

PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

Preparedness Post

Volume 3, Issue 2 January-February 2014

**Youth Needed to
Represent WA on
Youth Preparedness
Council**

**January Marks 314th
Anniversary of
Cascadia Quake**

**Scott McDougall New
Deputy Director**

**Animal Emergency
Planning Workshop
February 4th**

**Quake Catcher
Program Coming to
Pacific County**

**Pacific County CERT
Club Winter Activity**



Winter Wildfires

First, a 50 acre wildfire above the Nemah Hatchery on January 24th, then a 10 acre dune fire in Long Beach on January 25th.



Long Beach dune fire, January 25th

Photo by Connie Gore-Biggs,
Pacific County Fire District #1

To see more live-action fire photos, visit:
www.facebook.com/PacificCountyFireDistrict1



Scorched grass remains after a dune fire near 120th Street in Long Beach - Photo by Connie Gore-Biggs, PCFD1

Unseasonably Dry Weather to Blame for Fire Risk

On January 24th, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for critical fire conditions in Pacific County. This is the first Red Flag Warning PCEMA recalls ever being issued in the month of January.

Also on January 24th, a wildland fire broke out above the Nemah Fish Hatchery in heavy slash. Due to gusty east winds, the fire quickly grew to more than 50 acres. Crews from the Department of Natural Resources, Pacific County Fire District #1, and Pacific County Fire District #3 were involved in fighting the fire, which they managed to contain.

On January 25th, at 1:00 a.m., Pacific County Fire District #1 responded to a dune fire south of 120th Street in Long Beach. According to the Pacific County Fire District #1 Facebook page, "The fire was described as 50' x 50' with 15' flames." Fire fighters responded with two brush trucks and one water tender. Mutual aid was requested from the Long Beach Fire Department, and the fire was extinguished less than two hours later.

PCEMA Deputy Director Scott McDougall reports that these recent wildfires are "definitely unusual for January, in fact a 50 acre fire would be considered a significant event no matter what time of year it occurred. If the fuels are this dry now, it makes one wonder what will be in store for us during the fire season if there is not a significant change in the precipitation patterns."

A fire weather watch or Red Flag Warning is issued when the combination of dry fuels



Intense and widespread flames illuminated the night sky while fire crews worked to extinguish the Long Beach dune fire. - Photo by Connie Gore-Biggs, PCFD1



50 acres of hillside burned after a wildfire erupted above the Nemah Fish Hatchery. - DNR Photo



A firefighter hard at work on the Long Beach dune fire. - Detail from front page photo

and weather conditions support extreme fire danger. According to the US Forest Service, "nationwide, more than 75,000 wildfires are reported each year. About nine out of ten fires are caused by people." Take special precaution with fire when conditions are dry. Wildfires can be caused by discarded cigarettes, sparks from equipment, or the outdoor burning of leaves and other yard debris.

Thanks to fire crews from Pacific County Fire District #1, Pacific County Fire District #3, the Long Beach Fire Department, and the Department of Natural Resources, both wildfires were extinguished. When fire personnel are not fighting fires, many dedicate considerable time and energy to the improvement of their technical abilities through training and practice.

Always check with your local fire department in mind if your yard is parched and you've got leaves to burn. What precautions should you take? Can the burning wait until conditions improve? For prevention and preparedness information, current burning status and burn permits for some areas of the county you may visit either <http://www.raymondfire.org/> or <http://pcfd1.org/category/burn/>.

And for information about wildfire preparedness, check out the U.S. Fire Administration's website: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/wildfire/. You can also follow [@waDNR_fire](https://twitter.com/waDNR_fire) on Twitter for real time updates from the Department of Natural Resources when fires are active.

Command Staff Changes for 2014

Pacific County Sheriff Scott Johnson recently announced changes to the Sheriff's Office command staff, including a retirement, promotion, and new appointment.

In November Chief Civil Deputy Debbie Allison, who was employed by Pacific County in excess of 30 years, announced her intent to retire effective December 31, 2013. Sheriff Johnson expressed his appreciation of Allison's years of service and work ethic, stating that he values her attitude and principles, always treating issues as if they were her personal responsibility with the intent to work in the interest of the taxpayer and citizen safety.

