

PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

Preparedness Post

Volume 3, Issue 6 September-October 2014

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Drop, Cover, and Hold
On!**



Pacific County



Disaster Preparedness Fair

Tuesday, October 14th

11:00 AM—3:00 PM

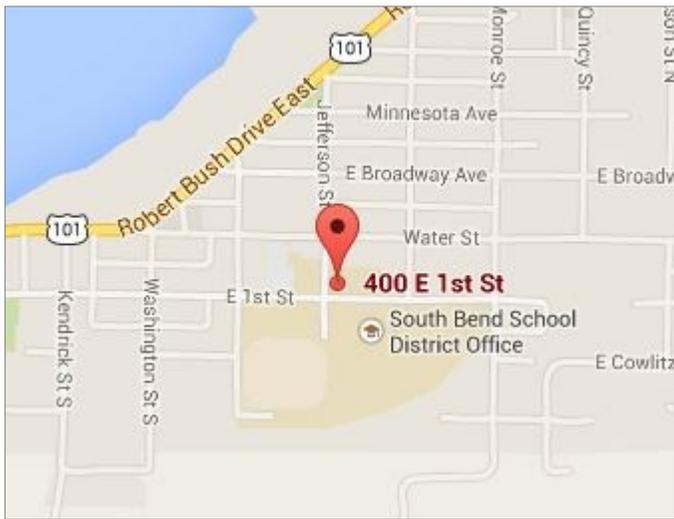
South Bend High School

Preparedness Fair October 14th

PCEMA will be hosting a Preparedness Fair on Tuesday October 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Koplitz Fieldhouse on the South Bend High School Campus, located at 400 E. First Street in South Bend.

Preparedness Fair attendees will have the opportunity to participate in fire extinguisher and first aid training. Attendees can also register to win a 72 hour emergency kit from the Pacific County PUD. Information about HAM radio, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, and disaster preparedness will also be available. This is a free event open to the public.

Groups or businesses interested in being an exhibitor can contact PCEMA at [\(360\) 875-9338](tel:3608759338).



Tsunami Warnings Now Available in Spanish

Effective August 4th, 2014 the National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) will begin issuing tsunami messages in Spanish for its Pacific Ocean users. This action follows the successful introduction of Spanish messages for NTWC Atlantic users in 2013. The NTWC is issuing these products in Spanish for the Pacific region to help ensure users whose native language is Spanish can better understand the messages.

The Spanish products will offer the same format and content as the English products, bulleted points, etc. and NWS will issue the Spanish products on the same channels as the English products (NOAA Weather Wire, EMWIN, etc.).

Spanish product examples are provided at:

http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/?page=product_list

For questions or feedback regarding this notice, please contact paul.whitmore@noaa.gov. National Service Change Notices are available online at <http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>.

Shakeout Drill October 16th at 10:16 a.m.

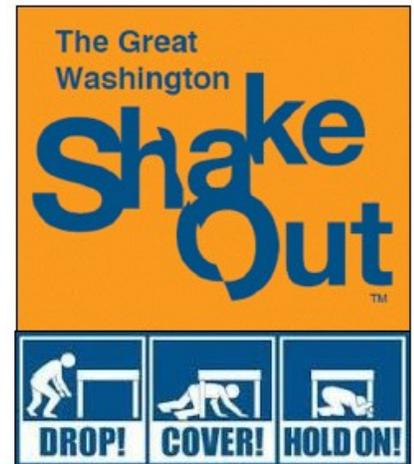
On October 16th at 10:16 a.m., millions of people across the world will practice how to drop, cover, and hold as participants in Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills. 810,000 people have already registered in Washington State alone. Over 2,500 people have registered in Pacific County. A majority of the registered participants from Pacific County are school students and staff.

Wherever you are at 10:16 a.m. on October 16th, you should drop, cover, and hold for at least 60 seconds, as if an earthquake was actually occurring. To participate in the ShakeOut you won't need to leave work or school. Participating at places where you spend a lot of time is encouraged!

Businesses, organizations, schools, and government agencies can register and have their employees practice drop, cover, and hold, or have a more extensive emergency drill.

Pacific County employees will be participating in this important event, and as a result the public may experience disruptions to normal customer service during the exercise.

