

# Beyond Ham Radio – Getting the Information to Residents



**Little Whale Cove  
Safety Committee**

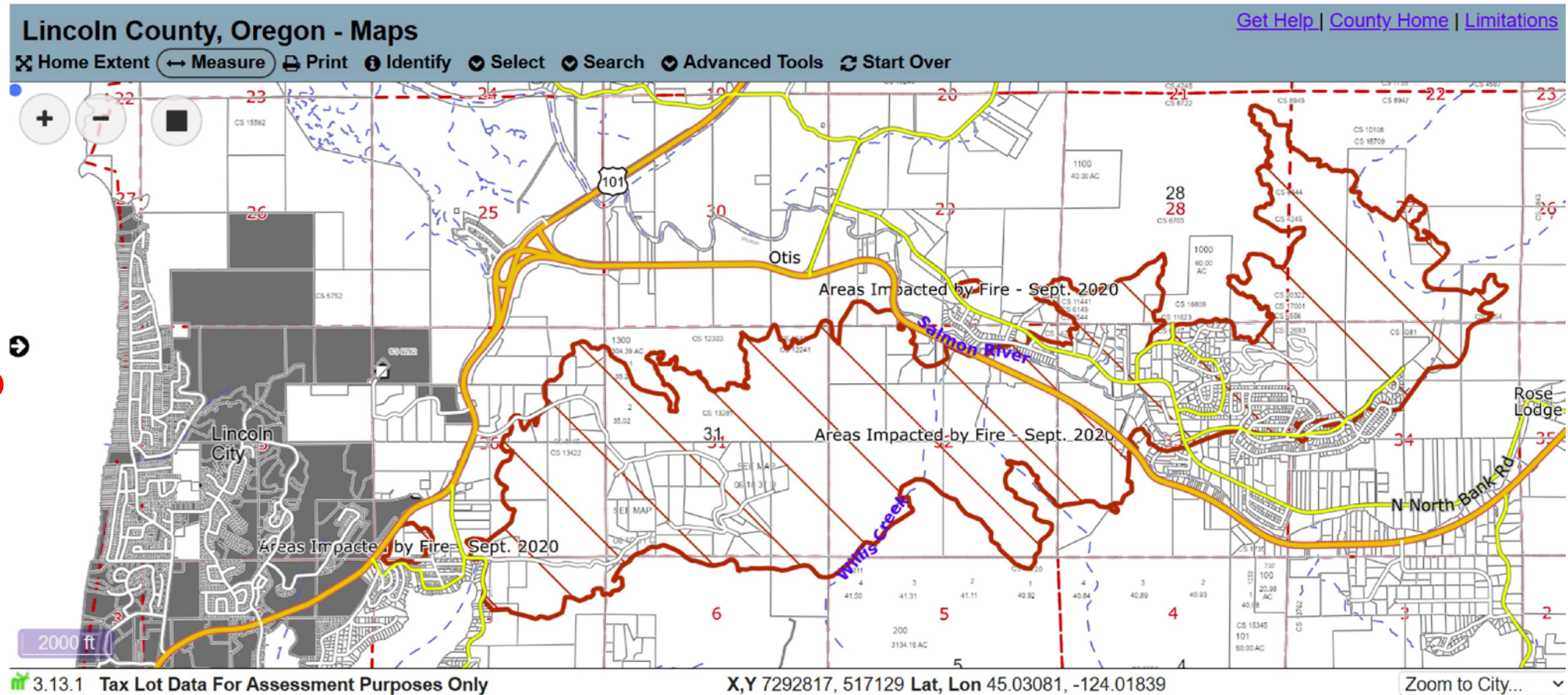


# Introduction

- **Some coastal counties have established 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?**

# A very real scenario – The Echo Mountain Complex (aka Otis) Fire (Sep 2020)

Why is this Important?