With the retirement of Deputy Allison, Sheriff Johnson has appointed Denise Rowlett as Chief Deputy, with responsibility for civil, financial, and administration operations within the office. Rowlett has been employed with the Sheriff's Office for over 14 years serving as Administrative Assistant with Pacific County Communications until 2008 when she began as Deputy Director of PCEMA.

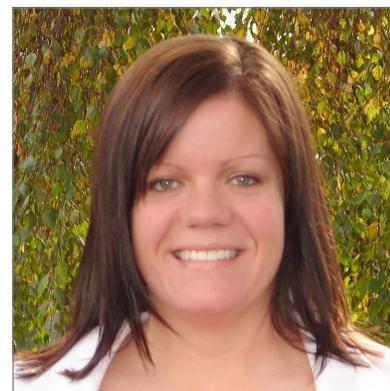
PCEMA Director Stephanie Fritts recalls that: "Denise brought a great organizational skill set to the job. She was able to make heads and tails of the myriad of issues including her first assignment – update the Pacific County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The update of the CEMP was a significant undertaking, including the orchestration of meetings and document review by a number of agencies and individuals. Denise also planned and executed the update of the Pacific County Emergency Operations Center. She designed the layout and purchased the needed equipment with funding originating from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Denise made significant contributions to the agency and PCEMA is sad to see her go, but happy that her potential is being recognized and that she is finding her new appointment an exciting challenge."

Sheriff Johnson has appointed Scott McDougall to fill the position of PCEMA Deputy Director. Prior to joining PCEMA, McDougall worked for 16 years with the Raymond Fire Department, retiring as Fire Marshal in 2010. In 2013 he served as Pacific County Fair Manager. McDougall has a history of volunteer service in Pacific County and has served on the Willapa Harbor Hospital Board, the South Bend City Council, the Willapa Harbor Baseball Association Board, and with the South Bend Volunteer Fire Department. When asked about his expectations and vision regarding his new job, McDougall said, "I am really excited to be stepping into an organization that already runs really well, I have big shoes to fill, but I am excited to help bring the Pacific County Emergency Management Agency forward and continue the level of excellence it has already achieved." McDougall can be contacted at smcdougall@co.pacific.wa.us or 360-642/875-9338.

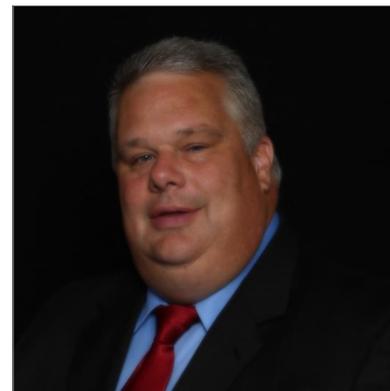
*Recently Retired
Sheriff's Office
Chief Civil Deputy*
Debbie Allison



*Newly Appointed
Chief Deputy*
Denise Rowlett
*Previously PCEMA
Deputy Director*



*Welcome to PCEMA
Deputy Director*
Scott McDougall



Animal Emergency Plan Workshop

February 4th

Recent experiences from other areas around the nation have underscored the importance of having a coordinated Animal Emergency Plan. The Pacific County Emergency Management Agency has identified this as a goal for 2014.

PCEMA will be coordinating an Animal Emergency Plan Workshop on Tuesday, February 4th, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Pacific County Annex located at 1216 W. Robert Bush Drive South Bend, WA 98586. The public is welcome to attend. If you would like to have your comments heard but are unable to attend, you may email them to Scott McDougall, PCEMA Deputy Director (smcdougall@co.pacific.wa.us), by the end of business on February 3rd, 2014.

9:00 a.m.
**Commissioners'
Meeting Room**
1216 W. Robert
Bush Dr.
South Bend

Quake-Catcher Network Coming to Pacific County

Multiple Quake-Catcher sensors will be installed across Pacific County in late winter to early spring. Planned locations include schools within the Raymond, South Bend, Willapa Valley, Ocean Beach and Naselle-Grays River School Districts, in addition to the Raymond, South Bend, and Naselle Timberland Libraries. Two sensors will also be placed at county facilities.

According to the Quake-Catcher Network (QTC) the network is “a collaborative initiative for developing the world’s largest, low-cost strong-motion seismic network by utilizing sensors attached to internet-connected computers.” The sensors monitor for ground motion and feed information back to the main system at the US Geological Survey Earthquake Programs Field Office in Pasadena, CA. Sensors report to the Field Office from all across the globe.



