burden for providing ingress and egress to the county's residents and temporary tourists would fall upon the county's secondary highway system—or on a series of massive rescue and medical service flights by fleets of helicopters.

That being the case, Teton County's highway system could be a disaster waiting to happen. To many Teton County residents, one of the best things about the highways here is how few and far between they are. To emergency planners, however, that lack of redundancy poses huge problems. Only one secondary highway leads west from Jackson, and to do so it must cross two bridges: one over the Snake River, another

over Fish Creek in Wilson. Bridges tend to be highly susceptible to earthquakes and flooding. State Highway 22 then must climb 8,241 feet to reach the top of Teton Pass, and go back down just to get to Idaho, where the nearest major medical services are still over 100 mountainous miles away, in Idaho Falls.

Only one highway carries traffic north from Jackson (Routes 26/89/191) to Moran, where the routes divide, and that is a distance of more than 30 miles. It is another 70 miles to the limited medical facilities in Yellowstone at Lake Hospital. Going east from Moran, it is another 140 miles to the medical facilities in Lander or Riverton.

South of Jackson, Highways 26/89/189/191 (all one and the same) run 17 miles—and cross another bridge over the Snake River—to Hoback Junction, where the routes divide. The eastern leg (Routes 189/191) extends 75 miles to the limited medical services at Pinedale; larger facilities are another 100 miles away, in Rock Springs.

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Is YOUR organization prepared for a longer-term disaster?

Natural and manmade disasters happen daily. They happen everywhere. They can happen in Teton County. They can even happen to YOU. Are YOU prepared to survive—on your own, without any “outside” help—for several days, a week, or even longer? Are you a member of an organization with a long-term disaster plan that is ready to implement?

Teton County, due to its geographical peculiarities, its limited transportation system, its magnetic attraction for tourists, and certain other factors, is well-positioned for a potential natural disaster. Preparatory planning by public officials can only go so far to insulate the county against large-scale threats. At some point, the prime responsibility for responding to floods, earthquakes, avalanches, terrorists, and similar threats must fall upon the shoulders of individual residents.

Not every disaster can be avoided, but much can be done to minimize the possible damage, shorten the time period for inconvenience, and hasten recovery efforts. The local American Red Cross unit frequently conducts training and certification classes in first-aid and disaster sheltering operations. Basic emergency preparation and other training is available through such programs as CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). And there are at least 22 member organizations of Teton County’s Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

On April 30, the Red Cross will offer a free, eight-hour training program called “The Road to Preparedness: 72 hours and Beyond.” Co-sponsored by Wyoming Homeland Security Training Program, the day-long session will teach attendees how to survive somewhat longer than the 72 hours that even FEMA recommends in the event of a local disaster. Moreover, this will be a “train the trainer” session, with the intent of certifying attendees to teach others what they have learned. The Saturday class will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Teton County Emergency Operations Center on Adams Canyon Drive.

If you are a member of any of the following VOAD organizations, participate in their fund-raising activities, or simply attend their meetings or church services, you might want to check out what disaster preparation programs they also conduct. CERT, for instance, offers a seven-session, 25-hour, full-fledged basic training program that includes information and hands-on practice in emergency medical

operations, search-and-rescue, fire safety, disaster psychology, survival, and terrorism response. On the final day of the course, participants even receive a sturdy backpack full of useful gear and take part in a disaster simulation.

Here are the current members of Teton County’s VOAD organization:

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Community Resource Center, Cornerstone Church, Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area, Jackson Cupboard, Jackson Elks Lodge, Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center, Jackson Hole Horse Rescue, Kiwanis Club, National Museum of Wildlife Art, PAWS of Jackson Hole, Presbyterian Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rotary Club of Jack-

son Hole, Salvation Army (Jackson Unit), Shepherd of the Mountain Lutheran Church, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Teton County Public Health, Teton County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES), Teton County Systems of Care, Teton Valley Seventh Day Adventist Church, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (Jackson).

