

PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

Preparedness Post

Volume I, Issue 2 December 2011

In This Issue

A strong frontal system brought powerful winds and torrential rain to Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington on Tuesday the 22nd and Wednesday the 23rd of November, marking the beginning of the Winter Storm Season on the coast.

The first landfall of strong winds arrived early Tuesday morning, also bringing thunder and lightning to some areas of Pacific County. Wind gusts of 58 mph were recorded in Ocean Park, and gusts of 66 mph were recorded at Cape Disappointment, with higher elevations

like the Astoria-Megler Bridge and Mount Hebo (Tillamook County) receiving gusts of 81 mph and 97 mph, respectively.

On the Oregon coast, downed trees forced the closure of Highway 18 and several roads in Tillamook County. Trees were even blocking traffic 12 miles southwest of the Portland Airport, where gusts of 35 mph were reported. In Grays Harbor County, there was one casualty; a 74 year old man was hit by a falling tree outside his home.

Winds began to relax around mid-morning on Tuesday as the rest of the storm front pushed into the region. By the late afternoon, the front shifted north resulting in another round of powerful winds and torrential rain Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Toke Point had gusts of 43 mph Tuesday afternoon, with wind speed increasing to 63 mph by early Wednesday morning. Cape Disappointment recorded

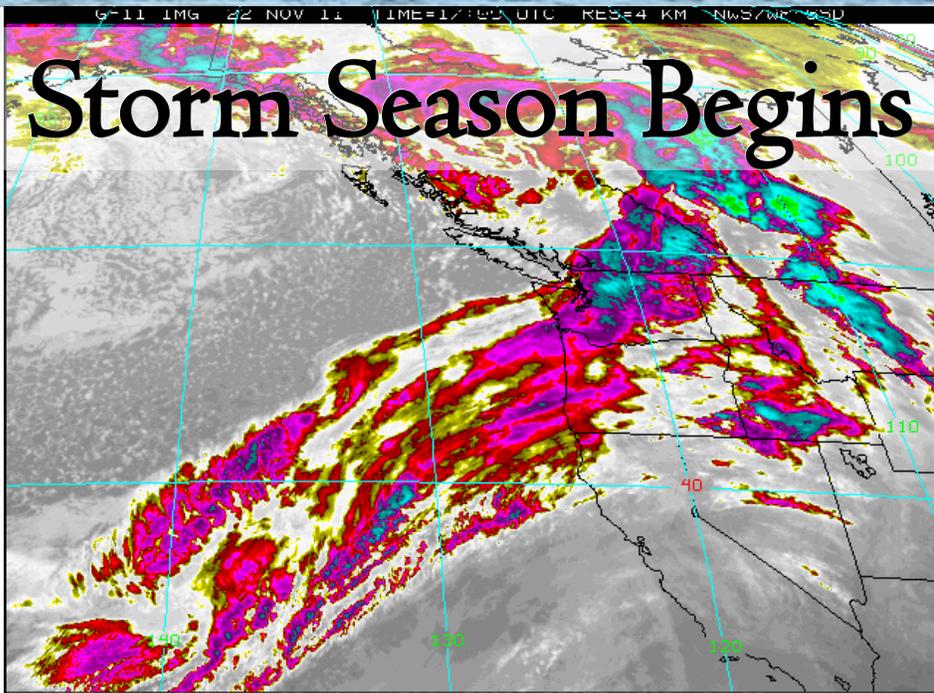


Image courtesy of the National Weather Service

75 mph gusts on Wednesday while Long Beach was simultaneously experiencing gusts of 51 mph.

The second round of winds pummeled the Oregon Coast. There were downed trees in Clatsop, Lincoln, and Tillamook counties, causing the closure of sections of Highway 18, 53, 101, 126, 202, 299. At 7 am Wednesday morning, trees fell on a Semi Truck on Highway 18. No injuries were reported. On the Alsea River Bridge near Waldport, strong winds blew over a woodchip truck, blocking traffic.

According to the National Weather Service, "This storm also brought very heavy rain to the area, which produced some localized river and street flooding." June Lake, WA (50 miles east of Seattle on Hwy 2) received the highest rainfall, 10.10 inches over the course of the storm. Tillamook had 5.69 inches, and Astoria 3.42. Flood watches and warnings were issued for the Naselle, Willapa, and Grays Rivers.

