

PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

Preparedness Post

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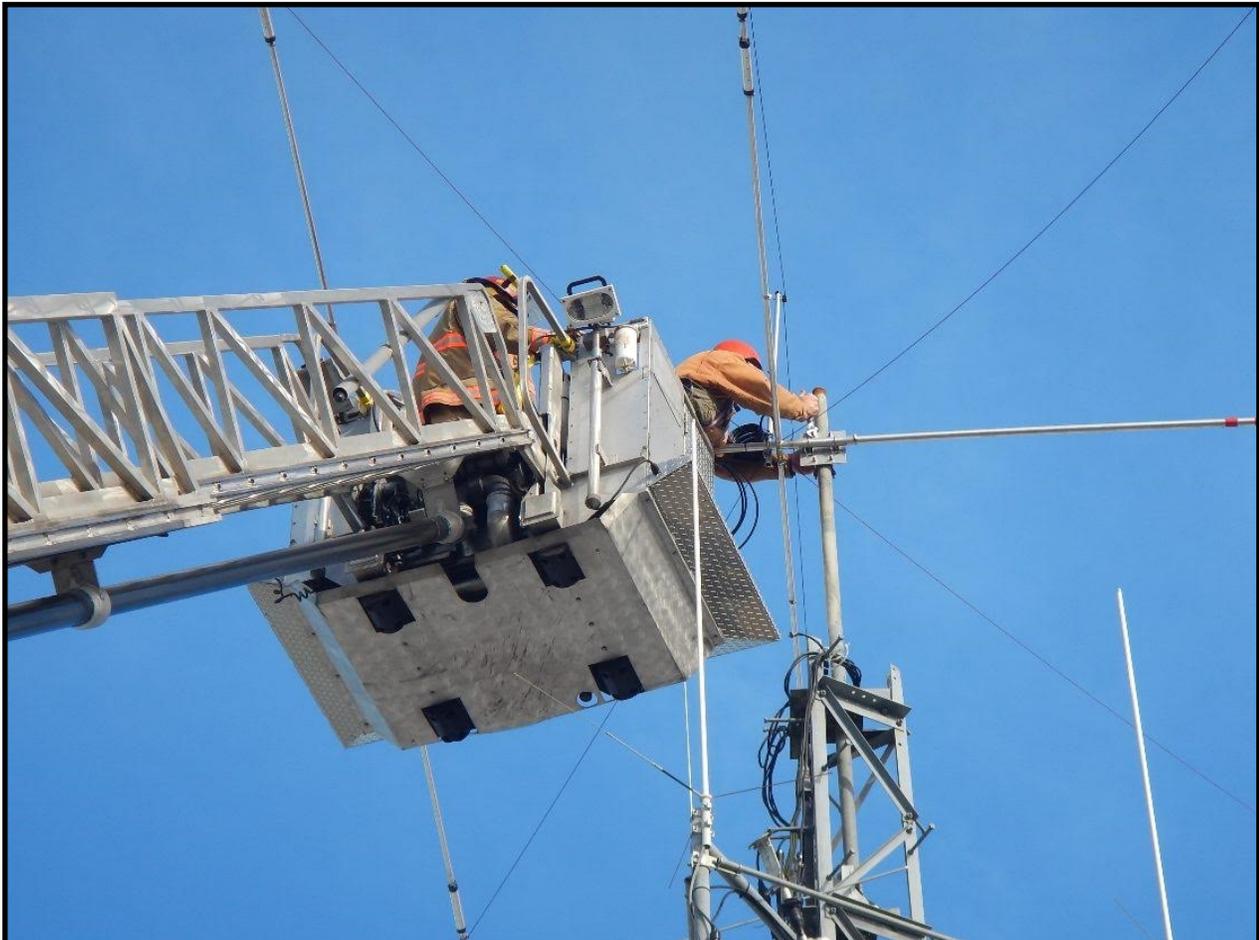


Photo by Frank Wolfe

Amateur Radio Volunteers Replace Damaged Emergency Antenna in Long Beach

Amateur Radio Volunteers Serve Pacific County

By Frank Wolfe (NMR7), *Pacific County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Volunteer*

On Saturday and Sunday, November 21st and 22nd, 2015, several volunteers with the Pacific County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) replaced the damaged antenna at the South County Administrative Facility in Long Beach. The original antenna, which has served faithfully for a number of years, was damaged in a wind storm earlier this year.

