

PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

Preparedness Post

Volume 2, Issue 5 April 2013

In This Issue

8 Preparedness Myths

Hotel/Motel Training

Japanese Boat makes Landfall in Long Beach

2013 Preparedness Fair in Ilwaco



FREE TRAINING!

Come learn skills that can help you through everything from Armageddon to daily crisis.

Classes Start April 23rd in Raymond!

Four Week CERT Training Set to Begin April 23rd

PCEMA is offering a four week Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Grays Harbor College Riverview Education Center in Raymond beginning April 23rd.

All course materials will be provided. Accommodations will gladly be made for participants with special needs. Participants under the age of 18 will need parent/guardian permission to attend. Pre-registration is required.

CERT training teaches participants what to do when the lights go out and emergency services are overwhelmed. The curriculum covers disaster preparedness for local hazards and trains participants in basic disaster response skills. It is a combination of hands-on tutorial, presentation with lecture, and group activity with discussion. Participants will have the chance to use a fire extinguisher and put into practice first aid techniques and victim carries, among other exercises.

With the knowledge gained in the classroom and through practical exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following a disaster. Join PCEMA for this free training!

All classes will be held at the Grays Harbor College Riverview Education Center in Raymond from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 – Disaster Preparedness

Thursday, April 25, 2013 – Fire Safety

Tuesday, April 30, 2013 – Triage

Thursday, May 2, 2013 – Disaster Psychology

Tuesday, May 7, 2013 – Disaster Medicine

Thursday, May 9, 2013 – Search & Rescue

Tuesday, May 14, 2013 – Team Organization

Thursday, May 16, 2013 – Terrorism

Saturday, May 18, 2013 – Disaster Simulation – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Participants are not required to attend all eight units, though complete attendance is required to graduate from the course.

To register or for more information, contact PCEMA AmeriCorps Member Kirsten Harvill at 360- 875-9409 or kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us.

Hotel & Motel Program on April 24th in Long Beach

PCEMA will be hosting a NOAA Weather Radio program for Hotels and Motels in coordination with the Washington State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD). The program will be at the Super 8 Hotel in Long Beach on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The target audience for this event are hotel and motel owners as well as their fulltime and seasonal staff. Pre-registration is required.

The program is designed to train hospitality staff on responding to disasters while also providing shelter and guidance for guests and employees. Training materials will be supplied during the course including a Disaster Response Guidebook, NOAA weather radio, tent cards, evacuation maps with a stand, and other educational materials.

The program focuses on: preparing for disasters and emergencies, All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) sirens, programming NOAA weather radios, making a disaster preparedness kit, and locating an evacuation route.

To register or for more information, contact PCEMA AmeriCorps Member Kirsten Harvill at 360- 875-9409 or kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us.

Preparedness Fair April 27th

PCEMA will be holding the 2nd annual Disaster Preparedness Fair on Saturday, April 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hilltop School gym. This event is free and open to the public.

“Prepare to be a Hero” posters created by Naselle, Long Beach, and Ocean Park Elementary School students will be on display at the fair. Contest winners will be awarded at 12:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. - Decontamination Tent (Ocean Beach Hospital)
11:00 a.m. - Organizing Your Vital Documents (Senja Antilla)
11:00 a.m. - Hands-on Fire Suppression (Ilwaco Fire Department)
12:00 p.m. - "Prepare To Be a Hero" Poster Contest Winners
1:00 p.m. - Tsunami Debris: Volunteering to Keep Pacific County Beaches Clean (AmeriCorps Member Lea Reuss)
1:30 p.m. - Announce Door Prize Winners

EXHIBITORS: 642 Weather, ER Quick Health, Fort Columbia, National Weather Service, Ocean Beach Hospital, Pacific County Amateur Radio, Pacific County CERT Club, PCEMA, Pacific County PUD, Quake Ready Kit, Service Master JTS, South Pacific County Humane Society, Timberland Regional Library, Tsunami Supply Company, WA EMD.

Spaces are still open for individuals, businesses, groups, and organizations interested in participating as exhibitors or volunteers. If interested, contact Kirsten Harvill.



The AmeriCorner



PCEMA has applied for another AmeriCorps member position for the next service year (September 1st, 2013 through July 15th, 2014). If PCEMA receives an AmeriCorps award again this year, applications will likely open around June 1st, in which case announcements will be placed in agency and local media.

