

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

Evidence of the last great subduction zone earthquake can be seen at Youngs Bay near Astoria.

NEWS RELEASE: March 31, 2010

Governor declares April Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month

Have you practiced your drop, cover, and hold drill lately? Do you know what to do at the coast if the ground starts to shake?

Portland, Oregon: Governor Ted Kulongoski has proclaimed April to be Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month, saying in the proclamation that Oregon has taken many steps during the past two decades to help make the citizens of the state safer from future earthquakes (see attached proclamation).

“Over the last few months, from Samoa to Haiti to Chile, we’ve seen how dangerous earthquakes and tsunamis can be when you are not prepared,” said Vicki McConnell, State Geologist. “DOGAMI, Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) and other State Agencies are working on a number of initiatives that will help save lives in the event of an earthquake or tsunami, including enhanced and updated tsunami hazard mapping at the coast, as well as a multi-year outreach and education program in partnership with coastal communities on earthquake and tsunami preparedness.”

Throughout Oregon, schools will be practicing state mandated drop, cover, and hold drills or tsunami evacuation drills and local communities will be holding disaster preparedness meetings. State agencies and private businesses will also be reviewing disaster response plans and practicing earthquake safety drills.

State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo noted that, “Earlier this year, Oregon took a step in the right direction by distributing \$7.5 million in Seismic Rehabilitation Grants to a number of education and emergency services buildings, including 12 public school buildings from Beaverton to Lakeview.”

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April is a great time to practice *Drop, Cover and Hold* as part of your family emergency plan. It's also a good time to prepare or update your emergency kit. For more information on earthquake and tsunami preparedness, go online to OregonGeology.org.

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OEM administers the State's Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program which will provide funds through year 2032 to seismically strengthen *at risk* public schools and emergency service buildings identified in a 2007 DOGAMI study.

See State Schools Superintendent Castillo remarks regarding earthquake awareness at:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/news/announcements/announcement.aspx?=5645>

DOGAMI is working with The Oregon Public Utilities Commission and the Oregon Department of Energy to evaluate the risks to critical energy infrastructure, including tank farms, marine oil terminals, and fuel, LNG, natural gas and power transmission systems, along the Willamette River in northwest Portland.

An ongoing FEMA funded multi-hazard mapping program in Coos County, using state-of-the-art laser based terrain mapping (lidar) will include assessments of earthquake and tsunami hazards.

These and many other earthquake and tsunami related preparedness and mitigation programs are discussed in the newest issue of the popular *Cascadia magazine*. Oregon's earthquake risk and resiliency takes center stage in the issue that can be downloaded for free at: <http://www.OregonGeology.org>

Local events around the State include:

The Seismological Society of America annual conference at the waterfront Marriott Hotel in Portland, April 20-23, which includes a town hall meeting Wednesday, April 21 at 6:30 PM entitled: *The Big One Is Coming, what are you going to do about it?*

The Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience will host long term post-disaster recovery workshops for four south coast counties that will examine what local governments need to be aware of in planning for a catastrophic earthquake and/or tsunami.

Town hall discussions of tsunamis at the Oregon coast will take place in Oceanside-April 2, Manzanita-April 17, and Bandon-April 29th.

The mission of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.

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STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- WHEREAS:** Oregon suffered considerable damage from two moderate earthquake events in 1993 and a distant tsunami from Alaska in 1964; and
- WHEREAS:** Scientific evidence indicates that the State of Oregon is at risk for much larger and potentially more damaging earthquakes and tsunamis; and
- WHEREAS:** A major earthquake associated with the Cascadia Subduction Zone is expected to generate strong ground shaking and a destructive tsunami, in which the most recent event of this type occurred on January 26, 1700 and will be similar to the event that occurred in the Indian Ocean off of the coast of Sumatra on December 26, 2004; and
- WHEREAS:** Oregon enacted laws in 1995 and 2001 that require schools, state and local agencies, and large private employers to instruct and drill students and employees on emergency procedures such as those related to earthquakes and tsunami; and
- WHEREAS:** Seismic strengthening of existing buildings and public education on local tsunami evacuation is strongly encouraged to further reduce loss of life and property damage; and
- WHEREAS:** Oregon enacted laws in 2001 that require schools and emergency facilities to meet seismic life safety standards, and in 2002 enacted laws that will provide state bond funds to help mitigate high risk schools and emergency facilities; and
- WHEREAS:** Emergency management agencies will highlight these preparedness and mitigation procedures and provide increased earthquake and tsunami information to Oregon residents and visitors in April.

**NOW,
THEREFORE:** I, Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **April 2010** to be

EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI AWARENESS MONTH

In Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, March 17, 2010.



Theodore R. Kulongoski
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Kate Brown
Kate Brown, Secretary of State