The sensors and installation are provided by QTC. Sites need only provide an internet-connected computer, and an IT person to assist with network adjustments. Ideally, sensors will be located away from high traffic areas. Basements are perfect, though a quiet ground-floor office will work.

QTC explains on its website that “the program is meant to provide better understanding of earthquakes, and give early warning to schools, and emergency response systems. QTC also provides educational software designed to help teach about earthquakes and earthquake hazards.”

QTC is administered by Stanford University and the US Geological Survey (USGS). It is funded by the National Science Foundation and USGS, in addition to a consortium of over 60 other organizations and sister programs. One such program, EarthScope held an extensive workshop this past October in Astoria, Oregon for its Cascadia EarthScope Earthquake and Tsunami Education Program (CEETEP).

It was at CEETEP that Pacific County residents Key McMurry and Alyssa Caudill met Bob DeGroot, from the Quake-Catcher Network. McMurry is the owner of Key Environmental Solutions, LLC, and Caudill is a local science teacher. Both felt that Pacific County would benefit from participation in the Quake-Catcher Network, and are coordinating locally, and with DeGroot to have sensors installed.

According to McMurry, “Not only will this help determine earthquakes and seismic activity in our area, but it will help give us as much advance notice as possible so we can get to our ‘safe zones’. It is also a great educational tool. The science teachers can use it in so many ways to help teach kids about earthquakes, plate tectonics, faults, subduction zones, [and] movement.”

For more information about the Quake-Catcher Network, visit <http://qcn.stanford.edu/>.

CERT Club Update

At their January 3rd meeting, the Pacific County CERT Club welcomed new PCEMA Deputy Director, Scott McDougall to the group.

It was announced that elections will be held on March 7th, at the next meeting. The current officers are Mary Atherton (President), Ann Thoreson (Vice President), and John Williams (Treasurer).

Club members discussed the possibility of purchasing a pop-up tent for events and outreach. There was also discussion about an upcoming Incident Command System (ICS) 100 and 200 training to be held at the Surfside Homeowners Association in February. This training will be open to the public. Those interested in attending can contact PCEMA Deputy Director, Scott McDougall. PCEMA will coordinate the training and plans to eventually cover other options of ICS as well. It was noted that it would be beneficial for CERT members to participate.

Club President and PCEMA Public Education Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Atherton announced that planning has begun for a CERT Training April 4th, 5th, and 12th at the Lighthouse Oceanfront Resort in Long Beach. Registration will be limited to 20 people. Those interested in attending can contact PCEMA Deputy Director, Scott McDougall.

Mary also announced that a CERT Training is planned for Raymond-South Bend in the fall of 2014.



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program teaches disaster preparedness for localized hazards and trains participants in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT members can assist others following a disaster when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

CERT Club Next Meeting

**Friday, March 7th
6:30 p.m.
Lighthouse Ocean
Front Resort
12417 Pacific Way,
Long Beach**

Next CERT Training

**April 4th, 5th & 12th
Lighthouse Ocean
Front Resort
12417 Pacific Way,
Long Beach**

To Register Contact:
Scott McDougall,
PCEMA Deputy Director

ICS 100 & 200 Training

**Saturday, Feb. 22nd
9:00 a.m. - Noon
Surfside Homeowners
Association Office
31402 H St,
Ocean Park**

For Questions Contact:
Scott McDougall,
PCEMA Deputy Director

FEMA Seeks Youth for Preparedness Council

Apply by February 24th



South County ENS Test *February 13th*



2013 Youth Preparedness Council,
on a visit to Washington D.C.

Youth Preparedness Council Summit. Additionally, the youth leaders have the opportunity to complete a self-selected youth preparedness project and to share their opinions, experiences, ideas, solutions and questions regarding youth disaster preparedness with the leadership of FEMA and national youth preparedness organizations. Once selected, members serve on the Council for one year, with the option to extend for an additional year, if formally requested by FEMA.

Council activities and projects center around five key areas of engagement: Programs, Partnerships, Events, Public Speaking/Outreach and Publishing. Members represent the youth perspective on emergency preparedness and share information with their

FEMA Press Release:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is seeking applicants for its Youth Preparedness Council.

