

**Wildfire
Situational Awareness
Preparation and Safety**

By

Malia Kupillas

**Clackamas County Emergency Preparedness
Council**

To:

**Clackamas Amateur Radio Services
6/13/2025**

By Failing to Prepare, You are
Preparing to Fail
(Benjamin Franklin)

You are Responsible for You
and Your Safety First

What can make a difference

- We have to be situationally aware and responsible for our own safety
- Emergency people may not be able to personally warn us or rescue us
- Have multiple sources for emergency alerts and check them (not all cell phone related like a rechargeable radio for NOAA and other news)
- Be prepared to evacuate or shelter in place

Top Five for Emergency Preparedness

All Equally Important

- Survival necessities (food, water, shelter, cash)
- Appropriate clothes for weather
- Medications that are irreplaceable for people and pets
- Information for situational awareness, which includes ability to communicate
- Relationships (family, friends, community)

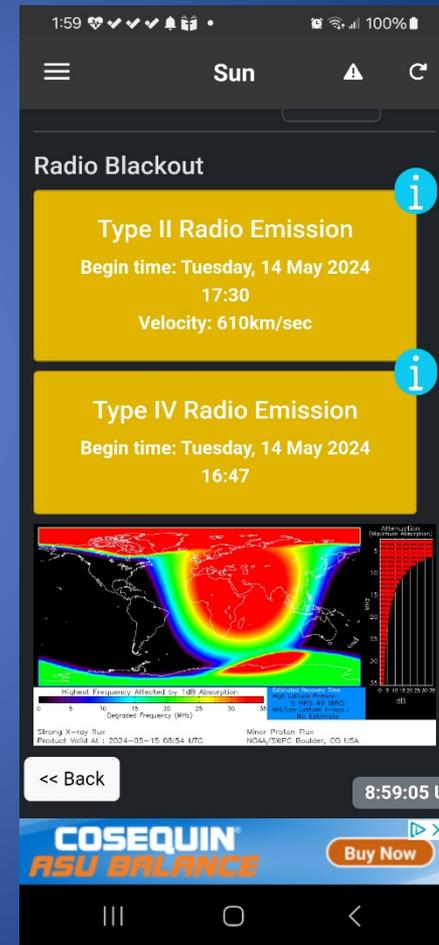
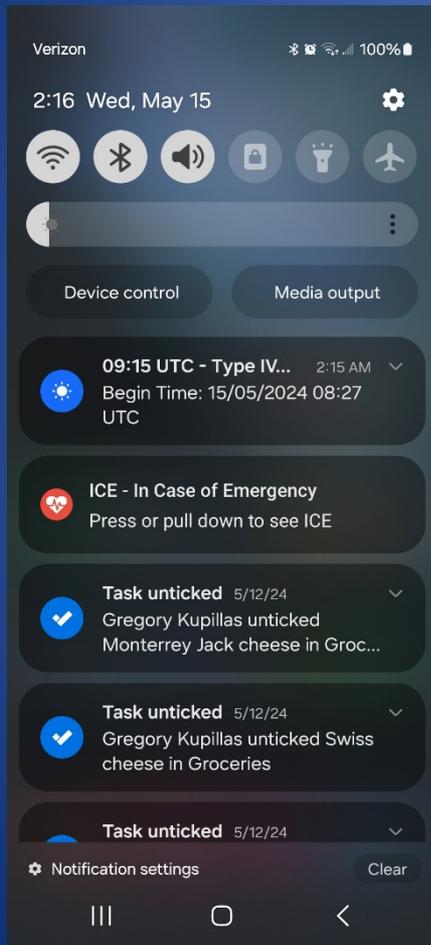
Keep Yourself Safe

- Situational awareness, you are responsible for you first, then check on neighbors or people you know who may need additional help
- Monitor fires near you and conditions that could cause fires to grow rapidly using Caltopo fire, Watch Duty and weather apps
- Do not wait for someone to tell you what to do
- Your area's Level 1 (Be Prepared) may be your Level 3 (Go Now)
- Know all your possible evacuation routes and monitor traffic using Google Maps or I Maps
- The best way out may not be the normal route you take

