



Lockwood Fire is proud to announce two presentations to help us understand what happens to communications when a catastrophic emergency occurs, such as a major fire, and what we can do to prepare in our own community.

“Phones, Fire and Failures” and “Radio for the Rest of Us”

Presented by Alan Thompson

Saturday, March 28, 2020

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Lockwood Fire Station #152, 19715 Shake Ridge Rd
at the corner of Hale Road

"Phones, Fire and Failures"

Summary:

This is an audio/video presentation about emergency communications planning and execution that failed during the Camp Fire and similar events, and suggests ways to help our communities stay safer in the event of similar disasters here.

One thing is clear: We must find more resilient solutions to help ensure our communities get timely, life-saving information about fast-moving disasters, especially in light of our present-day over-reliance on cell phones and the Internet for everything - technologies which, in turn, depend on a trillion dollars of vulnerable infrastructure not to fail. The Presentation also offers suggestions on how we all can help to make our communities safer in the event of local disasters or emergencies.

- Time Line detailing events that unfolded on November 8, the first day of the 2018 Camp Fire
- Identifying catastrophic points of failure that impact emergency communications, alerts, and evacuations, placing peoples' lives at risk
- Our Team's role in restoring disabled cell phone communications
- Day-lighting cell-phone service vulnerabilities
- Steps we can all take right now to help support better emergency communications in our own, local communities

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"Radio For The Rest of Us"

"Radio For The Rest of Us" picks up where Phones, Fire and Failures leaves off. It details how to set up "Neighborhood Radio Watch Programs" in local communities to help keep us safer during disasters:

Summary:

Most of us nowadays depend entirely upon cell-phone and Internet services to stay in touch with our friends and families. These services, in turn, depend upon billions of dollars of technology not to fail. The last few years have seen a dramatic rise in the frequency and intensity of storms, fires, power shutdowns, and other natural and man-made disasters — events which often disrupt these vital communications services, sometimes for days or weeks. With the ever-increasing impacts of climate change and political tensions, these disasters may only become more frequent and more intense — putting us all at greater risk.

For years, Amateur Radio Operators - AKA "Hams" - have stood ready to use radios during these kinds of emergencies to quickly restore communications when normal communications fail. This has worked well to aid First Responders. However, it has become increasingly critical for the average citizen to also have alternative communications when cell phone and Internet services fail. Getting a Ham Radio license requires passing a technical exam beyond the interests or capability of most average citizens. But there are viable radio alternatives that average citizens can use without passing a test or getting a Ham Radio license.

Radio For The Rest of Us highlights these cell phone and Internet service vulnerabilities, and how our unconscious over-reliance on cell phones for virtually everything puts us at serious risk. The presentation suggests ways how Ham Radio Clubs might help "the rest of us;" our families, our friends, and our community, stay safer in the face of cell-phone and Internet service failures.

Outline:

- How catastrophic points of cell phone and Internet service failures during disasters, and now "PSPS" power shutdowns, disable emergency communications, alerts, and evacuations, and place peoples' lives at risk
- Comparisons of various communications tools, backups and alternatives to cell phones
- How "Radio For The Rest of Us" programs can support citizen-to-citizen emergency communications in our own, local communities
- Tips on working with local civic groups to "Get The Word Out"
- How Ham Radio Operators and Clubs can help neighborhoods implement and sustain *Community Radio* programs to keep our residents safer *before* a disaster strikes.

Each presentation is approximately 45 minutes with question and answer session afterwards. This is a free event sponsored by Lockwood Fire Protection District. There is no cost to attend.

Learn more about Alan Thompson presentations at <http://www.alanthompson.com>

Coffee, water and snacks will be provided by the Lockwood Fire Auxiliary.

Questions? Call Jackie at 209-296-6868.

Let's Get Ready