Pacific County residents are encouraged to participate in the Great Washington ShakeOut by registering at www.shakeout.org/washington/ and by conducting a personal drill such as Drop, Cover, and Hold or an evacuation walk. Photos and accounts of this year's ShakeOut drill can be sent PCEMA to share on the Facebook page and in the bi-monthly newsletter.



AHAB Sirens to be Tested During ShakeOut

The Pacific County All Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB) outdoor sirens will be tested as part of the Great Washington ShakeOut on Thursday, October 16, 2014, at 10:16 a.m. with the actual tsunami siren tone (a three minute wail). The siren tone will be preceded and followed by a verbal message. The AHAB sirens in Pacific County and the other outer Washington coastal counties are being activated to conduct a true "end-to-end" test of the entire tsunami warning system. The sirens recently installed in South Bend and Raymond will be included in this test.

This test will help familiarize residents with the sound made by the AHAB sirens during an actual tsunami warning. It will differ from the routine monthly testing that occurs on the first Monday of each month since it will broadcast an audible siren wail tone for the full three minute warning instead of a chime tone. In addition, the voice message will differ from the monthly test.

NOAA weather radios set to receive the required monthly test will also activate during this test.

Welcome AmeriCorps Member Courtney Hagain

On September 2nd, PCEMA welcomed AmeriCorps Service Member Courtney Hagain to the team. Courtney will serve a twelve month term with the agency. 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. Courtney is the fourth AmeriCorps member to serve with PCEMA.

A 2013 graduate of Raymond High School, Courtney was active in basketball and volleyball. In addition she was involved in several clubs at Raymond. She was co-president of the Real Extreme Action League, a club that presented assemblies that promoted good behavior and good grades. She graduated from high school with nearly four hundred hours of community service. Since graduation Courtney has been attending Grays Harbor Community College where she is currently working toward her Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies. She chose to serve as an AmeriCorps Service member not only develop her knowledge of emergency management, but also to serve her community and the larger Pacific County community.

Courtney's first tasks have included earthquake and tsunami research, and event planning for the 2014 Preparedness Fair to be held on October 14th in South Bend. She attended the annual Washington State Emergency Management Association (WSEMA) conference with PCEMA Deputy Director Scott McDougall in late September. Courtney will also complete basic CERT training and a CERT Train the Trainer course during her term of service.

To contact Courtney regarding volunteer opportunities and public education events, email chagain@co.pacific.wa.us or call (360)875-9300 ext.2584.



PCEMA Updates Hazmat Plan

PCEMA is in the process of finalizing an updated Emergency Support Function (ESF) 10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan for Pacific County. PCEMA received federal funding to revise the existing plan in 2013. Work on the new plan began in May of 2014.

The purpose of the updated plan will be to demonstrate local commitment to reduce risks from hazardous materials. The plan will serve as a guide for decision-makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of hazardous materials. Local data and feedback from response agencies has been incorporated into the plan to ensure that it is relevant to community risks and needs.

As a supplement to the new plan, a survey of local, state, and federal databases was conducted. Information relating to hazardous materials incidents and sites was consolidated and used as the basis for a county-wide hazardous materials risk assessment.

Based on an evaluation of Pacific County hazardous materials incidents recorded by the National Response Center, Washington State Department of Ecology, and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration from 1990-2014, it is apparent that oils, gasoline, and diesel are the primary hazardous materials of concern in this area. "Unknown oil" has been cited as the cause of 54 of 176 incidents over 24 years.

Pacific County waterways have historically been impacted by hazardous materials incidents from onshore transportation accidents and fixed site leaks or spills, as well as waterway transportation accidents. Many busy thoroughfares (Highway 101 particularly) border or cross large bodies of water and tributaries. Likewise, many industrial areas in Pacific County border the water. Raymond, South Bend, and Ilwaco all have recorded incidents at ports, marinas, and logging yards.

Pacific County has a wide range of potentially hazardous

sites, which reflect the diverse manufacturing, processing, natural resources and industrial occupations available in the area.

Agriculture is the largest industry sector noted in the new plan. Hazardous materials prevalent at agricultural sites could potentially include pesticides, legacy pesticides (i.e. DDT), gasoline/diesel, miscellaneous oils and solvents, as well as fertilizer.

