

# PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

# Preparedness Post

Volume 2, Issue 2 December 2012

## In This Issue

Shelter Boxes as Disaster Aid

Share How You Prepare

FEMA's Free Active Shooter Preparedness Course

Shelter Survey Results



## Event Bonanza Resolve to Get Involved in 2013!



**NORTH PACIFIC COUNTY**  
**PREPAREDNESS FAIR** **FREE EVENT!**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 6th  
10 AM - 2 PM  
RAYMOND ELKS LODGE  
PCEMA

**SKYWARN**

**SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTY**  
**PREPAREDNESS FAIR** **FREE EVENT!**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 27th  
10 AM - 2 PM  
ILWACO HIGH SCHOOL  
PCEMA

# Save these Dates!



**SKYWARN**

SKYWARN is a program for volunteer weather spotters. There are nearly 290,000 SKYWARN volunteers nationwide. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. Participants will learn the basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, how to identify potentially severe weather features, information reporting, and basic severe weather safety. This training is available online.



Key exhibitors will be the National Weather Service, the American Red Cross, PCEMA, the Pacific County Economic Development Council, Bud's Lumber, and Dennis Company. Senja Antilla will speak about organizing vital documents and Kevin Howerton will give a talk on generator safety and proper electrical installation. This event is free and open to the public.



Join the Raymond Kiwanis Club in learning about basic disaster preparedness. PCEMA's AmeriCorps Member Kirsten Harvill will be speaking about local hazards, evacuation plans, and emergency kit assembly.



Tsunami Train-the-Trainer is a four hour course that teaches participants how to give informative presentations to the public about local tsunami hazards and mitigation. The course covers area vulnerabilities to locally and distantly generated tsunamis, the tsunami warning system, historic public response to tsunami events, and challenges faced in educating the public. Those who complete the course have the option to join PCEMA's Let's Talk Tsunamis Public Education Program as presenters.



This program is sponsored by the Washington Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) and coordinated by PCEMA. Participants will learn about local tsunami hazards, the Emergency Alert System, and disaster preparedness in series of short presentations. Those who meet specific income requirements will receive a free NOAA

Weather Radio which is programmed on site.



PCEMA will be coordinating Preparedness Fairs in both ends of the county for 2013. These free events will feature exhibitors from throughout the region, each covering different aspects of preparedness.



**Pacific County Amateur Radio Club (ARES)**  
Meet the Second Saturday of Every Month  
9 a.m. - Hunter's Inn, Naselle

ARES volunteers are skilled technicians and a valuable asset to their community. No prior knowledge is necessary to join, just a willingness to learn. Check them out at <http://www.qsl.net/w7rdr/>.

## SKYWARN Spotter Training

<http://skywarn.org/>

## Preparedness Fair

Willapa Valley Grange  
January 12th - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Preparedness Presentation

Raymond Kiwanis Club  
The Barge Restaurant in Raymond  
January 16th - 12 p.m.

## Tsunami Train-the-Trainer

Grays Harbor College in Ilwaco  
February 14th - Time TBD

## NOAA Weather Radio Events

Locations TBD  
March 21st - Times TBD

## North County Preparedness Fair

Raymond Elks Lodge  
April 6th - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## South County Preparedness Fair

Ilwaco High School  
April 27th - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

# Shelter Boxes

On November 6th, PCEMA attended a ShelterBox demonstration arranged by the Rotary Club of SW Pacific County at the Long Beach Firehall. A ShelterBox volunteer made the presentation to a group of 40 Rotary members and guests.



ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that delivers emergency shelter, warmth, and dignity to people affected by disaster worldwide. ShelterBox is the largest provider of emergency shelter in the world. Since ShelterBox development began in 2000, close 150,000 ShelterBoxes have been deployed worldwide.

