



WPV-Ready Node Manual

Woodside / Portola Valley Community Preparedness Program

A program of WPV-Ready under EPiC, Inc.

EPiC — Emergency Preparedness in Communities — is a non-profit serving residents of the Woodside Fire Protection District.

Version 1, 2026

Adapted from the Village Hub Manual by David Smathers Moore, Certain Together

Table of Contents

I. Understanding Ready Nodes	2
II. Operations: Classic Node Set-Up	
<i>Quick Start Guide</i>	7
<i>The Four Stations</i>	8
<i>Making Decisions</i>	8
<i>The Seven Volunteer Role Descriptions</i>	9
<i>Posting Form</i>	15
<i>Partnership with CERT and Other Organizations</i>	17
<i>WPV-Ready Communicators and the ReadyNet System</i>	18
III. Origins and Acknowledgements	20

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I. Understanding Ready Nodes

Purpose of WPV-Ready Nodes

The uncomfortable reality is that the systems that support our modern lives can go down at any time: internet, cell phones, electricity, gas, water, supply chains, and 911 emergency and medical services.

The good news is that when these systems are down, most everything you and your loved ones need probably exists somewhere nearby in Woodside or Portola Valley. But we often don't have the information and relationships needed to connect with these hyper-local resources:

- **Skilled people live nearby.** Nurses, engineers, veterinarians, first responders — they usually commute outside the neighborhood to work. In an emergency, their skills are right here.
- **Chainsaws, hydraulic lifts, boats, camping equipment, batteries, and many other supplies** are probably all here in our neighborhood. With coordination, these resources can help solve many challenges. Without it, we are isolated — stuck staring at whatever puzzle piece we happen to have.

The WPV-Ready Node is a back-up, low-tech “social media” system for your neighborhood. It facilitates new connections among people so that they can create their own solutions to local challenges.

During an Active Incident

Your Ready Node activates *after* a major disruption, not during one. During an active disaster or emergency, your **first priority is your own safety — follow all evacuation orders immediately**. If you need to reach WFPD or CERT during or immediately after an incident, WPV-Ready Communicators can assist in making that contact. Once you and your household are safe and the immediate danger has passed, your Ready Node is here to help the community coordinate recovery.

Four Basic Functions

The work of a local Ready Node is organized into four stations. In what we call the “Classic Node Set-Up,” each of these has its own tent canopy. When a community member approaches the Node, they are directed to the station most relevant to their immediate question or concern:

- **Information.** This station tracks what is happening and posts bulletins for the entire community. For example, if tap water is unsafe or if a Red Cross shelter is open, announcements would be posted on a whiteboard. It also has places for posting messages for specific individuals, and lost-and-found items. Finally, volunteers work to secure more information about questions and rumors.

- **Volunteers.** Many people come to the Node because they are safe and want to help. Others may come because they need help with some task. This station's posting system tracks offers and requests for help and connects people.
- **Supplies & Equipment.** Neighbors can lend, trade, or give one another things to help solve local challenges. ***Contrary to what many expect, the Node does NOT accept and store donated items.*** Rather, it helps people connect so they can make arrangements to directly exchange items.
- **Education.** After a major disaster, infrastructure like water and sewage might not work for weeks. The Education Station displays laminated posters with information on common concerns like how to purify water, maintain sanitation, or safely shelter in place during unusual conditions.

Neighborhood Crowdsourcing

Note that Node Volunteers do not try to directly solve the challenges neighbors are facing. They are instead facilitators of a crowdsourcing system that can surface capacities few even knew were present in the community and connect them to where they are most needed.

In order to discover more of these hidden resources, a visitor to the Node is encouraged to browse all the stations after their immediate concern has been addressed. They may unexpectedly see a post and realize they have a resource sitting in a closet — or a skill others don't know about — that can be of great service to someone at this moment.

Node Volunteers may also recruit residents to do other projects — such as knocking on doors in the neighborhood to make sure people know about the Node. Engagement is both practically and psychologically helpful for all involved.

Everyone is potentially a beneficiary and also a benefactor in the Ready Node system.

