

# PCEMA

*Pacific County Emergency Management Agency*

# Preparedness Post

Volume 2, Issue 6 May 2013

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Weather Rivers  
are Still Cold,  
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## CERT Training Underway in Raymond

# It is not too late to participate in CERT Training!

PCEMA is still offering Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Grays Harbor College Riverview Education Center in Raymond. Classes began April 23rd and will continue until May 18th. The remaining units are Search and Rescue, Team Organization, Terrorism, and a practical disaster simulation.

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 who have missed previous units can catch themselves up by reading the provided course materials. CERT training is free and open to the public.

**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.**

**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](mailto:kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us).

## Victims Needed for CERT Disaster Simulation!

Local CERTs will be gathering at the Grays Harbor College Riverview Campus in Raymond on March 18th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to practice their skills in a disaster simulation planned and coordinated by PCEMA. CERTs will be given a scenario and broken up into strike teams before conducting scene size-up, victim search, triage, rescue, and medical operations. Following the simulation, a potluck will be held while participants debrief. PCEMA is in need of volunteers to participate as victims for the simulation. The victims will be put into moulage makeup which will give the impression of minor to severe injury. Participants will also be given a short scenario of their choice to act out. These scenarios range from playing unconscious to appearing hypothermic, to exhibiting extreme emotional distress. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. Having a variety of volunteer victims will help our local CERTs prepare more thoroughly for complex disasters. Those interested in learning more or volunteering should contact PCEMA AmeriCorps Member Kirsten Harvill.

### Hone Your Acting Skills as a Volunteer Disaster Simulation Victim

**May 18th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Grays Harbor College Riverview Campus in Raymond**

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





# The AmeriCorner

Need money for college or know someone who does? Think about applying to become an AmeriCorps Member and gain valuable work experience while serving your community and earning money which can be put toward tuition or student loans! 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.

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. Feel free to contact current PCEMA AmeriCorps Members Kirsten Harvill and Lea Reuss to learn about their experiences with the program!



PCEMA AmeriCorps Members Kirsten Harvill (left) and Lea Reuss (right) would be happy to talk about their experiences with the PCEMA AmeriCorps program. Feel free to shoot them an email or give them a call!

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

To learn more about the PCEMA AmeriCorps experience, contact:

Kirsten Harvill  
360-875-9409  
[kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us)

Lea Reuss  
360-642-4482  
[ltreuss@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:ltreuss@co.pacific.wa.us)

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

PCEMA uses Facebook as a tool to keep the public informed about area risks in real time. You can like PCEMA on Facebook to receive these important updates! PCEMA's latest post of this nature was a Special Weather Statement issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) that applies to Pacific County.

Because the weather has been exceptionally nice, the NWS issued the Special Weather Statement to remind residents of the Pacific Northwest that swimming in local rivers may not be safe as the water is still cold & moving swiftly. PCEMA's post suggested that if you need to cool off please consider using a sprinkler and stay safe!

According to the Special Weather Statement issued May 5th, "Unusually warm weather may cause some people to begin to think about cooling off in rivers and streams of Southwest Washington and Northwest Oregon. Unfortunately, spring snow melt is beginning as well. This is causing river flows to increase and make swimming more difficult. It is also causing water temperatures in rivers draining the Cascades to fall well into the 40s. Lower Columbia rivers are hovering in the lower 50s. Coastal river temperatures are also near 50 degrees. These temperatures cause changes in the body quite quickly that make it difficult to swim. The cold temperatures in combination with swift currents will make swimming in rivers and streams very dangerous."

To view the entire post with links to the National Weather Service, head over to PCEMA's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/PCEMA](http://www.facebook.com/PCEMA).



## Kits Assembled and Ready for Distribution to Local Families in Need

Disaster preparedness kits will be distributed to families in need on a first come first served basis on May 30th at 6 p.m. at the North Willapa Harbor Grange in Grayland. Household income must fall below a specified level to be eligible for a kit.

The items for these kits were donated by community members from across the county during a Emergency Supply Drive coordinated by PCEMA over the winter.

For more information about kit distribution, contact PCEMA AmeriCorps Member Kirsten Harvill: 360-875-9409 or [kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:kharvill@co.pacific.wa.us)

# The National Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative

In light of the recent bombing at the Boston Marathon, PCEMA would like to remind Pacific County residents to stay vigilant. The Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative offers web-based training that PCEMA encourages area businesses and organizations to utilize as they prepare to respond to acts of terrorism and other violent threats (<http://nsi.ncirc.gov/>).