- No electricity
- No cellular
- No reports on FM radio
- No or infrequent NWS reports
- Rampant rumors & misinformation
- Smoke turned day to night even on the coast
- Highway 101 jammed with evacuees in vehicles
- Long vehicle lines for gasoline

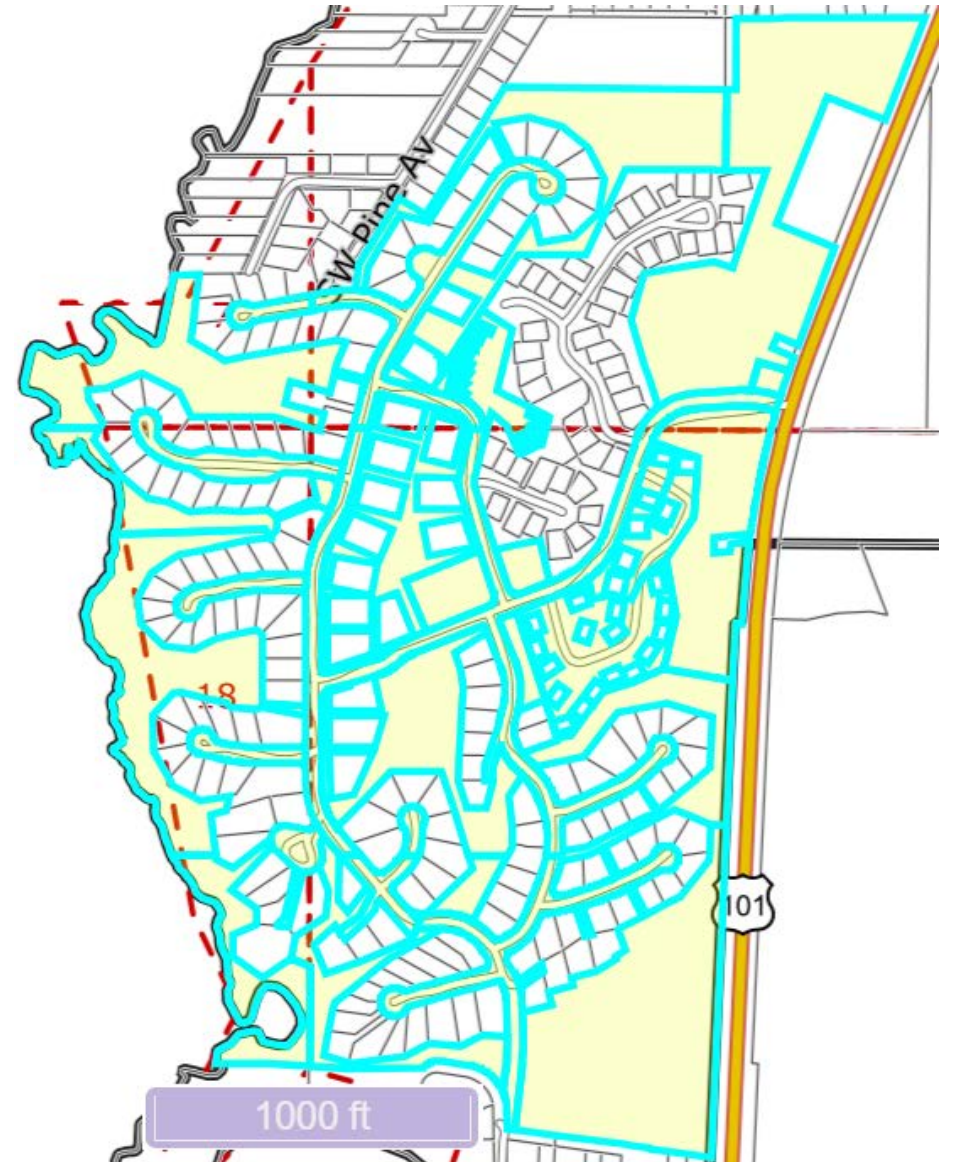
**Now, imagine a full-rip M9 Cascadia earthquake (i.e., XXL) & tsunami!**

# 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
- Topographically diverse terrain from 12 to 100 feet
- Heavily forested
- About 700 residents
- Some long-term rentals
- Rec Center is a designated Tsunami Assembly Area