The potential new member will be focusing on disaster preparedness public education. Members receive a living allowance and receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (after serving the full term) equal to the maximum amount of the Pell Grant.

AmeriCorps members perform team-based service projects in five different areas - natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development-in communities in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

To learn more about the AmeriCorps program:
www.americorps.gov

Mary Atherton Wins 2013 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award



Mary Atherton volunteers for PCEMA as a CERT member and instructor, as well as a preparedness presenter.

On April 25th, Governor Jay Inslee and the Washington Commission for National and Community Service (WCNCS) will be honoring PCEMA volunteer Mary Atherton and a select group of other volunteers from across the state for their outstanding volunteer service. Awards will be presented by the Governor at the Executive Mansion in Olympia. The award recipients have also been invited to Safeco Field for a pre-game salute to volunteers before the Mariners take on the Los Angeles Angels.

Japanese Boat Latest Tsunami Debris in Long Beach



WA Dept. of Ecology Photo (Large) and WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Photo (Inset).

A 20-foot boat confirmed to be from Japan washed ashore in Long Beach on March 22nd. As debris from the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, this boat carried several non-native species for two years across the Pacific. The Consulate-General of Japan, based out of Seattle, was able to contact the boat's owner who did not wish to have the boat returned. Washington State Parks is holding the boat but is in the process of loaning it to the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Shortly after washing ashore, the boat was removed for closer inspection and to prevent the spread of invasive species. Five striped beakfish were found in the boat, as well as nearly 50 species including algae, anemones, marine worms, crabs, shellfish, and other aquatic plants. Researchers from both the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Department of Ecology are studying the boat to better understand the transoceanic movement of invasive species.

Connect with the PCEOC

The Pacific County Emergency Operations Center (PCEOC) maintains a twitter account (@PCEOCNews) which is only active during actual events and routine tests. 160 people already follow @PCEOC on twitter, with others fast following via text on their phones. Haven't signed up to fast follow but want to? It's easy! **Just text "Follow PCEOCNews" to 40404.** Fast follow is a service provided by Twitter but you don't have to join Twitter to subscribe.

@PCEOCNews

To learn more about Twitter's Fast Follow service, visit:
<http://blog.twitter.com/2010/08/introducing-fast-follow-and-other-sms.html>

Eight Preparedness Myths: How Realistic is *Your* Plan?

Knowing what to expect can make all the difference in an emergency. Effective response requires realistic preparation. From a popular post on [emergencymanagement.com](http://www.emergencymanagement.com), PCEMA has compiled a list of eight misconceptions about preparedness in *Pacific County*.

1. "Just call 911!" There are over 20,000 residents in the county and a limited number of first responders. If a widespread incident causes damage to infrastructure or produces mass casualties emergency responders will be over-



whelmed. Don't expect help right away. Be prepared to care for yourself and those with you, which could mean applying life saving first aid or helping to carry the injured to a secure location.

2. "Insurance will cover all the damage." If you own a home, insurance can be a great safety net. That said, don't assume that the type of damage resulting from earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, or landslides is covered by your policy. In fact, more often than not, standard homeowners insurance policies are said to include "all perils" but do not cover geologic and other natural hazards. Earthquake and flood insurance are examples of "named perils" insurance that might actually help you if disaster strikes.

3. "I can't afford to get prepared." You don't need a \$200 Deluxe Disaster Kit or a \$50.00 collapsible toilet to be prepared. Most essential emergency supply items can be purchased for a few dollars. Many things like flashlights, manual can openers, or rope can be found around the house or garage and just need to be gathered to a central location.

4. "If there's an earthquake, the tsunami sirens will let me know if I need to evacuate." In the event that a tsunami is generated off the coast, the earthquake will be your only official warning to get to high ground. There won't be enough time between the quake and resulting tsunami for the emergency alert system to fully activate AHAB sirens or NOAA weather radios.

5. "What does it matter? We'll all be dead anyway." It's true that large disasters cause mass destruction, but don't be fooled into thinking they cause *total* destruction. Most people survive; some by sheer luck, and others by quick and decisive action. If you choose not to prepare because you'll probably die anyway, that means only luck is on your side.

6. "I'll bring my pet to the shelter with me." Many emergency shelters do not accept animals, including many operated by the American Red Cross. In an emergency, people are the first priority and unfortunately there won't always be space or resources to accommodate pets and livestock. Pet owners can prepare by finding out which shelters or organizations will house pets. Having food, a restraint, a portable kennel, toys, and blankets ready for your pet is also a good idea.

