



# Tales of the I.C.E. Man

I.C.E. - In Case of Emergency

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## La Niña is coming

The National Weather Service (NWS) has noted the beginning of a period of **La Niña** which is expected to last through the winter of 2010/11.

**La Niña** is associated with cooler than normal water temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean, unlike El Niño which is associated with warmer than normal water. What this means for us in the Northwest is a cooler wetter winter.

The most recent **La Niña** brought us the devastating December 2007 windstorms on the Oregon coast. Now is a good time to make sure we have a snow shovel – remember December 2008? We also want to take a look at our pantry and start that two weeks supply that we want to maintain through the winter months and beyond.

September is National Preparedness Month. What better a way to prepare than to be ready for the coming winter months? To learn more about the NWS forecast for the Portland area, look at the 'Winter Outlook' attachment. You can also learn more at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration **La Niña** webpage. [Click here.](#)

## Take "5" to Survive –

### Sign up for Fall CERT Class - NOW

September is National Preparedness Month and a great way to be prepared in your home is to take part in CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training!

The next CERT class will start September 8, 2010 at 6 PM in the City of Sherwood Police Department Community Room, 20495 SW Borchers Dr. The class runs for 8 weeks. The topics covered in the weekly 3-hour class include:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Light Search and then Rescue
- Disaster Medical operations
- Map Your Neighborhood
- Field exercise to test what you have learned

To sign up for the fall CERT class, click [here](#) or go to the City of Sherwood website in the Emergency Management Department. The classes are informative and fun.

[Sign up for CERT NOW!](#)

## Relationships, Resilience and the Principle of Collaboration

**Collaboration** *One of the goals of emergency managers is to create and sustain broad and sincere relationships among individuals and organizations to encourage trust, advocate a team atmosphere, build consensus, and facilitate communication.*

An example of this collaboration in action was demonstrated in a Table-Top Exercise that took place in Sherwood this past week when representatives of the City of Sherwood Emergency Operations Center (EOC) came together with members of a Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R) Incident Management Team (IMT) along with representatives from the Sherwood School District, Washington County Sheriff's Department, and the Portland Metro Explosives Disposal Unit (MEDU) to discuss how we would handle discovery of a large cache of deteriorating dynamite close to a school. This was a valuable exercise, since not all emergencies we will face in Sherwood will be the result of natural hazards.

In the course of the discussion we reviewed decisions needed to be made, information that would be needed to support those decisions, and what would need to be communicated to the community as this situation evolved. We also reviewed how we would protect the community as the situation was handled.

There was lots of informed discussion, many good questions were asked and answered and good learning took place. Perhaps just as important were the relationships that were renewed and established, relationships that will be critical when an actual event occurs. This exercise grew out of conversations between the TVF&R and City of Sherwood Emergency Managers regarding ways to improve our collaboration and communication. TVF&R is Sherwood's Fire Department.

Collaboration is critical in emergency management, not only between first responders, but also between neighbors, businesses, citizens and government. (See attached article 'Developing Community Resilience').

It is all part of being **Ready, willing and Able** to respond to whatever comes our way.

### Skip

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*It is Always easier to Prepare than to Repair.*

### Good Links

[Principles of Emergency Management](#) Learn more about these basics of emergency response.

[National Preparedness Month](#) Learn how your organization can be a part of this annual activity

[Sign up for Fall CERT](#) – Come and learn and have fun.