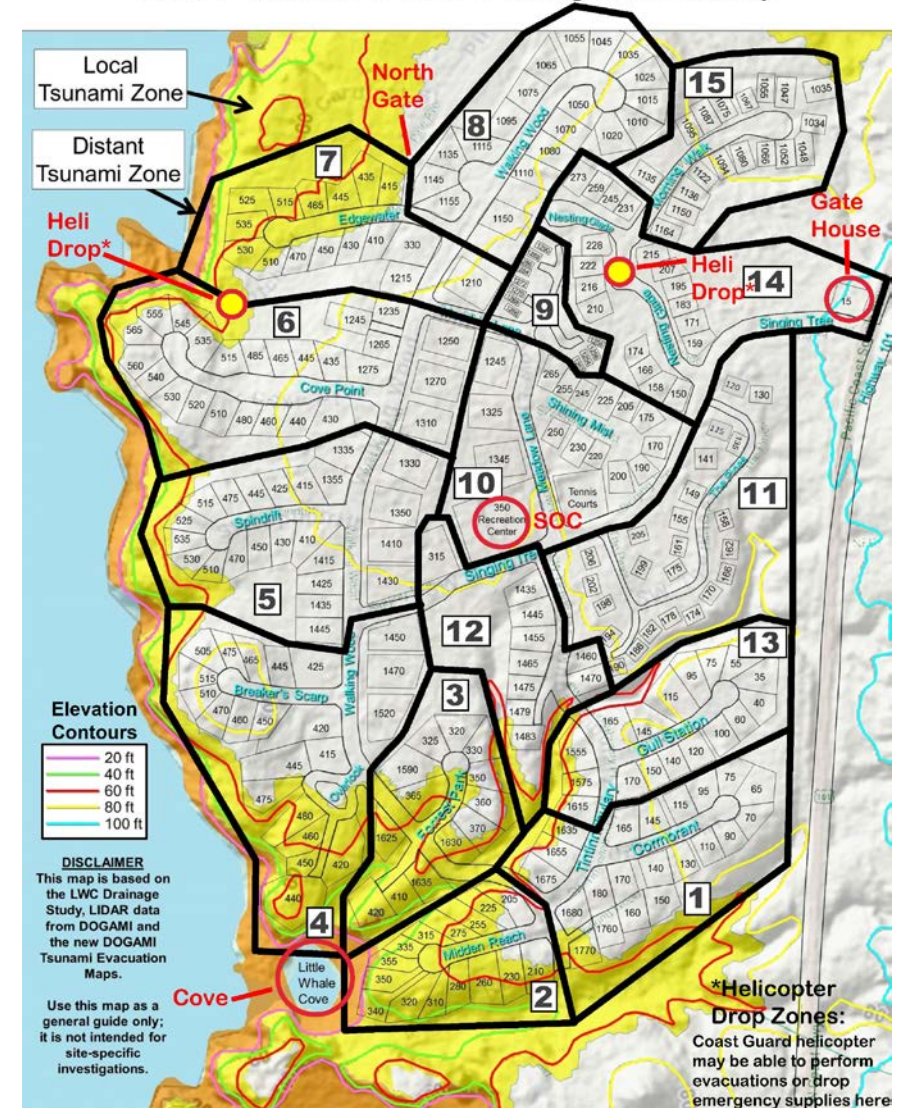




# What LWC Is Doing

- LWC is divided into 15 Safety Areas, ideally with at least one Safety Captain per area
- Encourage people to serve as Safety Captains (to educate & communicate)
- Encourage people to buy walkie talkies & listen to the LWC Community Radio Service (CRS)
- Conduct routine monthly radio polls to check radios

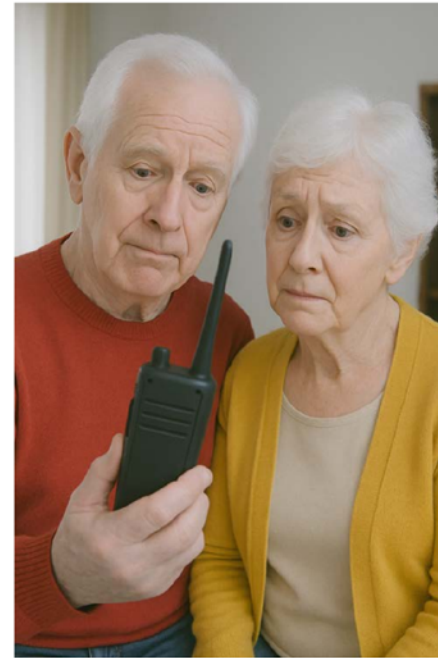
Little Whale Cove Safety Area Map



**Please consider serving as an  
LWC Safety Captain!**



**Your task? – To educate &  
communicate.**



**New radio? Wonder  
if it works? Listen in  
on the LWC  
Community Radio  
Service (CRS)  
Routine Radio Poll  
on the first Saturday  
of each month at  
0900 Local Time  
on Channel 15**



Remember, you do not have to talk,  
unless you want to talk. Please just  
consider turning on your radio so you  
are familiar with its operation & to make  
sure your batteries are OK!