First: A Community Meeting Spot

In order to make these connections without depending on the internet, each Ready Node has a pre-established physical meeting place. Ideally, WPV-Ready Node locations are:

- **Promoted.** Residents in Woodside and Portola Valley need to hear about Ready Nodes in advance so they know to go there when a major disruption hits. Node locations are determined by each neighborhood and will be listed on an interactive map at WPV-Ready.org as the program grows.
- **Numerous.** Our community needs multiple Node locations so that everyone has one within a 15-minute walk of where they live.
- **Outdoors.** If buildings are unsafe, such as after an earthquake or other major event, outdoor Nodes can get to work right away. They can be moved indoors if and when that makes sense.

Most Important: The Volunteers

At the heart of the Ready Node system are the volunteers and the relationships they develop in advance of challenges. Research shows that the critical factor for saving lives is the amount of social connection in the neighborhood before the disaster strikes. The committee that develops the Node — we call them the Core Group — is building those connections as they:

- Conduct public outreach to build awareness about the Ready Node,
- Organize workshops to train new volunteers who can help run the Node,
- Hold Practice Events where volunteers set up the Node and engage community members in imagined situations during a mock disaster scenario,
- Partner with WFPD, CERT, and other organizations and local agencies to further strengthen the connections that will sustain the community.

After a major disruption, when people may be bewildered by dramatic developments, just seeing local volunteers setting up the Ready Node is likely to deepen people's confidence that the community is capable of addressing the challenges.

Ready Node Training

Training dates are posted on **woodsidefire.org** and **WPV-Ready.org**. Neighborhoods that complete the training and identify their Node Volunteers will receive a Node-in-a-Bag from WPV-Ready to get started.

Node Equipment

A Ready Node is not about the equipment. It's about relationships and improvisation. But having some basic equipment can be very useful. Most important are the tools of a Node's low-tech information systems:

- **The Posting Form** is used at three of the four stations (see page 24).
- **Hanging Organizers** have feathered pockets designed to hold student folders. Nodes use them to track Posting Forms.
- **White Boards** are used at the Information and Education stations.
- **Educational Posters** teach skills for surviving when normal infrastructure is not working.

Beyond these, many other items ranging from folding tables to clipboards to duct tape can be very helpful. Simple and elaborate equipment lists are available through WFPD. Total costs range from a few hundred dollars to over \$4,000.

Every Node's circumstances are different and local groups work out how they will store and access equipment. Here are some options to consider:

- **“Node-in-a-Bag” stored in your car or home.** The most essential core equipment — hanging organizers, forms, and pens — can fit in a duffle bag stored in the trunk of a car or a closet. A tarp, duct tape, clipboards, utility cord, and cable ties take a bit more space. A whiteboard (approx. 3' × 4') can lie flat in the bottom of a trunk. **The key is that three or more Node Volunteers each have a Node-in-a-Bag and agree to bring it to the meeting spot in the event of a disaster.** Redundancy is important.
- **Equipment stored outdoors in a yard.** A supportive neighbor, institution, or local business near your Node location may have an outdoor storage area. The property owner grants Node Volunteers permission to retrieve the box after a disaster.
- **Equipment stored indoors.** Arrangements might be worked out with a property owner to store equipment indoors with three or more Node Volunteers having keys or access codes.

WPV-Ready Provides the Node-in-a-Bag

WPV-Ready (under EPIC, Inc.) will provide a Node-in-a-Bag to any neighborhood that has completed the Ready Node training and identified their Node Volunteers. Reach out at **WPV-Ready.org** to get your neighborhood started.

The “No Equipment Exercise.” If you had no pre-planned Node equipment, how could you create a Node on the fly? It’s a great brainstorming challenge for a Node meeting or workshop. Blank paper could be used for Posting Forms. Without the hanging organizers, they could be taped on the metal side of a truck or car. If you put the “headline” part of the form on the bottom of the sheet, it can be visible even when layered in a feathered manner.