Shops make up the second largest industry sector, and the types include auto body and auto mechanics, boat maintenance, heavy equipment and excavation, metal fabrication, construction, roofing, painting, and operations shops for municipal organizations. Many of these sites do not house large quantities of any one hazardous material, (aside from fuel). They may however possess a collectively large quantity of various hazardous materials such as oils, solvents, paints, antifreeze, or welding gases. Many of the chemicals used in shops become hazardous waste if not properly disposed of.

Fuel sites are third largest industry sector. The new plan includes commercial fuel sites, fuel sites used by public entities, and private fuel sites used by individuals and businesses. These sites house some of the largest stores of hazardous materials in Pacific County.

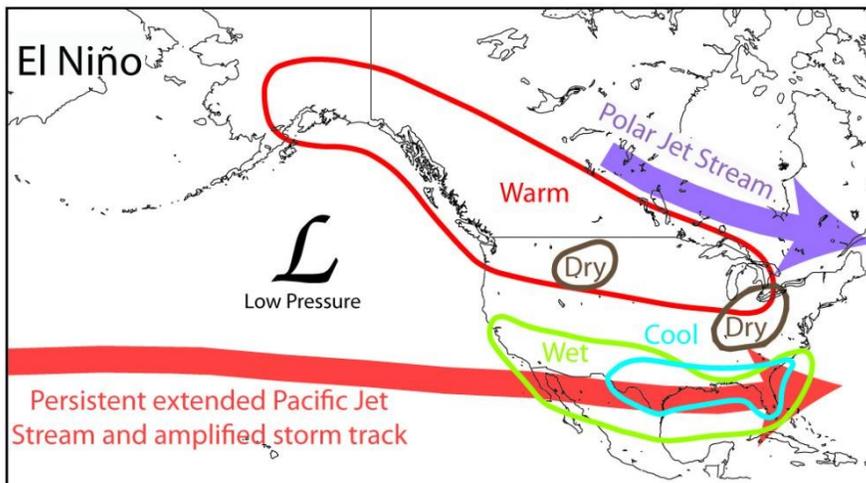
Processors are the fourth largest industry sector. Processor types include seafood and marijuana. Port communities are home to seafood processing plants that use chemicals such as ammonia or sodium hypochlorite in the course daily work. Chemicals used to process marijuana include flammables such as hexane or butane.

Other sites included in the new plan are: cell towers, dry cleaners, hatcheries, manufacturing, medical facilities, mills, mortuaries, pest control, pharmacies, pools, plants, quarries, electrical substations, hazardous materials suppliers, and wastewater treatment facilities.

El Niño Could Cause Warm and Dry Conditions

Drop, Cover, Hold

In preparation for the 2014 Great Washington ShakeOut, make sure you know how to properly drop, cover, and hold on!



DROP: Immediately drop to the ground wherever you are before the earthquake drops you! Shaking may be so violent that you cannot run or crawl. Drop where you are.

COVER: Take cover by getting under a sturdy desk or table. If you are not near a desk or table, cover your face and head with your arms.

HOLD ON: The floor or ground could jerk strongly sideways or out from under you. Hold on to something sturdy and hang on until the shaking stops.

The chance of an El Niño during the coming autumn and winter in the Northern Hemisphere is at 60-65% according to the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) monthly Diagnostic Discussion issued by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center on September 4th.

NOAA predicts El Niño will develop during September-November and to continue into early 2015. A majority of models favor a weak El Niño. According to NOAA, "At this time, the consensus of forecasters expects El Niño to emerge during September-October and to peak at weak strength during the late fall and early winter."

According to the office of the Washington State Climatologist, there are "increased chances of above normal temperatures for the entire state, and the chances of warmer than normal temperatures are greater west of the Cascade Mountains. For precipitation, there are increased chances of below normal precipitation statewide."

Despite predictions of a warmer and drier fall and winter, Pacific County can still experience hazardous weather conditions in addition to increased fire hazard. Storms can blow in throughout the seasons bringing gale force winds and heavy rain. Flooding of rivers and lowland areas often occurs. Downed trees or power lines cause damage to property and make roads impassible. Freezing rain and snow contribute to vehicle accidents and collisions. Power outages are typical and other utilities can be disrupted. Hazardous weather can prevent travel, even short distances. Do you have the emergency supplies you will need in your home or your vehicle if you become stranded for an extended period of time?

