

# Community Volunteers

***Ready to support our community when disaster strikes!***

I recently attended the 2016 ***Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange*** in Dhaka Bangladesh. The exercise was attended by military and civilian participants from several countries. Bangladesh is prone to several types of disasters including earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and typhoons.

The adverse impacts of these natural hazards is compounded by the low socio-economic condition of a large segment of their population. Volunteer organizations play a very large role in disaster preparation, response and recovery.

I learned a great deal from my participation in this exercise. I found it particularly impressive that a country so prone to natural disasters would place such a high value and rely so heavily on their volunteer responders. I am certain I learned more than I imparted from this experience. My greatest “take-home” was an even greater appreciation for the role our volunteers will play following a large disaster.

LTC COL Rezaul Hassan of the Bangladesh Army (a man who has responded to several large disasters) reemphasized to me that any disaster plan that does not include the use of well trained volunteers is doomed to fail.

There are a number volunteer organizations in Oregon that will respond following a large disaster. As citizens of Clackamas County we are particularly fortunate to have several active and motivated individuals who train, organize and equip themselves to come to our aid when needed. I would like to publically recognize and express my appreciation for two of these organizations – CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and CARES (Clackamas Amateur Radio Emergency Services). If you know a volunteer please thank them. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please right me at – [gregg.ramirez@clackamasfire.com](mailto:gregg.ramirez@clackamasfire.com)



Volunteers in Training  
The Bangladeshi equivalent of CERT



Red Crescent  
The Bangladeshi equivalent of Red Cross