If your organization is involved in disaster planning, preparation, response, or recovery, but is currently not a member of VOAD, a telephone call to Karen Walker, VOAD executive director/secretary (739-3903), or the Rev. David Bott (733-3409), chairman of the board, or Rich Ochs (732-8594), Teton County emergency management coordinator, should get you all of the information you need to evaluate free membership.

Can a ‘Can’ be in your ‘72-hour kit’?

What most Americans know as “72 hour kits” come in an amazing variety of contents and sizes. They are designed to protect everyone from individuals to entire schools of 200 students or offices of two to 240 workers. You can buy them for families of two, three, four, five, or six members, and even for your pets, including dogs, cats, and (probably) goldfish.

If you can’t buy a disaster kit that you can be proud of, from one of the 22 gazillion local or on-line suppliers, you can always make up your own by following some basic guidelines: 1) find a sturdy bag, box, backpack, five-gallon bucket or some other container, 2) toss in everything that might come in very handy that you would never buy under normal circumstances and won’t possibly be able to use, and 3) add water.

Here’s a list of the contents in a typical “72-hour” kit, designed for a family of five. It seems to have almost everything for luxury emergency living, including a snap-on toilet seat/lid to accommodate anyone with a *real* emergency who can’t find anywhere else to go to go.

These emergency supplies suppos-

edly exceed guidelines established by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security and are suitable for use in such emergency situations as earthquakes, tornadoes, winter storms, thunderstorms, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, landslides, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and extreme heat and cold. Apparently no standards have yet been set for kits designed to help you survive falling stars or collisions with comets and cupids.

Emergency food ration, 2400 calories (5); emergency drinking water pouch, 4.22 ounces (30); water purification tablets (10); emergency radio (1); green light stick, 12-hour (1); plastic whistle with lanyard (1); emergency communications planning card (5); emergency survival blanket (5); waterproof poncho, adult (5); basic first-aid kit, 60-piece (1); personal tissue pack (5); moist towelettes, three-pack (5); N-95 dust mask (5); toilet bags, 12-pack (1); T-5 toilet disinfectant (1); POGO pry-bar gas-off tool (1); duct tape, 10 yards (1); Swiss army-like knife, 17 functions (1); waterproof patches, box of 40 (1); heavy-duty work gloves (1); crush-resistant bucket/container, five-gallon (1); snap-on toilet seat (1).

...reaching hour number 73

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

If the new bridge over the Snake River at Hoback is still intact, westbound traffic can reach the limited medical facilities at Alpine on Route 26/89 in just 23 miles—provided no earthquakes have caused avalanches of earth and rock onto the highway at numerous potential locations—but the major facilities in Idaho Falls are still 100 miles west, at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC).

Major highway destruction due to ground movement or flooding, major debris blockage due to avalanches along several sections of susceptible highways, or major structural damage to only four bridges could cut off all highway access to or escape from Teton County entirely for weeks.

The loss of virtually all outside help would place major burdens for both treatment and patient housing on Teton County's hospital, emergency treatment centers, and doctor or dentist offices. Potentially thousands of injuries and disaster-caused illnesses could require immediate treatment—at the same facilities that already care for a normal num-

ber of ailments and the elderly.

No discussion of the availability of medical emergency treatment for potential Teton County victims (including tourists) would be complete without considering capacities at St. John's Medical Center in Jackson and the county's other treatment centers, including Teton Outpatient Services, Emerg-a-Care, and St. John's Urgent Care. Of those medical treatment providers only St. John's Medical Center offers beds for longer-term hospitalization.

St. John's currently has but 108 beds—48 of them for “acute/primary care” patients and 60 others for “long-term care” in its Living Center.

A constant topic among the 32 member organization of Teton County's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is where any significant number of beds could be found for the victims (and their families!) of any major disaster.