Cell Phone Apps

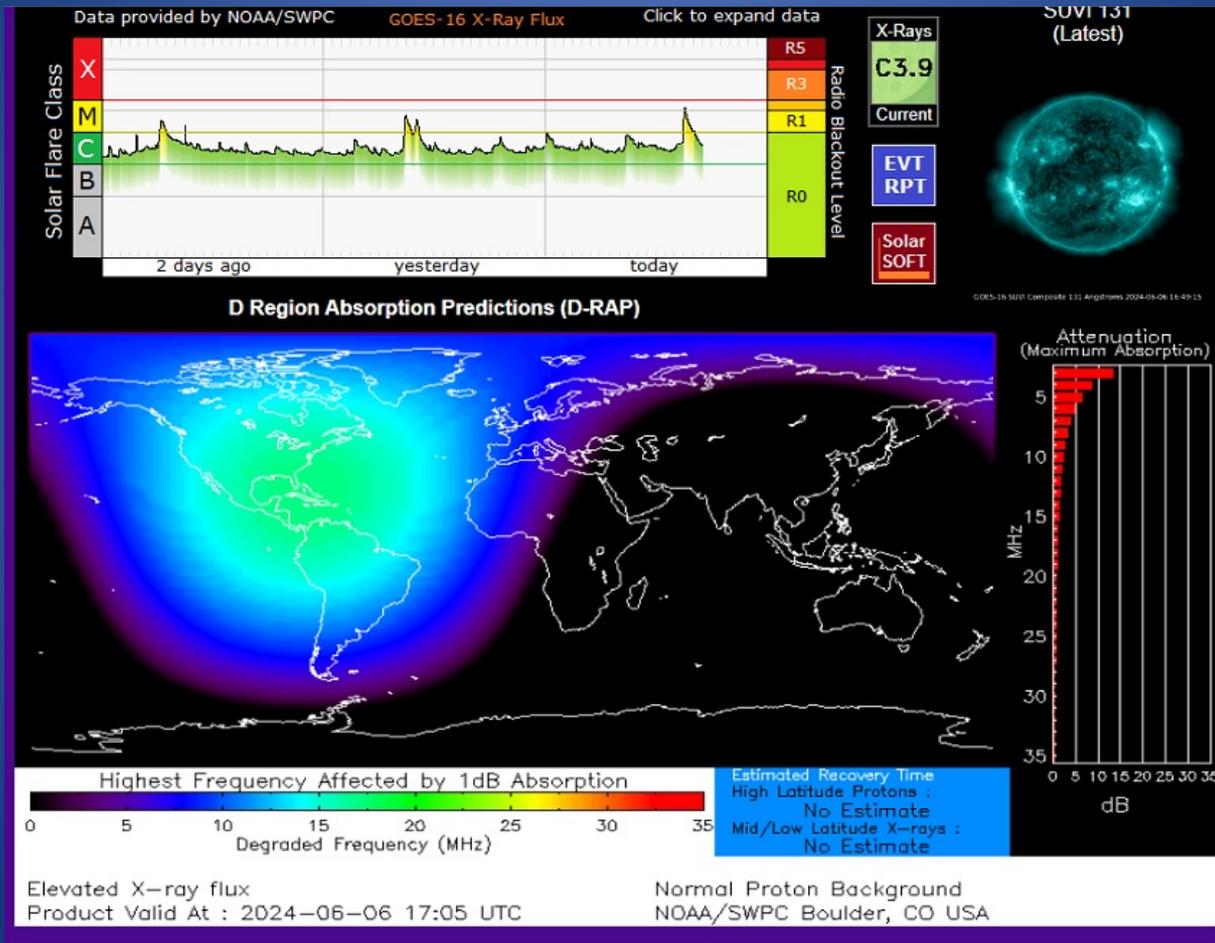
1. Cell phone apps	Android/Apple	Google Play	App Store	Android	Apple
Weather current and future, current radar shows type of precipitation, local weather alerts, air quality, etc.	 WeatherBug			 RadarNow!	
Dropbox or other cloud based app. Store files on cell phone and hard drive. This shares evacuation, emergency and other plans with family.	 Dropbox			 Hyperlocal Weather	 Weather
Can monitor Clackamas County Fire and EMS during a wildfire. Save in favorites. Uses Broadcastify that is also an app.	 Scanner Radio			 PulsePoint	
FEMA emergency notification and weather notification.	 FEMA			 Watch Duty	
Red Cross Emergency notification and weather notification.	 Emergency			 Radio FM	
PGE Emergency notification for Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) and other weather events that may cause power outages.	 PGE			 Maps	 Maps
Clackamas County emergency notification for your area	 Everbridge			 US Topo Maps	
EPA Air quality monitoring.	 AirNow	 AndroidTS Compass	 Compass	 GPS Status	

