

# PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

# Preparedness Post

Volume 2, Issue 5 March 2013

In  
This  
Issue

## Tsunami Mitigation Program Under Water?

Federal budget cuts mean the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program may have to re-think operations

Pacific County  
Bridges

Earthquakes and  
State Recovery

The Results are in  
for Washington's  
First Ever Great  
Shakeout

Tsunami  
Trainers Trained



NOAA Photo

Recent federal budget cuts have had a sweeping affect on everything from defense to early childhood education. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will also feel the effect with an 8.2% decrease in funds for 2013. NOAA has been a major fund source for the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) but will contribute 0% to the budget for 2013, a stark contrast to the usual 27%. Some NTHMP operations will have to be discontinued and others scaled-back. Turn the page to read NTHMP representative John Schelling's situation breakdown.

The NTHMP was formed by a Congressional action in 1995. It is a partnership of federal and state agencies tasked with broad-scale tsunami mitigation. The partners include: NOAA, USGS, FEMA, the National Science Foundation, and 28 state territories and commonwealths, including Washington, Oregon, and California. The program has worked to raise awareness among the affected population while improving official warning and response. Integrated tsunami inundation maps and modeling were created to improve planning for communities, land use, response, and communications.



# Tsunami Funds

**John Schelling is the Earthquake/Tsunami Program Manager for the Washington State Emergency Management Division. John and PCEMA work closely on mitigation issues as members of the State and Local Tsunami Workgroup. In a recent email to the workgroup, John explained looming financial issues:**

Dear State and Local Tsunami Workgroup Members,

It remains unclear what will happen to the Washington State Tsunami Program in FY13. We just learned that NOAA does not intend to provide any funding to states through the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) since it was not included in the President's Budget - even though the NTHMP funding was restored through Congressional action. Our current funding runs through July 30th, so we do have a small window to find resourcing. Rest assured, we will be working over the next few months to try and identify some options if NOAA funding does not materialize and will continue to keep you informed on the status of this issue.

This federal program cut is due to the expiration of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act (TWEA) on September 30, 2012. With the expiration of the law, it essentially unties NOAA's hands from providing 27% of overall tsunami program funding to NTHMP state partners. A reauthorization bill has been drafted by Sen. Inouye (D-HI) and has not yet been introduced. Unfortunately, an early draft of this bill lumps tsunami hazard warning, preparedness, mitigation, etc. together with all other coastal hazards and sets up inter-state and intra-state competition for very limited funds. The draft bill is broad enough to include hazards such as hurricane storm surge, riverine flooding, sea level rise, ocean acidification, etc., and may potentially direct funds to 'coastal resilience networks', although this interpretation is based on the draft bill and may change in any final legislation. In our analysis, this approach has the very real potential to dilute the preparedness efforts and immediacy of warning for no-notice events, like tsunamis, and place the focus on other longer term issues that do not have pressing life-safety needs.

"Rest assured, we will be working over the next few months to try and identify some options if NOAA funding does not materialize."

To learn more about the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, check out:

<http://www.http://nthmp.tsunami.gov/>



## WA's Great Shakeout

On October 17th, 2012 at 10:17 a.m., 710,000 Washingtonians participated in the state's first ever Great Washington Shakeout earthquake drill. 37,919 participants from coastal counties also had a tsunami siren test at the same time. The Washington State Emergency Management Division conducted a post-drill survey in coastal counties which showed that 90.6% of respondents knew about the tsunami siren test before it occurred. Over 2000 people have already signed up for the 2013 Great Washington Shakeout, which will be held on October 17th, 2013 at 10:17 a.m.

To Register for Washington's 2013 Great Shakeout:

<http://www.shakeout.org/washington>

### TSUNAMI HAZARD ZONE

## PCEMA Presents Tsunami Education

**IN CASE OF EARTHQUAKE, GO  
TO HIGH GROUND OR INLAND**

Hosted by the  
**Timberland Regional Library**

March 13th - Naselle, 6:00 p.m.

March 20th - South Bend, 5:30 p.m.

March 23th - Ocean Park, 12:00 p.m.

March 26th - Raymond, 6:00 p.m.

March 30th - Ilwaco, 11:00 a.m.



Timberland  
Regional  
LIBRARY

Tsunamis: how they work, what they do,  
and what we need to do before, during,  
and after one.



# Resilient Washington State Project Findings

## WA EMD's Seismic Safety Committee introduces a Framework for Minimizing Loss and Improving Statewide Recovery after an Earthquake

The Washington State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) recently published a report from the organization's Seismic Safety Committee regarding the Resilient Washington State project. The purpose of the project and report is to "facilitate long-term implementation of seismic risk reduction policies and activities across the state with the goal of making the state resilient [to earthquakes] within a 50-year timeframe." According to WA EMD, "A resilient state is one that maintains services and livelihoods after an earthquake. In the event that services and livelihoods are disrupted, recovery occurs rapidly, with minimal social disruption, and results in a new and better condition."