Any individual between the ages of 12 and 17 who is engaged in individual and community preparedness or who has experienced a disaster that has motivated him or her to make a positive difference in his or her community, may apply to serve on the Youth Preparedness Council. Individuals who applied last year are highly encouraged to apply again. Adults working with youth and/or community preparedness are encouraged to share the application with youth who might be interested in applying.

The Youth Preparedness Council is a unique opportunity for youth leaders to serve on a highly distinguished national council and participate in the

To apply, submit a completed application form and two letters of recommendation by:
**February 24, 2014,
11:59 p.m. EST**
Application materials available at:
<http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council>

communities. They also meet with FEMA on a regular basis to provide ongoing input on strategies, initiatives and projects throughout the duration of their term on the council.

There will be a test of the Emergency Notification System (ENS) in south county only (south from Nemah at MP 34 on State Route 101, including Naselle, Chinook, and the Long Beach Peninsula) on February 13th from 10:00 a.m. – noon.

The objectives of the test are system familiarity and infrastructure testing. The test telephone calls will go to landlines, and those cellphones and VoIP phones that are registered with the Pacific County Emergency Notification System. Residents can register on the county website at www.co.pacific.wa.us.

In the event of an emergency, this system may be used to notify residents, homes, or businesses at risk. Registered numbers will only be called when the associated address might be impacted by the event. Use the QRL code above to sign up using your smart phone!



ICS Training *February 22nd*

PCEMA will be holding an Incident Command System (ICS) training for the ICS 100 course on February 22nd at the Surfside Homeowners Association Headquarters (31402 H Street, Surfside) from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

This training is open to the public. If time allows ICS 200 will also be covered. Both courses introduce the basic concepts of incident command.

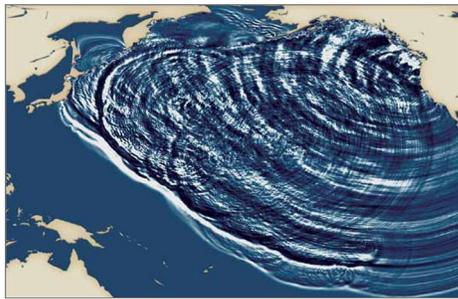
“Chance favors the prepared mind.”
- Louis Pasteur

No Registration is Required.
For Questions Contact :
Scott McDougall,
PCEMA Deputy Director

To learn more about ICS visit:
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.aspx>

314 Years Since the Last Major Local Earthquake

On January 26th, 1700, a magnitude 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake struck the west coast. It was quickly followed by a large series of tsunami waves that irrevocably altered the inundation zone. The waves generated by this 9.0 Cascadia quake even had enough energy to cause damage to the Japanese coast, an ocean away.

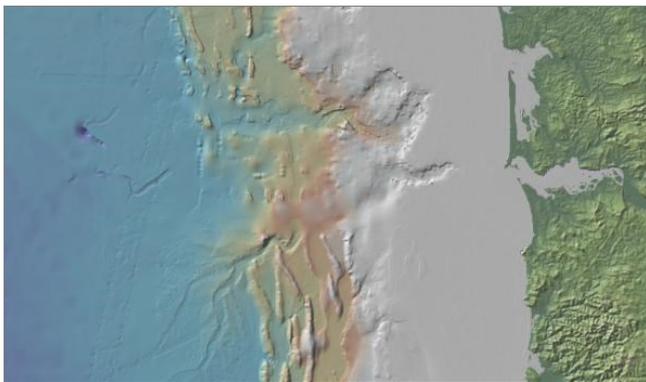


Tsunami waves spread from the Cascadia Subduction Zone across the Pacific Ocean.
Image Credit: USGS

The Cascadia Subduction Zone runs from southern British Columbia to northern California. It lies 50 miles west of the Pacific County Coast. There is geological evidence that Cascadia has ruptured seven times in the last 3,500 years. The average interval between events is 200-500 years.

Subduction zone earthquakes are cyclical, occurring at intervals that often surpass generational memory.

In the event that a tsunami is generated off the Pacific County Coast (a local tsunami), no official warning will be made to evacuate. There will likely not be time between the initial earthquake and the tsunami's approach for sirens to be activated. Natural warning signs will be the only impetus to move to high ground. If you feel the ground shake, hear a thunderous roaring sound, or notice unusual tidal recession, don't hesitate...evacuate!