In 2015, for the whole year, St. John's admitted just 1,847 persons. Local physicians performed 2,793 surgeries there, including the delivery of 467 ba-

bies. The average stay was under three days.

Even a rough calculation would suggest that as many as 100,000 persons could be in Teton County at any given moment on a summer's day. If only one person in 10 sustained injuries requiring surgery, that would be 10,000—or FOUR times as many surgeries as were performed at St. John's during the ENTIRE 365 days of 2015. If only one-tenth of those who require surgery also require even overnight hospitalization, the number of beds needed would be nearly TEN TIMES what St. John's could likely provide.

Clearly, there would be a much greater demand for post-surgical hospital beds, operating rooms, surgeons, and even regular physicians than could possibly be provided by St. John's Medical Center, TOPS, all of the county's emergency care facilities, and all of Teton County's physicians combined.

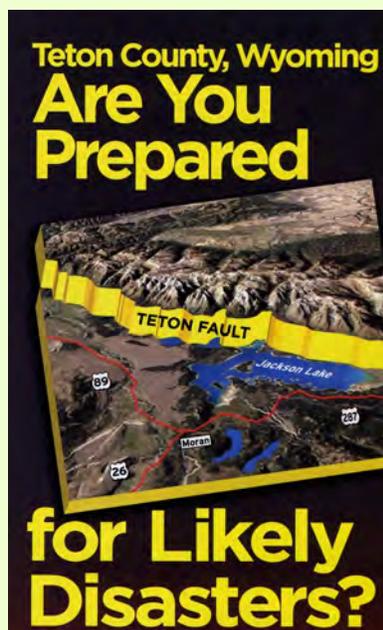
Every emergency situation places a different set of demands upon the available resources in Teton County (volunteer fire departments, search-and-rescue, Community Emergency Response Team, animal rescue, etc.). Under most “common” situations, the current number of emergency responders is adequate. But could the same be said of disasters? Even if the current number of first responders could handle the greatly increased anticipated demand (due to the injurious nature of disasters) what good could any of the county's hundreds of emergency responders do if our highways are so badly damaged as to be unusable? Fire department, law enforcement, search-and-rescue, first responder, and other vehicles (including those of the workers who would need to make the bridge and highway repairs) must travel on highways over any extended distances. Those transportation facilities could be “out of order.” What then?