Saturday was spent assembling the new antenna on the ground, in anticipation of the actual replacement work, scheduled for Sunday, weather permitting. This process was not as straightforward as it might otherwise have been, due to minor changes necessitated by our particular tower and mast design. Much measuring, fitting, and minor cutting, drilling and grinding ensued.

Sunday morning, with the generous loan of a hydraulic ladder truck from Long Beach Fire Department, along with a pair of operators, the old antenna was removed from the tower, and the new one installed and connected without incident.

Ed Archer (K7WAT) rode the ladder, doing most of the work of unbolting the old antenna, while I



Ed Archer working atop the Long Beach Fire Department's hydraulic ladder which was provided for the project.

Photo by Frank Wolfe

assisted by climbing the tower to assist from that perch. Once the old antenna was transported to the ground, and the new one was lifted into place and secured to the tower mast. I took care of removing the old wiring, and installing new cabling to serve the new antenna.

The operation was overseen by Bob Cline (N7CVW), the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Pacific County. Bob confirmed the new

antenna's performance was up to expectations by quickly contacting stations in Alaska and San Diego. Bob Frink (KF7APN) and Steve Fiala (N7XRD) both lent a hand including some fine machine work.

This station will be playing a key role for our county in the large-scale, multi-state Cascadia Rising exercise planned for June of 2016. It will also be essential anytime "all other communications fail".

Women's HAM Net

Sundays at 8:00 p.m. - 145.45 on the SEARC & Beach Net Systems

The Women HAM Operators Net is an informal Net meant for women HAMS to practice on-air skills, give announcements, and ask questions in a supportive group. The Net normally runs less than 10 minutes and provides a quick and regular on-air practice time. All women HAMS are invited and encouraged to check in.

"We often talk about the great work amateur radio volunteers do on behalf of the county during a disaster, but their ability to build and maintain infrastructure, capacity and redundancy, and then to maintain what they have created is an invaluable service to PCEMA and to the community as a whole. If we relied on a for-profit organization to provide these services, Pacific County would never be able to afford the network that is currently in place."

-Scott McDougall, PCEMA Deputy Director

PCEMA Holds Preparedness Fair in October

PCEMA hosted a Preparedness Fair on Saturday, October 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Ocean Park Elementary School Gym. There were exhibits, demonstrations, and games designed to educate the community on how to prepare for and survive during and following a disaster.

PCEMA held a public meeting during the fair to share and discuss the draft update of the Pacific County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This meeting was an important opportunity for the public to see and comment on the proposed updates to the plan.



Photo Left—Members of the public attend the public meeting to share and discuss the ongoing update to the Pacific County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Photo Right—The PCEMA crew from left to right: Scott McDougall, Stephanie Fritts, and Jessica Rowlett.

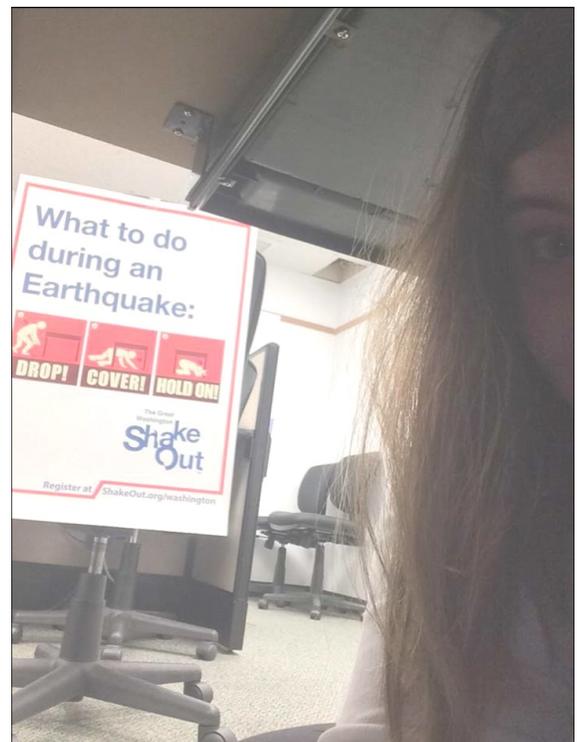
28,899 Participate in ShakeOut Earthquake Drill on Washington Coast