Each ShelterBox weighs in at 135 pounds, which is the limit to ship by commercial airline. Following the Haitian earthquake of 2010, British naval ships were diverted directly to Haiti where ShelterBox cargo was unloaded. Volunteer ShelterBox Response Teams (SRTs) distributed 28,000 boxes to Port-au-Prince. The tents contained in the ShelterBox were such an improvement over previous Haitian living conditions that ShelterBox is now finding it difficult to move families out of the provided tents.



ShelterBoxes were also deployed in Japan following the March 2011 tsunami, and in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina.

ShelterBox does not accept money from governmental agencies and is completely supported by charitable donations.

Those interested in making a donation can view ShelterBox ratings at [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org). A one-time \$10.00 donation may be made by texting "shelter" to 20222.



Image Credit: ShelterBox

A wide assortment of useful items come in the durable plastic ShelterBox: a stove, water containers and purification, cooking equipment, warm hats and gloves, a tool kit, a children's activity pack, mosquito nets, thermal fleece blankets, waterproof groundmats, and a custom designed family tent.

# Local Facilities Indicate Willingness to Provide Emergency Shelter

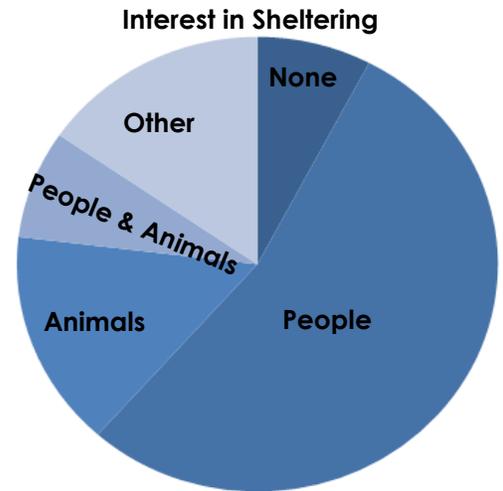
PCEMA is embarking on a long-term project to identify and assess the sheltering capacity within Pacific County.

In the initial phase of the project, PCEMA developed an eight question survey where respondents indicated their interests in sheltering persons, animals, or both persons and animals. The survey concluded on November 30th with a total of 14 respondents. PCEMA will follow-up with these respondents after the first of the year.

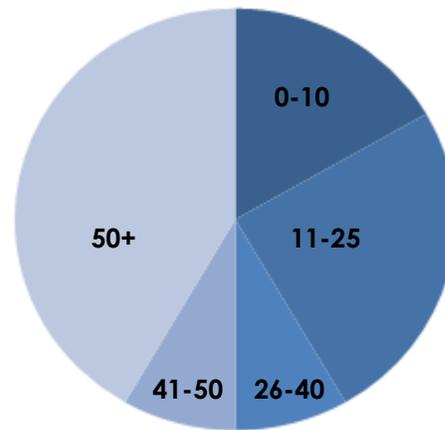
Preliminary results of the survey show that 92.3% of respondents indicated their facilities could be used as shelters in the event of an emergency. 41.7% of respondents indicated the capability to accommodate 50 or more people or animals.

As far as capacity to shelter people and/or animals, 16.7% indicated the capability to house up to 10; 25% could house 11-25; 8.3% could house 26-40; 8.3% could house 41-50; and 41.7% could house 50 or more.

One survey question asked about the facility's capacity to serve as a daytime, overnight, or 24-hour shelter. 13 respondents indicated that they could provide overnight shelter. Six of the respondents have an alternate power source and a kitchen that could also allow them to provide food services.



Shelter Capacity for People/Animals



Regarding animals, which are an important factor to consider in evacuation and sheltering, five facilities indicated they could accommodate domestic animals on a leash or in a crate and two could provide a fenced area for large animals.

If your facility is interested in participating in the Shelter Survey, contact PCEMA:

**360-875/642-9340 or 360-875/642-9338**

# Storm Season is Here!

November saw the first significantly stormy weather of the season. A series of storms rolled across the Pacific Northwest late in the month bringing destructive winds and torrential rain. Advisories, Watches, and Warnings were issued by the National Weather Service for high winds and flooding for Pacific County and neighboring areas. Some areas of the county briefly lost power, though damage was not significant. As storm season continues, take time to prepare!