SpaceWeatherLive App Alert



Solar Ham Website

Note: UTC is 7 hours ahead (PST) & 8 hours (PDT)

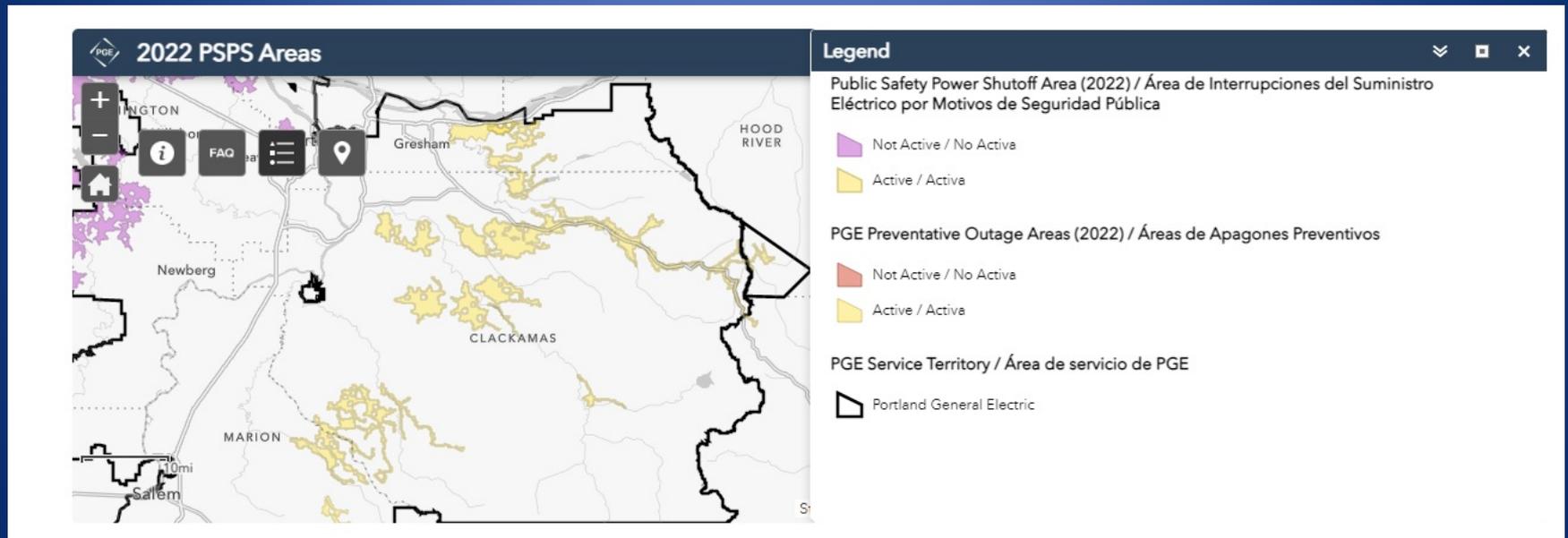