On October 15th at 10:15 a.m., millions of people across the world practiced how to drop, cover, and hold as participants in Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills.

According to the Great Washington Shakeout website, over one million people participated across the state. Along the coast, there were 28,899 participants, 2,853 of them from Pacific County. Of those participating in Pacific County, a majority belonged to K-12 schools and districts (2,480 people in total).

Earthquakes can and do affect Pacific County. Be ready to survive by practicing your response at the places you spend the most time. If you didn't have a chance to participate in this year's ShakeOut, mark your calendars for the next one in October 2016.

Photo Left— PCEMA AmeriCorps Member Jessica Rowlett poses for a quick selfie from under her desk during the Great ShakeOut drill.



Surfside Emergency Management Committee Works Toward Preparedness

By John Williams, *PCEMA Volunteer and SHOA Emergency Management Committee Member*

The Emergency Management Committee at the Surfside Home Owners Association (SHOA) in its present form is less than four years old. Since its inception, we have convinced the SHOA Board to have a generator installed at the office, which could then serve as a place to warm up, in the case of severe winter storms such as were experienced in 2007.

We had a AED installed in the office about two years ago, and workshops were held so that 20 persons received training on the device.

We have also had presentations on tsunami preparedness, and on Map Your Neighborhood.

We began an amateur radio station, with the radios installed in the SHOA office area. At the time we began three years ago, we had three licensed operators, all licensed as Technicians. In our Surfside Radio

Club, we now have 3 Extras, 4 Generals, and 2 Technicians.

We have 2 VHF-UHF (2m, 70cm) radios, one of which is dedicated to packet radio (on 24/7, and can be used as a digipeter). This group is currently getting weekly practice in various aspects of packet. We regularly take part in the 5th Saturday exercises, getting ready for the Cascadia Rising exercise in June 2016.

Our members also attend the Pacific County Amateur Radio meetings in Naselle, monitor the tsunami warning sirens, and participate in several of the nets.

Currently The Surfside Emergency Management Committee is working on producing evacuation maps for Surfside. One has been distributed already, and is available in the SHOA office. Our next maps will show contour elevation, and hopefully will be out before Christmas. We

are working to resolve the issue of an earthquake that renders our bridges unsafe or inaccessible. Without the bridges, the walking time to high ground is unacceptable.



The Surfside Emergency Management Committee— First Row (left to right): Clyde Zaidins, Jessica Rowlett (PCEMA), Walt Platt; Second Row (left to right): Georgia Mourikis, James Clancy, Dan Crooks, and John Williams.

Two More CERT Trainings Complete for 2015

PCEMA offered two free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings this fall in Raymond and Long Beach. Both classes had between five and ten participants.

The new CERT members received 20 hours of initial training through the course, which was taught with classroom instruction and practical exercises.

Volunteers from partner agencies assisted with instruction of both classes. PCEMA would like to thank Pacific County Fire District #1 staff Lani Karvia, Doug Knutzen, Connie Biggs, the Raymond Fire and Police Departments, the South Bend Fire Department, and the Grays Harbor Crisis Clinic for their assistance. Thanks are also in order for Grays Harbor College and the Lighthouse Ocean Front Resort for hosting the trainings. PCEMA would finally like to thank volunteers Key McMurry and Mary Atherton for their passion, creativity, and commitment in organizing the trainings.

The CERT program is an all-risk, all-hazard training.

This valuable course is designed to help you protect yourself, your family, your neighbors, and your neighborhood in an emergency situation. Watch for 2016 dates to be announced soon!



Participants of the Long Beach CERT Training held in November.

