

PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

Preparedness Post

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AmeriCorps Member Lea Reuss Term Ending

For the past 10 months, Pacific County hosted AmeriCorps member Lea Reuss, whose mission was to coordinate volunteer clean up of potential tsunami debris. This position was created in response to the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan over two years ago.

Last spring many items that were possibly related to the Japanese tsunami were being found on our local beaches and interest in that debris was very high. Volunteers of the GrassRoots Garbage Gang, a local non-profit that organizes beach cleanups, were getting hundreds of calls a day regarding tsunami debris from volunteers desiring to assist. Grass Roots Garbage Gang volunteers and organizers have full time jobs and weren't prepared to deal with the influx of interest that suddenly arrived along with the tsunami debris.

To help these volunteers, the beach, and the community, PCEMA sought an AmeriCorps award in the form of a service member who could deal directly with increased interest and the tsunami debris. Lea Reuss was recruited and immediately began work on response plan communications. She has given presentations to locals so that both visitors and residents would know what to do and who to contact if they found tsunami debris.

A very small Japanese fishing boat arrived during Lea's service term and she helped contact state officials to get the boat off the beach. In addition, Lea helped the GrassRoots Garbage Gang create a handbook for their members, detailing their process and each member's responsibility during beach cleanups. She also developed a draft Volunteer and Donations Management Plan for PCEMA.

Unfortunately the AmeriCorps award is limited and the position is temporary. Lea will be ending her service and leaving the peninsula on August 15th. PCEMA is not requesting another AmeriCorps award for this position mainly due to a lack of tsunami debris arriving on the beach. The Pacific Ocean is very big and the large amount of debris people were afraid would arrive is not occurring at this time. The occasional item, light bulb, boat, fish crate, etc., are arriving but not in the quantities that were originally experienced or predicted. Due to these reasons, PCEMA is comfortable not renewing the position and believes the community is prepared to deal with the quantity of debris that is currently arriving.

PCEMA thanks Lea for her year of valuable service for the agency, GrassRoots Garbage Gang, and the community!



AmeriCorps Member Kirsten Harvill Reflects

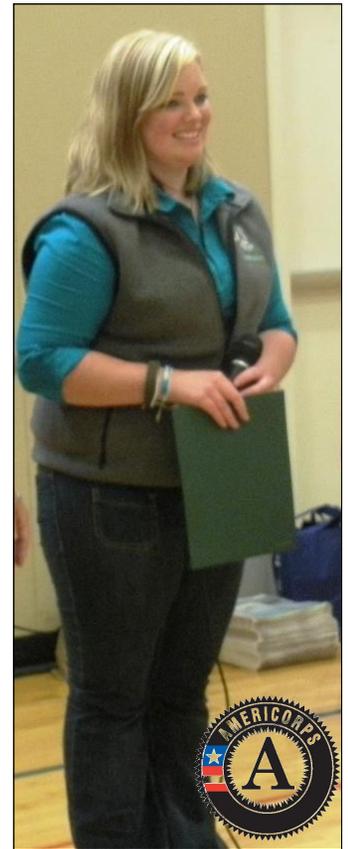
Ten and a half months isn't a very long time to get things done. However, AmeriCorps Members only have that length of time to complete their assigned projects, and that's not including the weekends and various holidays throughout the service term. The first two lines in the AmeriCorps pledge state: "I will get things done for America - to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities." And that is just what I believe I have done during my service term.

Serving with the Pacific County Emergency Management Agency has been a wonderful experience. Being a member coming into a project that I didn't know much of anything about started off as a challenge. My project title being Disaster Preparedness Public Education and Outreach meant I was a public education coordinator, and isn't the first thing with education to know about the topic you're teaching? Luckily for me I was a quick learner and caught on at a decent pace.

From there I started giving presentations to the civic organizations in the county trying to reach out and let people know I was available to give preparedness presentations anywhere. I was able to reach out to 214 county residents and help increase their knowledge and awareness of the county's potential hazards. That's 214 more residents who are ready to prepare themselves than it was ten and a half months ago!

And like any project there were several obstacles and challenges I had to overcome this year including knowing what I would talk about. As I said before I came into this project not knowing anything about the hazards the county faced. The only thing I was familiar with was the winter storm in 2007. Here I learned a whole new outlook on the county as a whole and the tsunami danger most of our population faces. This year has changed me completely and helped prepare me for the next chapter of my life.

PCEMA thanks Kirsten for her valuable service promoting preparedness throughout Pacific County!



For more information about AmeriCorps visit:
<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps>

New AHAB Sirens for South Bend and Raymond

Two All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) sirens were installed at the Raymond and South Bend Fire Departments in July.

