

# PCEMA

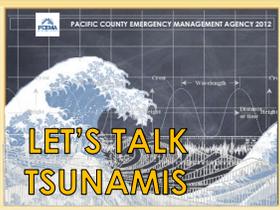
Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

# Preparedness Post

Volume I, Issue 3 January 2012

In  
This  
Issue

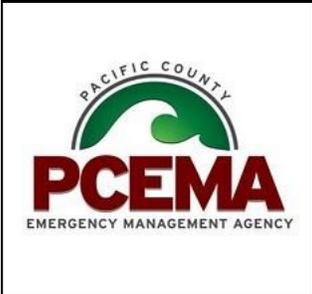
Request a  
Presentation:



Animal Planning

Free Radios

Tsunami Debris



## CERT Training Courses Set to Begin in North and South County

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program teaches disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact this area and trains participants in disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

The course is a total of 20 hours, spread over three instruction days. It is taught in a classroom setting for the first two sessions and with practical exercises during the last session. All course materials will be provided. There will be a one hour lunch break during the 8 hour sessions. Lunch is the responsibility of the participant.

This is a great opportunity for individuals who would like to better prepare for a local disaster. The skills learned during the course can also be useful in a variety of non-disaster

**South County:**  
Friday, February 3rd from 8am-5pm  
Saturday, February 4th from 8am-5pm  
Saturday, February 11th from 8am-12pm  
**At Pacific Bible Church**  
501 N Highway 101, Ilwaco WA 98624  
(On the hill across from Black Lake.)

**North County:**  
Friday, March 23rd from 8am-5pm  
Saturday, March 24th from 8am-5pm  
Saturday, March 31st from 8am-12pm  
**At CrossRoads Church**  
707 Commercial St., Raymond WA 98577

situations, and can contribute value to individuals and businesses who participate. High school students are encouraged to participate, though if they are under the age of 18 they must have parent/guardian permission.

Funding for the program comes from Washington State Homeland Security Region 3. PCEMA is coordinating the courses, and can be reached with questions or comments at the contact information below. Pre-registration is required.



Contact:  
**NATASHA NESBITT at (360) 642-9409**  
or email [nnesbitt@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:nnesbitt@co.pacific.wa.us)

# La Nina Advisory Continues Despite Calm, Dry December

Following late November's two-front storm system, much of December turned out to be a refreshing contrast, with cooler temperatures, calmer winds, and frequently clear skies.

The minimum temperature was 25 degrees and the maximum 55, with an average overall temperature of 40 degrees for the month. Many mornings, Pacific County residents encountered slick roads which complicated commutes. December temperatures for 2010 were an average of five degrees warmer.

## Dry and Chilly Conditions

Top Left: NWS Graph showing early December temperatures (dark blue) in comparison to normal temperatures for the month (green) and record highs (pink) and lows (purple) from Astoria, OR.

Bottom Left: NWS Graph showing early December precipitation (dark green) in comparison to normal levels for the month (light green) and record amounts (pink) from Astoria, OR.

4.85 inches total precipitation was reported for the month in Astoria, a significant decrease

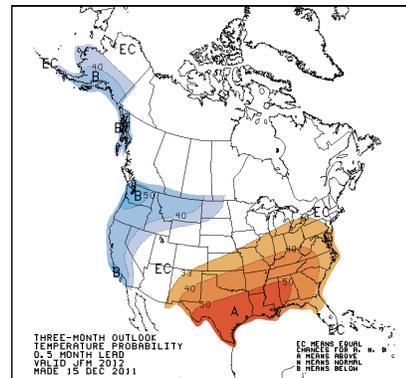
from the 11.37 inches which fell in the same area this month last year. Ten days were reported clear in December, with 12 partly cloudy.

This December contained 14 days where no precipitation was reported, seven days which had less than one tenth of an inch, and only three days reported rainfall of an inch or more (the 27th-29th).

The average sustained wind speed for December was

five mph, with gusts averaging 26 mph, giving trees, roof shingles, and wary residents a reprieve after the 50+mph gusts that accompanied the late November storm system.

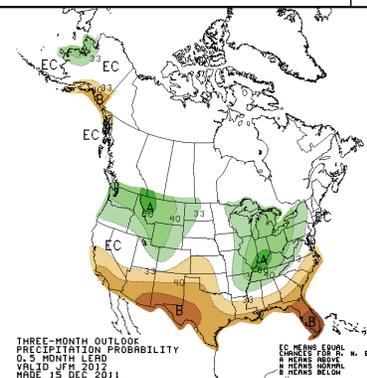
The National Weather Service issued a La Nina advisory back in September. December did not fully exhibit the cool and especially wet weather associated with a La Nina system, but the advisory continues. "Even though the current La Nina is not that consistent with historical composites, it is known that the main impacts of La Nina winters are felt later in the season (January-March), with late December into January the most likely



## Cold and Wet Predictions

Top: NWS Map indicates below normal temperatures are expected for the Pacific Northwest later this season.