Results Published for Coastal Tsunami Awareness Study

On May 13th PCEMA hosted a series of five tsunami awareness focus groups. Four of the groups were held in Long Beach and a fifth was held in Tokeland. A total of 27 people attended all of the events.

These focus groups were facilitated by a team lead by Dr. David Johnston from Massey University in New Zealand. New Zealand faces a very similar hazard to the Cascadia Subduction Zone (which stretches from British Columbia to Northern California.)

Dr. Caroline Ochiston, who studies the impact of tsunami events on coastal tourism, assisted with the focus groups. Both she and Dr. Johnston are members of Massey University's Joint Centre for Disaster Research. They have been collaborating for many years with the United States Geological Survey and the Washington State Emergency Management Division, and their research has been beneficial to both New Zealand and Washington State.

Work within the focus groups involved discussion with residents and organizations to explore their understanding of tsunami hazards. These discussions and a short questionnaire were used to quantify people's understanding of tsunami hazards in Washington State, their knowledge regarding the warning systems, and their preparedness for future events.

The information provided by those attending the focus groups has been evaluated and a 29 page report entitled *Community Understanding of Tsunami Risk in Coastal Washington: 2015 Focus Group Study* was published in No-

vember. This study also includes findings from focus groups held in Grays Harbor County.

The Findings

According to the study, "the communities were found to have varying degrees of engagement with preparedness and planning activities in their community."

Study participants were asked to discuss many aspects of tsunami preparedness and to give their opinion on the effectiveness of current systems and response procedures in place.

The report states that "thirteen subthemes have been identified from the data, ranging from the use and effectiveness of evacuation sirens, to neighborhood support and preparedness, and to post-disaster community recovery."

It was noted that "there was significant doubt about the effectiveness of tsunami warning sirens."

"Tourism and tourist issues" were also a "prominent" theme for Long Beach. The report stated that "many issues were discussed about the ability of the local community to assist and care for visitors to their community, as well as the preparedness of tourism businesses."

Participants discussed hindrances to tsunami preparation and evacuation, including access to high ground and large at-risk or elderly populations.

According to the study, "several participants mentioned the negative impact of local myths about tsunami hazard, and that these myths had the effect of reducing people's concern about the risk." Specifically,

one participant stated that, "there are these myths that there is a continental shelf that will stop the wave" and that "the fisherman say there is a reef out there so the tsunami won't get us."

Participants were asked to come up with solutions for "improving local tsunami awareness and preparedness." The study stated that, "efforts at State- and County-level to support local initiatives were noted by participants, with mutual support, trust and respect between key stakeholders seen as important for developing tsunami preparedness in at-risk communities."

The study concluded that "individuals who had been through either the CERT or CEETEP training were much more aware of the risks, and frequently played a leadership role in educating others in their community about tsunami risks, including the need to evacuate quickly, and to prepare for such events."

The study went on to suggest that "these programs should be supported and developed into the future." It advised that "the network of CERT volunteers could be recruited for some public education tasks."

Though the results of the study will be useful to PCEMA and other emergency managers, they consider that according to the study "there was a high awareness of tsunami risk, however, it must be recognized that these results are not representative of the wider population, and that most people attending the meetings had specific interests in disaster preparedness and tsunami and earthquake issues."

Join the PCEMA Weather Warning List!

The PCEMA Weather Warning List is used to provide Weather Warnings from the National Weather Service. Those signed up for the list receive hazardous weather notices, PCEMA press releases, and this newsletter via email. To sign up provide your name and email to sfritts@co.pacific.wa.us or smcdougall@co.pacific.wa.us and include the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Will You Work with Your Neighbors to Survive in a Disaster or Emergency?

Much of this article comes directly from Map Your Neighborhood program materials.

In a disaster your most immediate source of help are the neighbors living around you. The Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program is designed to improve disaster readiness at the neighborhood level by teaching neighbors to rely on each other during the hours or days before fire, medical, police, or utility responders are able to arrive following a disaster.

For the purpose of this program, neighborhoods are defined as 15-20 homes in high-density/urban areas, five to seven homes in lower-density/rural areas, and confined to single condo or apartment complexes.