One source to help you prepare for disasters

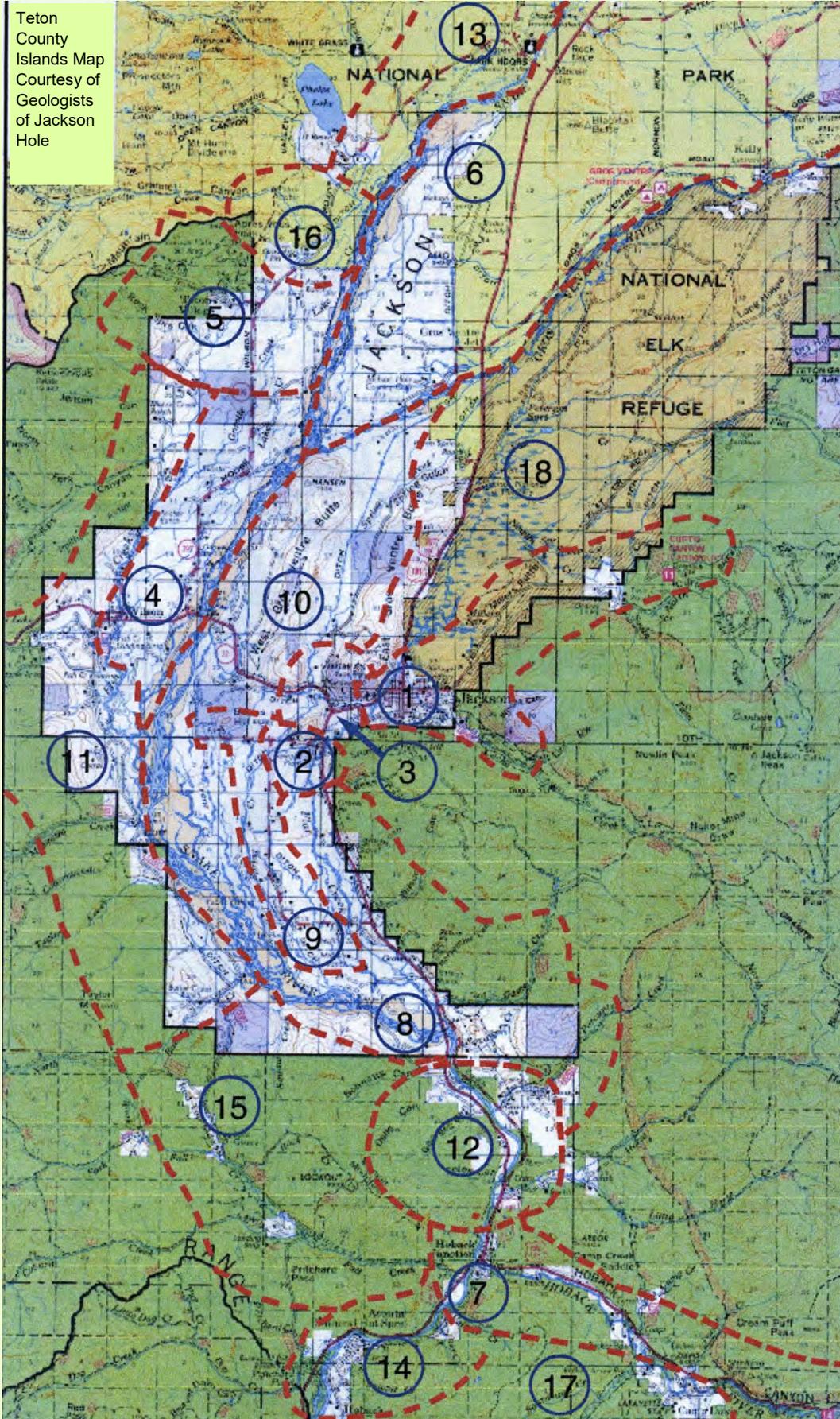
In 2009, the Geologists of Jackson Hole published a four-page, full-color brochure that asked the question: “Teton County, Wyoming: Are You Prepared for Likely Disasters?” (See right.)

The Geologists published some 15,000 copies of the brochure, in both English and Spanish. They were concerned that local residents were not as prepared as they should be to respond to any number of potential major disasters around the county.

That was six years ago. Since then the brochure has been updated and reprinted, and it remains available at various county government offices and elsewhere.



Teton County Islands Map Courtesy of Geologists of Jackson Hole



'Islands' of Teton County pose a special risk to those residents

During a major disaster in Teton County, according to the Geologists of Jackson Hole, many bridge and landslide failures will be likely. In 1999, the Geologists conducted a study that identified 21 areas around the county in which the residents (or other persons traveling through) would be particularly susceptible to being isolated for periods longer than 72 hours. (See our main article on Page 8.)

In those 21 areas the residents would need to be able to care for themselves to a much greater extent than ones elsewhere—far longer than the suggested 72 hours.

The Geologists tried to identify areas where it "would seem prudent" to establish shelters or other emergency relief operations "in a priority based upon population." (In emergency management — including CERT—there is a preference for doing "the greatest good for the greatest number.")

The map at left shows 18 of the "islands," where there would be "barriers to easy travel by wheeled vehicles or foot." (The island areas are indicated by the red dashed lines.)

In northern Teton County, it was thought that Buffalo Valley Bridge and the bridge just south of Moran Junction would fail in a major seismic event, turning Buffalo Valley into three more islands (not shown).

