



Beyond Ham Radio – Getting the Information to Residents

Little Whale Cove Safety Committee



Introduction

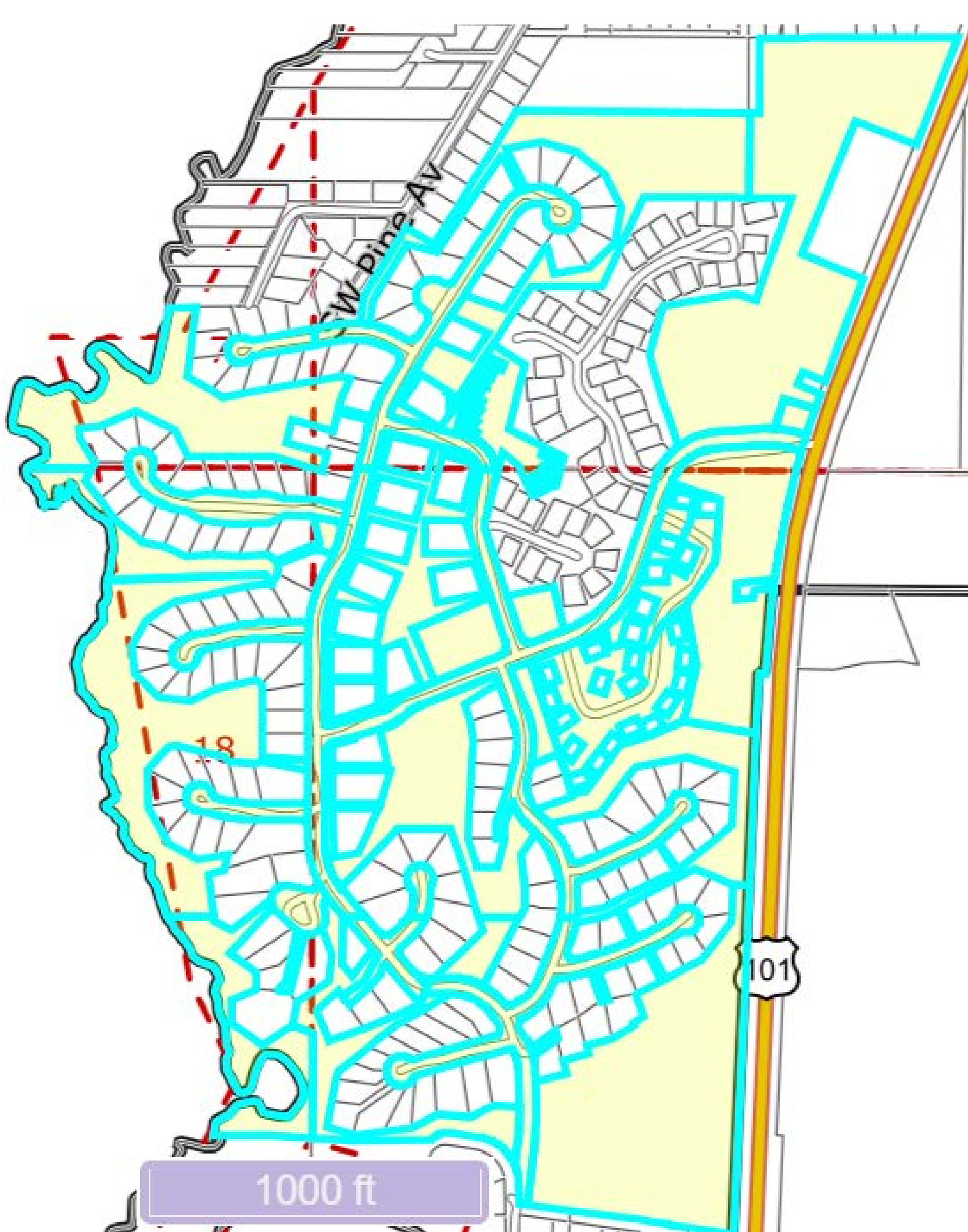
- Some coastal counties have established excellent ham radio networks providing for:
 - Inter- & intra-governmental communications,
 - First responder communications,
 - CERT teams, &
 - Critical facilities;
- Nonetheless, how do we transmit important information to the general public?

Challenges

- Of the people >18 years old in the US, ~0.3% are licensed ham operators
- If some/all of the following services are down:
 - Electrical
 - Internet
 - Phone landlines
 - Cellular service
- Rapid dissemination of information throughout a community may not be possible!

