

To Safety Committee

I have several ideas for the Safety Committee to consider: But first, an introduction.

Introduction: My wife, Margaret & I purchased the home at 1435 SW Walking Wood (lot 86) in 2007. Our primary residence is in eastern Oregon. We attempt to be in LWC at least one week per month. The actual amount is closer to about ten times a year for 4-7 days.

I am a retired Public Affairs Officer of the Umatilla National Forest, headquartered in Pendleton, Oregon. After graduating from Oregon State University, in 1967, I started as a Soil Scientist with the Soil Conservation Service in Medford. I transferred to the Forest Service in 1971, serving as Soil Scientist for the Okanogan NF. In 1976, we moved to Pendleton, where I accepted the job as Forest Soil Scientist. As part of the job, I worked in numerous capacities, including developing the Forest Plan and serving in a number of wildland fire fighting roles. I have worked within the ICS system of emergency management since its inception. (ICS is result of the great 1970 Los Angeles fire debacle.) I retired as the forest Public Affairs officer in 2003. The job shift story is due to circumstances the forest found itself in when needing to present the Umatilla National Forest Plan to the public in the late 80's. I served as PIO (IIO) on numerous incidents, including a stint as head of a Joint Information Center in Grants Pass in 2002. Following retirement in 2003, I worked as an IIO on wildfire incidents in SE Washington in 2003 and 2005.

In my opinion, you folks have done a commendable job positioning the LWC community to respond to catastrophic events, including a potential Cascadia Subduction Zone event. The momentous 2020 fire, wind, smoke and power outage event was a significant wake-up call to the community. Conceiving, planning, executing and maintaining a LWC community based emergency plan, response team, equipment and supplies is a testament to your experience, dedication, and commitment.

I have read numerous documents the Safety Committee has posted on the LWC webpage.

With respect to major Cascadia Subduction Zone event, I have several ideas for consideration given the potential of a large magnitude earthquake and tsunami.

- 1) Have the Rec Center and indoor tennis courts buildings been inspected and established as earthquake resistant? Will they remain standing and serviceable following a large magnitude earthquake?
- 2) What thought has been given to establish communication ties to HAM operators and LWC part-timers who live in the Portland, Salem, Corvallis, and Eugene areas? In a CSZ event, wouldn't it be beneficial for both full-time residents and LWC part-timers to be able to communicate? LWC residents could contact friends and relatives via the comms route and Willamette Valley residents could relay information and coordinate resources for LWC residents.
- 3) Given a significant CSZ event, LWC will become a small "island," potentially cut off south at Big Whale Cove and north at the Depoe Bay Creek bridge. There exists a private forest road network east of Hwy 101 that accesses the Siletz River road near the town of Siletz. Most of the land east of Hwy 101 is privately owned and is usually gated. When I mentioned this access availability to a previous LWC safety member around 5-7 years ago, their response was that the road would be impassible due to landslides and fallen trees. It's true that the initial part is tree lined and major cutting would likely be needed to clear the road for several thousand feet. Most of the rest of the forest access road follows ridgetops and is bordered by clearcuts. I believe the forest road option is worth some attention.
- 4) A CSZ event will most likely sever Hwy 101 at the bridge, separating the fire hall, city hall, and south city residents from the north. Wouldn't a road, even if just a narrow graveled one at an elevation of around 100 feet, say between Ainslee Ave. and Indian Trail Rd. be a worthwhile city/county/state/federal project? Or, at a higher elevation, like perhaps between SE Whalesong Dr. and SE Douglas St. a similar road be established?

Respectfully submitted,
Earle Rother