The “Parachuting Volunteer”: Principle of Interoperability

Imagine you are in another part of the county when a disaster strikes. You learn that roads to get home are closed. You find the nearest Ready Node location a few blocks away. You encounter two local Node volunteers who are also just arriving. You’ve never met, but they greet you warmly. You get your “Node-in-a-Bag” out of your car to lend to the effort. The volunteers are familiar with the purpose of everything you pull out because they use the same systems. Because you are “speaking the same language,” it’s easy to agree on how to configure the Node.

This story of a volunteer who “parachutes” into a different community but can get right to work with fellow volunteers they’ve never met underscores the value of having common systems. They aren’t cast in stone, but it is much easier if volunteers, equipment, systems, and practices have a common starting point. Everything is modular and interchangeable.

The Classic Node Set-Up, with its four stations and seven roles, provides a point of reference for all Node Volunteers. It’s not “the right way,” just a common starting point.

Node “Core Groups”

Every Ready Node is sustained by three to seven dedicated volunteers that we call the Core Group. They determine their Node’s meeting spot, work out arrangements with property owners (if needed), and initiate local outreach and educational events.

People involved with their local Ready Node have different levels of involvement:

Core Group Promotes concept, establishes location, recruits Volunteers, organizes events.	Node Volunteers Trained and ready to help run the Node during a disaster.	"Friends of the Node" e.g. people or institutions that provide a Node its location or other resources.	General Public Educated to go to the Ready Node during a disaster.
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The Ready Node Ecosystem

Ready Nodes are independently run by local volunteers. WFPD supports them and does not manage or direct individual Nodes. Ultimately, each Node must be carried by its local people. We can’t create or run your Node for you.

II. Operations

Quick Start Guide

1. Activate the Node?

- ☐ After a disaster or disruption, have you first tended to your own family members, household, and immediate neighbors?
- ☐ Is internet or cell service down, or is there a major disruption in the area?

If you can check both boxes, then activate your Ready Node.

2. Set-Up the Node.

- **Connect with others.** If other volunteers are showing up, make sure everyone gets introduced. Take a moment to ask each person how they are doing. RELATIONSHIPS are the foundation of the Node and are the priority.
- **Agree on Roles.** Decide on role #1 (Node Manager) and proceed assigning roles in their numbered sequence (#2, #3, etc.) as people become available. Many will feel unprepared. Encourage one another. You'll figure it out together as you go. Guidance for each role is in this Manual and on the back of the Role Name Tags.
- **Set-up equipment.** Agree on where the Node's four stations will be located if doing the Classic Node Set-Up, or agree on a simpler initial set-up. The four functions can all be handled initially under one canopy or on a structure like a fence.

3. Put on a vest, your Role Name Tag, and start.

Read your role description in this Manual. There is a "cheat sheet" on the back of your role name tag.

The Four Stations

Direct people to the station within the Node that addresses their immediate concern. Unless overcrowded, encourage people to then browse all the other stations. They may be able to make connections that no one realized would be useful.

Situation...	Send to...
Info, or questions , about what is happening. Guidance and resources for the entire community. Messages for friends, family, co-workers. Lost & Found (things). Missing people: 1. <i>At the Information station, post a Message for the individual.</i> 2. <i>If it's a missing minor or incapacitated adult, post a Bulletin as well, and then go to Volunteers to see if a search can be organized.</i>	→ Information
Need help. Want to volunteer. (general help or specialized skills)	→ Volunteers
Need physical things. Have things to give or lend. Note: donations are not accepted at the Node. <i>We connect people so they can make direct arrangements.</i>	→ Supplies & Equipment
Resilience question <i>E.g. how to maintain sanitation when toilets don't work; how to manage without power, water, or access to stores.</i>	→ Education

All Volunteers: Making Decisions on the Fly

Unexpected things are going to come up and you'll need to make decisions. Talk to one another, listen, reflect. You might find it useful to ask:

- Who will be impacted by this decision? Can we consult with them?
- Who has direct experience or expertise with the issue? Can we consult with them?
- Is the option we're considering **"good enough for now and safe enough to try?"**

Don't get hung up on the "right" decision. There isn't one. Just do the best you can, make a decision, and move forward. It can always be adjusted later.