For the Resilient Washington project, WA EMD gathered input from subject-matter experts and stakeholders representing local, state, and federal agencies, university departments, and private businesses. Study contributors were organized into four main sector groups: critical services, utilities, transportation, and housing/economic development. After two years of meetings, two all-day workshops, and consensus discussions, each sector group was able to assess how resilient their sector is today and submit recommendations for improvement. The final recommendations include a general assessment of current recovery capacity, a target timeframe for each component of the plan, and a list of top ten ways to improve statewide resilience.

The final recommendations are as follows:

**RECOMMENDATION 1.** Make schools resilient: structurally, socially, and educationally.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.** Require that utility providers (domestic water supply, wastewater, electricity, natural gas, petroleum, and information and communication technology) identify the vulnerabilities in their systems and mitigate them.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.** Improve the resilience of buildings in areas of high seismic hazard to improve life safety and increase the number of people who will be able to shelter in place.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.** Assess the permitting requirements that relate to environmental protection and mitigation to determine how best to make environmental planning mesh with seismic mitigation and recovery planning.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.** Strengthen business continuity planning efforts.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.** Strengthen regional transportation networks.

**RECOMMENDATION 7.** Make hospitals resilient—structurally and functionally.

**RECOMMENDATION 8.** Identify and map in greater detail sources of seismicity and geologically hazardous areas and develop plans for mitigation of identified hazards.

**RECOMMENDATION 9.** Improve life safety in coastal communities at risk of local tsunamis.

**RECOMMENDATION 10.** Implement resilience principles through formalized accountability.

To learn more about the Seismic Safety Committee's Projects and Research, check out:

<http://www.emd.wa.gov/about/SeismicSafetyCommittee.shtml>

## PCEMA Preparedness Drive Kits Being Assembled

PCEMA placed donation boxes at area stores during January and February for an emergency preparedness supply drive to benefit local families in need. 101 bottles of water, 62 cans of food, 29 add-water food items, 26 flashlights, 16 blankets, 50 hats, and 3 NOAA radios were donated. Kits are being put together and an event will be held to distribute them, with details to be announced. PCEMA thanks all who participated!



# New Bridges for Pacific County

## Bridge replacements are in progress along US Highways 101 and 105

Four bridges in Pacific County are on the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) list of structurally deficient bridges: the Middle Nemah River and Bone River on US Hwy 101, and the Smith Creek and North River on US Hwy 105. Construction is in progress on all but the Middle Nemah River bridge, which will see work this spring. These projects have been made possible through the 2005 gas tax package and some pre-existing state funds.

Due to age and timber trestle design, none of the bridges being replaced could withstand a significant seismic event. According to WSDOT, all of the bridges are also “aging and too narrow to accommodate the types or number of vehicles that need to cross today.” A new 36-foot wide structure will replace each of them. The new bridges will have wider shoulders, and will meet federal seismic, flood, and structural standards.

These projects are extensive. Bridge replacements take considerable time in part because they often require that a temporary one-lane bridge be constructed first to re-route traffic while crews demolish the old bridge and build the new one.

### The Bone River Bridge - US Hwy 101:

Cascade Bridge, LLC began work on August 6th, 2012. The bridge was built in 1935 and sees an average of 2,700 daily drivers. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2014. A temporary one-lane bridge has been constructed and is operational.

### The Smith Creek & North River Bridges - US Hwy 105:

Scarcella Brother's Structures, LLC began work on October 15th, 2012. The project includes straightening a curved section of the highway between the bridges to improve drivability. Both bridges were built in 1959. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2014. A temporary one-lane bridge has been constructed on Smith Creek and it is operational. Due to the re-routing of the highway, the North River bridge will remain in use while the new bridge is built.

### The Middle Nemah River Bridge - US Hwy 101:

Scarcella Brother's Structures, LLC will begin work in the spring of 2013. The bridge was built in 1939. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2014.

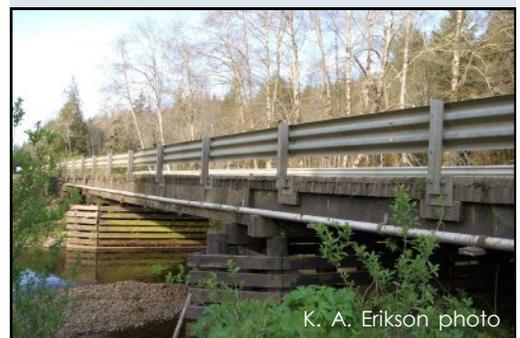
Bone River Bridge, US Hwy 101



Smith Creek & North River Bridges, US Hwy 105



Middle Nemah Bridge, US Hwy 101



## Through My Windshield

### A daily driver's take on the US Hwy 105 Bridge Work

By PCEMA Volunteer Natasha Nesbitt

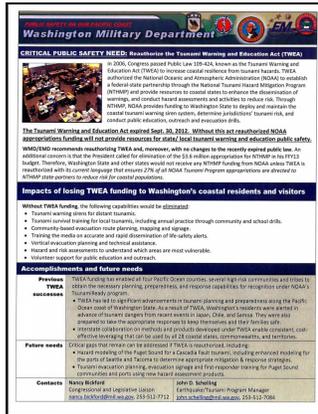
I drive through the US Hwy 105 Smith Creek/North River bridge replacement on my commute. All winter I marveled at the construction workers and flaggers who went about business as usual in the nastiest northwest weather. Driving through the site I've seen sparks fly from torches welding the columns and structural implements that will bolster these bridges for generations and disasters to come. I've seen mammoth equipment move with uncanny precision. The entire worksite is a muddy feat of engineering, logistics, and elbow grease.