If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow. You are less likely to be injured staying where you are. Broken glass on the floor has caused injury to those who have rolled to the floor or tried to get to doorways.

If you are in a wheelchair, lock the wheels once you are in a safe position. If unable to move quickly, stay where you are. Cover your head and neck with your arms.

If you are outdoors, move to a clear area if you can safely do so; avoid power lines, trees, signs, buildings, vehicles, and other hazards.

If you are driving, pull over to the side of the road, stop, and set the parking brake. Avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking is over. If a power line falls on the car, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.

Information provided by www.dropcoverholdon.org/

It's Time to Assemble Emergency Kits for Winter

Do you have what you need in your home to live comfortably for at least three days without power or outside resources? Are you prepared for a breakdown in the middle of a storm? Could you spend the night in your car and stay warm until help arrives? Below is a list of useful emergency items for homes and vehicles:

- 1. WATER:** at least one gallon, per person, each day for all hydration and sanitation needs.
- 2. FOOD:** nutritious, high calorie foods that do not require cooking or other preparation are best.
- 3. NOAA WEATHER RADIO:** stay informed as conditions change.
- 4. LIGHT SOURCE:** a flashlight or a lantern.
- 5. BLANKETS/BODY WARMERS**
- 6. WINTER COAT & APPARREL**
- 7. FIRST AID KIT:** including gauze pads, compress dressings, adhesive bandages, roller bandages, triangular bandages, cloth tape, antibiotic ointment, antiseptic wipes, hydrocortisone, aspirin, anti-diarrheal medication, antihistamine pills, cold compress, sling, non-latex gloves, oral thermometer, scissors, and instruction book.

- 8. PERSONAL MEDICATIONS:** attempt to keep no less than a three day supply of any essential medications on hand.
- 9. PET SUPPLIES:** keep a stock of food and treats available for you pets.
- 10. ENTERTAINMENT:** books, puzzles, cards, and games can help keep spirits up when the lights go down.
- 11. BACKPACK/CONTAINER:** keep small items together.
- 12. MAP or GPS UNIT:** geographical orientation can be essential to inform emergency personnel of your location.
- 13. REFLECTIVE VEST:** for increased visibility to oncoming traffic while walking or working on your vehicle roadside.

- 14. REFLECTIVE TRIANGLE/ROAD FLARES:** for increased visibility after an accident.
- 15. FIRE EXTINGUISHER**
- 16. HAND CLEANER/TOWEL:** use to remove gunk after changing tires or working under the hood.
- 17. FOLDING SHOVEL:** for digging out of snow or mud.
- 18. TOOLS:** a jack, tire iron, Swiss Army type knife, larger utility knife, screwdriver set, crescent wrench, pliers, and jumper cables can make all the difference.
- 19. TIRE SEALANT:** to keep a flat tire temporarily functional if changing the tire is not an option.
- 20. TOW ROPE:** 14'-20' long with metal hooks to aid in removing your vehicle from dangerous areas.

Cascadia Earthscope Earthquake and Tsunami Education Program (CEETEP) Comes to Pacific County

On August 11th-14th CEETEP held a workshop open to residents of both Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties in Aberdeen. The workshop was made possible by a grant from the EarthScope Program of the National Science Foundation (NSF). CEETEP offers these four-day workshops to foster community engagement of earthquake science and preparedness, and to encourage collaboration and exchange between formal and informal coastal educators.

According to CEETEP, "EarthScope is a multi-decade effort to explore the structure and evolution of the North American continent." The workshop explained how GPS, and other geophysical instruments to monitor the Cascadia Subduction Zone and advance understanding of the region's geohazards. The workshop participants included K-12 teachers, park and museum interpreters, and emergency management educators from coastal areas. Participants learned about the current understanding of Pacific Northwest plate tectonics, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Three days of classroom and interpretive activities on Pacific Northwest geology and EarthScope science were followed by a field day investigating Cascadia earthquakes and tsunamis, and visits to seismic and GPS installations.



Dr. Brian Atwater explains how evidence of past tsunamis can be found in the tidal mud during the CEETEP field trip at the Elk River estuary.



David Yamaguchi shares the history of a tree that was killed by the Tsunami of January 26, 1700. Yamaguchi also explained the process he used to determine how and when this and other "ghost forest" trees died.