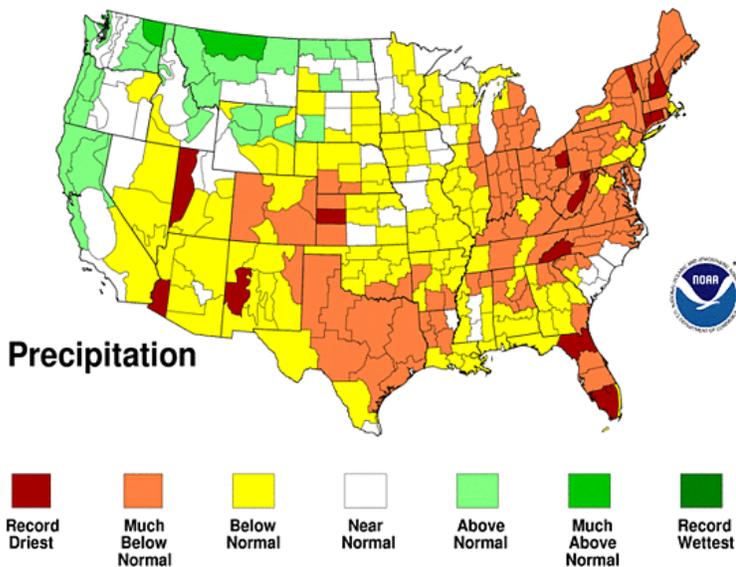
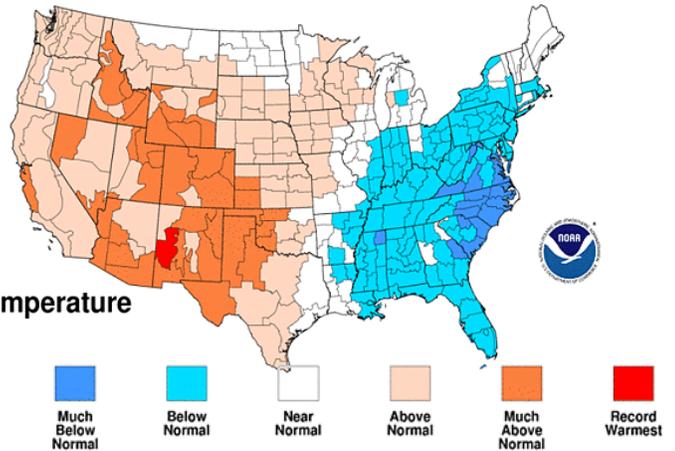
Image Credit: National Weather Service



In Tokeland, a PUD crew repairs powerlines damaged during the storm. Prior to their arrival, one line was hanging just feet above the road. If you observe hazards relating to downed lines in your neighborhood, stay clear and call your local PUD.

