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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEST SLOPE NEIGHBORHOOD HOSTS DISASTER RESPONSE EXERCISE IN BEAVERTON

BEAVERTON, Ore. – The city’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) held a disaster response exercise May 12 in the Ridgewood neighborhood in West Slope where its residents participate in the Map Your Neighborhood program. More than 100 CERT volunteers tested their emergency preparedness and response skills in light search and rescue, medical operations, and responding to and supporting an active disaster scene. Communications from the field and between the city and Washington County Emergency Operations Centers were also tested.

The exercise simulated a major earthquake incorporating numerous scenarios where CERT volunteers had to locate, triage and stabilize disaster victims for transport to the medical treatment area set up at Ridgewood Elementary and operated by Washington County’s Medical Reserve Corp (MRC).

“Our Community Emergency Response Team members come to the aid of the Beaverton community after a disaster when our emergency responders are delayed,” said CERT Deputy Supervisor Claudia Steiner-Fricker. “The ability to train in a neighborhood is a huge deal for us since neighborhoods are where we would most likely deploy following a disaster.”

About Beaverton CERT

Beaverton CERT is a community-based, all-volunteer program funded by the City of Beaverton with 591 active and reserve members. Since 2003, Beaverton CERT has trained more than 1,200 volunteers. Basic training lasts seven weeks and is offered every spring and fall. In addition to ongoing training to improve readiness, CERT volunteers serve their community by assisting the Beaverton Police Department with crowd management at city events, searching for walk-aways, and filling sandbags during flooding. For more information about the CERT program, or if you are interested in becoming a CERT volunteer, visit www.beavertonoregon.gov/cert.

About Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) in Beaverton

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) is a disaster preparedness program that empowers neighborhoods to prepare for emergencies and disaster situations. The program is offered through Beaverton CERT and can help save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma, and reduce property damage. In addition, working together as a team and contributing as an individual develops a stronger community. To learn more about Map Your Neighborhood or to have a trainer come to your neighborhood, email preparedness@beavertonoregon.gov.

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