Dr. Tamitha Skov
Space Weather Predictions

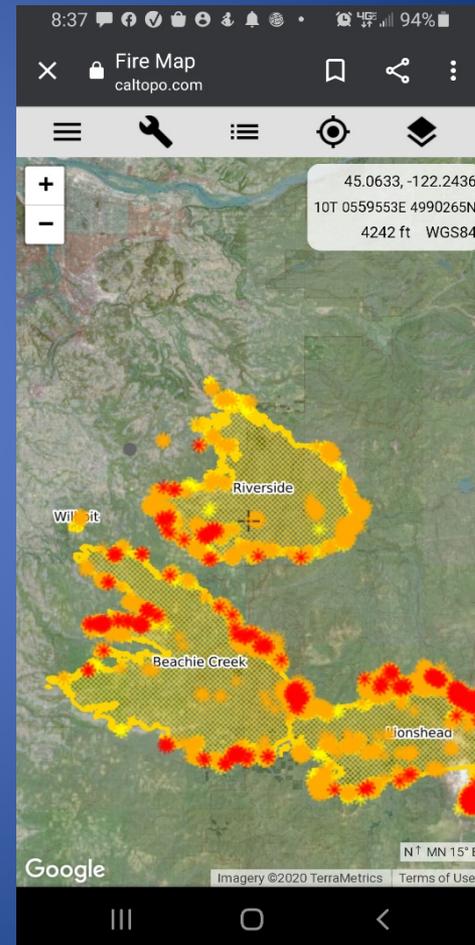
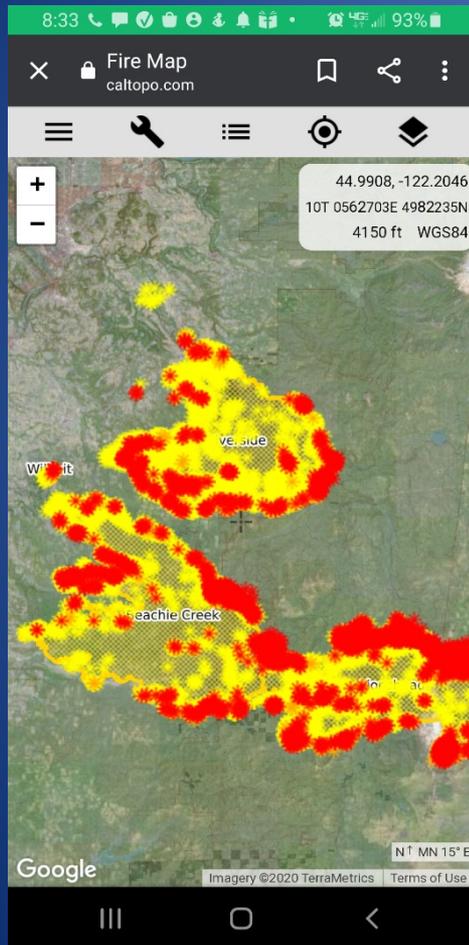
YouTube