Free Training



NOAA Weather Radios

Let's Talk Tsunamis

"Japan's Killer Quake"



CERT: Free Emergency Training for Pacific County Residents

get involved

What is CERT?



CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team.

CERT educates citizens about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. PCEMA will provide opportunities for continued training and community preparation for interested CERT participants.

CERT courses are in the process of being scheduled through the Department of Homeland Security Region 3, which funds the program. They are tentatively planned for February and March and will be held in North and South county. Participants under the age of 18 must have parent permission to attend. All course materials are provided. Dates and locations will be announced as soon as they are established.

Why Join CERT?

You will gain valuable knowledge that could potentially save you or a loved one in the event of a disaster.

You can become more connected to your community by participating in preparedness initiatives at local schools, businesses, clubs, and organizations.



Practical skills acquired in CERT training can enhance your resume or value as an employee.

And, as if that wasn't reason enough... It's fun!

To register, please contact:

PCEMA Americorps VISTA *Natasha Nesbitt*

Phone— 360-875/642-9409

Email— nnesbitt@co.pacific.wa.us



NOAA Weather Radios

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a branch of the U.S. Department of Commerce that investigates and reports environmental changes that could potentially impact our nation. NOAA's mission is "Science, Service, and Stewardship." Data about oceans, coastal areas, and the Earth's atmosphere is gathered for use in conservation planning and natural resource management. NOAA's timely use of information and technology has helped mitigate natural disasters, save lives and property, and safeguard environmentally vulnerable sectors of commerce and trade.

In addition to long-term research for fisheries management, coastal restoration, and marine commerce, NOAA provides daily weather, hydrological, and climate forecasts, and severe storm warnings through its National Weather Service (NWS) program. NWS is a public service that includes 1000 transmitters covering all 50 states and adjacent waters. NOAA Weather Radios are a function of the NWS, continuously broadcasting weather information directly from the nearest regional office.



National Weather Service Map showing NOAA Weather Radio coverage

NOAA Weather Radios are a single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information because they work in conjunction with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Emergency Alert System (EAS), as well as Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers. These comprehensive partnerships allow the NOAA Weather Radio to broadcast warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (earthquake, tsunami, flooding), environmental (chemical releases, oil spills), and public safety (AMBER alerts, law enforcement missives), in addition to real-time weather conditions and forecasts.

For more information on NOAA and NWS:

<http://weather.noaa.gov/>

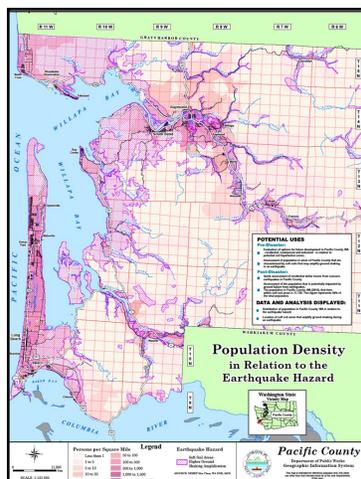
NOAA Weather Radio receivers come in a variety of sizes, styles, and prices. They can be found locally at places like Jack's Country Store, Dennis Company, Bud's Lumber and Radio Shack. They range

in cost from \$25 up to \$100 or more, depending on the quality of the receiver and the number of features it includes. The most desirable feature is an alarm tone, which allows you to set the radio on silent standby, turning on automatically for alarm tones and warning messages. If you don't already own a NOAA Weather Radio, consider investing in one. They also make great gifts!