15 CERT vols recertified by ARC in first-aid, CPR, and AED

Fifteen Teton County CERT members spent the first Sunday afternoon in February at the Emergency Operations Center, updating their basic ABC, AED, and CPR skills.

Periodically, persons who are certified by the American Red Cross to perform basic first-aid treatment apply CPR techniques, or use an AED device are required to recertify for a one-year or two-year period, in order to learn any newly recommended procedures or refresh their existing skills.

On February 2, such a refresher class was taught by Dee Buckstaff, herself a CERT and Red Cross volunteer, with assistance from Jim Flower, the former Red Cross local office chief who now provides licensed training as owner of

Any Life Worth Saving.

“ABC” stands for “Airway, Breathing, and Circulation,” the three heart and lung essentials that help a first-aid provider determine whether or not to use “CPR” (“Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation”) or “AED” (the “Automated External Defibrillator” device that is found in most government offices, schools, and many businesses; it applies a measured electrical shock to a person whose heart has either stopped or is beating irregularly).

During their basic training program, all CERT members are given basic first-aid instruction, with 6.5 hours of “disaster medical operations” and “disaster psychology” information. However, they are not “certified” to employ CPR, AED, or even basic first-aid treatment (burns, sprains,

stroke, shock, bleeding, etc.) until they go through the ARC courses, which qualifies them for one or two years. All three of the courses have special administration techniques for adults, children, or infants.

Normally, a course fee must be paid by anyone undergoing the ARC training. However, as another benefit of their CERT membership, that fee was paid for all of the February participants by Teton County Emergency Management.

“We believe this kind of refresher training is absolutely vital for all CERT members,” said Rich Ochs, CERT and Teton County Emergency Management coordinator. “As such, we are more than happy to pay the instruction cost.”



Photos by Fred Whissel



AED's Throughout Teton & Lincoln Counties

This is a "Living" Document. Please let your instructor or Any Life Worth Saving, LLC if you know of any other "Public Access" AED's

AED's Maintained by Jackson Hole Fire/EMS

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Public Works | 450 W. Snow King Ave |
| Senior Center of Jackson Hole | 830 E. Hansen Ave. |
| Snow King Ice Arena | 100 E. Snow King Ave. |
| Teton County Recreation Center/Pool | 155 E. Gill Ave. |
| Center for the Arts | 225 S. Cache St. |
| County Commissioners Chambers | 200 S. Willow St. |
| Jackson Town Hall | 150 E. Pearl Ave. |
| Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Administration Office | 40 E. Pearl Ave. |
| Grand Teton Music Festival, Walk Festival Hall | Teton Village |

Additionally, numerous Fire Apparatus and Law Enforcement Vehicles also carry AED's

Privately Owned, Public Access AED's

| | |
|--|---|
| Teton County Library | 125 Virginian Ln. |
| Jackson Hole Visitor's Center | 532 N. Cache St. |
| Hatchet Resort | 19980 US HWY 287, Moran |
| Jackson Hole Airport | 125 Airport Rd. (2ea. in main passenger terminal and 1ea. in security office) |
| Presbyterian Church | 1251 South Park Loop Rd. |
| Lower Valley Power & Light | 4000 S. US HWY 89 (1ea. in each of their Line Trucks) |
| Bridger-Teton National Forest-S, US 89, Snake River Canyon in the follow Locations (Summer ONLY) | |
| Prichard Boat Ramp | |
| West Table Boat Ramp | |
| Gauging Straights | |
| Sheep Gulch Boat Ramp | |
| Bell Fitness | 1655 High School Rd. |
| Doran's in Moose (Bar) | Moose WY |
| Grand Teton National Park Visitors Center | Moose, WY |
| Signal Mountain Lodge | Grant Teton National Park |
| Shoot Star Golf Course | US HWY 390 S. of Teton Village |

This List of "Public Access AED's is a curiosity of Any Life Worth Saving, LLC