PGE PSPS Potential Area

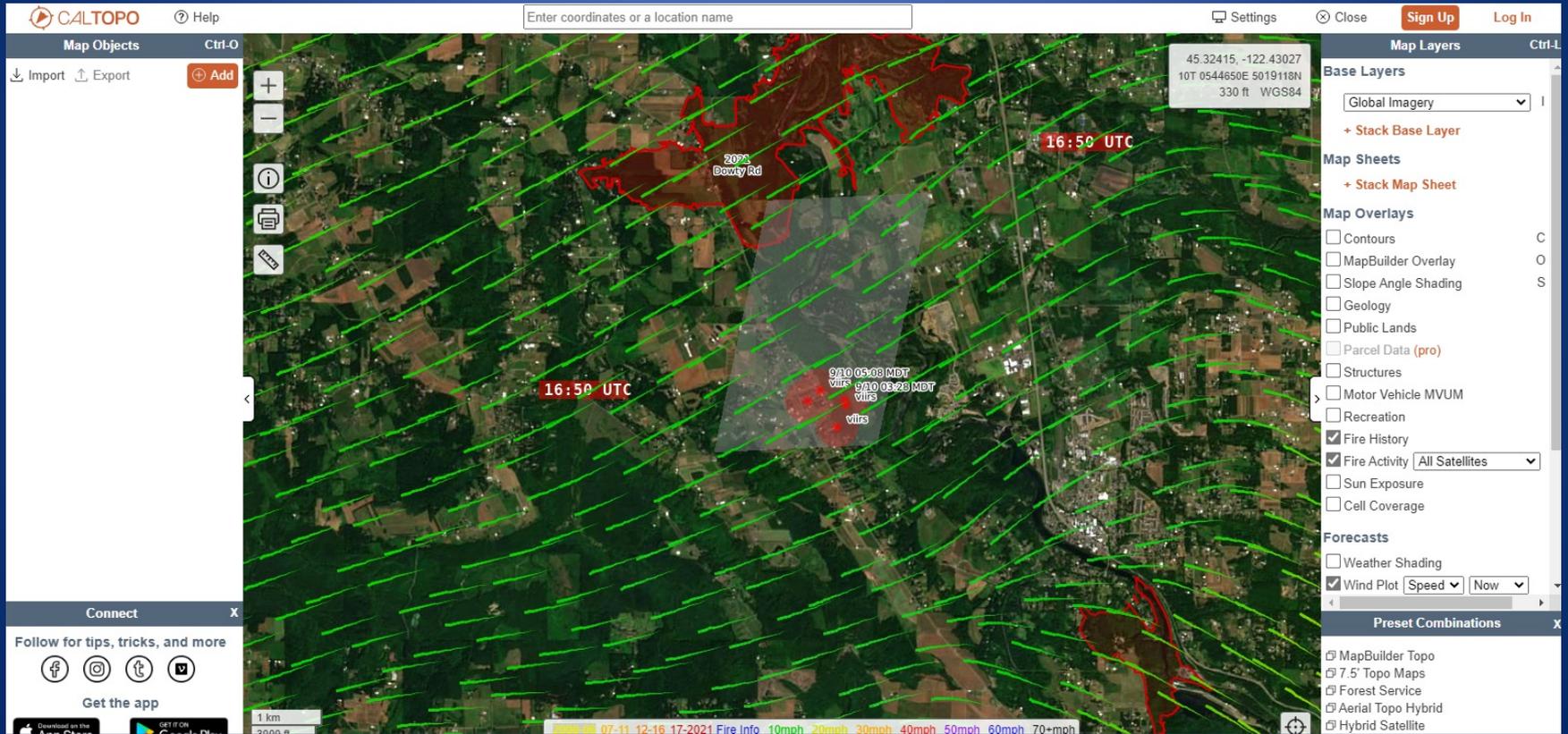
PGE app for power outage information



Caltopo Fire Map 2020



Caltopo McIver Fire 2022



Watch Duty Historical 2024



Are You Ready? I Am



Evacuation & Contact Lists

- Evacuation list available to everyone (Some cloud based location like Dropbox, Google Docs, I cloud, Windows 365)
- Contact names and phone numbers on paper list, cell phones, and memorize key numbers
- Family photos (store in archive boxes)
- Important papers and flash drives in firebox
- Photos of inside of house on flash drive for insurance
- Videos of inside of house do not work very well
- Digital copy of important papers