The Seven Volunteer Role Descriptions

1. Node Manager

Ideal Supplies:

Vest
Role Name Tag
Clipboard, blank paper & pens
Node Manager's Log

- **Maintain a calm, supportive, safe atmosphere.** If you get stressed or overwhelmed, ask other volunteers for help.
- **Support the Node Volunteers.** Do an introductory circle with the Volunteers on your shift. Check in individually from time to time. Listen.
- **See the big picture and flow.** Be flexible. Make adjustments to the system as needed. Motto: “good enough for now and safe enough to try.”
- **Facilitate discussions about life-threatening situations.** Talk with others about options, reflect, and make decisions together. The Node does not have the ability or responsibility to solve problems. Rather, how can the four Node functions make useful connections? Serve as primary liaison to WFPD, CERT groups, and amateur radio if they are nearby. Dissuade people from putting themselves at risk and creating additional problems.
- **Maintain the Node Manager's Log.** Write brief notes about significant developments and decisions, and a quick summary of your reasoning.
- **Recruit and train for Node roles. Plan for shift changes.** Partner with the Volunteer Coordinator on these tasks. Shifts are a maximum of 4 hours long. People need rest and to check in with their own families.
- **Direct Node shut-down** for nighttime or if it's unsafe to continue.
- **Brief the next Manager** when handing over the role.

2. Volunteer Coordinator

Ideal Supplies:

Vest
Role Name Tag
Hanging Organizer
Pens, permanent markers,
binder clips & Posting Forms
Canopy, table, chair
Clipboard, paper, zip ties
Duct tape
Communication Aide
Node Volunteer Sign-In Sheet

- **Maintain a calm, supportive, safe atmosphere.** If you get stressed or overwhelmed, ask other volunteers for help.
- **Listen to each person** who comes to your station. Ask questions to clarify concerns. Help them relax.
- **Fill out the Posting Form** for the person's situation. Don't promise anything. Write a key word with permanent marker so it will be visible when posted.
 - Circle the + sign if they are offering their labor and skills. Circle the – sign if they are looking for help. Circle "Volunteer: General", "Skill", or "Node" for the type of volunteer.
 - Review form for completeness and legibility. Then write date/time and your name in the bottom section.
- **Scan for possible matches** before the person leaves. Ask them to take a picture or make a note of contact info when a match is made. Forms stay at the Node. Clip two matched forms together; keep the post visible if the offer is still available for others, or move to the Archive area if it's not. If no immediate match is made, encourage them to return in a few hours.
- **Encourage people to browse** the other Node stations when they are done with you, unless those stations are backed up.
- **Use the hanging organizer** to track the forms. Place the offers (+) to the left and requesting-help forms (–) to the right. Group posts into categories if helpful.
- **Post and recruit for Node Volunteers** for immediate service on this shift (if needed) and future shifts. Coordinate with the Node Manager on the planning for future shifts. People with no prior Node training can be recruited if necessary; they can be trained when they show up. Use the Node Volunteer Sign-In Sheet (a simple paper log included in the Node-in-a-Bag) to sign volunteers in/out of the current shift.

3. Information Manager

Ideal Supplies:

Vest
Role Name Tag
Hanging Organizer
Pens, permanent markers,
binder clips & Posting Forms
Whiteboard(s)
Dry erase markers
AM/FM radio
NOAA weather radio
Communication Aide
Canopy, table, chair
Clipboards, paper, zip ties

