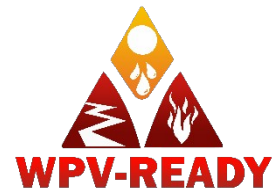


WPV-Ready Nodes

Presenter Q&A Reference Guide



About the Program Basics

Q: What exactly is a Ready Node, and how is it different from CERT?

A Ready Node is a simple neighborhood connection point where neighbors share information and help connect people to resources during a disruption or disaster.

Nodes are not response teams and they do not store supplies. Their role is to help neighbors communicate and understand what is happening locally.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is different. CERT members receive training to assist with light search and rescue, medical operations, and other support functions under the direction of professional responders.

In short:

- Nodes = communication and connection
- CERT = trained response support

Both programs work together, but they serve different roles.

Q: How many nodes are already active in Woodside/Portola Valley?

The WPV-Ready Node program is still growing, and we currently have several neighborhoods beginning to establish Nodes, with more residents learning about the program through community meetings and classes.

Our goal is to gradually build a network of Nodes across neighborhoods so residents always have a nearby place to connect and share information during disruptions.

Q: Who is responsible for running a node — is there a formal leader?

Nodes are intentionally simple and flexible. Usually one or two neighbors act as the "Node contact" who help organize communication with nearby households. They are not in charge of people or resources — they simply help keep the connection point organized.

Think of them as a neighbor coordinator rather than a formal leader.

About Getting Involved

Q: How do I find out if there's already a node in my neighborhood?

You can check with:

- Woodside Fire / WPV-Ready
- Your local neighborhood groups
- Upcoming WPV-Ready meetings or classes

If a node already exists nearby, we can connect you with the neighbors who are coordinating it.

Q: What does it take to start a new node? How many neighbors do I need?

Starting a node is intentionally easy. You only need:

- A few interested neighbors
- A simple meeting spot
- Basic organization (contact lists, communication plan)

Many nodes start with just 3–5 households and grow over time. There is no minimum size — the goal is simply to help neighbors connect.

Q: What is a Ready Communicator, and do I need a radio license?

A Ready Communicator is a resident who helps relay information between Nodes and the broader WPV-Ready network if regular communication systems fail.

Ready Communicators in the WPV-Ready network use GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) radios to communicate through the ReadyNet repeater system. A GMRS license is required to transmit legally. It costs \$35 for a 10-year license, requires no test, and covers your immediate family. WPV-Ready provides training opportunities for residents interested in learning how the system works.

Q: How much time does this take? What's the ongoing commitment?

Most nodes require very little ongoing time. Typical activities might include:

- Meeting neighbors once or twice a year
- Updating contact information
- Participating in occasional preparedness events

The program is designed to be low-commitment and easy to maintain.

About How It Works in Practice

Q: What does a Ready Node actually look like physically — is it a building, a table, a tent?

Most nodes are simply a pre-agreed meeting location in the neighborhood. Examples include:

- A driveway
- A mailbox cluster
- A neighborhood sign
- A small park or cul-de-sac corner

Some neighbors may place a small sign or marker, but many nodes are simply known gathering spots.

Q: What happens if the designated node volunteer isn't home when a disaster strikes?

Nodes are not dependent on one person. The location is simply a known meeting spot, so neighbors can still gather there to exchange information even if the primary organizer isn't present. The system is designed to work even when plans aren't perfect.

Q: How do nodes connect with Woodside Fire and CERT during an actual event?

Nodes help pass information through the WPV-Ready communication network. Depending on the situation, information may move through:

- Ready Communicators using radios
- CERT volunteers assisting in the community
- Information shared by Woodside Fire

Nodes help provide situational awareness from the neighborhood level.

Q: What if my neighbors aren't interested or engaged?

That's completely normal. Many nodes start with just a few households. As neighbors see the value over time — especially after storms, power outages, or small disruptions — participation often grows naturally. The goal is connection, not perfection.

About Communications

Q: What kind of radios are used? Do I need to buy my own?

Ready Communicators use GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) radios, which operate through the ReadyNet repeater system serving the Woodside/Portola Valley area. Ready Communicators must purchase their own radio. However, owning a radio is not required to participate in a Ready Node.

Radios can be purchased through the WPV-Ready store: wpv-store.org

Nodes are primarily about neighbors sharing information locally, and radios simply help extend communication if systems are down.

Q: If cell service is down, how do nodes actually pass information to each other?

Information may move through several pathways:

- Ready Communicators using radios
- CERT volunteers assisting in neighborhoods
- Residents physically carrying information between nearby nodes

The goal is to create multiple ways for information to flow, even when technology fails.

About the Risks Covered

Q: Are these nodes designed mainly for earthquakes, or do they help with wildfires too?

Nodes are designed for any disruption that affects the neighborhood. Examples include:

- Earthquakes
- Wildfires
- Severe storms
- Power outages
- Road closures or landslides

Any event where neighbors need to share information and check in on each other.

Q: What does a "disruption" on the chart actually look like day-to-day?

A disruption can be something relatively small, such as extended power outages, downed trees blocking roads, flooding, or communication outages — or something larger like a wildfire or earthquake.

Nodes help neighbors stay informed and connected during both small and large events.

About Next Steps

Q: When is the next Ready Communicator training?

The next Ready Communicator training is scheduled for:

April 21st, 6:30–9:30 PM

This training introduces residents to the communication systems used in the WPV-Ready network and how neighbors can help share information during disruptions.

Q: Is there a cost to participate?

No. Participation in the WPV-Ready Node program is free. The goal is simply to help neighbors build stronger connections and improve community preparedness.

Closing Line: *"The goal of WPV-Ready Nodes is simple: neighbors knowing neighbors, and having a way to connect when normal systems aren't working."*

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