

# PCEMA

*Pacific County Emergency Management Agency*

# Preparedness Post

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Raymond Police Department Photo

## Heavy Rain Can Complicate Daily Life

Photo above: SR 101 was closed near Ocean Avenue in Raymond on December 10th due to flooding. A detour using SR 6, Bloomhardt Road, and Fowler Road was established. Surface water flooding is common this time of year.

# When it Rains, it Pours... and Sometimes the Roads Flood or Hills Slide

Pacific County dealt with the implications of heavy rainfall in December and January. Several fronts have moved across the coast dropping inches of rain over time periods as short as 24 hours. This lead to standing water on roads and even landslides in some areas across the county.

It is important for Pacific County residents to understand that these heavy rain events can especially pose a risk to those travelling throughout the area. Many of Pacific County's roads border waterbodies or muddy slopes and can be impacted by flooding or landslides at any given time.

With the likelihood of more moist weather ahead, be watchful as you drive to school or work! Avoid frequently flooded areas and try a detour before attempting to make it across the water. Surface water flooding can be deep enough to swamp a vehicle!



Photo by Jackie Sheldon via Facebook

Water covers the roadway and fills yards in Seaview on January 21st.



Photo by Marcie Waltemate via Facebook

Muddy water flows off the hillside and into the bay due to a clogged culvert on Hwy 101 just south of the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge on January 21st.



Photo by Bob Duke

An aerial view of the landslide that occurred at the Ilwaco Cemetery on January 24th.



Photo by Jackie Sheldon via Facebook

A flooded yard at the base of Cook's Hill in Ilwaco on January 22nd.



Photo by Bob Hazen via Facebook

West Parpala Road along the Naselle River was covered with water in some areas on January 21st.

# Joint Pacific-Wahkiakum County CERT Training

PCEMA and the Wahkiakum County Department of Emergency Management are collaborating to offer a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training in the Naselle/Rosburg area. Participants under the age of 18 must have parent/guardian permission to attend. Pre-registration is required and attendance is limited to 20 participants. To register contact PCEMA Deputy Director Scott McDougall at (360) 642-9338 or email [smcdougall@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:smcdougall@co.pacific.wa.us).

Training is scheduled as follows:

- Saturday, February 20th at the Naselle Timberland Library, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
- Sunday, February 21st at the Naselle Timberland Library, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
- Saturday, February 27th at Johnson Park, Rosburg, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
- Sunday, February 28th at Johnson Park, Rosburg, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.,



The CERT program is an all-risk, all-hazard training. This valuable course is designed to help you protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors in an emergency situation.

CERT members receive 20 hours of initial training provided free of charge. The course is taught with classroom instruction for the first three days and practical exercises during the last day.

## Tsunami Forums

PCEMA will be hosting Community Tsunami Awareness Forums taught by George Crawford and Tabbitha Laird from the Washington State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) and Geologist Tim Walsh from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Events are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, February 24th at Pacific County Fire District #1 Meeting Room, Ocean Park, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
- Wednesday, February 24th at the Ilwaco Community Room, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.,
- Wednesday, March 16th at the Shoalwater Bay Tribal Center, Tokeland, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
- Wednesday, March 16th at the Commissioners' Meeting Room, South Bend, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

## 316th Anniversary of Cascadia Quake

On January 26th, 1700, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake shook the Pacific Northwest. The earthquake was generated 50 miles west of the Pacific County Coast, along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ).

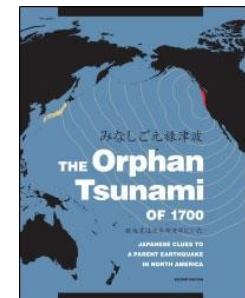
Intense shaking was quickly followed by a series of destructive tsunami waves. The waves generated by this massive quake pummeled local shores and even caused some damage on the Japanese coast, an ocean away.

This event left a geological footprint from southern British Columbia to northern California. To learn more about the effect of CSZ tsunamis, check out *The Orphan Tsunami of 1700* by Brian Atwater of the US Geological Survey. The report chronicles evidence of past CSZ tsunamis as seen in shoreline soil layers, underwater landslides, and standing forests of dead cedar.

CSZ earthquakes are cyclical. Geological evidence suggests that the CSZ has ruptured seven times in the last 3,500 years. The average interval between events is 200-500 years.