- **Maintain a calm, supportive, safe atmosphere.** If you get stressed or overwhelmed, ask other volunteers for help.
- **Receive information from:**
 - **Individuals.** Listen carefully. Ask clarifying questions. Help them relax. Speak slowly and calmly as people's ability to process information may be compromised.
 - **AM/FM radio, NOAA weather radio, and credible sources.** If these seem relevant, recruit volunteer(s) to monitor and bring you key info on a Posting Form.
 - **Public officials,** such as police and firefighters, and/or CERT teams and amateur radio groups.
- **Track info on the Posting Form.** Write a key word at the top with permanent marker. Circle one of the upper-left boxes for the type of info:
 - **Bulletin** is important info for the entire community that we are confident is credible, e.g. "Tap water is unsafe. Boil before drinking." Circle + if information is for the public; circle - if information is being requested.
 - **Question** is something asked which we don't know the answer for. Circle -.
 - **Message** is a post for a specific person, family, or group. In the "Key word" space, write who the message is for (last name and first initial, or group name). Circle +.
 - **Heard that...** is information reported but that we are not sure is accurate enough to be a Bulletin. Circle both + and -.
 - **Found and Lost** are for missing things. Circle + for Found and - for Lost.
- **For a missing person:** post a Message for the individual. For missing minors or incapacitated adults, also post a Bulletin and refer the situation to the Volunteers Station to explore if a search can be organized.
- **Review posts for completeness and legibility.** Then write date/time and your name in the bottom section.
- **Use the hanging organizer** to track forms, grouped by category (Bulletin, Question, Message, Heard That, Found/Lost). Put forms with + to the left and - to the right.
- **On the whiteboard,** summarize key Bulletin messages so many people can easily view them. Keep the Bulletins' Posting Forms in the hanging organizer so details like source and time received are retained.
- **Forms stay at the Node,** including messages among family members. People can reply with a new Posting Form and clip it to the message they are replying to.
- **Encourage people to browse** the other Node stations when done, unless those stations are backed up.
- **Share urgent information** about life-threatening situations with the Node Manager. They will facilitate discussions about options.
- **Archive posts** that are obviously no longer relevant in a pocket near the bottom of the hanging organizer. **DO NOT THROW OLD MESSAGES AWAY.**

4. Greeter

Ideal Supplies:

Vest
Role Name Tag
"Start Here" sign
Communication Aide

Posting Form
Clipboards, Paper, Pens
Bullhorn or whistle

- **Maintain a calm, supportive, safe atmosphere.** If you get stressed or overwhelmed, ask other volunteers for help.
- **Establish a welcoming presence** in a location that makes it clear people should talk to you first.
 - Use a whistle or bullhorn to get people's attention if necessary.
 - Ask people to form a line if needed; encourage folks to talk with each other in line while waiting.
- **Listen carefully** to each visitor, confirm understanding of their issue, and offer reassurance without promising a solution. Some may be overwhelmed; help them to breathe and relax.
- **Speak slowly and calmly** as people's ability to process information may be compromised.
- **Direct each visitor to the Node station** that is relevant to their issue: Information, Volunteers, Supplies & Equipment, or Education. See "The Four Stations" on page 11 for more guidance.
- **If a line has formed at a station** and you have time, fill out the Posting Form with the visitor before sending them to get in the line.
- **Share urgent information** about life-threatening situations with the Node Manager.

***Pro tip:** If you notice a pattern of visitors who speak the same (non-English) language, consider filling out a Posting Form requesting interpreters and giving it to the Volunteer Coordinator.*

5. Supplies & Equipment Manager

Ideal Supplies:

Vest
Role Name Tag
Hanging Organizer
Pens, permanent markers,
binder clips & Posting Forms
Communication Aide
Canopy, table, chair
Clipboard, paper
Zip ties, duct tape

- **Maintain a calm, supportive, safe atmosphere.** If you get stressed or overwhelmed, ask other volunteers for help.
- **Listen to each person** who comes to your station. Ask questions to clarify concerns. Help them relax. Don't over-promise. For large-scale resources that can be used by many people, send the person to the Information station to post a Bulletin there.
- **Fill out the Posting Form.** Write a key word with permanent marker so it's visible when posted.
 - Circle the + sign if they are offering to give or lend. Circle the – sign if they are seeking the item.
 - Circle one of the boxes on top right: "Supplies," "Equipment," or "Charging."
 - Review form for completeness and legibility. Then write date/time and your name in the bottom section.

- **Scan for possible matches** before the person leaves. Ask them to take a picture or make a note of contact info when a match is made. Forms stay at the Node. Clip the two matched forms together. Keep the offering post visible if the resource is still available for others. If relevant, track approximate quantities that may be available.
- **Encourage people to browse** the other Node stations when they are done with you, unless those stations are backed up.