The Cascadia Subduction Zone is 50 miles west of the Pacific County coast. It spans from the coast of Southern British Columbia to the coast of Northern California.
- Map Credit: Brian Romans

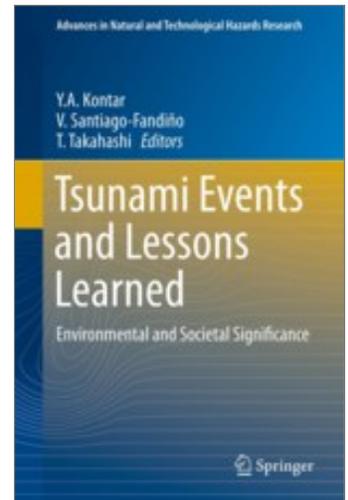
To learn more about the effect of Cascadia Subduction Zone tsunamis, check out *The Orphan Tsunami of 1700* by Brian Atwater of the US Geological Survey. The book chronicles evidence of past Cascadia tsunamis as seen in shoreline soil layers, underwater landslides, standing forests of dead Cedar, Native American oral tradition, and Japanese records.

Read About What a Tsunami Leaves Behind

Tsunami Events and Lessons Learned by Yev Kontar is compilation of research from world experts that is primarily derived from presentations given at the Ocean Science Session OS-017, of the AOGS-AGU Joint Assembly held in Singapore in 2012, and other similar conferences. Topics covered in the book include assessment, evaluation, forecast, policy, and lessons learned. The book explores the environmental and societal impacts of recent tsunami events across the globe.

In 25 unique chapters, *Tsunami Events and Lessons Learned* illustrates the complex impact that a tsunami can have on ecosystems and infrastructure. Each chapter covers a different facet of current tsunami research; including chapters on the Effects of Tsunami Wave Erosion on Natural Landscapes, Tsunami Inundation Modeling, and Domino Effects and Industrial Risks.

For a preview of *Tsunami Events and Lessons Learned*, visit <http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/natural+hazards/book/978-94-007-7268-7>.



Tsunami Headlines

Slippery Fault Zone Caused Massive 2011 Japan Tsunami (US News)

An international team of 27 scientists think that slippery fault line clay contributed to Japan's 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. The team used deep water drills to dig approximately one half mile beneath the sea floor.

To read the full report visit: <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/12/05/slippery-weak-fault-zone-caused-massive-2011-japan-tsunami>

Sumatra Coastal Cave Records Stunning Tsunami History (BBC News)

Scientists are studying a coastal cave in Sumatra to better understand the long history of catastrophic Indian Ocean tsunamis. Between layers of bat guano, sandy deposits left from tsunamis are easy to see. The study of these layers aims to help establish the frequency of major tsunamis like the one that struck the Sumatra coast on December 26, 2004 resulting in approximately 300,00 fatalities.

To read the full report visit: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-25269698>

PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

Contacts & Info.

The Pacific County Amateur Radio Club meets every second Saturday of the month at Hunter's Inn, Naselle - 9:00 a.m.
All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) Sirens occur the first Monday of every month at noon.

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South Bend, WA 98586

Office Locations:
Long Beach: 7013 Sandridge Rd.
South Bend: 300 Memorial Dr.

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

LIKE the PCEMA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pcema to follow frequent emergency management and preparedness dialogue.

FOLLOW @PCEOCNews on Twitter to get updates from the Pacific County EOC when it is activated. If you are not signed up for Twitter, you can receive the same information via text message. Just text "follow PCEOCNews" to 40404.

RECEIVE the latest emergency management information, hazardous weather notices, and monthly newsletter by signing up for the PCEMA email list. Provide your name via email to PCEMA staff and include the word "Subscribe" in the subject line.

READ the latest emergency management information on the PCEMA blog at www.pcema.blogspot.com.

VISIT the PCEMA website at www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema for valuable preparedness materials and to learn about hazards prone to Pacific County.

Upcoming Events

Animal Emergency Plan Workshop
Tuesday, February 4th
9:00 a.m.
BOCC Meeting Room
1216 W. Robert Bush Dr.
South Bend

ENS TEST
South County
Thursday, February 13th
10:00 a.m. - Noon

ICS 100 & 200 Training
Saturday, Feb. 22nd
9:00 a.m. - Noon
SHOA Headquarters
31402 H St,
Ocean Park

CERT Club Meeting
Friday, March 7th
6:30 p.m.
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