



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS Richmond

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RNA MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT WAVERLY HEIGHTS CHURCH | 3300 SE WOODWARD ST | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

## Diesel Town Hall Brings SE Neighbors Together for Change

By Susan Beal

Portland Neighbors Addressing Diesel Pollution, a coalition of environmental activists, neighborhood associations, and civic and environmental leaders, hosted an information-packed Diesel Town Hall forum on Sept. 26 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in the Brooklyn neighborhood. The action group originally focused primarily on the massive Brooklyn Yards railroad complex, but grew in partnership with more than a dozen other neighborhoods to raise awareness of diesel pollution around freeways, industry, and schools all over the city.

Principal Beven Byrnes of Bridges Middle School opened the two-hour session with an insightful overview of the problem. According to a 2015 EPA study, Portland ranks as the worst city in the U.S. for respiratory distress from air pollution, and in the worst 1% of counties for airborne diesel particulates. She added, “These particulates are so tiny that they pass right through alveoli in our lungs and reach vital organs and the brain. Portland’s airshed contains a combination of heavy metals and toxic chemicals, including 49 that are carcinogenic. Brooklyn and adjacent neighborhoods in southeast Portland are seriously impacted because of the Brooklyn Rail Yard. But the problem does not stop there—diesel pollution is a serious city-wide health issue.”

Dr. Patrick O’Herron of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility spoke next, pointing out that there is no truly safe level of diesel pollution, and that California’s standards are 33 times stronger than our state’s. One continuing issue is that older “dirty diesel” trucks, trains, and school buses that can no longer pass emissions in other states are dumped here in Oregon, where they are used for years. In contrast, newer diesel engines (post-2007) can be 95-99% cleaner, a staggering difference in air pollution levels.

Dr. Erica Moseson, a pulmonary specialist who’s also *Diesel, continued on page 2.*

## Richmond Ready: Team Up with Your Neighbors for Emergency Preparedness

By Susan Beal

Whether you know every neighbor on your block, or are newer to Richmond and just starting to meet folks who live nearby, creating a stronger community now can make all the difference in an emergency situation. Setting up your own kit with water, food, and supplies for your family or household is an essential first step. Then, connecting with neighbors to share strengths and resources helps everyone not just survive a natural disaster, but stay resilient in the days and weeks of recovery afterward. Richmond Ready has put together free emergency planning resources and information to help with every step of the way – all listed at the end of the article!

Fall is a great time to host a potluck, game night, or get-together with neighbors, and catching up (or getting to know one another better) sharing a meal or playing games can make a daunting task like emergency planning much easier. Choose a date and reach out to neighbors to invite them over, or meet at a community space like a church, D Street Village common rooms, or Southeast Uplift. Spend some time getting to know each other – or even playing a game of Prep Bingo to break the ice! – rather than immediately diving into the nuts and bolts of emergency and disaster plans, which can be stressful and overwhelming topics.

After you’ve had a chance to connect with neighbors, draw a simple diagram of the homes on your block, residents of your building, or a larger area to add information as you go. Start with a simple list of everyone’s address, phone, and email for planning (including if possible an emergency contact), and then map your neighborhood with the resources different neighbors may have. Who knows first aid or has a medical background? What about NET (neighborhood emergency team) training, ham radio experience, or providing childcare? Sharing skills like these lightens the load for everyone, and can help make a fright- *Emergency, continued on page 3.*

*Diesel, continued from page 1.*

with OPR, explained that since diesel particles circulate almost instantly through the bloodstream all over the body, exposure is linked to illnesses as varied as cancer, heart disease, ALS, and dementia. She also offered significant medical evidence of the impact: when Washington state implemented diesel reduction standards, studies showed that children missed fewer school days, and in California, children's lungs grew measurably stronger and healthier after diesel laws there were strengthened.

