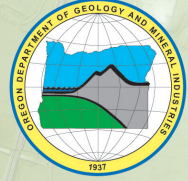


OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

VICKI S. MCCONNELL, STATE GEOLOGIST



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Media Contact

Ali Ryan, Earth Science Information Officer
Office: 971-673-0628 Cell: 503-347-5898
alison.ryan@state.or.us

Lessons of preparedness from historic earthquake

January 26 marks the 314th anniversary of the last great Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, and a great time to prepare

Portland Ore. – On the anniversary of Oregon's last devastating earthquake, spend time preparing for the next Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake – which could strike anytime.

At 9 p.m. on January 26, 1700, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck, causing untold devastation to the Pacific Northwest coast and the Native American Tribal communities that made the coast their home. The earthquake, centered about 75 miles offshore, ruptured along the 600-mile fault that runs from southern British Columbia to Northern California.

Scientific research in Oregon, Washington and Japan indicates that while the 1700 earthquake is the most recent, it certainly won't be the last. The destruction caused in Japan in 2011 by the similar magnitude 9.0 earthquake and the tsunami it generated provides a chilling parallel to what could happen here in Oregon.

"With a geologic record of great offshore earthquakes that goes back at least 10,000 years, we know they occur about every 300 to 600 years," says Ian Madin, chief scientist with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). "It is a matter of when, not if, the next one will strike."

This January 26, Oregonians can take time to prepare their families and homes:

- Evaluate your home and plan to correct problems. Look for hazards, such as unsecured shelves and fixture, and weaknesses such as inadequate foundations.
- Create a family disaster plan. Plan how you'll communicate and reconnect after an earthquake.
- Prepare disaster kits. Create kits for office, car and home. The home kit should include everything you need, including food, water, and medical supplies, for 2-3 weeks of self-sufficiency.
- Practice drop, cover, and hold on.
- Explore preparedness resources from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management and the American Red Cross.
- If you live on the coast, review your [tsunami evacuation route](#).

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

Administrative Offices
800 NE Oregon St.
#28, Ste. 965
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: (971) 673-1555
Fax: (971) 673-1562

Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation Program
229 Broadalbin St. SW
Albany, OR 97321
Phone: (541) 967-2039
Fax: (541) 967-2075
info@mlrr.oregongeology.com
Gary W. Lynch,
Assistant Director

Coastal Field Office
313 SW 2nd, Ste. D
Newport, OR 97365
Phone: (541) 574-6642
Fax: (541) 265-5241
Jonathan C. Allan,
Coastal Team Leader

Eastern Oregon Field Office
Baker County Courthouse
1995 3rd St., Ste. 130
Baker City, OR 978149
Phone: (541) 523-3133
Fax: (541) 523-5992
Jason D. McClaughry,
Field Geologist

Nature of the Northwest
Information Center
800 NE Oregon St., Ste. 965
Portland, Oregon 97232
(971) 673-2331
Email: info@naturenw.org
Web: www.NatureNW.org
Donald J. Haines, Manager

Oregon coastal towns are most vulnerable to a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. Since 2009, the Tsunami Outreach Oregon campaign has been working to make Oregon coastal communities aware and prepared. Efforts have included door-to-door education campaigns, distribution of maps and preparedness materials, and conducting tsunami evaluation drills. The goal is building a sustainable, volunteer-based, tsunami mitigation effort in coastal communities.

"All Oregonians need to know that strong shaking felt on the coast means to evacuate immediately, and all coastal residents should know where to go and how to get there," says Madin.

Tsunami preparedness resources for coastal residents, visitors, kids and teachers, and community planners are available on the Oregon Tsunami Clearinghouse at www.OregonTsunami.org. Resources include evacuation brochures, maps, videos, planning tools and more.

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 at www.OregonGeology.org

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