Left: NWS Map indicates that the Pacific Northwest could receive above median precipitation later this season.



period to be in transition," according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

Though the NWS says that the Pacific Northwest is experiencing "weak to moderate La Nina conditions at the current time," in the coming months the area could experience "enhanced chances of below normal temperatures," and "elevated odds for above median precipitation amounts."

# Victims Needed!

Get Involved!

Contact:

NATASHA NESBITT at (360) 642-9409  
or email nnesbitt@co.pacific.wa.us

PCEMA is seeking individuals interested in volunteering to play victims for CERT disaster simulations. Victims will be needed on **February 11th and March 31st**. They will be made-up to look injured, and will be asked to act out various disaster scenarios. High School students are welcome to participate but must have parent/guardian permission to attend.



It's been 312 years since a locally generated tsunami hit the shores of the Pacific Northwest. Compared to the challenges and stresses of daily life, the seemingly abstract threat of a local tsunami is easily overshadowed; something to be dealt with later or not at all. PCEMA has developed the *Let's Talk Tsunamis* series because preparing for disaster is important and absolutely possible to fit-into an already busy or hectic life without overwhelming it.

You don't have to spend your life savings to build a vertical evacuation tower in your backyard. You don't need to waste any of your precious time or energy consumed with anxiety or fear about what might happen.

There are simple things you can do which could have an astonishing impact in the event of a tsunami. Have a family plan. Know where high ground is in relation to your home, school, or work. Try walking your evacuation route. Store extra water and canned food in an accessible place. Understand how tsunamis function and be prepared to act accordingly.

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It

# Don't Be Scared, Get Prepared!

is only to be understood," said Marie Curie.

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, 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 arrange for a presentation upon request in any area of the County. Any group interested in hosting a presentation should contact Natasha Nesbitt: (360) 642/875-9409 or [mnesbitt@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:mnesbitt@co.pacific.wa.us)



## Japan Tsunami Debris: Trash or Treasure?

Debris from the tsunami that ripped over Japan back in March has been predicted to reach the shores of the U.S. West Coast as early as this winter according to NOAA scientists. There is still considerable uncertainty about what will float our way, how much will wash up, and where we will see it. Japanese buoys were recently collected on beaches in Washington and Canada, which has heightened public speculation.

PCEMA has contacted Nir Barnea, NOAA Marine Debris Regional Coordinator for the West Coast to discuss these issues with concerned or curious residents.

Invitations have also been issued to the Washington State Department of Health Radiation Section, the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division requesting that representatives be available as subject matter experts to answer tsunami debris questions related to their specific field.

### Japanese Tsunami Debris: Trash or Treasure?

January 17th, 6 p.m. at the Peninsula Church Center Fellowship Hall

January 18th, 10 a.m. at the Ocean Park Firehall

January 18th, 5:30 p.m. at the Shoalwater Bay Tribal Center (A complimentary meal for attendees will be served by the Shoalwater Bay Tribe prior to this presentation.)



Map indicates possible paths of debris washed into the Pacific Ocean by the March 2011 Japanese Tsunami: **YEAR 1, YEAR 2, YEAR 3, YEAR 4, YEAR 5.**

Map created by NOAA's J. Churnside, 2011.

## Memories for the Future

Japan Before & After the Tsunami: Pre and Post Disaster Imagery in Google Street View

This extensive project by Google gives the viewer on-the-ground insight into the vulnerability, destruction, and recovery associated with a tsunami disaster.

<http://www.miraikioku.comstreetview/en/>



# Free NOAA Weather Radios

Income Restrictions Apply\*



Washington  
Emergency Management Division  
will hold two presentations to  
discuss NOAA Weather Radios  
and Tsunami hazards in South Pacific

County. This program is designed to educate the public on the warnings/alerts that may be issued in the Long Beach, Ilwaco, and Ocean Park areas from the National Weather Service. While NOAA weather radios provide warnings for multiple natural and man-made hazards, they are especially important to obtain tsunami warnings while indoors. Program participants will receive important information about tsunamis, how to make a home preparedness kit, and they will receive a NOAA weather radio. Programming assistance will be provided.

All are welcome to attend this training, however radios are limited to the first 50 residents who meet specified income levels. Only one radio will be given per family. Additional trainings may be offered in North County as funding becomes available.

**February 1st, 2012**

**Ocean Park Firehall**

**1pm-3pm**

**Ilwaco Community Center**

**(In the same building as Timberland Library)**

**6pm-8pm**

**\*Annual Household Income Limits:**

1 Person: \$32,150, 2 Person: \$36,750  
3 Person: \$41,350, 4 Person: \$45,900  
5 Person: \$49,600, 6 Person: \$53,250  
7 Person: \$56,950, 8 Person: \$60,600

## Animal Preparedness

# Local Groups Gather to Begin Planning

During the March 2011 evacuation after the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, PCEMA observed that many residents brought their pets to assembly areas or refused evacuation assistance because non-service animals were not permitted in official vehicles. It became clear that issues concerning residents and their animals needed to be addressed and factored into current emergency plans. Subsequently, on Tuesday, December 6th representatives from the Pacific County Fair Grounds, Willapa Veterinary Service, SAMS Horse Rescue, South Pacific County Humane Society, the City of Long Beach, and the American Red Cross gathered with PCEMA to discuss creating an Emergency Animal Plan for Pacific County.

