

Woodlake Property Owners Association Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

The publication of this newsletter is unofficial and does not reflect any opinion, directive, or policy of the Woodlake Property Owners Association members or Board of Directors.

The primary purpose of the newsletter is to convey information designed to assist us to reduce or prevent crime in our community.

The information presented is available through various public access sources, personal interview, or observation. Your comments as to how we can improve this effort are welcome.

1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted

<http://www.bellcountytexas.com/cscd/cscdwanted.htm>

There is no change to the suspects wanted in the last issue. If you have any information regarding those individuals, please call the Bell County Sheriff's Office at 254-933-5400, your local law enforcement, or **CRIMESTOPPERS AT 1-800-729-TIPS** (Local 526-TIPS). All calls will be kept strictly confidential.

Here is some good..., no GREAT news! While skimming: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/captured.aspx>, I was encouraged to learn that every fugitive I've headlined has been CAPTURED! I don't know to what degree publications like this have contributed to that effort but it's safe to assume that the majority of these criminals were "outed" by private citizens, just like us. Good Work!

2. Crime Update:

Copperas Cove - An armed 6' tall, black male wearing a brown shirt, blue jeans, and a dark baseball cap, robbed the Fort Hood National Bank on 210 Constitution Dr., yesterday.

Temple - The suspect, 45-year-old Michael Yakovich, was arrested and charged with last weekend's burglary of the Scott and White Thrift Store and another business across the street.

Killeen - A Michigan, 56-year-old Lewis Carl Dougherty, man has been arrested and is facing charges of sexually assaulting two young girls. The assaults occurred earlier this year at a home in the southwest part of Killeen but the arrest was made by authorities in a small Michigan town named Wyoming.

3. Solar Flares - Hoax or Holocaust?

A solar flare is defined as a sudden, rapid, and intense variation in brightness. Solar flares occur when magnetic energy that has built up in the solar atmosphere is suddenly released. Radiation is emitted across virtually the entire electromagnetic spectrum, from radio waves at the long wavelength end, through optical emission to x-rays and gamma rays at the short wavelength end. The amount of energy released is the equivalent of millions of 100-megaton hydrogen bombs exploding at the same time, yet it is less than one-tenth of the total energy emitted by the sun every second.

The first solar flare recorded on September 1, 1859. Richard C. Carrington and Richard Hodgson, were independently observing sunspots at the time, when they viewed a large flare in white light.

As the magnetic energy is being released, particles, including electrons, protons, and heavy nuclei, are heated and accelerated in the solar atmosphere.

There are typically three stages to a solar flare. Soft x-ray emission is detected in the first stage, the *precursor* stage, where the release of magnetic energy is triggered. During the second or *impulsive* stage, protons and electrons are accelerated and radio waves, hard x-rays, and gamma rays are emitted.

The gradual build up and decay of soft x-rays can be detected in the third, *decay* stage. The duration of these stages can be as short as a few seconds or as long as an hour.

Solar flares extend out to the layer of the Sun called the corona. The corona is the outermost atmosphere of the Sun, consisting of highly rarefied gas. This gas normally has a temperature of a few million degrees Kelvin. Inside a flare, the temperature typically reaches 10 or 20 million degrees Kelvin, and can be as high as 100 million degrees Kelvin. The corona is visible in soft x-rays, as in the above image.

Bright loops are located within and connect areas of strong magnetic field. Sunspots and solar flares are located within these *active regions*.

The frequency of flares coincides with the Sun's eleven year cycle. When the solar cycle is at a minimum, active regions are small and rare and few solar flares are detected. These increase in number as the Sun approaches the maximum part of its cycle. The Sun will reach its next maximum in the year 2013, give or take one year.

Specialized scientific instruments are used to detect the radiation signatures emitted during a flare. The radio and optical emissions from flares can be observed with telescopes on the Earth. Energetic emissions such as x-rays and gamma rays require telescopes located in space, since these emissions do not penetrate the Earth's atmosphere. NEVER LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN! EYE DAMAGE CAN RESULT.

