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2015 SEATTLE DISASTER RELIEF TRIALS

A DISASTER DRILL IN THE FORM OF A CARGO BIKE COMPETITION SIMULATING A DAY 3 SUPPLY RUN.

Seattle, WA. September 12, 2015 - Seattle's Disaster Relief Trials will take place Saturday, September 12th, 2015 and will run from 11:00AM to 5:00PM, starting from Garfield Playfield in Seattle's Central District. This year, the Seattle DRT will be held in partnership with the inaugural Seattle Summer Parkways, Familybike Seattle, Seattle's Family and Cargo Biking enthusiasts, Seattle Emergency and P-Patch Hubs and the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS).

More than 30 Seattle cargo cyclists will be riding a 30 mile course around Seattle, practicing what they can do if a major disaster, like a large earthquake, strikes. Because of debris and infrastructure damage, cars could be useless, but bikes and their riders could be lifesavers.

"Just riding a bike as my mode of transportation I kind of feel like a hero, but bringing life-saving supplies is going to make everyone today feel like a hero." – Madi Carlson, Seattle DRT 2013 participant

People with cargo bicycles were critical during Hurricane Sandy, getting food to trapped residents and transporting medics to places vehicles couldn't reach. The Seattle cargo biking ride participants will be honing their disaster relief collaboration skills by hauling water, food, blankets and medicine (simulated) over a 30 mile course, stopping at six checkpoints to perform challenges such as navigating without electronics, getting past a one meter high obstacle, a water hazard, an off-road section and others. The idea is they'll be ready to help if the worst-case scenario hits.

"Bicycles can ride around quicker. Riders can do damage assessment, deliver materials, and deliver messages in a quicker way." - Tracy Connelly, Seattle Emergency Management

The 2015 Disaster Relief Trials builds and extends the scope of the 2013 event by bringing together cargo bikers, radio operators and neighborhood Emergency and P-Patch HUB volunteers for a city-scale disaster simulation. New this year:

1. Including the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS) citizen responders. While cargo bikers can move stuff, they do not have communication capabilities. Seattle ACS volunteers currently provide the City of Seattle with emergency communication HAM radio support during times when the telecom networks fail. In a real emergency, the Seattle ACS volunteers could provide the communication capabilities that would direct the activities of the cargo bikers.
2. Including the Seattle emergency and P-Patch HUB citizen volunteer organizations. Emergency and P-Patch HUBs provide neighborhood bases of operations for emergency relief operations. As meeting points, they provide predetermined locations that cargo bikers and HAM radio operators can meet up and begin providing logistics for emergency relief supplies. HUB volunteers practice coordinating the information flow necessary for their community.
3. Adopting the full Cascadia Disaster Relief Trails format, including up to 100 pound loads, a 30 mile alleycat bike race, no electronic navigation or communication allowed, no predetermined route and challenges at checkpoints.
4. More inclusive. eAssist and more citizen classes so many more people can participate at the level they wish.

2015 Sponsors and Partners: Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch Gardening Program, G&O Family Cyclery, Ride Bicycles, 20/20 Cycle, Electric Lady, SeattleBikeBlog.com, Bikeworks, Cyclefab LLC (Haulin' Colin), Seattle Neighborhood Greenways, Cascade Bicycle Club, Shirley Savel (No Spandex Required blog), Medical Reserve Corps, Madison Park Community Council, Seattle ACS, Seattle Office of Emergency Management, The Bikery, Rainier Beach Community Club, Habitat for Humanity, Babywearing International, Seattle Summer Parkways

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