Neighborhoods begin the MYN program by learning the first “9 Steps” to take immediately following a disaster. This response plan begins at home and then reaches throughout the neighborhood. It teaches what to do to save a life, reduce the severity of injuries, reduce emotional distress, and decrease property and environmental damage.

The next step in MYN is to identify the skills and equipment present in the neighborhood and create an inventory. Knowing which neighbors have supplies and skills ensures a timely response to a disaster and allows everyone to contribute to the response in a meaningful way.

After completing the inventory, the neighborhood will work together to create a Neighborhood Map identifying the locations of hazardous items like natural gas and propane tanks that may require immediate attention.

Finally the group will create a Neighborhood Contact List that identifies those with specific needs such as the elderly, those with a disability, or homes where children may be alone during certain hours of the day.

After this is accomplished, the group can work together as a team to evaluate their neighborhood after a disaster and take the necessary actions.

It takes just one person to begin this process by inviting the neighborhood to his or her home for a 90-minute meeting, facilitated by a program DVD. The Map Your Neighborhood program will guide you and your neighbors through simple steps to help enhance your preparedness for an emergency. These steps will help you to quickly and safely take actions that can minimize damage and protect lives.

Neighborhoods that are prepared for emergencies and disaster situations save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma and reduce property damage. In addition, contributing as an individual and working together as a team helps develop stronger communities and improve the quality of life in the community.

For assistance facilitating a neighborhood meeting, contact PCEMA AmeriCorps Member Jessica Rowlett at jrowlett@co.pacific.wa.us or 360-642/875-9300 x 2548.

For more information on the MYN program, visit:

<http://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/preparedness/map-your-neighborhood>

The AmeriCorps

By Jessica Rowlett, PCEMA AmeriCorps Member

My term has been going very well. After three months, I’m finally starting to really settle in.

Since starting, I have helped coordinate the preparedness fair in October and have attended several trainings. Most of the trainings I have gone to are for specific activities but I’m finding that the information I learn can be applied in many other areas. Even if the training sessions are on the same subject, they are always presented by someone with a different perspective than the last.

One notable training I recently had the opportunity to attend was a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer course. This was very beneficial for understanding CERT better and learning new techniques for teaching.

I’m currently focusing my efforts on the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) and CERT programs. I’ve done a couple presentations about MYN and some people have shown interest. I’m hoping that after the holiday season I will be able to reel more people in.

I’m also working with Washington State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) to hold some earthquake and tsunami informational forums throughout the county. We haven’t set any exact dates yet but we do know that the forums will be held in both north and south county sometime in February or March.

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.

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Jessica is the fifth AmeriCorps member to serve with PCEMA.



Are You Ready to Travel in Winter Weather?

Winter travel can be especially treacherous in the Pacific Northwest. Even the daily commute to school or work can be compromised by high winds, flooded roadways, or icy conditions. Be prepared to venture out into whatever weather comes our way! Check out the links listed below to get a better idea about how to fully prepare.



WSDOT PRESENTS
WHAT TO CARRY IN YOUR CAR

Because you never know when you will encounter winter weather or emergency road closure.

Know before you go
wsdot.com/traffic



Above: The National Weather Service "Weather-Ready Nation" Program has great resources on its website (http://www.nws.noaa.gov/weatherreadynation/winter_safety.html), including the image above. The site includes practical driving tips like this one: "When the weather takes a turn for the worse this winter, take precautions if you have to be out on the roadways. Whether there is a coating of snow or ice on the roadways, or the asphalt just looks wet, SLOW DOWN!"

Left: The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has great travel tips and roadway condition information on their website (<http://wsdot.com/winter/emergencykit.htm> and <http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/trafficalerts/>). The image to the left is available online and lists many essential items to keep in your vehicle to better respond to winter road conditions. If you intend to travel longer distances this season, be sure to check the traffic alerts site to see what roads may be closed or impacted by weather. Traffic cameras are also available to view conditions first hand for some areas.

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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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 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.

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.

VISIT the PCEMA website at 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>

