

# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist



NEWS RELEASE: March 21, 2012

## Tsunami Evacuation Drills at the Oregon coast beginning this weekend!

Portland, Oregon: As part of the ongoing Tsunami Outreach Oregon education and awareness program managed by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), several coastal communities will be holding tsunami evacuation drills in the next few months.

The coastal communities of Cape Meares, Oceanside, and Netarts will be holding a voluntary Tsunami Evacuation Drill Saturday, March 24, beginning at 10 AM. For more information on this drill, please contact Tillamook Bay region Tsunami Outreach Coordinators Jerry Rilette at (503) 307-5734 or Jeannell Wyntergreen at (503) 312-9316.

Elsewhere in Tillamook County, the Cities of Garibaldi and Bay City will be holding a voluntary Tsunami Evacuation Drill Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, and the City of Tillamook will hold a voluntary Tsunami Evacuation Drill for the west side of the City on Wednesday, May 23rd.

In Coos County, the Cities of Coos Bay, North Bend, and the surrounding communities including Barview, Charleston, and nearby unincorporated areas will hold their voluntary Tsunami Evacuation Drill on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information on this drill contact Coos Bay region Tsunami Outreach Coordinators Mikel Chavez at (503) 936-7767 or Lindsey Bishop at (971) 221-2508.

These drills follow the recent release by DOGAMI of several new tsunami inundation maps and tsunami evacuation brochures for these communities at risk from earthquake and tsunami hazards along the Oregon coast.

The tsunami evacuation drills will be an opportunity for residents, visitors, and businesses to participate in a mock tsunami evacuation. This event will familiarize residents and visitors with the local tsunami warning system and provide an organized event so they can practice walking local tsunami evacuation routes that lead to high ground.

This weekend in Cape Meares, Oceanside, and Netarts, the voluntary Tsunami Evacuation Drill will begin when the emergency sirens and fire department sirens are activated at 10 AM. Prior to the drill, there will also be a test of the Tillamook County 9-1-1 emergency notification system for selected portions of these communities. This call will occur at 9 AM and will remind the residents of the 10 AM evacuation drill about to take place in their area.

"One year after the March 11, 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, Japan is still working through their recovery and we in Oregon are still considering our options for

*DOGAMI's mission is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.*

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preparing for our local Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami,” said Vicki McConnell, State Geologist. “We at DOGAMI will continue to create state-of-the-art tsunami inundation zone maps, work with local community officials to design and produce effective tsunami evacuation brochures, and help build a Culture of Preparedness to make Oregon safer where we work, live and play.”

The tsunami evacuation drills are a collaborative effort with many partners, led by local fire and police departments, county and city emergency management, tribes, Community Emergency Response Teams, Red Cross, Search and Rescue, HAM radio operators, Salvation Army, Coast Guard, Oregon Emergency Management, and the many volunteers that have helped make the Tsunami Outreach Oregon program successful in many communities.

The voluntary tsunami evacuation drills are part of the Tsunami Outreach Oregon program that began in 2010 with a goal of enhancing earthquake and tsunami readiness efforts in as many Oregon coastal communities as possible over a four year period, while building sustainable, grass roots volunteer efforts revolving around disaster preparedness. The program has reached dozens of communities and school districts and will continue through 2014.

You can find more information on the Tsunami Outreach Oregon education program at <http://OregonTsunami.org>

### Contact Information:

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The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is an independent agency of the State and has a broad responsibility in developing an understanding of the state’s geologic resources and natural hazards. The Department then makes this information available to communities and individuals to help inform and reduce the risks from natural hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. The Department assists in the formulation of state policy where an understanding of geologic materials, geologic resources, processes, and hazards is key to decision-making. The Department is also the lead state regulatory agency for mining, oil, gas and geothermal exploration, production and reclamation.

Learn more about Oregon's geology online: <http://www.OregonGeology.org>

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