According to the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative, “prompt and detailed reporting of suspicious activities can help prevent violent crimes or terrorist attacks.” If you see suspicious activity, promptly call 911 to report it. Local law enforcement can respond quickly, while obtaining necessary assistance from state or federal response agencies through partnerships with the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative.

To effectively report a suspicious activity, it is important to be descriptive, accurate, and to the point. Give the date, time, and location of the activity. Report physical identifiers of anyone you have observed and include descriptions of any vehicles involved. If the suspicious individuals have left the scene and you can give information about where they have gone, be sure to do so. When reporting suspicious activity, you have the option to remain anonymous.

The Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative is a collaborative effort led by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement partners.

This initiative provides law enforcement with another tool to help prevent terrorism and other terrorism-related crime by establishing a national capacity for gathering, documenting, processing, analyzing, and sharing suspicious activity reporting information.

For more information on the National Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative, check out:  
<http://nsi.ncirc.gov/>

# Online Active Shooter Training Offered by FEMA

On December 11th, 2012, there was an active shooter incident at the Clackamas Mall near Portland, a location many Pacific County residents visit. Since then, a number of active shooter incidents have occurred across the nation.

FEMA offers an hour long online training entitled “Active Shooter: What You Can Do,” 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: What You Can Do 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 indicators of potential workplace violence and will know what actions to take to prevent and prepare for active shooter incidents.



To take FEMA's IS-907 Active Shooter Training visit:  
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=is-907>

# PCEMA Volunteers: Public Feedback for the National Incident Management System is Being Sought by FEMA

FEMA's National Integration Center (NIC) is currently soliciting public feedback and engagement for the review and update of National Incident Management System (NIMS) doctrine. According to FEMA, “NIMS identifies concepts and principles that answer how to manage emergencies from preparedness to recovery regardless of their cause, size, location, or complexity [by providing] a consistent nationwide approach and vocabulary.” PCEMA uses NIMS, and requires RACES and CERT volunteers to learn about the system as well. All PCEMA volunteers are encouraged to provide their critiques of NIMS to FEMA in an effort to streamline operations between professionals and citizen volunteers.

You can visit FEMA's NIMS Review and Update IdeaScale Campaign at [www.fema.ideascale.com](http://www.fema.ideascale.com). Please submit your feedback and comments as soon as possible. Additional questions can be directed to FEMA's National Integration Center via email: [FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov) or via telephone: 202-646-3850.

# April was an Event Filled Month!

27 area volunteers spent their day cleaning the beach in Grayland on April 20th.



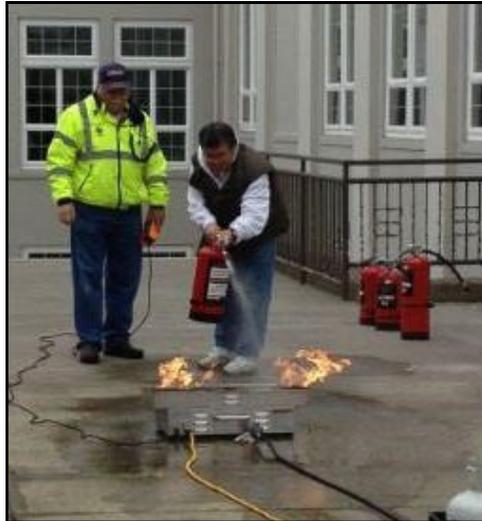
The beach clean up event was organized by PCEMA AmeriCorps Member Lea Reuss. Volunteers found everything from toilets, to couches, to tires (above and right).



Grays Harbor College Riverview Campus employees attend a preparedness presentation on April 24th (above).



CERT participants practice fire suppression on April 25th with the aid of Raymond Fire Department staff (above).



On April 27th, PCEMA held a Disaster Preparedness Fair at the Ilwaco High School. Attendees played Preparedness Jeopardy (top left), practiced hands on fire suppression with the Ilwaco Fire Department (above), toured the Ocean Beach Hospital's decontamination tent (middle left), visited exhibits by area agencies and businesses (bottom left), and participated in an earthquake drill.



PCEMA Director Stephanie Fritts and AmeriCorps Member Kirsten Harvill award an elementary school poster contest winner in a special ceremony during the Preparedness Fair on April 27th (above).

# PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

AHAB Siren Test: First Monday of the month @ noon  
Four-Week CERT Training - through May 18th - Page 2  
Emergency Supply Kit Distribution - May 30th - Page 3

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### 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](http://www.facebook.com/PCSOWA)

## Interested in Volunteering?

CONTACT: PCEMA AMERICORPS MEMBER KIRSTEN HARVILL  
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