According to FEMA, a “CSZ earthquake and tsunami is one of the most complex disaster scenarios that emergency management and public safety officials face in the Pacific Northwest.”

In preparation for the next big CSZ event, a four-day functional exercise called Cascadia Rising is planned for June 7th-10th, 2016. FEMA says that “all levels of government and the private sector will activate



<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/pp1707>

to coordinate simulated field response operations both within their jurisdictions and also with neighboring communities, state EOCs, FEMA, and major military commands.”



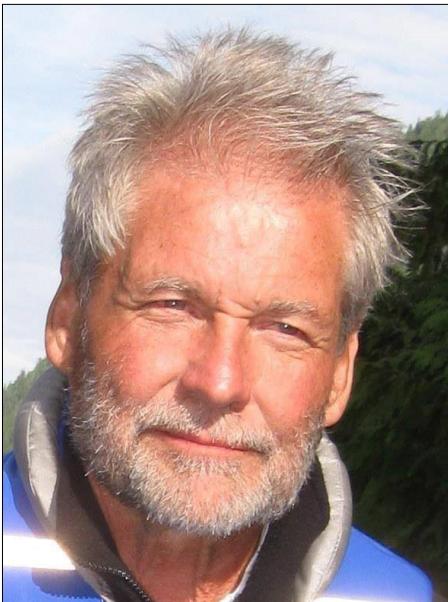
<http://community.fema.govdelivery.com/connect/ti/cascadiarising2016/view?objectId=3233584>

In the event of a CSZ earthquake and tsunami, coastal residents should also be prepared to act. No official warning will be made to evacuate to high ground. The earthquake will serve as a natural warning sign and will be the only warning. There will not be time to activate sirens between the initial earthquake and the first tsunami wave.

Remember, if you feel the ground shake, hear a thunderous roaring sound, or notice unusual tidal recession, don't hesitate...evacuate!

# Silent Key W7TOM, Robert (Bob) Burton Frost

*Silent Key* is Ham speak for a deceased amateur radio operator. Silent Keys are listed with their call sign before their name. *Key* is a term taken from the bygone telegraph age, when keys were used to send messages. Though the term references an obsolete technology, the amateur radio community is well aware of its meaning. Many amateur radio operators become good friends over years of communication, though they may never meet apart from the airwaves. Often, a memorial service or tribute will be held over the radio for a Silent Key.



**Robert (Bob) Burton Frost**  
July 16th, 1938 -  
January 11th, 2016

Alternate Emergency Operations Center in Long Beach. There he was instrumental in upgrading and testing PCEMA's radio equipment and operating procedures. He was one of the driving forces behind implementing and troubleshooting the high speed packet radio network that is currently undergoing testing.

Bob was a treasured speaker at the Pacific County Amateur Radio Club meetings. He was the technical expert and key implementer of the radio voice station for several years at the annual Field Day competition site at the Port of Peninsula. Thanks in large part to his efforts, the club has continually rated high in national Field Day results.

Bob enjoyed time at his cottage in Seaview, Washington and was active in community activities including the Pacific County Amateur Radio Club, Emergency Communication, and the Grassroots Garbage Gang Beach Clean Up. He provided radio communications and encouragement for many beach cleanups and his enthusiasm was inspirational.

Bob's contribution to science and amateur radio will live on through all those he has mentored. His commitment to science was apparent even at the end of his life by his participation in a promising pancreatic cancer drug trial during his treatment. Bob also helped found the Pacific County Community Fund Silent Key Scholarship, which is awarded to students who show an interest in pursuing a career in science.

Remembrances can be sent to: Pacific County Community Fund Silent Key Scholarship in care of Kathleen Sayce: PO Box 91, Nahcotta, WA 98637.