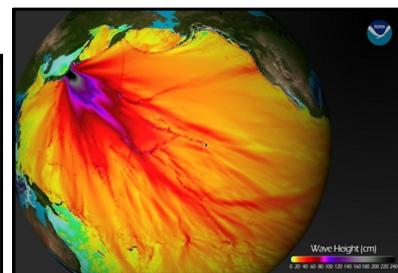
Let's Talk Tsunamis

Beginning after the new year, PCEMA will be holding presentations to explain and discuss tsunamis, and the threat they pose to our county. These presentations will define local and distant tsunamis and the vastly different effects each incident could potentially have on the area. Topics covered include (but are not limited to): The Cascadia Subduction Zone; the 1700 "Orphan Tsunami"; recent tsunamis from around the world; earthquake effects, tsunami generation, movement, inundation, and destruction; Emergency Alert protocols; evacuation methods; disaster preparedness; and local conditions. Taking a comprehensive look at the worst case scenario of a local earthquake and tsunami, this presentation will provide a realistic basis to help participants prepare for disasters.

PCEMA will be scheduling dates, speakers, and venues for the purpose of holding public presentations. Organizations, businesses, clubs, and other groups are encouraged to request presentations as well. There are two versions of the presentation: Basic (30 minutes) and Comprehensive (1 Hour). To request a presentation please contact: Natasha Nesbitt (info on previous page.)



Earthquake waves are amplified in soft soils. As this map illustrates, the population of Pacific County that lies within soft soil areas is 17,730 (2010 Census). This figure represents 84% of the total population. Issues relating to the realities of this hazard will be discussed.



Tsunami energy map from the March 2011 Japanese event: Waves generated from the 9.0 quake reverberated across the Pacific Ocean. Data from this event, and other recent major events will be used to illustrate potential hazards and issues in Pacific County. Map Courtesy of NOAA

TSUNAMI HAZARD ZONE

IN CASE OF EARTHQUAKE, GO TO HIGH GROUND OR INLAND

In a disaster, your most immediate source of help are the neighbors living around you.



MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Building and Strengthening Disaster Readiness Among Neighbors

Learn the first 9 Steps to take immediately following a disaster to secure your home and to protect your neighborhood.

Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that are useful in an effective disaster response.

Create a Neighborhood Map showing the locations of: natural gas meters, propane tanks, elderly neighbors, and children that may be home alone at certain hours of the day.

Knowing what to do in the first hours of a disaster may help save a life, reduce the severity of possible injuries, and reduce the amount of damage your neighborhood sustains!

For instructions and additional resources, check out <http://www.emd.wa.gov/myn/index.shtml>. If you have any questions, or would like a hardcopy of the Map Your Neighborhood instruction packet, please contact PCEMA. To request a neighborhood map, please mail the form below to PCEMA, or to request a neighborhood map online, please include all information requested on the form below in an email. Map requests may also be made over the phone.

CONTACT INFO: Email: nnesbitt@co.pacific.wa.us, Phone: (360) 642/875-9409, Mail: P.O. Box 101, South Bend, WA 98586

Map Your Neighborhood GIS Mapping Assistance Form

The preliminary map provided by Pacific County Department of Public Works is poster sized, and includes the following layers:

- + Semi-transparent Orthoimagery (Satellite photos of the ground, made semi-transparent so the map is easier to mark.)
- + Taxlot boundaries
- + Roads
- + Neighborhood Boundary

Neighborhood Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Neighborhood Town/Zip Code: _____

Neighborhood Boundaries: (EXAMPLE: North Side: 215 Tsunami St. to corner of Tsunami St & Earthquake Ln.)

North Side: _____

West Side: _____

South Side: _____

East Side: _____

Notes/Additional Information Requests: _____

Social Media and Emergency

Management



@PCEOCNews

Text follow PCEOCNews to 40404 to "fast follow" on your mobile device

@PCEOCNews is the official Twitter account for the Pacific County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is activated during emergencies by Emergency Management staff in order to coordinate response and recovery efforts. @PCEOCNews is tested the first Monday of every month at noon in coordination with the monthly AHAB siren test. Otherwise it is only used when the EOC is activated. The page is not monitored for emergency notifications. If you have an emergency please dial 911.

Citizens with smart phones are able to receive @PCEOCNews Twitter messages in real time, helping them to stay informed and

get prepared in the event of a local disaster. To have this capability, you do not need a Twitter account.



PCEOCNews Pacific County EOC

The situation will be re-evaluated at 9 am. Press releases can be found at www.pcema.blogspot.com.

11 Mar



PCEOCNews Pacific County EOC

Coastal residents were advised to evacuate to high ground & to stay in place until the all clear is given.