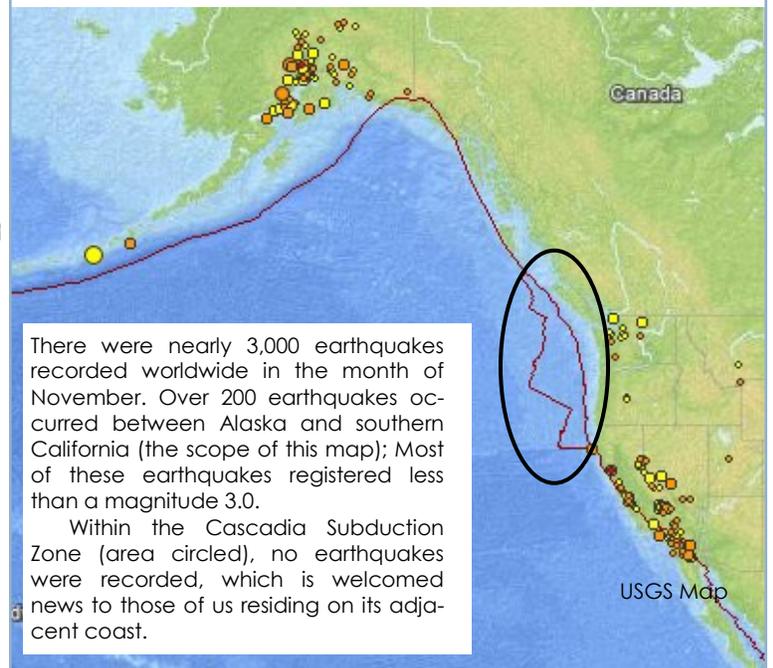
# Dry Conditions Prevail Nationwide

The drought that caused massive wildfires and devastating crop failure throughout much of the U.S. this past spring, summer, and fall has not entirely abated. Though winter brings colder conditions and some moisture, the average nationwide climate remains much drier than usual. Pacific County experienced an exceptionally dry late summer and early fall which meant burn bans and lawns that actually needed watering. Precipitation levels were above normal for the West Coast in November and temperatures for the month were also above normal. East of the continental divide, many regions experienced below normal levels of precipitation, with some areas experiencing record dry conditions. Temperatures were above normal or much above normal for most of the West and Midwest and below normal or much below normal across the Eastern U.S.



**November 2012 National Rank**  
National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA

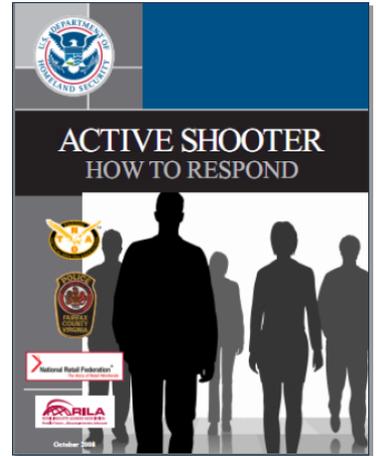
# The Month in Earthquakes



# Life-Saving Response Techniques for Active-Shooter Incidents

On December 11th, an active shooter incident occurred at the Clackamas Mall, near Portland, OR and on December 14th another occurred at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut. FEMA offers a 45 minute online training entitled “Active Shooter: How to Respond,” which is a useful tool for anyone wanting to better prepare themselves for the possibility of being involved in such an event. According to FEMA, “an active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area.” Generally, active shooters employ firearms. Typically there is no method to who they target. These incidents are unpredictable and unfold very quickly.

“Active Shooter: How to Respond” is meant for the general public and employees of businesses or facilities where incidents could potentially occur. After completing the course, participants should be able to describe actions to take when confronted with an active shooter. Participants will learn to recognize potential workplace violence indicators, and will know what actions to take to prevent and prepare for potential active shooter incidents.



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

Check out PCEMA’s Facebook page to stay up to speed on weather warnings as storms approach and floods threaten to complicate daily commutes! A summary of the current warning is posted along with a link to the PCEMA blog ([www.pcema.blogspot.com](http://www.pcema.blogspot.com)) where you can read the full press release.

PCEMA is also in the process of another “likes” drive to increase the agency’s online reach. Be sure to “like” the page and share it with your friends on Facebook to help PCEMA reach 1000 “likes” by 2013. Those connected to PCEMA receive valuable updates on Facebook when weather warnings and other important preparedness issues are posted to the page. Facebook is one way for PCEMA to inform the public as weather events persist throughout the winter.