EOC Drill in South Bend

On October 2nd, Pacific County employees gathered at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in South Bend to prepare for future EOC activations. Trained employees from multiple county departments work as a team to staff the Admin/Finance, Planning, Logistics, and Operations sections under the guidance of Sheriff's Office personnel.



Did You Catch PCEMA at the County Fair?

PCEMA had a great week at the Pacific County Fair in August. Pictured below is PCEMA Deputy Director Scott McDougall (right) who was surprised by a visit from Dr. Bob de Groot, of the Southern California Earthquake Center (left).



October Declared Disaster Preparedness Month

Camp Murray, Wash. – Gov. Jay Inslee has proclaimed October as Washington State Disaster Preparedness Month and NOAA Weather Radio Awareness Month.

Local jurisdictions, individuals and businesses across the state will promote all-hazard preparedness throughout the month. The highlight of the month is the Great Washington ShakeOut “drop, cover and hold” earthquake drill on Oct. 16 at 10:16 a.m. The drill will emphasize the urgent need for people, organizations, schools, communities and businesses to practice what to do to be safe and to be ready before an earthquake strikes. In addition, coastal communities will test their tsunami alert sirens at the same date and time.

“Washington is vulnerable to a variety of hazards, but one of the greatest is earthquakes,” said Inslee. “By participating in the Great Washington ShakeOut and taking steps to prepare for an earthquake, people also improve their preparedness for other hazards that pose significant threats, such as tsunamis, floods, severe winter storms, and acts of terror.”

Organizers with the Military Department’s Emergency Management Division are shooting for 1 million Washingtonians to participate in the drill. To date, nearly 800,000 have registered. Last year, more than 870,000 people participated. People and organizations can sign up to participate at www.shakeout.org/washington.

This is the third year for Washington State to participate in the Great ShakeOut initiative. Individuals, families, and public, private and non-profit organizations in the following areas will run an earthquake drill on the same date and time (in their respective time zones): 38 states; the District of Columbia; territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, US Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands; and the Provinces of British Columbia and Quebec, and the Yukon Territory in Canada. Participants in the state of Utah, and Italy, Japan, and New Zealand will conduct earthquake drills related to the initiative on other dates.

The governor also proclaimed October as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio month. The governor’s proclamation notes NOAA Weather Radio provides emergency alerts about approaching hazards, and is a perfect compliment to other information sources during times of peril.

In addition, the governor notes a related emergency preparedness campaign called Take Winter By Storm, also kicks off in October. It highlights preparedness specifically for winter storms. For information about Washington State Disaster Preparedness Month, NOAA weather radios, and emergency preparedness, visit http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_index.shtml.



Transponders from Japan Reportedly Reach the WA Coast

Attention beachcombers! Transponders released from Japan have reportedly been washing up along the Washington Coast. Here is the info provided PCEMA:

These floating instruments are about the size of a 2-liter soda bottle and were set in the ocean from different ports off Japan in 2011-12 after the massive Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Researchers from Tattori University for Environmental Studies in Japan have been collaborating with Oregon State University (OSU), Oregon Sea Grant, and the NOAA Marine Debris Program on the project.

According to OSU, “The researchers’ goal is to track the movement of debris via ocean currents and help determine the path and timing of the debris from the 2011 disaster. An estimated 1.5 million tons of debris was washed out to sea and it is expected to continue drifting ashore along the West Coast of the United States for several years.”

Researchers need the help of fisherman, beachcombers, and other coastal visitors to retrieve the transponders. According to OSU, “These transponders only have a battery life of about 30 months and then they no longer communicate their location, so the only way to find out where they end up is to physically find them and report their location.”

Persons who find a transponder are asked to photograph it if possible, and report the location of their find to Chan at Samuel.Chan@oregonstate.edu ; or to the NOAA Marine Debris Program regional coordinator in their area at <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/contact-us> . They will provide shipping instructions to persons who find the transponders so that the instruments can be returned to the research team.

More information is available at: <http://oregonstate.edu/ua/ncs/archives/2014/sep/anglers-beachcombers-asked-keep-eye-out-transponders-japan>.



Be on the lookout for transponders, like the one pictured above on Pacific County beaches.

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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8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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 email list. Provide your name via email to PCEMA staff 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.

Emergency Notification

Sign Up for the Emergency Notification System!

Residents can register cellphones on the PCEMA website. Use the QRL 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.