Residents of both cities will now hear the familiar Westminster Chimes during the monthly siren test. Testing occurs on the first Monday of each month at noon. The sirens will sound the Westminster Chimes for 10 seconds followed by a 15 second verbal message stating, "The following is a test of the siren system. It is only a test. This is a test of the siren system. If this had been an actual emergency you should tune to your local radio station or listen to this system for further instructions. This was only a test." Those interested in being a siren spotter and giving feedback on the clarity of monthly tests should contact PCEMA.

In the best weather conditions, each siren is capable of reaching a 4500' diameter area with both a siren tone and voice message. Actual transmission area coverage will be dependent on humidity, wind, and other weather related conditions.

In an actual event, the AHAB sirens will sound a wailing tone for three continuous minutes, and may be followed by a verbal message. Sirens are not designed to be heard indoors and the sound may also be impacted by adverse weather. Residents are encouraged to have alternate methods of warning such as NOAA weather radios, which are tested weekly and can be heard indoors.



An AHAB siren being installed in Raymond at the Fire Department.

To become a Siren Spotter, contact PCEMA Deputy Director Denise Rowlett: drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us or 360-875-9338



PCEMA has been cleaning these Washington Geology placards around the county. The placards contain important information about coastal tsunami risk which can benefit area residents and visitors alike. See a placard that needs some attention? Let PCEMA know!

Surfside Homeowners Organize and Prepare

On June 29, 2013 PCEMA RACES volunteers held an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) training at the Surfside Homeowners Association. New amateur radio operators learned how to employ communications within the Incident Command System.

The Surfside Homeowners Association members have attended tsunami education events and many are active CERT members.



RACES volunteer Bob Cline (left) gives EOC training.

Stay Connected with PCEMA!

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 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 and email to sfritts@co.pacific.wa.us or drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us 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.

Access and Functional Needs: How to Prepare

This article is a compilation of information from FEMA.

Each person's needs and abilities are unique, but every individual can take important steps to prepare for all kinds of emergencies and put plans in place. If you or someone close to you has a disability or other access or functional need, you may have to take additional steps to protect yourself and your family.

Those who are deaf or hard of hearing may need to make special arrangements to receive emergency warnings. Single working parents and those with limited English proficiency may need help planning for disasters and emergencies. People without vehicles may need to make arrangements for transportation. Those with special dietary needs should take precautions to have an adequate emergency food supply.



By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan, you can be better prepared for any situation. A commitment to planning today will help you prepare for any emergency situation.

Consider how a disaster might affect your individual needs. Plan to make it on your own, at least for a period of time. It's possible that you will not have access to a medical facility or even a drugstore.

Identify what kind of resources you use on a daily basis and what you might do if they are limited or not available.

Build A Kit with your unique consideration in mind. What do you need to maintain your health, safety and independence?

Factor Wildfires into Summer Travel Plans

In the month of July, eight major wildfires burned across the Pacific Northwest. Forests and grasslands across the region experienced dry conditions and were threatened by thunderstorms and the potential for lightning ignited wildfires.

Wildfire season has officially kicked-off and could last well into the coming months. Those planning to head away from soggy Pacific County, out into the hot, dry world, should consider the location of active wildfires when planning routes for vehicular travel or accommodations.

Disaster Supply DIY

Homemade granola bars add a sweet touch to any emergency supply kit! Choose your own blend of ingredients for a personalized crunch, or follow the standard recipe below. Enjoy the bars without an emergency as you rotate them out of your kit to ensure freshness.



INGREDIENTS

Granola Bars

- 6 cups rolled oats
- 4 tablespoons melted butter
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup brown sugar (dark or light, your choice!)
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/4 cup apple juice
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 3 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup bran, wheat germ, or rice cereal
- 3/4 cup chopped nuts, seeds, or dried fruit/berries)

DIRECTIONS

- Toss oats with oil, melted butter, and salt.
- Spread mixture onto baking sheets and toast in the oven at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Shake the pan 2x during toasting to ensure oats don't burn.
- Combine brown sugar, honey, apple juice, and molasses and heat mixture slowly in a saucepan until combined. Add vanilla.
- Combine toasted oats, chopped nuts, and stir in saucepan mixture.
- Line baking sheet with greased foil and press in the mixture. Cook at 325 degrees for 20-25 minutes (or until golden brown).
- Remove from oven and cool. Cut into pieces with a sharp knife and remove from pan.



The Mile Marker 28 fire near Goldendale (above) and the Lodgepole Fire in Idaho (right).