11 Mar



PCEOCNews Pacific County EOC

Pacific County is under a tsunami advisory after a major earthquake occurred in Japan. The EOC activated at 12:30 am this morning.

11 Mar



PCEOCNews Pacific County EOC

Pacific County EOC is deactivating - the tsunami advisory is canceled for WA <http://ow.ly/4cWCR>

11 Mar



PCEOCNews Pacific County EOC

Update received from West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center. WA remains in advisory status. The EOC will continue to update.

11 Mar



PCEOCNews Pacific County EOC

Reports of minor tidal surges in Willapa Bay: <http://ow.ly/4cSVJ>. The EOC remains activated & will update as info is available.

11 Mar



PCEOCNews Pacific County EOC

WA coast remains in tsunami advisory status - OR & CA downgraded to advisory status. EOC remains activated. <http://ow.ly/4cS81>

11 Mar



PCEOCNews Pacific County EOC

Tsunami advisory continues for coastal areas of WA. Situation will be re-assessed at approx 3pm & an update will be issued shortly after.

11 Mar

Just text follow PCEOCNews to 40404 to "fast follow" the twitter feed.

Lessons for Cascadia

"Japan's Killer Quake" is an hour long episode of the popular PBS series, NOVA. It explores the March 2011 Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami. "Japan's Killer Quake" originally aired on March 30th, 2011. It was viewed by seven million people (making the episode the most successful in the last five years of the series.) It aired again in late September and is now available for free viewing online at <http://video.pbs.org/video/I863101157/>. This episode takes the viewer on a moment-by-moment journey through the complicated destruction that followed the magnitude 9.0 earthquake off the coast of Honshu. The story begins 96 hours after "Japan's largest earthquake in a thousand years" as geologist Roger Bilham surveys the aftermath from a helicopter: "The extent of the damage is truly

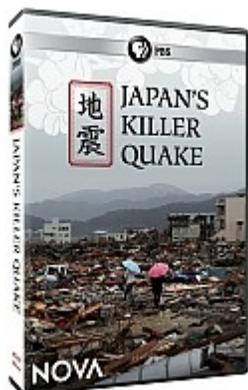


amazing. The tsunami picked up everything in its path—cars, houses, warehouses—and just tumbled them relentlessly inland, on and on and on."

Scientists from prominent U.S. organizations and universities begin to explain technical aspects of the traumatic footage which populates the film, effectively creating an understandable chain of events in the face of such overwhelming catastrophe. Viewers see the nuclear crisis in its early stages, search and rescue attempts, debris removal, and many other lingering effects of the disaster.

As the episode draws to a close, parallels are drawn to the Cascadia fault and its potential to similarly devastate the coasts of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. The question is asked, "The world has seen what happened in Japan. Are we prepared?" OSU Professor of Geology and Geophysics, Chris Goldfinger answers, "When we compare it to Japan, where the preparation is higher than what we have in the U.S., and we see that the Japanese had still quite a ways yet to go, it's a little sobering."

For coastal residents, watching this film is a great opportunity to better understand and prepare for the risk of a local tsunami.



PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

VOLUNTEER

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

PCEMA

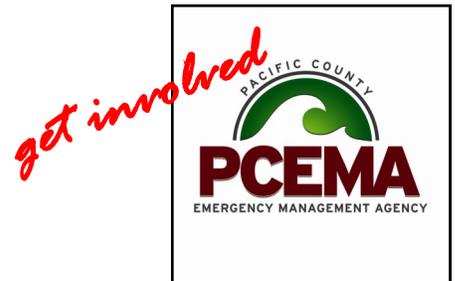
VOLUNTEER INTEREST
CONTACT:

nnesbitt@co.pacific.wa.us

(360) 875/642-9409

P.O. Box 101

South Bend WA, 98586



Animal Emergency Planning Workshop

9 AM Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Pacific County Board of Commissioners' meeting room
(1216 W Robert Bush Drive, South Bend)

Identify agencies and facilities interested or willing to organize a pet friendly shelter

Identify possible facilities and key personnel for animal sheltering

Identify lead and support agencies and their roles and responsibilities

RSVP to Denise Rowlett (360) 875-9338 or drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us