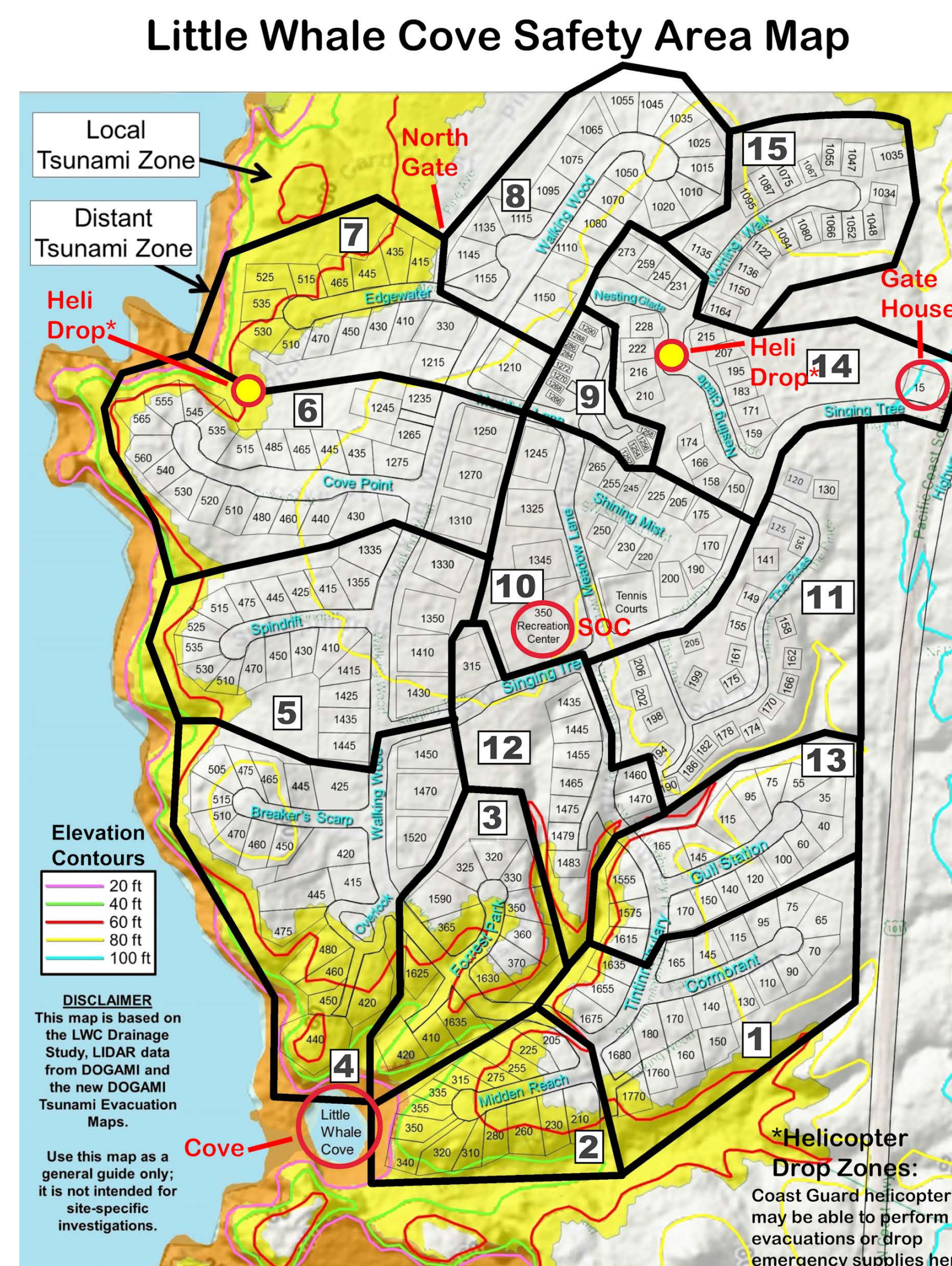
Little Whale Cove (LWC) Facts

- Oregon Planned-Unit-Development of 268 homesites in Depoe Bay
- 140 acres (56.6 hectares)
- The terrain is topographically diverse with elevations ranging from 12 to 100 feet (4 to 30 m)
- The development is heavily forested
- We have about 700 residents
- There are some long-term rentals
- Our Recreation Center is a designated Tsunami Assembly Area



What LWC Is Doing

- LWC is divided into 15 Safety Areas



- We encourage people to serve as Safety Captains



- We encourage people to buy walkie-talkies & listen to the LWC Community Radio Service on their radios



When all else fails –



A Walkie-Talkie Works!