For additional information talk to  
your Safety Captain, click on  
“Emergency Preparedness” on the  
LWC website (<https://lwcha.org/>),  
or scan the QR code ➡





# What LWC Is Doing (continued)

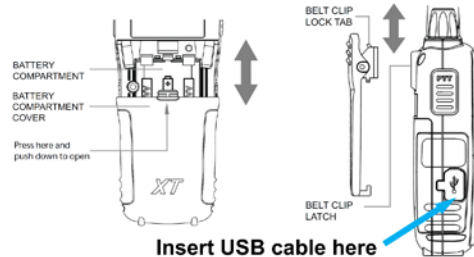
- Simplified instructions for specific radios

## LWC Radio — Everybody Needs a Connection!

### Midland T61 X-Talker® Radio Instructions

(Different Radio or Questions? - Contact Your Safety Area Captain for Help)

- 1) Either charge T61 using USB micro cable or alternatively, remove belt clip, open back, insert 3 AAA batteries & replace cover

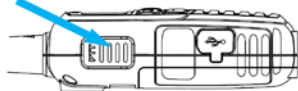


- 2) Rotate knob to turn on radio and adjust volume.



If not on Channel 15, press Menu button once, then press the (down/up) ▲▼ buttons to change channels.

- 3) On Channel 15, press & hold the Push to Talk (PTT) button to talk. When finished, say "over" & **release** PTT button so others may talk.



- 4) Press & hold the UP/WX button for 5 seconds to switch to scan WX (weather channels), press the PTT button to go back to Channel 15



Model T60 Series

MIDLAND®

### LCD DISPLAY



1. NOAA WEATHER (WX) BAND ICON – Indicates when the radio is in Weather Band mode.
2. KEY LOCK ICON – Indicates KEY LOCK mode is on.
3. VOX ICON – Indicates when VOX mode is active.
4. CHANNEL NUMBER – Changes from 1~36 on FRS band (1~10 on WX band).
5. TRANSMIT POWER LEVEL ICON – Indicates TX Power setting (H/L).
6. PRIVACY CODE – Indicates Privacy Code selected by user (oF~38/oF~83). It can only be set in Ch 1~22.
7. VIBRATE ALERT ICON – Indicates when the Vibrate-Alert feature is on (Model T65 only).
8. BATTERY METER – Indicates the battery level.
9. RECEIVE (RX) ICON – Indicates radio is receiving a transmission.
10. TRANSMIT (TX) ICON – Indicates radio is transmitting a signal.
11. PRIVACY CODE ICON – Indicates Privacy Code setting (CTCSS/DCS).