Evacuation List Have Accessible

Evacuation List				
Ranch Truck and Trailer				
Black Cargo Box RT				
Westy				
Item	Location	Vehicle	Who	
Preliminary Evacuation				
Keys	Lanudry Rm and Storage			
Kansas Pouch and keys	MRK office			
Current Income Tax Folder	MRK office			
PHG Fed and State Tax folders	MRK office			
Blessing Notebook	MRK office			
Bills not paid	MRK office			
Client our checks not deposited	MRK office			
Blessing Notebook	MRK office			
Family photos	2nd floor Closet	Westy	Malia	
Wedding Photos	Living Room	Westy	Malia	
Wedding Book				
Cell phones and chargers		Each have	G & M	
Laptops	G & M Offices	Westy	Malia	
CPU's G & M offices	G & M Offices	Westy	Malia	
Rolodexs	G & M Offices			
First aid kits	Bathroom and storage	Westy	Malia	
First aid books	Bathroom			
Dental kit	Bathroom			
Car Manuals	Shop			

Communication During an Emergency

- Call people who may be at risk or require more time to evacuate to make sure they are situationally aware when you receive an alert
- Use neighborhood and family group text messaging
- Note: Cell towers may only have 3 days of power
- 2-Way FRS/GMRS or 2-Way GMRS radios
- Know who your local ham operators are

Designate Contact People

- Have a family member or friend outside of the area designated as a main contact person
- Have everyone memorize the phone number, have it on cell phone and write it down on paper

Know Where You are Evacuating To

- Be proactive
- Have arrangements with friends and family in different areas where you can go
- If have animals, have several plans where they can go depending on where the fires are
- Have friends available to help evacuate if you need help with evacuating

Shelter in Place: You are Trapped

- 1. Know where your safe spots are that will not burn and go there as quickly as possible
 - Gravel driveway
 - Trench in ground deep enough for you to fully fit in
 - Green lawn and cover with fire resistant fabric
 - Pond or stream with water deep enough to cover you
- 2. Cover or protect yourself with a non flammable material for protection from fire brands and heat
 - Fire resistant welding cloth
 - Something non-flammable
 - Be resourceful and remember that heat rises.

Adequate Supplies

- Painters masks to filter smokey air work better than KN95
- HEPA filter system in room to clean air
- Keep vehicle gas tanks greater than ½ full
- Travel overnight kit always packed (toothbrush, toothpaste...)
- Medications (take all of your supply and keep with you)
- Water filter and a little unscented bleach to purify water
- Water bottles filled before emergency hits
- Food for you and animals (one or more weeks for animals)
- Cash (small denominations, always carry some with you)
- Clothes for 5 to 7 days appropriate for the weather
- Socks and underwear for (5 to 7 days)
- Coat or jacket appropriate for weather, it can get cold at night

You Want to Come Home to Your House if You Evacuate

- Fire harden you house
- Landscape for wildfire (know your setbacks)
- Protect your other buildings
- Remove remaining flammable debris next to house and other buildings
- Remember, it is the burning embers you need to think about

Your Home Can Survive a Wildfire



**YOUR HOME CAN
SURVIVE A WILDFIRE**

One of Multiple Houses That Survived



A building appears untouched by the wildfire which destroyed the historic town of Lahania Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, on Maui. (Kevin Fujii/Civil Beat/2023)

National Fire Association Home Ignition Zone



Source: National Fire Protection Association*.
All rights reserved. Visit www.nfpa.org

National Fire Association 5 feet to 30 feet to 100 feet



Situational Awareness

- Allows you to make final preparations in advance for a wildfire or any weather event
 - Make sure all emergency rechargeables are fully recharged
 - Fill water containers for possible power outage
 - Have chainsaws ready to go with extra fuel and bar oil
 - Start emergency communication links (group texts or call people)
 - Check for flammable debris around house and other buildings if wildfire
 - Clean debris from gutters if wildfire

Let's Be Prepared This Time Meadowbrook Store 2020



Be Ready

- Have local fire fighting ability to keep a small fire small while Fire Department is on its way
- Get training to help fight a wildfire locally
- *Your* level 3 for evacuation may be your area's level 1
- Have the Top Five for Emergency Preparedness