

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist



NEWS RELEASE: May 29, 2013

Tsunami evacuation drills at the coast this week

Florence and Dunes City to conduct drills this Thursday at 10am, coastal Douglas and Coos counties on Friday at 10am

Portland, Oregon: Eight coastal communities will hold voluntary tsunami evacuation drills this week. Residents and visitors will “scout their route” to high ground using new evacuation maps recently published by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). All eight communities, like so many on Oregon’s coast, are at risk from earthquake and tsunami hazards.

Drill participants should join their neighbors and local businesses in taking along a “grab and go” bag of emergency supplies, following evacuation routes on the new maps, and timing how long it takes to *walk* to the nearest assembly area, since many roads and bridges will be impassable to cars after a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake.

Drill details:

Thursday, May 30 at 10am

Coastal Lane County (Florence and Dunes City)

More info: Frank Nulty, Florence CERT, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue: (541) 999-8234

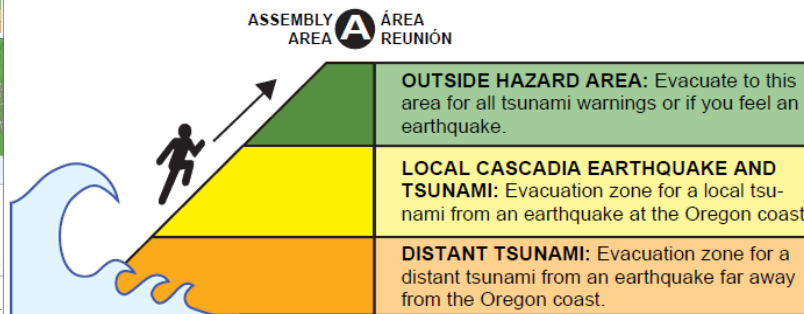
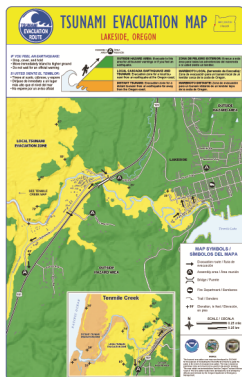
Friday, May 31 at 10am

Coastal Douglas County (Reedsport, Gardiner, Winchester Bay)

More info: Terry Plotz, DOGAMI outreach coordinator, (503) 307-5734

Coastal northern Coos County (Lakeside, Hauser, North Bay)

More info: Glenda Hales, Coos County Emergency Manager, (541) 404-5385



Example (at left) of an evacuation map. Instructions (at right) for how to understand the map’s hazard zones and how to respond differently in a distant versus a local tsunami. Evacuate from yellow and orange areas to green area.

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

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“Two years after the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, Japan is still working through their recovery and we in Oregon are still preparing for our local Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami,” said Vicki McConnell, State Geologist. “We at DOGAMI have created state-of-the-art tsunami inundation zone maps, worked with local community officials to design and produce effective tsunami evacuation brochures, and helped build a culture of preparedness to make Oregon safer where we work, live and play.”

Tsunami evacuation drills on the Oregon coast 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, ham radio operators, US Coast Guard, Oregon Emergency Management, and the many volunteers who have helped make the Tsunami Outreach Oregon program successful.

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, grassroots volunteer efforts revolving around disaster preparedness. The program has reached dozens of communities and school districts.

You can find more information on Tsunami Outreach Oregon, including the new evacuation brochures, at <http://www.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.

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