By Bob Cline, *Pacific County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Volunteer*

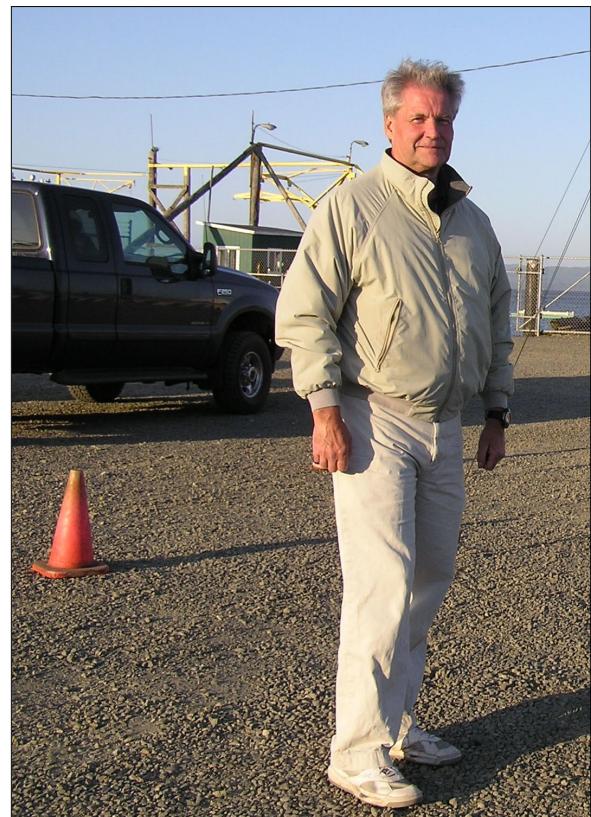
Bob Frost passed away peacefully on January 11th, 2016 after a courageous fight with pancreatic cancer since being diagnosed in April of 2014. He is survived by his wife of 25 years Susi.

Bob was a life-long learner and his love of science could spark that passion in anyone who knew him.

He was born and raised in Lake Forest Park, Seattle. At age 13 a crystal radio project inspired him to get his amateur radio (HAM) license (W7TOM). His fascination and expertise in radios and antenna design continued throughout his life.

In this era of cell phones Bob communicated daily via voice and Morse code on HAM radio. He also held an "Extra-Class" HAM license, the top US license class an operator can obtain.

As a Pacific County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) volunteer, Bob was assigned to the Pacific County Al-



Above: Bob at the Port of Peninsula for Amateur Radio Field Day. Below: He set up several extensive ham radio systems like this one.



# Misleading Cascadia Story Goes Viral, Causing Unnecessary Alarm for Coastal Residents

On January 17th, an inaccurate and misleading article was published by Superstation95.com entitled *US West Coast Earthquake Warning as Cascadia Subduction Zone Surges*. It went viral on Facebook & Twitter, causing false alarm and confusion for many coastal residents and their families throughout the country.



The article incorrectly stated that an ocean data buoy had detected a sudden drop in water depth off of the Oregon Coast indicating an imminent catastrophic earthquake. The National Weather Service (NWS) is responsible for monitoring the ocean data buoys and refuted Superstation95.com's claim on Twitter stating, "Tides naturally change water column height at buoys up to several feet every day."

The Superstation95.com article was also rife with misinformation about Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) events in general, including the statement that "everything" to the west of Interstate 5 would be "wiped out" after a CSZ generated tsunami, which is simply not true. Compounding the confusion, NWS and US Geological Survey data and maps were improperly used to back up this and other inaccurate assertions.

The NWS was quick to dismiss the claims made by Superstation95.com. Pacific Northwest media outlets also did their part to dispel the misinformation. (Visit <http://koin.com/2016/01/18/nws-buoy-event-off-oregon-coast-a-non-event/> to read KOIN 6's coverage of the situation, which employs credible and reliable sources from the NWS Seattle office to dismiss the Superstation95.com article.)

Social media can be a frenzy of data and tends to take on a life of its own, particularly during emergencies or disasters. A tremendous amount of great information can be relayed through social media but misinformation also has a way of entering the same outlets and in many instances, it is accepted without confirmation. Misleading communications, such as the article by Superstation95.com can go viral quickly, spreading fear, confusion and further misinformation.

## Where to Find Accurate Information About Emergencies

One of the best ways to help determine whether the information you are receiving is accurate or not, is to consider where the information is being sent from – its source. Credible and reliable emergency and disaster information can be obtained from the following sources:

- The Washington State Emergency Management Division
- The United States Geologic Survey (USGS)
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- The National Weather Service (NWS)
- NOAA Weather Radio Broadcasts
- Pacific County Emergency Management Agency (PCEMA)
- Local Television News Affiliates
- Local AM and FM Radio Stations



Don't forget to check your source before you believe a story or share it on social media!

