



# The ChapLine

Lewis County  
Chaplaincy

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## A Word From The President

The news had updates on a regular basis as hurricane Sandy moved toward the states. The storm was nearly 1000 miles across as it struck the East Coast. As of the time of this writing, hurricane Sandy is responsible for over 110 deaths, over 100 homes burned, 3.5 million businesses and homes without power and in excess of 20 billion dollars in damage.

The size of this disaster cannot be measured only in material terms. The psychological effects on both citizens and responders will be massive. On the news now we see citizens begging for assistance as they run out of drinking water and food. This disaster will go on for some time and take years for people to recover. Some of them never will.

As I watched the news of the damage from this storm, it reminded me of our fairly recent flood of 2007. While not nearly the same magnitude, we had many homes destroyed, livelihoods ruined, and much stress and despair as property was destroyed.

In both 2007 and now, I am encouraged as I see the outpouring of help that is offered to communities that face disasters like this. Many private businesses, individuals, community and faith-based organizations and chaplains provide an unbelievable amount of help. During our flood I took calls from literally across the US who offered services or labor.

Support like this is wonderful and a great help to the communities. However, it takes time for it to be brought in,

organized and distributed to those in need. For this reason we all need to be prepared for disasters that we might face in our communities. Whether the disaster is a flood, storm, fire or civil unrest, we and our families will do better if we are prepared to take care of ourselves.

As emergency responders, we know that we will be working extensive hours as we help our communities. If our families are taken care of because of the emergency planning we have done, we can be more focused on our work and be much less stressed worrying about our families.

As civilians we need to understand that even with the community and government help that is offered, it can not be available everywhere instantly. Planning ahead and having emergency supplies such as food, water and batteries available will be a tremendous help until more supplies are made available.

We all need to take some time to prepare for the unexpected. Lewis County Emergency Management has great information on how to prepare for disasters. You can find it at <http://lewiscountywa.gov/em>, then click on the link Emergency Preparedness.

Preparing for an emergency will go a long ways to make it much more comfortable during a disaster. It may even be the difference between surviving or not surviving the event.

Kevin Curfman, President



Kevin Curfman

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## Mission Statement

***“Lewis County Chaplaincy Services is committed to assisting emergency agencies throughout the county in meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of emergency crisis victims, their families and the emergency responders.”***



If you are interested in becoming a Lewis County chaplain or know someone who is interested, please contact Kevin Curfman at 360/880-3473 or any of the other chaplains. In particular, there is a need for a chaplain to cover the eastern part of the county as far as Packwood.

## The ChapLine

is a quarterly newsletter of the Lewis County Chaplaincy Services—a volunteer organization dedicated to serving emergency responders and citizens of Lewis County, Washington.

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# Chaplain Training at District 5

The Lewis County Chaplains had the opportunity to visit District 5 and spend a couple hours with Chief Eric Linn learning about the types of services, personnel and equipment that firefighters and EMTs use on a daily basis.

Our classroom was Station 51 located in Napavine. The visual aids were the actual equipment. Chief Linn explained the Incident Command Center process and how they set up and operate when on a fire. He emphasized the role of the Safety Officer on scene and that the number one priority is the safety of the firefighters.



He then explained the purpose and use of the different types of apparatus and equipment. We gained a better understanding of the capabilities and mission of our local fire districts. The Chief also expressed his appreciation of the role of the Chaplain as a valuable resource both on scene with the public and as a valued member of the district.

The chaplains would like to offer a big thank you to Chief Linn and District 5 for the work they do and their support of the Lewis County Chaplaincy.



## Story Ideas?

Please feel free to contact me if you have story ideas, calendar items, photos, etc. or any suggestions on what you'd like to see in the newsletter at: [Kistler\\_technical@q.com](mailto:Kistler_technical@q.com) or 360/785-3840

Terri L. Kistler



## Recent Responses

During the third quarter of 2012, chaplains responded to 20 calls (66 year to date) through central dispatch. Many of the calls generated follow-up visits with the victims. In addition to taking calls, chaplains also attend ongoing training and drills, work with local veterans' associations, follow up with and counsel survivors, participate in special local activities including homeland security drills, Food Bank food drives and Safety City. Some chaplains even conduct funeral services when requested.

### 5-Year-Old Calls 911 For Help For Father

By Laura Hansen, Systems Technician

Public safety issues are more frequently brought to light through law enforcement and fire services. They are most visible and what we "see" in an emergency.

On June 24, 2012, 5-year-old Centralia resident Quincy Hall relied upon the voice at the other end of the phone line to help him make sure emergency responders were able to help his father. Quincy's father had experienced a medical issue, and Quincy called 911 to summon aid for his Dad. Quincy was unable to provide a good address, but veteran telecommunicators searched through the database and provided a location for law enforcement and aid to respond.