Mark Riskedahl of Northwest Environmental Defense Center explained that the developing Cleaner Air Oregon reforms will strengthen our previous inconsistent and under-regulated state air quality approach, offering a more powerful focus on protecting residents' health. Some solutions he offered were to prioritize phasing out older engines, limit construction near schools and hospitals, incentivize clean electric transit, and demand that clean diesel be required in public contracts.

Principal Byrnes then introduced the panel: Senator Kathleen Taylor (D-21), Rep. Rob Nosse (D-42), Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran, Metro President-Elect Lynn Peterson, Metro Councilor Bob Stacy, and Portland City Council candidate JoAnn Hardesty, representing our community at the city, county, regional, and state levels. Each panelist brought their passion and perspective to the issue, offering important public policy context and solutions to address the scientific and environmental impacts already discussed.

Sen. Taylor and Rep. Nosse described the ongoing difficulty of finding enough statewide votes to pass meaningful environmental laws, but shared that their colleagues Rep. Karin Power (D-41) and House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-44) will be prioritizing air quality issues in the next session and introducing a robust diesel bill. They asked for concerned citizens to come to Salem and testify at hearings, in hopes that seeing this kind of passion and commitment will add to the momentum and bring other lawmakers from around the state on board.

Commissioner Meieran, an emergency room doctor, said the vast majority of the diesel problem is solvable using technology we already have and a preventative approach, sharing some of Multnomah County's public health efforts. Ms. Hardesty, who served on the Cleaner Air task force and has led the Portland NAACP, agreed that community health was a huge priority, emphasizing that 70% of those affected by bad air quality are communities of color. She advocated for better resources for East Portland and other under-served neighborhoods through important equity efforts like the Portland Clean Energy Fund (Measure 26-201 on the November ballot).

Metro President Peterson strongly agreed with Ms. Hardesty on the need for a racial justice lens in environmental reform, saying minority contractors have been

under-represented for years in public projects, and the disparity is immense. Working to phase out older, dirty diesel engines, while not disproportionately penalizing immigrants and people of color who may not have the capital to replace them, is a crucial goal now that our economy is booming and many construction projects are underway. She and Councilor Stacy said that Metro is tracking environmental data, and hoped that PBOT, DEQ, and other under-staffed agencies can use fresh approaches to improve air quality, like responsive mobile monitors and incorporating citizen-generated efforts.

In that collaborative spirit, HAND board chair Chris Eykamp shared a display of the Sensorbot DIY monitoring system he's created, which anyone can build very affordably in a few hours. The device accurately tracks air quality data and uploads it to a central server. His website (in Resources) includes the kit materials, plans, and details to build your own.

The presenters finished the evening with a unified call to take action: email and call elected officials, and show that there is power in numbers, as the next two years are a crucial window to pass meaningful statewide reform. Principal Byrnes added, "The Local Clean Diesel Procurement Standards are currently under consideration in Portland, and we'll need all hands on deck to testify at city and county hearings." The vote to substantially improve local diesel requirements could come as soon as December 2018.

Please join the mailing list and get involved at [brooklyn-neighborhood.org/stopping-diesel-pollution/](http://brooklyn-neighborhood.org/stopping-diesel-pollution/)

#### More Resources:

Cascadia Times: [times.org/diesel-pollution](http://times.org/diesel-pollution)

Portland Clean Air: [portlandcleanair.org](http://portlandcleanair.org)

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility: [oregonpsr.org](http://oregonpsr.org)

Oregon Environmental Council: [oeconline.org](http://oeconline.org)

Build your own Sensorbot: [sensorbot.org](http://sensorbot.org)



Senator Kathleen Taylor, Representative Rob Nosse and County Commissioner Sharon Meieran

Emergency, continued from page 1.

ening or unpredictable situation much easier to deal with.

Make notes of who has supplies they may be able to share like camping stoves and tents, first aid essentials, and crowbars, chainsaws, or other useful tools. Some folks may have the resources to store extra water and food, or be able to assist neighbors in stocking their own emergency kits, securing valuables and important documents like passports, and packing “go bags” with essentials in case of evacuation. The goal is always to care for your own family or household first, then reach out to help others in need.