Issues of sheltering, animal care, evacuation logistics, and plan organization were addressed. PCEMA hopes to engage members of the animal care community in the continued effort to establish a realistic, effective emergency plan for large and small animals. Individuals and organizations interested in contributing recommendations, sheltering areas, emergency supplies, and animal expertise are encouraged to contact Denise Rowlett: (360) 875-9338 or [drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us).

## Help Pets & Livestock in the Event of a Disaster

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers free online independent study courses which cover a variety of emergency related subjects. Residents with pets or livestock should check out IS-10a Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness, and IS-11a Animals in Disasters: Community Planning. Each course takes 1-3 hours to complete.

IS-10a is meant to familiarize the public with incident management strategy as it relates to animals. The objectives of the course are to "increase awareness and preparedness among animal owners and care providers, and to describe how typical hazards affect animals and what can be done by responsible owners to minimize the impact of disasters."

IS-11a is meant to provide information for groups and individuals who wish to develop emergency animal plans. The objectives of the course are to learn how to develop plans, assess local hazards, mitigate hazards to animals, know what animal resources exist, use the Incident Command System, and help animals recover from a disaster.

To learn more about courses, or to take a course go to:  
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

# Social Media and Emergency Management

## Join the Weather Warning List

 @PCEOCNews Text follow PCEOCNews to 40404 to "fast follow"  
 <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](mailto:drowlett@co.pacific.wa.us)



The Weather Warning List is

maintained by PCEMA. Individuals who sign up receive information via email pertaining to National Weather Service Warnings, Watches, and Advisories, local disaster information and updates, and other pertinent issues that effect Pacific County residents. If

your cell phone is equipped to handle email, being a part of the Weather Warning List allows you to stay up to speed on local conditions in real time. If you would like to receive information on weather, disasters, and more, join the PCEMA weather warning list!



# Resolve to Prepare in 2012, One Month at a Time!

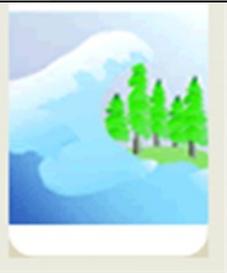
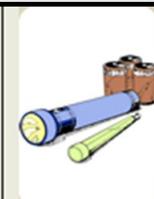
Prepare in a Year is a program that organizes emergency preparations into a series of manageable monthly activities. Each month, individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to spend one hour engaging in preparedness activities. Check out the Washington Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) website to learn more or to participate. The PCEMA Preparedness Post will highlight one activity per month for 2012. January's activity is the Action Plan.

Prepare in a Year provides action plans for the following disaster scenarios: earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and chemical releases. Each scenario has different steps to follow to ensure a safe response and recovery. Most pertinent to Pacific County residents will be the Earthquake and Tsunami action plans.

January is the month to learn the steps to take following a disaster, make personal plans, and begin accumulating emergency supplies. Discuss emergency evacuation plans with friends, family, and other loved ones to ensure everyone understands where to go and what to do in the event of a disaster.

Prepare in a Year information and educational materials are available online. To print information, watch videos, and learn more go to: [http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prepare\\_year.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prepare_year.shtml)

To request digital or hardcopies of Prepare in a Year materials, contact Natasha Nesbitt at (360) 642/875-9409 or [nnesbitt@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:nnesbitt@co.pacific.wa.us)

 <b>1. Action Plan</b>	 <b>2. Out of Area Contact</b>	 <b>3. Water</b>	 <b>4. 72-hour Comfort Kit</b>	 <b>5. Important Documents</b>	 <b>6. Extended Events</b>
 <b>7. Under the Bed Items</b>	 <b>8. Utility Safety</b>	 <b>9. Drop, Cover &amp; Hold</b>	 <b>10. Fire Safety</b>	 <b>11. Shelter in Place</b>	 <b>12. Home Hazard Hunt</b>

# PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

# VOLUNTEER

I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that.  
Then I realized I was somebody.  
--Lily Tomlin

PCEMA

VOLUNTEER INTEREST  
CONTACT:

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- JAPAN TSUNAMI DEBRIS: TRASH OR TREASURE?: January 17th & 18th [Page 3](#)
- NOAA WEATHER RADIO: February 1st [Page 4](#)
- SOUTH COUNTY CERT TRAINING: February 3rd, 4th, & 11th [Page 1](#)
- NORTH COUNTY CERT TRAINING: March 23rd, 24th, & 31st [Page 1](#)

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