Quincy was awarded a certificate from the Board of County Commissioners in appreciation of his quick thinking in gaining assistance for his dad. Lewis County 911 telecommunicators Ellen Mauerman and Lisa Brockmueller both noted the importance of teaching children how and when to call 9-1-1, and to know their home address. Quincy's mother stated the same—because of her husband's condition, they taught Quincy how to call 911 at an early age.

### A Compassionate Ear

We have a chaplains booth in the wildlife building at the fair every year. Chaplain Sherie Malotte was working the booth when a gentleman approached. She sensed a need to start a conversation with him. He opened up to her and described an incident where a fellow employee was killed on the job, and even though he was not there and didn't know the man personally, he was very affected emotionally by it. Sherie listened and gave him some material on dealing with loss and grief. A few weeks later Sherie received a letter from the gentleman expressing his appreciation for her compassion that day.



Sherie Malotte, 2C4

*"Even though I still have a difficult time talking about this accident, I know that I'll get past the hard times. And I know that my work is not done. As for you, please know that you've made a very positive difference in this person's life. I shall not forget the softness of your eyes, nor the soothing of your touch. You are a very special person, doing very special work.*

*I hope I don't ever have need to send anyone your way, but if I find that need, I am confident that the person sent will find welcome, helping arms."*

As chaplains, one of our primary roles is to 'be there' for survivors. We can serve as a source of comfort and a willing ear for people who are hurting. It is gratifying to hear that you made a difference.



## Costume Give-Away/Food Drive

In just under four hours, On September 20, Lewis County residents donated 2296 lb. of food to the Lewis County Food Bank Coalition in exchange for Halloween costumes, accessories and decorations. Most of the over 500 children who attended left with a treat bag stuffed full of stickers, tattoos, pencils, and cards. The September 20th event was sponsored by the Lewis County Fire Dogs Association and Girl Scout Super Troop # 40107 in collaboration with LCFD District 6 and Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart donated the Halloween costumes, accessories and decorations. Station 61 stored the goods until the Give-Away and then hosted and offered tours of the station.



Jim Martin, chaplain for LCFD District 6 and Cindy Cobb, Jim's daughter's Girl Scout leader, volunteered to head the planning committee and together, the two organizations planned, organized and executed what many hope will become an annual event for the county. What started as a troop project quickly became a county-wide service unit project, encompassing troops from Rochester, Centralia, Napavine and Chehalis. Jim also helped out during the event, giving tours and chatting with the public.

"No one left empty-handed," and "This was a win-win for everyone involved." were a few of the comments heard during the Food Drive. People came from as far away as Shelton to donate food and get Halloween costumes.





## Safety City

By Laura Hansen, Systems Technician

Safety City is one of several educational programs utilized by the Lewis County Traffic Safety Commission. Beginning in 1981, Safety City has afforded local Lewis County students an opportunity to walk through a miniature village with a law enforcement officer or firefighter and observe and learn safe pedestrian travel methods.

This year approximately 650, preschool to 3rd-grade students from Centralia, Chehalis, Boistfort, Napavine, and Winlock toured Safety City with local law, fire, dispatch and volunteer personnel. Depending on the age group, students were taught to when and how to dial 911 in an emergency, how to identify their location, sign identification methods, and basic ways to

stay safe (following traffic light warnings, using crosswalks, when and how to cross railroad tracks, and the proper way to travel on a bus as well as getting on and off the bus safely).



Students, as well as those who provided the Safety City "tours", enjoyed interacting in a nonemergency environment. With the increasing number of violent events and potential safety hazards in our nation, the opportunity to spend time with students in this manner is invaluable to enhance student personal safety.



### Lewis County Traffic Safety Commission

The Lewis County Traffic Safety Commission was established in July 1975 to deal with traffic safety problems. At a later date, the DUI Task Force group became a part of the Commission. The group includes membership from a number of agencies, including the BOCC, local law enforcement, Washington State Patrol, local fire and emergency services personnel, LC PA's office, local government officials, LC Public Works, and City Public Works professionals, Centralia Chehalis Pupil Transportation, Operation Lifesaver (Railway), as well as LC Public Health.

The LCTS Commission works to achieve the greatest practical degree of traffic safety in Lewis County and to eliminate critical hazards related to environmental controls with safety and efficiency. They do this by instituting various traffic safety programs such as mock DUI events at local high schools, and a "Click it and Ticket" campaign at WF West High School. The Commission also hosts an annual appreciation banquet to recognize local law enforcement officers for their individual contributions in the area of DUI and traffic safety enforcement.

If you are interested in participating in the Commission to please contact Melody Nelson at LC Public Health or attend a LCTS Commission meeting.



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