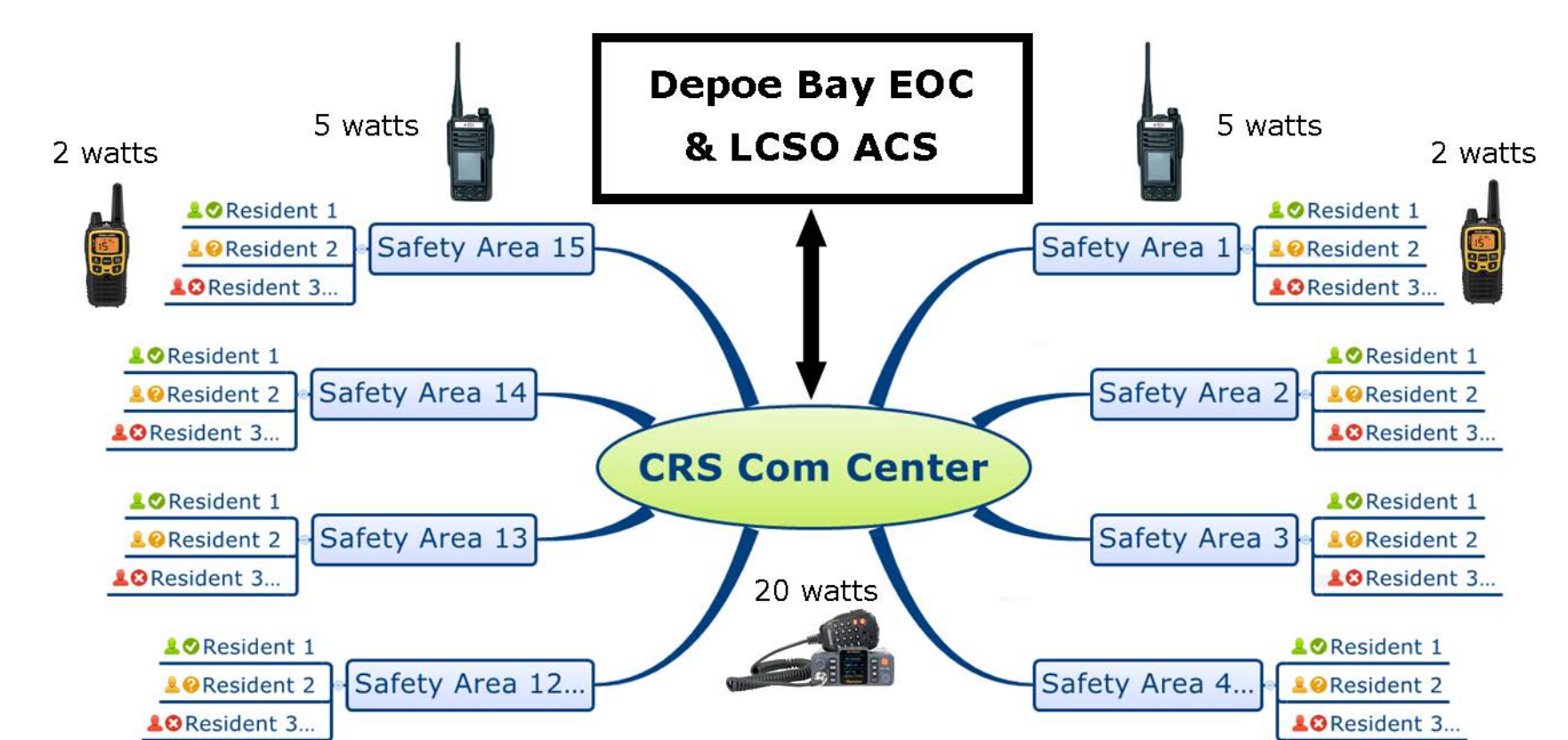
GMRS Radio (Certified) FRS Radios

Be prepared, get yours today!

- In the event of a community incident/disaster, emergency radios can be used to communicate, inform, & broadcast helpful/life-saving information.
- During an event, turn on your radio to GMRS/FRS **Channel 15** at least 5 minutes before the hour.
- For additional information talk to your Safety Captain, click on “Emergency Preparedness” on the LWC website (<https://lwcha.org/>), or scan QR code.



- We conduct routine monthly radio polls to encourage resident participation & check ongoing effectiveness of our radio service



- During emergencies, a Safety Captain will attempt to transmit every hour, on the hour, from the LWC Com Center using a 20-watt base station GMRS radio on Channel 15



- Using scrolling DC-powered informational signs
- Preparing After-Action Reports that include communications evaluation
- Conducting Table Top Exercises

What Still Needs to Be Done

- More participation by **all residents** in the monthly radio polls
- Outfit Com Center with dedicated AC circuit & **external** GMRS/FRS & ham antennas
- Devise a method to alert residents to turn on radios
- Backup Com Center at Gatehouse &/or mobile unit
- Investigate feasibility of using electronic language translators
- Implement fact-checking protocols to ensure accurate information is disseminated

Conclusions

- While it is absolutely essential that ham radio networks be established, they are only part of the answer to information dissemination
- A solid network of GMRS/FRS radios also is essential for information dissemination