### CONTROLS

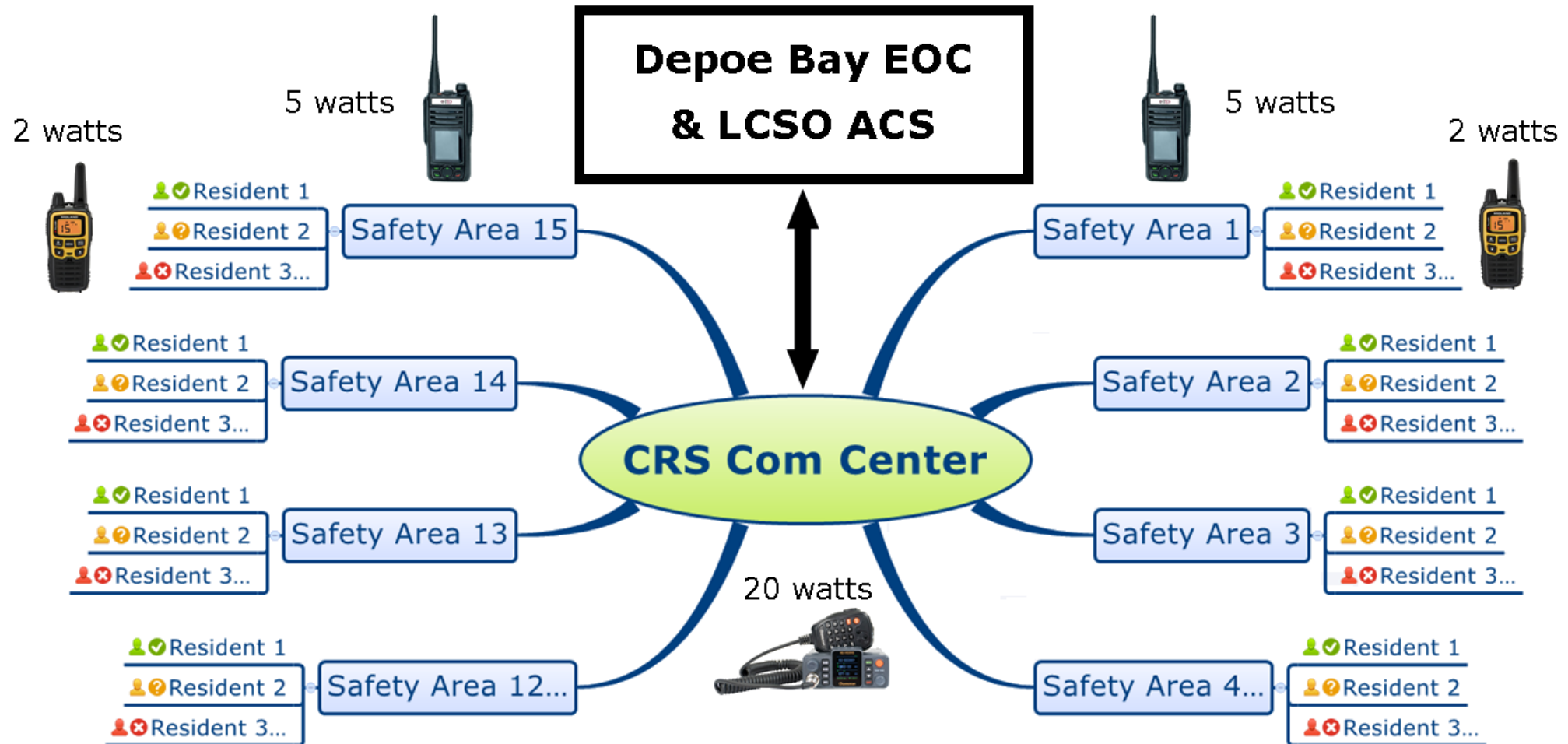


12. POWER/VOLUME KNOB – Turn clockwise to turn the power on and increase the volume level. Turn counter-clockwise to decrease the volume level and turn the power off.
13. PTT Button – Press and hold to transmit voice communication.
14. CALL/LOCK Button – Press to send a CALL ALERT signal. Press and hold to turn KEY LOCK on/off.
15. MIC – Built-in microphone.
16. USB CHARGING JACK
17. ANTENNA
18. EXTERNAL SPEAKER/MIC JACK
19. MENU Button – Press momentarily to access Menu mode.
20. MONITOR/SCAN Button – Press to enter SCAN mode. Press and hold to enter MONITOR mode.
21. UP/WX SCAN ▲ and DOWN ▼ Buttons – Make adjustments in MENU mode. Press and hold the UP button for 5 seconds to activate the NOAA Weather Scan function.
22. SPEAKER – Built-in speaker.



# What LWC Is Doing (continued)

- During emergencies, a Safety Captain will attempt to transmit every hour, on the hour, from the LWC CRS Com Center



# What LWC Is Doing (continued)

- Maintains a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness information page on LWC's website





# What LWC Is Doing (continued)

- LWC CRS Com Center with GMRS/FRS & ham radios & trunking scanner with PC
- Kiosk & programmable scrolling LED sign





# What LWC Is Doing (continued)



- In addition to hourly radio communication, use programmable, LED scrolling text signs
- Prepare After-Action Reports (AARs)
- Conduct Table Top Exercises (TTXs) for various scenarios (e.g., power outages, wildfires, earthquakes)

# What Still Needs to Be Done

- More participation by all residents in the monthly LWC CRS Routine Radio Polls
- Set up trunking scanner with PC to monitor & record radio transmissions (more accurate, detailed AARs)
- Outfit Com Center with external GMRS/FRS, scanner, & ham antennas
- Devise method to alert residents to turn on their walkie talkies to Channel 15
- Further test electronic language translation of radio transmissions

# What Still Needs to Be Done (continued)

- **Establish a backup Com Center possibly at the LWC Gatehouse with GMRS & ham radios with external antennas & backup power**
- **Further test our existing mobile backup Com Center currently housed in a resident's camper van**
- **Implement fact-checking protocols to ensure accurate information is disseminated**
- **Continue to refine LWC's established Incident Command System (ICS)**



# 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 & data collection