General Daugherty Lays Out Plan for State Preparedness

This article originally appeared in the EMC Newsletter "The Buzz"

Camp Murray: From wildfires to floods, and the inevitable major earthquake – it's our responsibility to ensure Washingtonians are safe and protected during emergencies. And I'm certain that if we work together, we can become the best prepared state in the nation.

Teamwork is at the heart of my state preparedness plan. As I have discussed emergency management and preparedness over the past several months, it's clear that there is a hunger to expand our partnership to include schools, the private sector, non-profits and community organizations. There is also a desire for more opportunities to meet, share ideas and information, synchronize our plans, and work together to improve our preparedness and our ability to respond and recover when disasters strike.

I don't believe that I am alone in my belief that we operate in our "silos of excellence" too much – but I'm pleased that so many want to work together more often and more effectively. And the reality is – the continued budget crisis at local, state, and federal levels will require more cooperation to ensure we provide Washingtonians with the protection and help they deserve during disasters. I am committed to creating an environment that avoids disputes over funding, and promotes a stronger relationship among partners to get the

most capacity out of every precious cent of public funding.

My emergency preparedness plan also involves the development of realistic, executable contingency plans that are synchronized with all of our partners and are tested and improved through regular exercises. I will help develop these plans and assist in synchronizing them. I have already dispatched soldiers and airmen from the National Guard's Homeland Response Force to assist three counties and one state agency in developing plans after they had received training from our Emergency Management Division.

I have also directed the Emergency

dejour - perhaps a cyber scenario or pandemic.

Another major component to increase state preparedness is public education. Our family, friends and neighbors need to understand that they have to be prepared and self sufficient. The Washington Military Department is working to enhance its community outreach programs to push personal preparedness messages, and I'd urge our partners to do the same.

I'm also pushing the construction of vertical tsunami shelters on our coast so that our citizens who live there have a fighting chance to survive a tsunami. I'm passionate that we must



Major General Bret Daugherty commands all Washington Army and Air National Guard forces and is Director of the State's Emergency Management and Enhanced 911 programs. General Daugherty also serves as Homeland Security Advisor to the Governor of Washington and as State Administrative Agent for all United States Department of Homeland Security grants awarded to Washington's state, local, tribal and non-profit agencies and organizations. (WA EMD)

Management Division and the Joint Forces of the Washington National Guard to conduct quarterly exercises to test and refine our contingency plans. My intent is to conduct training and an exercise before each fire season and every winter storm season. A third exercise will always test our ability to respond to a major earthquake, and the fourth quarterly exercise would be reserved for the crisis

fund and implement the "Resilient Washington" document to withstand a major earthquake. And I'm urging the development of the Washington Recovery Organization to manage the recovery of our communities and economy after a catastrophic disaster.

In the words of the ancient Romans, "Where there is unity, there is always victory." When it comes to protecting the lives of our citizens, I know that all of you share my belief that there is no substitute for victory. I look forward to working with all of you as teammates, protecting the lives and property of our fellow citizens.

-Major General Bret D. Daugherty

Preparedness Tech 101 -

Did you know you can receive automated preparedness tips via text message on your cell phone? It's fairly simple to do and fun! (Personal cell service plans/rates apply.)

Earthquakes: text *EARTHQUAKE* to 43362 (4FEMA)

Winter storms and extreme cold: text *WINTER* to 43362 (4FEMA)

Power outages: text *BLACKOUT* to 43362 (4FEMA)

Floods: text *FLOOD* to 43362 (4FEMA)

General monthly safety tips: text *PREPARE* to 43362 (4FEMA)



RACES Volunteers Install New HF Antenna at Public Safety Building in South Bend

On August 2, 2013 the Pacific County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) volunteers worked to begin installation of a new HF (high frequency) antenna at the Public Safety Building in South Bend. The Public Safety Building houses the Sheriff's Office, 911 dispatch center, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and other county offices. The new HF antenna will enable emergency communications personnel at the EOC to communicate with other state and local agencies in the event of a disaster.



Dick Lemke (left) and Frank Wolfe (right) take a quick break from HF antenna installation on the roof of the Public Safety building in South Bend.



Bob Cline (back), Bob Frink (front) and Howard Auble (not pictured) work to route wiring for the new antenna.



Katie Auble (left) and Ed Archer (right) brave a steep hillside and underbrush to help secure support lines for the antenna.



Volunteers worked carefully to create an intake for the new antenna's wiring.

To learn more about RACES visit:
<http://www.usraces.org/>

To learn more about Pacific County Amateur Radio Club visit:
<http://www.qsl.net/w7rdr/>



PCEMA

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

AHAB Siren Test - First Monday of the month @ noon

PCARC Meeting - Second Saturday of the month @ 9 a.m. - Hunter's Inn, Naselle

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 <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?

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