

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS ON THE HILL



WHY HAVE RADIOS?

- Cell phones need electricity for recharging and cell towers for transmission
- Cell towers have very limited backup power
- Landlines need continuous wiring
- Satellite phones need clear skies for good transmission/reception
- Texts or emails can be sent over some radios



HAVE A COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

- Have a family check in plan:
 - Predetermined contact person outside local area
 - SMS text to that contact person (texting uses less bandwidth so more likely to get through)
- You can use radios to check in with MYN members, local NET group, other neighbors, maybe City emergency services



RADIO TYPES

- FRS /GMRS (UHF)
 - Inexpensive
 - Sturdy
 - FRS requires no license
 - GMRS “family” license loosely defined; not too expensive
 - UHF good over short distances, hilly terrain, through walls
- Amateur/HAM (VHF)
 - More expensive equipment
 - License required
 - VHF good over longer distances, not so good through walls
 - HAMs can use either UHF or VHF
- BEECN (specific UHF)
 - Owned and regulated by City of Portland Bureau of Emergency Management
 - Tied into City-wide communications system



ROCK CREEK MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Potlucks every couple of months at rotating houses
- Varying attendance but averages 15-20
- Gathering info for prioritizing appropriate emergency response
- Recent group purchase of FRS/GMRS radios
- Planning test protocol
- Tie in to local HAM operators