I recognize the faces that direct me to stop and go. If the wait will be longer than usual, many flaggers take the opportunity to walk over and explain what's going on. During our chats, I've gathered that speeding drivers have been one of the most serious concerns for those on site. With so much going on in such a condensed area, it's imperative for drivers pass slowly through. The speed limit is 25 mph on bridge construction sites, even when we are running late as I so often am. There may also be a wait, so it's important to plan accordingly. If you find yourself at either bridge construction site in Pacific County, give *yourself* a break and stop to enjoy the view.



# Highlights of the Facebook Feed [www.facebook.com/PCEMA](http://www.facebook.com/PCEMA)

Check out PCEMA's Facebook page for an informative post about the Tsunami Warning and Education Act (TWEA) with information about its important services and past successes. TWEA is up for reauthorization which is vital to the continuance of tsunami mitigation and response programs. According to the Washington State Emergency Management Division, losing TWEA would affect the tsunami warning siren program, response training on a local and state level, and public outreach in addition to evacuation route planning, mapping, and signage.



# Excellent Turnout for Tsunami Train-the-Trainer



On February 14th, 35 people attended a Tsunami Train-the-Trainer (T3) course at the Grays Harbor College Columbia Education Center in Ilwaco. Of the 35, two have decided to continue training with PCEMA to become tsunami public education presenters. T3 is a joint effort of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program and the Washington State Emergency Management Division and was organized locally by PCEMA.

## Japan Tsunami Remembrance

Come to the World Kite Museum on March 10th for an event to remember the lives affected by the earthquake and tsunami that occurred in Japan two years ago. The Kite Museum will have traditional Japanese kites displayed and an area to learn how to make origami cranes. The event agenda includes: a moment of silence, speeches, and kite flying. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.  
World Kite Museum  
303 Sid Snyder Drive, Long Beach



## The AmeriCorner

PCEMA is in the process of applying for an AmeriCorps member for the 2013-2014 program year. The application is due March 22nd and notification of award will be on April 22nd. If an award is received, PCEMA will be able to begin advertising by June 1st. The member start date would be September 1, 2013.

PCEMA AmeriCorps members engage in direct service activities such as volunteer recruitment, CERT program coordination, preparedness initiatives, public education, community presentations, and event outreach. The program offers many opportunities for training in emergency management and will provide excellent experience.

AmeriCorps members receive a monthly living stipend, education award, and health plan. To receive notification of an AmeriCorps position open with PCEMA, contact Denise Rowlett at [drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us) or 360-642/875-9338.

To learn more about the AmeriCorps program, check out:  
[www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)

## NOAA Weather Radio Program March 21st

A NOAA Weather Radio Program will be held on March 21st from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Grays Harbor College Riverview Education Center in Raymond. This program aims to educate the public about warnings and alerts that may be issued in Pacific County by the National Weather Service. Program participants will learn important information about tsunami alerts and home preparedness in a presentation by the WA State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD).

**Those who meet specified income levels will receive a NOAA weather radio at no cost.** To obtain a radio, participants must fill out a brief form stating their contact information, household size, and annual income. All Pacific County residents are invited to attend, however radios are limited to the first 50 residents who meet the specified income levels.



Radio programming assistance will be provided on site by PCEMA amateur radio volunteers and event staff. The program is sponsored by WA EMD and the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. Residents who already own a NOAA weather radio are also encouraged to attend for assistance with programming and for more information.

To learn more about the NOAA Weather Radio program, Contact PCEMA AmeriCorps Member Kirsten Harvill: [kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us) or 360-875/642-9409

# PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

AHAB Siren Test: First Monday of the month @ noon  
Japan Tsunami Remembrance: March 10th - Long Beach - Page 5  
NOAA Weather Radio Event: March 21st - Raymond - Page 5  
TRL Tsunami Presentations: 5 dates/locations in March - Page 2

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

### PCEMA Office

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### AmeriCorps Members

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### Online & Social Media

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	<a href="http://www.pcema.blogspot.com/">http://www.pcema.blogspot.com/</a>
	<a href="http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema/">http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema/</a>

To join PCEMA's Weather Warning List email Denise Rowlett:  
[drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us)



Sheriff's Office on Twitter:  
**@PCSOWA**  
On Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/PCSOWA](http://www.facebook.com/PCSOWA)

## Interested in Volunteering?

CONTACT: PCEMA AMERICORPS MEMBER KIRSTEN HARVILL  
[kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us)  
(360) 875/642-9409

