

# Avalanche

The official newsletter of the  
*Cascade Chapter* of the Health Physics  
Society

Winter 2008 Issue

## President's Corner

We had pretty good turnout for the fall meeting with twenty-one in attendance. That meeting we focused on waste issues (both local and national). The winter meeting will look at the recent TOPOFF drill that occurred in October 2007 and involved members of the CCHPS in Portland.

Responding to terrorist events such as the 1995 Tokyo subway sarin gas attack, the Congress concluded in 1998 that America's top government officials should receive better training to respond to a complex attack involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). To address this challenge, Congress mandated the Department of State and Department of Justice to conduct a series of challenging, role-playing exercises involving the senior federal, state, and local officials who would direct crisis management and consequence management response to an actual WMD attack. The result was TOPOFF (Top Officials), a national-level domestic and international exercise series designed to produce a more effective, coordinated, global response to WMD terrorism.

There have been a total of four TOPOFF exercises since May 2000. Each TOPOFF exercise has involved multiple locations in order to test the coordination of the national disaster preparedness response. The most recent TOPOFF exercise, TOPOFF 4, occurred during the week of October 15-19, 2007 and involved some members of the Cascade Chapter in responding to the aftermath of a WMD - Radiological Dispersal Device released in Portland, Oregon.

Justin Spence and Bill Tuttle will be providing a more in depth look at the TOPOFF drill from their perspectives.

## Spring 2008 – Dale Trout Annual Meeting

This year's spring meeting will take place at Oregon State University in Corvallis on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. In addition to student presentations we will have a visit from the current national HPS President-Elect, Dick Toohey.

## 2008 Elections

The offices open for the 2008 CCHPS election are Secretary and President-Elect. Bruce Busby is the chair of the CCHPS Nominating Committee. If you are interested in running for one of these offices please contact him at [bbusby@fhcrc.org](mailto:bbusby@fhcrc.org) or (206) 667-4045.

## CCHPS Dues for 2008

We are now accepting payments for 2008 dues. The cost is still just \$15. Benefits of membership include lowered cost of meetings, professional contacts, the Avalanche newsletter, and association with really great people. Dues can be paid at the next meeting, or sent to the Secretary. In order to keep the CCHPS membership database up to date, please fill out an application and submit it with your payment.

Just as a reminder, we also have group membership available for large organizations and affiliate membership available for vendors. Please contact the chapter secretary for more information.

## HPS Positions

The Nominating Committee of the HPS has asked the Chapters to help identify people who are qualified and willing to serve on the HPS Board of Directors or as Treasurer-elect or President-elect. If you meet both of these criteria (qualified and willing), please contact Bruce Busby.

## CCHPS Directory

The Secretary is working on a CCHPS directory which will be available at the annual meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. All members whose dues are current as of April 1<sup>st</sup> will be included in the directory. Please submit an application with your dues payment to ensure that your correct address and job title are listed in the directory. Any members who are unable to attend the annual meeting will have a directory mailed to them.

## 2008 CCHPS Winter Meeting

The 2008 CCHPS Winter meeting will be held **Friday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008** at the Women's Club in Longview, WA. The cost of the meeting is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Lunch is \$10, making lunch and the meeting \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Please RSVP with the chapter secretary by **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008**.

### Agenda

- 9:30 Registration  
9:30 Executive Committee meeting  
10:15 Chapter Business Meeting
- Treasurers report
  - New business
  - Old Business
- 11:00 Discussion – David R. Gassaway (American Red Cross) – *“How the CCHPS can Assist the Red Cross during a Radiological Incident”*  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Presentation – Justin Spence (State of Oregon DHS) – *“TOPOFF 4 –The State’s Perspective”*  
2:00 Presentation – William K. Tuttle III (Portland VA Medical Center) – *“TOPOFF 4 –A Hospital’s Perspective”*

### Food

Breakfast goodies will be available in the morning during the registration period. Come early and enjoy coffee, juice and goodies.

Lunch will be provided by Judy's Restaurant and Catering. The menu is listed below. If you do not want to order the lunch please indicate that on your registration form.

*Green Salad with dressing  
Fettuccini with Chicken and Broccoli  
Vegetarian (Meatless) Lasagna  
Focaccia Bread*

### Directions to the meeting:

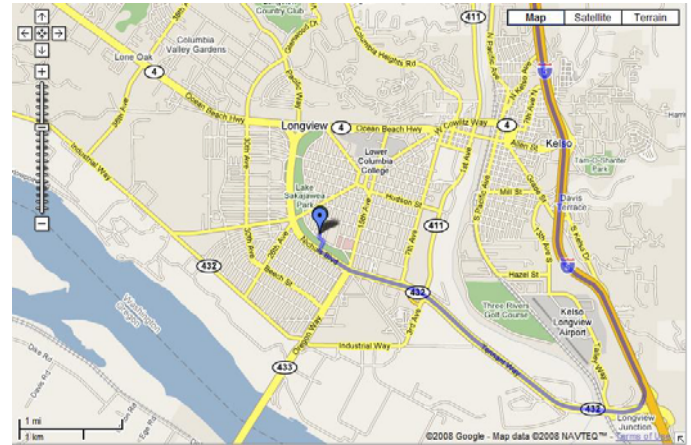
From I-5 (both North and South):

- Take exit #36, WA-432 WEST.
- Turn RIGHT at 20<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Turn LEFT at E Kesler Blvd.
- Turn RIGHT at 21<sup>st</sup> Ave.
- Parking is free either on the street or in the small parking lot in the back of the building.

[Click here for a map on Google.com](#)

### Registration

Please send your registration form to the chapter secretary before February 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to pay your 2008 dues at the same time, please indicate that on the form.



### Cascade Chapter Officers:

President:	John Gough
President-Elect:	Marge Slauson
Secretary:	Philip Campbell
Treasurer:	Mike Zittle
Member-at-Large:	William Tuttle

### Secretary Contact Info:

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