

Thank you for allowing me the time to briefly address the Council this evening. My name is Brad Hart. My husband Christopher Mullins and I have been residents of Manzanita since August 2018 and are happy to call Manzanita our full-time home.

Thank you for declaring September as Emergency Preparedness Month in Manzanita and providing a segue to talk about the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay (EVCNB). As many of you know, the EVCNB is a non-profit, volunteer run, training organization whose mission is to Promote a Culture of Preparedness.

I am involved with the EVCNB in many ways, as a volunteer in the Community Engagement Division, serving in both the Technology and Communication and Outreach Programs and in the Emergency Response Division as a CERT volunteer. On a personal level, Christopher and I engage routinely in the weekly Yellow Radio check-ins and are active within our cluster, Manzanita Beach where we serve as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene leads. The cluster also coordinates efforts to plan, conduct drills, and be prepared to survive in the event of a disaster. Consequently, I am not only vested, but proud to share just a few of the organization's accomplishments with you tonight.

In spite of COVID and no in-person meetings, we have gained ground in our mission:

- Since last year, we have added one cluster, The Lanes, covering much of the area south of Laneda. This makes for a total of 5 groups preparing their

neighborhoods for emergencies in Manzanita and 11 throughout the Nehalem Bay region. I should mention that another Manzanita cluster is in the works, covering the northwest Classic Ridge area.

- Because of COVID, the sale of GoBags is now an on-line, pre-order and pick-up by appointment process. Over 100 bags have been sold through this highly efficient process.
- Another adjustment due to the pandemic, is the use of webinars for community engagement. Last year we held two, one focused on tsunamis and one on wildfires. We will be opening registration in the next few days for a September 30 webinar that will feature Senator Betsy Johnson, former County Commissioner Mark Labhart and others, focused on state-level wildfire management.
- The pandemic has and continues to have a tremendous impact in our communities. Through our Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and other volunteers, EVCNB logged over 4,000 hours from January through June of this year, planning and delivering vaccinations in clinics throughout the county.
- The Mass Care program, now under the leadership of Lee Hiltenbrand, is focusing on partnering with our local government agencies. For example, Lee is

working with the City of Manzanita on prioritizing their supplies for mass care efforts.

- Just last week, we were awarded a grant of \$34,101 from San Diego-based Amateur Radio Digital Communications to purchase and install equipment that will extend our ability to communicate with Clatsop County and throughout Tillamook County during emergencies. This grant, along with an earlier grant from Tillamook PUD, will provide Solar Go-Boxes for up to 15 locations allowing a more robust system with the addition of digital communications.
- During an emergency, it's important we have the ability to activate various teams of volunteers. We are currently developing a custom app for alerts and activation of resources. It will allow us to inform specific groups what action is needed and where they should deploy to help. This will be a vital component of our continued preparedness drills and arsenal of tools to help in emergency situations.
- Preparation and drills leading up to the Cascadia Rising exercise in June of 2022 are currently underway. Conducting successful life-saving and life-sustaining response operations in the aftermath of a Cascadia Subduction Zone disaster will hinge on the effective coordination and integration of governments at all levels – cities, counties, state and Federal agencies, the military, tribal nations, non-government organizations and the private sector. The exercise series will be a 4-day

Functional Exercise, in which Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) / Emergency Coordination Centers (ECCs) at all levels of government and the private sector will activate to coordinate simulated field response operations both within their jurisdictions and also with neighboring communities, the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, FEMA, and major military commands. Capabilities tested will include operational coordination, infrastructure systems and mass-care services.

- Last but far from least, in the interest of organizational strength, sustainability, and reach into our community, we are focusing and formalizing volunteer management. We have contracted with Logan Laity to be our Volunteer Coordinator. Logan will develop a program to address all aspects of volunteer management and assist the Board, Division and Program leads in staffing vacant positions as they are identified.

I encourage you to visit our website at evcnb.org to learn more about what EVCNB does, to access the many resources available for your personal preparedness and for up-to-date training class and event schedules.

Thank you again for the time you have allowed me tonight. Your interest and commitment, demonstrated financially and through engagement with EVCNB's work, is very much appreciated.