6. Educator

Ideal Supplies:

Vest
Role Name Tag
Education Posters
Clipboard, paper & pens
Zip ties, duct tape
Whiteboard & dry erase markers

- **Maintain a calm, supportive, safe atmosphere.** If you get stressed or overwhelmed, ask other volunteers for help.
- **The purpose of the Education Station** is to help people learn how to live in unusual circumstances if services like water, sewer, or power are not available for long periods of time. Pre-printed laminated posters about the most common emergency circumstances — like how to purify water, manage medication storage without power, or care for animals and pets — may be available for you to mount in your station.
- **If posters are not available**, or if unique questions are coming up because of unanticipated circumstances, use a whiteboard or similar system to post questions and request expertise from other Node Volunteers and/or community members who may have specialized or professional expertise that is relevant.
- **Help people learn and solve their own problems:** Listen attentively. Speak slowly and calmly. Direct people to read certain Education Posters or other resources as appropriate.
- **Acknowledge when you don't know an answer.** We aren't pretending to be experts — we're just being friendly neighbors. Maintain a spirit of curiosity and learning together.
- **Encourage people to browse** the other Node stations when they are done with you, unless those stations are backed up.

7. Floater

Ideal Supplies:

Vest
Role Name Tag
Communication Aide
Posting Form
Clipboards, Paper, Pens

- **Maintain a calm, supportive, safe atmosphere.** If you get stressed or overwhelmed, ask other volunteers for help.
- **If there is a line** for the Greeter or any of the four Stations, provide additional capacity to reduce the wait.
- **Listen carefully** to each visitor, ask questions, and confirm understanding of their issue. Offer reassurance without promising a solution.
- **Speak slowly and calmly** as people's ability to process information may be compromised.

- **Direct each visitor** to the Node station that is relevant to their issue: Information, Volunteers, Supplies & Equipment, or Education.
- **Help visitors fill out the Posting Form.** For more guidance on how the form is used at each station see:
 - Volunteer Coordinator (p. 14)
 - Information Manager (p. 16)
 - Supplies & Equipment Manager (p. 20)
- **Double-check forms** for completeness and legibility. Then write date/time and your name in the bottom section.
- **Encourage people to browse** the other Node stations after they have addressed their initial issue, unless those stations are backed up.

The Posting Form



Circle + or -, write keyword above, and circle box below

Bulletin	Question	Message	Volunteer: General	Supplies
Heard that...			Skill	Equipment
Found	Lost		Node	Charging

Person submitting:

Address:

Phone:

How to reach me if phones are not working:

☐ I will return to Node, Days/times:

Details:

Please do NOT bring supplies, equipment, or animals to the Node

Node Team Use Only:	Date:	Time: ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m.
Reviewed and accepted by Node Volunteer:		

Partnership with CERT and Other Organizations

The WPV-Ready Node concept is distinct from and complementary to the work of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), WFPD, government agencies at all levels, and nonprofit organizations big and small. Communities need all of these different resources. They all have their unique roles to play.

In an ideal world, every neighborhood would have both a Ready Node and a CERT group, and they would work in partnership. If they are set up near each other, the Node can help protect the CERT's command post from the constant interruption of repeat questions and offers of help. Local groups can work out more specific agreements and protocols about how their organizations will communicate and collaborate.

Complementary Roles	CERT	Ready Nodes
Damage Assessment	Yes	No
Search & Rescue	Yes	No
First Aid	Yes	No
Organize Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers	No	Yes
Connect Needs and Offers (supplies & equipment)	No	Yes
Educate (e.g. purify water)	No	Yes

WPV-Ready Communicators and the ReadyNet System

Your Ready Node does not operate in isolation. One of the most important connections it has during a disaster is to the WPV-Ready Communicator network and the ReadyNet radio system.

What Is a Ready Communicator?

WPV-Ready Communicators are citizen volunteers trained to use their own two-way radios to communicate with the WPV-CERT Community Emergency Response Team and WFPD during emergencies. They act as communication gateways between residents and the fire district when cell phones, internet, and other normal systems are down.