If you or someone in your neighbor group has a drinking-water grade hose and the necessary bleach ratios for safely filling water barrels or containers, this can be a great way to train and assist neighbors in stocking their own emergency kits, and then in turn helping others. Setting up a simple twin-toilet sanitation system with two 5-gallon buckets is another important step to take, and it's easy to show neighbors that basic set-up as well.

Mark the locations of natural gas or propane tanks, and how to turn them off, as well as water pipes. Make sure everyone who uses a tank-style water heater has it securely strapped down, as well as knowing how to access the clean water inside when it's needed most.

Choose a neighborhood gathering site, away from large trees or other hazards, and mark that clearly on your map. If elderly neighbors, those with young children, or other health or mobility issues could need extra support or care, note that as well.

After the gathering, stay in touch—take a walk together, go out for coffee, plan a group yard sale, and host another get-together. Good neighbors and a community that's connected and prepared will be our best allies in an emergency situation!

Visit Richmond Ready online to find resources on how to set up your kit and water storage, map your neighborhood, and plan your own get-together. Stay tuned for upcoming events and more emergency planning help over the next few months by visiting the Richmond Ready pages on the Richmond Neighborhood Association website, following this newsletter series, joining the RNA mailing list, and coming to a monthly RNA meeting.

PREP (Planning for Resilience and Emergency Preparedness) offers free printable Neighborhood Host Kits, contact sheets, resource handouts, and even a Prep Bingo game to kick off your gathering: [preporegon.org](http://preporegon.org)

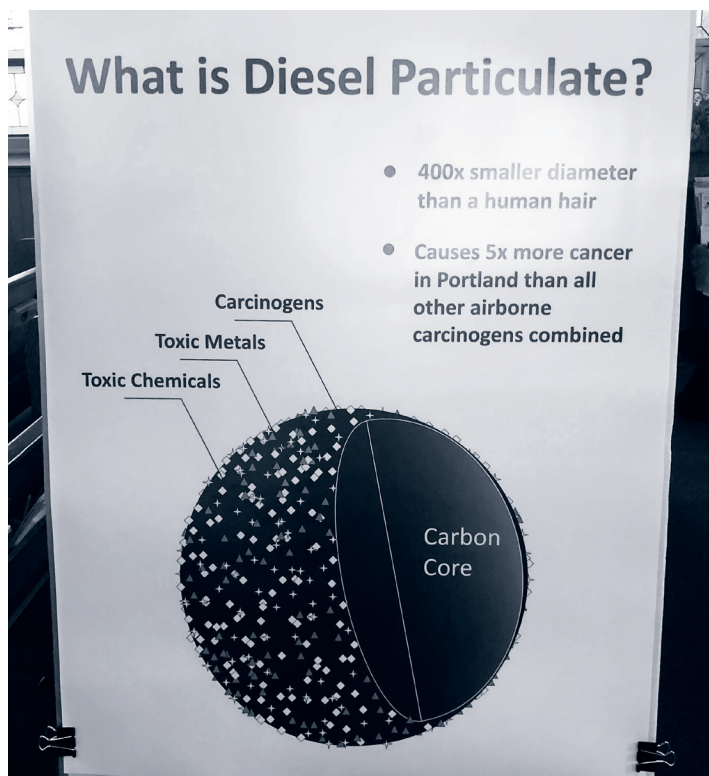
Visit Richmond Ready's web page to find MANY more resources.

**Water Storage:**

[richmondpx.org/water](http://richmondpx.org/water)

**Setting up a Kit:**

[richmondpx.org/kits-stay-kitgo-kit](http://richmondpx.org/kits-stay-kitgo-kit)



Diesel Particulate Chart



Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations around East Portland.

