



ACARC President John Lathrop and Alcoa PR Superintendent Jens Lee

With the common thread of safety and volunteerism between them, the Alcoa Wenatchee Works has given a grant to the Apple City Amateur Radio Club of Wenatchee for the purchase of fall restraint equipment. With a long history of stepping up in emergencies, Amateur Radio helps in critical times to get information through. The Alcoa Wenatchee Works knows firsthand what an impact that especially wildfires can have. When the state's largest wildfire around Pateros hit so many last summer; amateur radio stepped in to help. With power lines and phone service down, including the last cell tower, the request was made to use the local amateur repeater for necessary radio traffic. A call also went out for volunteers and the local W7TD group had members step up to help handle the radio traffic. As amateurs, they pay for the repeaters, mobiles and portable equipment out of their own pockets and can never accept any payment for their services or the use of their gear. The fall restraint gear that will be purchased with Alcoa's grant will be used by club members to assist new hams in setting up their stations as well as more senior hams who should no longer be climbing their towers. Many thanks go out to Alcoa.