During a disaster, one or more Ready Communicators may be present at or near your Ready Node. They are a direct link to CERT teams and WFPD — which means your Node Manager can relay urgent needs (medical assistance, search and rescue requests, hazard reports) through a Ready Communicator when no other communication is available.

The ReadyNet Radio System

ReadyNet is a system of linked radio repeaters operating on GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) frequencies within the Woodside Fire Protection District. It is the backbone of emergency radio communication for both CERT members and Ready Communicators.

There are two main repeaters:

- **WD1 (Channel 1)** — located at the Easter Cross in Emerald Hills. If you can see the cross, you are looking at the repeater's antenna on the water tower directly next to it.
- **PV1 (Channel 3)** — located in central Portola Valley.

These two repeaters are linked together. A transmission on WD1 is simultaneously heard by anyone tuned to PV1, and vice versa. This allows Ready Communicators to choose whichever repeater gives them the strongest signal, which depends on local terrain and line of sight rather than simple distance.

Why Radio Communication Matters at the Node

Cell phones, text messaging, and internet access are convenient under normal conditions but are often the first systems to fail in a large-scale emergency. Two-way radios on the ReadyNet system can continue to function when those systems are down, providing a critical backup for passing information between the community, CERT, and WFPD.

At the Node: How to Use a Ready Communicator

If your Node has an urgent need that requires contact with CERT or WFPD:

3. Tell the Node Manager. They will assess whether it rises to the level of a radio call.
4. The Node Manager (or designated volunteer) finds the Ready Communicator on site

or posts a request at the Volunteers station.

5. The Ready Communicator transmits the message over ReadyNet to the appropriate party.
6. The Ready Communicator relays any response back to the Node Manager.

Become a Ready Communicator

Any resident can become a Ready Communicator. There is no radio experience required to get started. A GMRS radio license from the FCC costs \$35 for a 10-year license, requires no test, and covers your entire immediate family. Training is provided through WPV-Ready.

Ready Communicator training dates are posted at woodsidefire.org and WPV-Ready.org. For the full WPV-Ready Communicator Handbook, including radio setup, the ReadyNet channel list, phonetic alphabet, and emergency quick reference guide, contact WPV-Ready or visit WPV-Ready.org.

III. Origins and Acknowledgements

In December 2006, the record-breaking Hanukkah Eve Windstorm hit the state of Washington. More than 1.2 million customers lost power, and for many it was a week or more before electricity was restored. In some neighborhoods, people started gathering each morning at certain neighborhood locations to share information and offer each other support.

Universally, people around the world respond in similar ways after disasters. Most people want to share information and coordinate with others to solve local challenges. Ready Nodes simply facilitate and accelerate that natural impulse to collaborate.

After the 2006 storm, community leaders in Seattle started brainstorming ideas for how modest systems and pre-planning could make grassroots response efforts much more effective. Those explorations eventually led to a system that today, in 2025, features about 85 Emergency Communication Hub locations across Seattle, organized by committees of local residents. The Hubs are a non-governmental grassroots project recognized by Seattle's Office of Emergency Management.

David Smathers Moore of Certain Together further developed and adapted the Seattle model into the Village Hub framework. The WPV-Ready Node program, developed by the Woodside Fire Protection District, is an adaptation of the Village Hub model, modified to reflect the specific needs and community structure of Woodside and Portola Valley, California.

WPV-Ready Nodes is a program of WPV-Ready under EPiC, Inc. (Emergency Preparedness in Communities), a non-profit serving residents of the Woodside Fire Protection District. EPiC and WFPD thank David Smathers Moore and Certain Together (certaintogether.org) for the generous open licensing of their materials, and acknowledge the original Seattle Emergency Communication Hubs program for inspiring this framework.

What will you do when 911 is down?

After a disaster, people go to their WPV-Ready Node meet-up location — often in a local park or other open space — to get information about what is happening and coordinate with others. Together, they can solve challenges when 911, internet, cell service, electric power, gas, water, sewage, and other systems may be down.

Ready Nodes are independent grassroots groups run by volunteers. They can spring to life before outside agencies may be able to reach your neighborhood.

For more information visit WPV-Ready.org

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