To take FEMA’s Active Shooter: How to Respond, visit: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is907.asp>

## Merry Christmas from PCEMA



 Pacific County Emergency Management Agency shared a link. November 19

The flood warning now includes both the Willapa & Naselle Rivers. <http://www.pcema.blogspot.com/2012/11/flood-warning-issued-for-willapa.html>

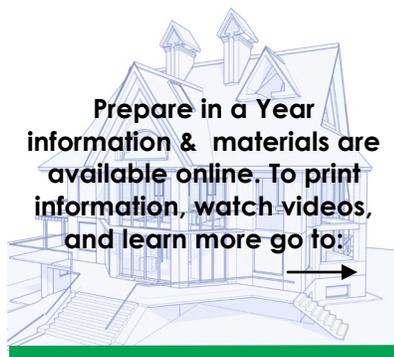
 Pacific County Emergency Management Agency: Flood Warning Issued for the Willapa & Naselle Rivers [www.pcema.blogspot.com](http://www.pcema.blogspot.com)

 914 Likes

PCEMA uses Facebook as one of many ways to keep the public informed. Help spread the agency’s online reach by liking PCEMA on Facebook and sharing PCEMA’s page with friends.

Follow this link to watch PCEMA rock around the Christmas Tree! <http://www.jibjab.com/view/7Q9Tp-IQj2yRS-8QkxENG>

# Prepare in December

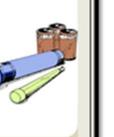
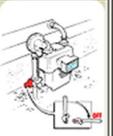
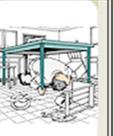


[http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prepare\\_year.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prepare_year.shtml)

*Get Prepared!*

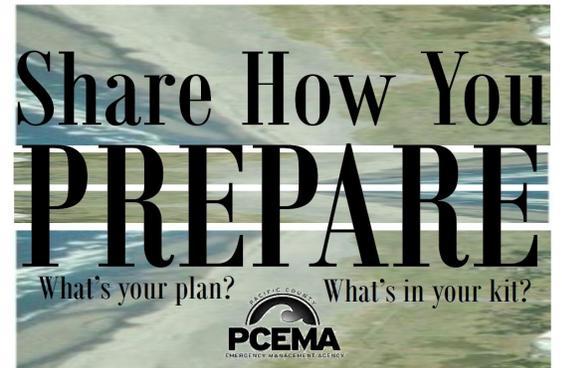
All of Washington State has the potential of being impacted by a major earthquake. Earthquakes strike suddenly and without warning. When they occur, they cause the ground to undulate and shake, perhaps violently. Buildings, and their contents, are vulnerable to this rocking and rolling. December is the month to learn how to secure homes to their foundations and contents to wall studs.

Take 30 minutes to walk through your home. Imagine the ground movement of a significant earthquake. Is your water heater securely fastened to the wall studs with heavy-duty metal strapping? Does it have flexible water connectors? Also identify tall pieces of furniture that need to be fastened to the wall. Do you have heavy or breakable objects on high shelves? What about small but valuable appliances that should be secured? Pay special attention to artwork or mirrors hanging on your walls. Broken glass from these items has potential to cause serious injury during post-quake evacuation. Lastly, inspect your foundation to ensure that it is securely attached to your home.

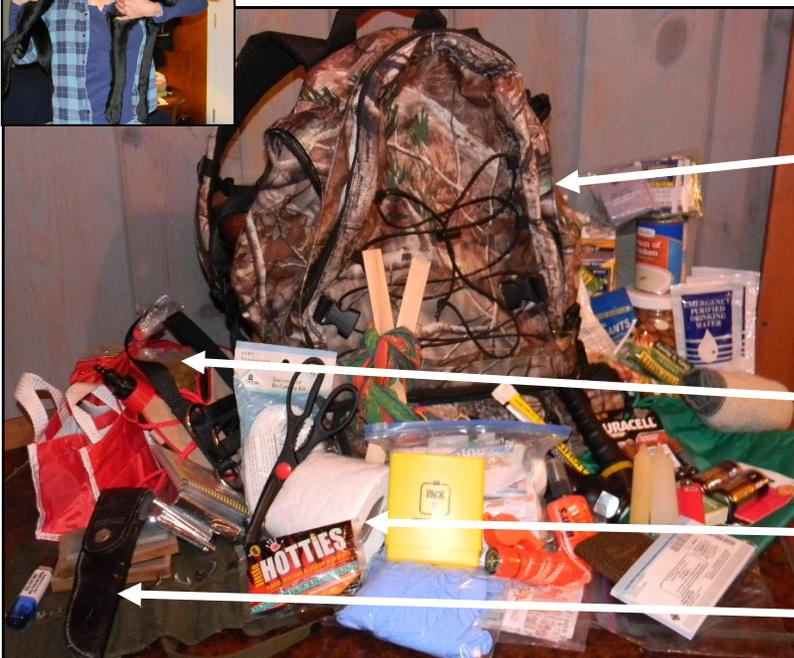
 1. Action Plan	 2. Out of Area Contact	 3. Water	 4. 72-hour Comfort Kit	 5. Important Documents	 6. Extended Events
 7. Under the Bed Items	 8. Utility Safety	 9. Drop, Cover & Hold	 10. Fire Safety	 11. Shelter in Place	 12. Home Hazard Hunt