7. "Somebody else will know what to do." You better hope so! In case you find yourself alone or with a group of people who also don't know what to do, a little preparedness training could end up meaning a lot. PCEMA periodically offers Community Emergency Response Team training (next class begins April 23rd in Raymond), and there are many other options available online or through organizations like the American Red Cross or FEMA.



8. "I'll drive to high ground." That might work alright for a distantly generated tsunami, but if the earthquake occurs just off the coast, driving will likely be impossible. An earthquake large enough to generate a local tsunami will cause intense ground shaking. Intense ground shaking will topple trees and utility lines, blocking roads. Subsidence and liquefaction will also render many of our roads and bridges impassible. Find an evacuation site within fifteen minutes walking distance from your home or work to adequately prepare for a local tsunami. Plan on walking, unless you own a helicopter.

**If you feel the earth shake:
DON'T HESITATE, EVACUATE!**

To read the post that this article is based on, check out:
www.emergencymgmt.com/training/12-Myths-Disaster-Preparedness.html

Events to Plan, Prepare, and Remember Held in March

Thanks to all who participated!

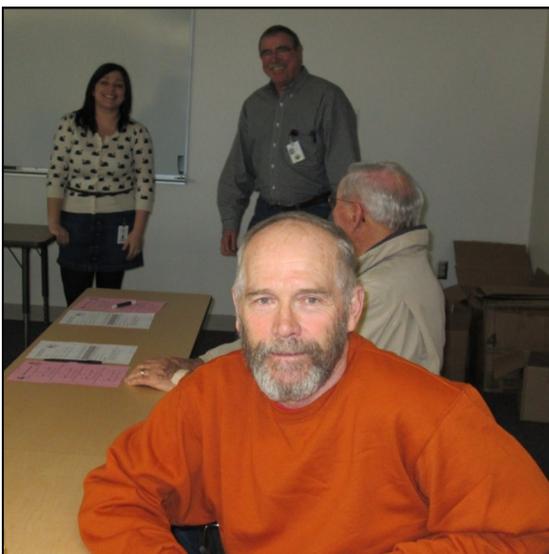
RIGHT: March 10th - Community members gathered at The World Kite Museum for an event held in remembrance of the 2011 Japanese tsunami. Traditional Japanese kites were displayed along with origami cranes made by participants. The event agenda included: a moment of silence, speeches, and kite flying.



LEFT: March 4th - Long Beach WorldMark staff listen to a preparedness presentation from PCEMA AmeriCorps member Kirsten Harvill.

BOTTOM LEFT: March 21st - NOAA Weather Radio program participant Harvey Norris at the Grays Harbor College Riverview Campus in Raymond.

BOTTOM RIGHT: March 21st - PCEMA Director Stephanie Fritts, Amateur Radio Volunteer Howard Auble, PCEMA AmeriCorps Member Kirsten Harvill, and Amateur Radio Volunteer Katie Auble prepare to teach and assist at the NOAA Weather Radio program put on in coordination with the Washington State Emergency Mgmt. Division.



PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

UPCOMING EVENTS:

AHAB Siren Test: First Monday of the month @ noon
Four-Week CERT Training - begins April 23rd - Page 2
Hotel/Motel NOAA Weather Radio Program - April 23rd - Page 2
2013 Preparedness Fair - April 27th - Page 2

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PCEMA Office

Director
Stephanie Fritts
360-875/642-9340
sfritts@co.pacific.wa.us

Deputy Director
Denise Rowlett
360-875/642-9338
drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us

AmeriCorps Members

Kirsten Harvill
360-875/642-9409
kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us

Lea Reuss
360-642-4482
lreuss@co.pacific.wa.us

Fax
360-875-9342

Physical Address
South Bend Long Beach
300 Memorial Dr. 7013 Sandridge Rd.

Mail
P.O. Box 101, South Bend, WA 98586

Online & Social Media

 @PCEOCNews Text follow PCEOCNews to 40404 to "fast follow" on your mobile device.
 <http://www.facebook.com/PCEMA>
 <http://www.pcema.blogspot.com/>
<http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema/>

To join PCEMA's Weather Warning List email Denise Rowlett:
drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us



Sheriff's Office on Twitter:
@PCSOWA
On Facebook:
www.facebook.com/PCSOWA

Interested in Volunteering?

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