**WEBSITE**

Visit your official Richmond Neighborhood Association website for a copy of this newsletter and much more at [richmondpx.org](http://richmondpx.org)

**OFFICE OF CIVIC LIFE CONTACT INFO**

**OCCL Crime Prevention Program**  
 Marianna Lomanto, **503-823-3432**  
[marianna.lomanto@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:marianna.lomanto@portlandoregon.gov)

Teri Poppino, **503-823-0540**  
[teri.poppino@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:teri.poppino@portlandoregon.gov)

Neighbors may read about crime prevention techniques + advice and/or contact us directly at:  
[portlandoregon.gov/civic/28395](http://portlandoregon.gov/civic/28395)

**POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION CONTACT INFO**

**East Precinct, East of SE Cesar Chavez**  
 Neighborhood Response Team Officer  
 Ryan Mele, **503-823-4800** (East Precinct Desk)

Neighborhood Response Team Officer  
 Andrew Hearst, **503-823-4800** (East Precinct Desk),  
[andrew.hearst@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:andrew.hearst@portlandoregon.gov)

**Central Precinct, West of SE Cesar Chavez**  
 Officer Shaun Sahli, **503-823-0076** (Desk phone)

**Transient Camp Outreach Car**  
 Officer Ryan Engweiler, **503-823-0097**  
 (Central Precinct Desk)

Officer Tim Engstrom, **503-823-0097**  
 (Central Precinct Desk)

**Portland Problem Solving Resources/Trainings**  
[portlandoregon.gov/civic/59598](http://portlandoregon.gov/civic/59598)

**CALENDAR**

**November RNA Meeting**  
 Monday, November 12, 2018, 7:00–9:00 pm  
 Waverly Heights Church (basement)  
 3300 SE Woodward Street

**Let all your neighbors know about your business.**



Place an ad in the Richmond Neighborhood News. Reach 5,600 homes and businesses.

Contact Rob Mumford at [richmondnasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:richmondnasecretary@gmail.com)

**Secure your home against seismic damage.**



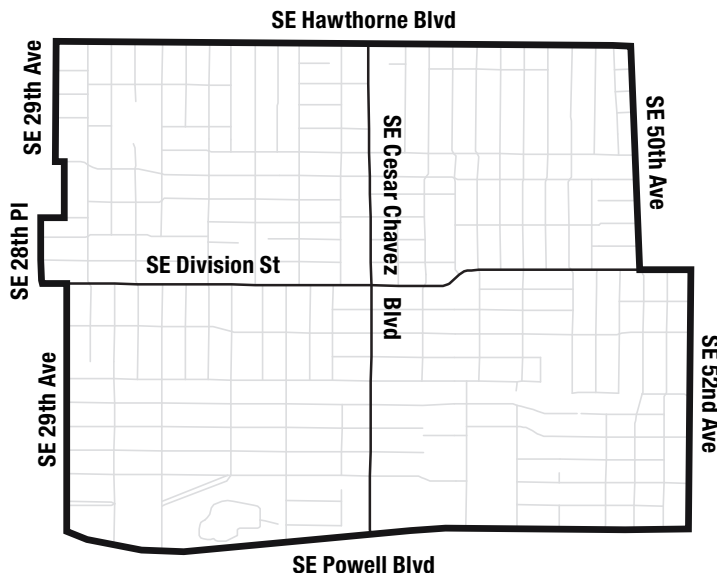
NW Seismic specializes in retrofitting homes to exceed earthquake insurance requirements.

Cracked or crumbling foundation?  
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Schedule a free evaluation today  
 503-741-8311  
[nwseismic.com](http://nwseismic.com)

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**Boundaries**



**RNA Board**

**Chair:** Matt Otis  
**Vice Chair:** Kat West  
**Treasurer:** Jonathan King  
**Secretary:** Rob Mumford  
**Land Use Chair:** Open  
**SEUL RNA Representative:** Brian Hochhalter

**Local Business Liaison:** Chrystal Brim  
**Richmond Ready Liaison:** Susan Beal  
**At Large:** Allen Field, Jessica Gillard, Brendon Haggerty, Sharon Hatch, Erik Matthews, Lauren Scher