Let PCEMA know how you prepare and you could win a free emergency kit item and be featured in the Preparedness Post!

Just send your photos and story to: [kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us)



## How Natasha Nesbitt Prepares



Most of the stuff in my kit I found just kicking around my house. There are many items I'd like to add, but as it is, I suppose this is better than nothing.

I purchased this backpack intending that I would carry it as I traversed through uncharted wilderness, living off the land with a few basic supplies. Due to scheduling conflicts and a serious lack of motivation, the backpack, which has never been used, is now my grab-and-go survival bag. It is designed to carry a moderately heavy load, with great weight distribution, and has plenty of storage space.

This bread bag full of dry dog food is meant for my dog, Homer. Nevertheless, if food gets scarce, I plan to eat it myself and hope that Homer will use his killer instinct to find us both tasty wild critters.

Due to a rather unpleasant incident involving poison oak, I now find it imperative to include a roll of toilet paper.

A buck knife: for whittling sticks, cutting rope, and hunting wild boar (if it comes to that).

Packed like a winning game of Tetris, my survival bag also holds: a water catch, a basic tool set, a knife sharpening stone, a dog collar and leash, 5 space blankets, 40' of nylon chord, hand warmers, basic first aid items, 2 splints (paintsticks) and a sling (scarf), 2 whistles, a compass, bug spray, a glow stick, two candles, 2 flashlights, extra batteries, a lighter, water-proof matches, a mini-Bible, a book of checks and copies of important personal documents, an extra waterproof bag, a pair of thick socks, 6 pouches of clean water, a 3 day supply of Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), a container of assorted nuts, 3 granola bars, freeze dried hashbrowns, a can of cream of chicken soup, an unmarked can of food from the back of my pantry, tea, a bag of jelly beans, and sunflower seeds.

# PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

AHAB Siren Test: First Monday of the month @ noon  
The Pacific County Amateur Radio Club meets second Saturdays - Hunter's Inn, Naselle @ 9 a.m.  
Preparedness Fair - Willapa Valley Grange - January 12th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Raymond Kiwanis Club Preparedness Presentation - The Barge Restaurant - January 16th @ noon  
Tsunami Train-the-Trainer - Grays Harbor College, Ilwaco - February 14th  
NOAA Weather Radio Events - Locations TBD - March 21st  
North County Preparedness Fair - Raymond Elks Lodge - April 6th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
South County Preparedness Fair - Ilwaco High School - April 27th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

### PCEMA Office

<b>Director</b> <b>Stephanie Fritts</b> 360-875/642-9340 sfritts@co.pacific.wa.us	<b>Deputy Director</b> <b>Denise Rowlett</b> 360-875/642-9338 drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us
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### AmeriCorps Members

<b>Kirsten Harvill</b> 360-875/642-9409 kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us	<b>Lea Reuss</b> 360-642-4482 lreuss@co.pacific.wa.us
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<b>Fax</b> 360-875-9342	<b>Physical Address</b> South Bend 300 Memorial Dr.	Long Beach 7013 Sandridge Rd.
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**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.
	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/PCEMA">http://www.facebook.com/PCEMA</a>
	<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)



facebook



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