<http://www.space.com/14387-biggest-solar-flare-2012-radiation-storm.html>



A powerful [sun](#) storm associated with the second biggest solar flare of the current 11-year sun cycle— collided with the Earth last March (on or about the 8th) with far fewer consequences than the sun storm that hit in 1859. If a similar sun storm were to occur in the current day, modern life could come to a standstill.

A potentially severe geomagnetic storm could disrupt power grids, radio communications, and GPS as well as spark dazzling auroras. (Related: "[Biggest Solar Storm in Eight Years Now Pummeling Earth.](#)")

According to Tom Bogdan, director of the U.S. Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Co, "The sun began waking up last year and even though the upcoming solar maximum may see a record low in the overall amount of activity, the individual events could be very powerful".

In fact, the biggest solar storm on record — the 1859 blast — happened during a [solar](#) maximum about the same size as the one we're entering. Then the storm was strong enough to shut-down whole telegraph networks causing telegraph line to spark and in one case, starting a fire. If something similar happened today, the world's high-tech infrastructure could grind to a halt and the advanced technologies that underlie virtually every aspect of our lives. (See [Solar Megastorm Could Cripple Satellites for a Decade.](#))

Of particular concern are disruptions to global positioning systems (GPS), which have become ubiquitous in cell phones, airplanes, and automobiles. In addition, satellite communications — also essential to many daily activities — would be at risk from solar storms.

However, the big fear is what might happen to the electrical grid, since power surges caused by solar particles could blow out giant transformers. Such transformers can take a long time to replace, especially if hundreds are destroyed at once. The U.S. is particularly vulnerable, because the power infrastructure is highly interconnected, so failures could easily cascade like chains of dominoes.

The "Halloween storms" of 2003, for instance, interfered with satellite communications, produced a brief power outage in Sweden, and lighted up the skies with ghostly auroras as far south as Florida and Texas. (See [Nightmare' Star Flares Dim Odds for Alien Life?](#))



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The most damaging emissions from big storms travel slowly enough to be detected by sun-watching satellites well before the particles strike Earth giving us about 20 hours to determine what actions need to be taken.

Power companies could protect valuable transformers by taking them offline before the storm strikes. That would produce local blackouts, but they wouldn't last for long.

"The good news is that these storms tend to pass after a couple of hours," Bogdan added. (*Solar Storms Are 'Sandblasting' the Moon, NASA Study Hints.*)

Expect more intense solar blasts on the sun during 2013; some of them will no doubt be directed toward Earth.

I'm not irrational enough to suggest that we should be prepared for any and every emergency situation. I do advocate for hoping for the best and preparing for the worst.

Of the multitude of articles and blogs concerning survival I'm using a very comprehensive Solar Storm Disaster Preparedness Plan by James A. Marusek at: <http://www.breadandbutter-science.com/>

I've summarized parts of the plan, much is duplicated from previous postings but, I recommend opening and printing a copy for yourself and make some effort to prepare for likely emergencies.

Recommended Actions Immediately Prior to Massive Solar Storm:

1. Obtain **Extra Batteries** for flashlights and radios.
2. Fill your vehicles and your spare gas cans; the majority of service stations need electricity to pump **Gasoline**.
3. Some type of **Cooking Fuel** for your outdoor grill; wood or propane, matches and lighter fluid will be needed.
4. Access to **Prescription Medicine** will be very limited during blackouts because most pharmacies are automated. Those who have chronic conditions that require regular refilling of prescriptions should 3-month supply of medicine in preparation for long periods of blackout.
5. A major electrical blackout will deprive access to **Liquid Cash**. Credit card processing, bank transactions, ATM machine withdrawals, electronic banking, check validation, payroll disbursement and even cash registers are dependent on the availability of electrical power. The loss of key satellites that form part of the conduit for transmitting financial data compounds the problem. Obtain funds in the form of cash or traveler's checks.
6. The loss of electricity may affect city **Water** pumps and treatment plants that supply water for drinking, hygiene, and, flushing toilets. Store as much water as possible prior to the onset of the geomagnetic storm. The least expensive water is right from the kitchen tap. Fill up clean kitchen containers, buckets, and bathtub. Bathtub water can be used to flush toilets and for washing needs. You should have a 3-day supply - one gallon of water per person per day.
7. Additionally, obtain only non-scented regular liquid **Bleach** (such as Clorox) to disinfect water.
8. Ensure you have adequate supplies of **Food** available that does not require refrigeration or cooking (e.g. breads, peanut butter, jams, small tins of tuna fish etc.).
9. If you have stocks of canned foods, ensure that you have a mechanical **Can Opener**.
10. Battery powered or hand crank **Radios** are a vital communication/informational link during a major blackout.
11. All types of **Communications**, cell phones, radio transceivers, and T.V. may be down for awhile. Call family and friends beforehand and let them know where you are and your plans. A corded telephone that doesn't require electricity may be used as an emergency backup.