To stay connected with PCEMA and ensure you are informed during emergencies that impact Pacific County:

- SIGN UP for the Emergency Notification System at [www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema](http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema) or use the QR code on the back page of this newsletter.
- LIKE the PCEMA Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pcema](https://www.facebook.com/pcema)
- 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.
- SIGN UP for the PCEMA Weather Warning list. (Provide your name via email to PCEMA staff and include the word "Subscribe".)
- READ the latest emergency management information on the PCEMA blog at [www.pcema.blogspot.com](http://www.pcema.blogspot.com).

# For AmeriCorps Members, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a Day of Service

By Jessica Rowlett, PCEMA AmeriCorps Member

Monday, January 18th was Martin Luther King Jr. Day. To many people, this holiday is a day off where they can relax and enjoy the time away from work or school. For AmeriCorps service members and countless other people who love to volunteer, we consider this day to be a “day on.” This year many of us sought out opportunities to help our community and give back to those who may need it.

As an AmeriCorps Service Member I joined the Pacific County Resiliency Corps (a team consisting of 12 other Pacific County AmeriCorps members) for a visit to three elder care facilities.

In the four months since starting our service terms, the Resiliency Corps and I have already held a food drive, a coat drive, and have done yard work for community members in need. The team decided that for our most recent day of service, it was time to reach out to the county’s elder community.

On the morning of the 18th, we split up with half our group going to the Willapa Harbor Care Center and the other half to the Alder House. Both of these facilities are in the north end of the county. While there we played games, did puzzles, and colored with the residents until lunch time. After lunch, the team regrouped and headed to Ocean Park for the second half of the service day. The entire team met at Golden Sands to do crafts with the residents. We decorated dishtowels and painted magnets.

Both the team and the residents of all three facilities had fun and bonded throughout the day. Next time Martin Luther King Jr. Day comes around, think about making it a day ON not a day OFF.



AmeriCorps members posed for a quick photo before spending time with residents at the Willapa Harbor Care Center. From left to right: Kelsey Hopstad, Taryn Pongratz, Alyssa Grams, Colton Christner, Taylor Hallowell, and Jessica Rowlett.

## The AmeriCorner

By Jessica Rowlett, PCEMA AmeriCorps Member

Now that the new year has begun, I’m planning small presentations for Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) that I will give at other PCEMA events in the coming months. I’ve also been helping to plan the joint Naselle and Wahkiakum County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training that will be held in late February.

Another project I’m involved in is the Community Tsunami Awareness Forums. PCEMA plans to hold them in February and March at locations across the county. John Schelling and Tabitha Laird from the Washington State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD), and Geologist Tim Walsh from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be speakers at the forums.

I’ve also had a chance to get out into the community for service oriented activities on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (see article left) and for Project Homeless Connect at the Elk’s Lodge in Long Beach where I gave out basic emergency supplies and information.



Jessica Rowlett (far right) provides emergency supplies and information at Project Homeless Connect in January.

PCEMA welcomed AmeriCorps Service Member Jessica Rowlett to the team in September 2015 for a twelve month term. Jessica is working as part of a Disaster Preparedness Public Education Outreach project.

Over the course of her term she will build and strengthen the local volunteer base by developing a strong public education outreach program to enhance disaster preparedness and response needs in Pacific County.



# 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](https://www.facebook.com/pcema) to follow frequent emergency management and preparedness dialogue.

**FOLLOW** [@PCEOCTweets](https://twitter.com/PCEOCTweets) 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 PCEOCTweets" to 40404.

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

**READ** the latest emergency management information on the PCEMA blog at [www.pcema.blogspot.com](http://www.pcema.blogspot.com).

**VISIT** the PCEMA website at [www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema](http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema) for valuable preparedness materials and to learn about hazards prone to Pacific County.

## Emergency Notification

Sign Up for the Emergency Notification System!

Residents can register cellphones on the PCEMA website. Use the QR code below to sign up using your smart phone!

*In the event of an emergency, this system may be used by emergency response personnel to notify specific homes and businesses at risk.*



To view tsunami inundation maps, visit:  
<http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema/TsunamiEvac.htm>