12. Charge all **Rechargeable Batteries** (e.g. cell phones, portable computers) that you might need during a blackout.

13. Don't forget to **Disconnect Power** from all home electronics that can be damaged by induced voltage spikes. Use voltage line conditioners/regulators (surge protectors).

14. Ensure your **Backup Generator** is fully fueled and operational. Always check the oil level and test run it at least once per month.

15. Unless restricted by your doctor, anyone over age 35 should take **Aspirin** during the first week following a solar storm. About 50 years of medical research has shown that geomagnetic storms directly correlate with an increase in heart attacks and strokes especially among the elderly.

16. Strong plastic **Buckets** or pails can be very useful to haul water and for sanitation in the event an electrical blackout affects access to clean drinking water or renders your aerobic septic system inoperative.

17. **Vitamins** - During a long duration blackout, access to the wide range of foods may become fairly restricted. Your diet may become stressed and deficient in important vitamins and minerals.

18. Don't wait until the lights go out to hope you have enough **Toilet Paper!** In the '70's, the mere rumor of a toilet paper shortage caused a run on the stores. Late-comers passed-out because the toilet paper was gone. Stock up on supplies before the crisis hits. Never flush anything down a toilet that isn't toilet paper - if it comes to that, think of other means of disposing of the waste paper and feminine hygiene products.

19. Pick up a few good **Reading Books** for you and your children. Visit a nearby library or bookstore. I recommend completing your library with a survival manual.

20. If you have **Pets**, you might want to ensure that you have adequate supplies of pet food available.

4. On The Horizon - Kudos to those who attended the 29th annual National Night Out (our 3rd event) for your interest in crime prevention and your support for the, just recently certified, Sparta Volunteer Fire Department -Congratulations SVFD! Thank you for your service!

A special thanks goes to Sparta Volunteer Fire Department, President Pat Baer and her staff for taking the time to attend; we can never have too close a bond with our volunteer fire fighters.

Teamwork is an essential for any organization to succeed and thanks to Tom, Rey and Bill, this year's event was, well..., except my forgetting to bring "Off - Deep Woods Repellant" ... flawless! Robin and Theresa Reese are to thank for recruiting Mike and Angela Mahler of "Wild Horses", to whom we are grateful for the musical entertainment. To our surprise and enjoyment, "Wild Horses" was joined by their young aspiring protégé, Meagan Dae. Megan, Robin and Theresa's niece and a high school Senior, is well on her way of becoming an artist in her own right.

Thanks to Lizette B., her patience and encouragement helped push me through meeting all your expectations and Glenda Presley with serving the BBQ sandwiches from Al's Barn, Temple.

Last but not least, we'd like to thank Deputy Sgt. De LaRosa. for his attendance. Our good relations and communications is paramount to having a strong neighborhood watch program.

As a result of your conscientious efforts to submit the surveys available, the next edition of the WPOA Neighborhood Watch News Letter will feature a glossary of definitions and local crime updates to include how to defend yourself against identity theft.

Don't wait until the next National Night Out to get involved with our Neighborhood Watch. We are always interested in ways to improve our crime prevention efforts.