

Preparing for 'The Really Big One'

A recent article in the *New Yorker* called "The Really Big One" has drawn a lot of attention both locally and nationally to the damage a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami will cause, and emergency planners have been taking the opportunity to raise awareness about how individuals can prepare, and how the region and Oregon are also continuing to prepare and mitigate for the looming threat.

"We want Oregonians to be prepared, not scared," said Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Director Andrew Phelps. "What we do now to prepare will save lives and property during any disaster."

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One project Oregon OEM and others are working on is a Cascadia Playbook to synchronize state and emergency support function partners during Cascadia and other emergencies. The Cascadia Playbook is a cross-cutting emergency management tool for the State of Oregon that supports various, existing plans and efforts for the first 14 days of a catastrophic incident.

Oregon has also committed to being a full partner with Washington, Idaho, and FEMA in the development and presentation of a regional exercise called Cascadia Rising. The statewide exercise planning is in concert and collaboration with the regional effort for Oregon's largest emergency management exercise ever that is scheduled for spring 2016.

Dr. Althea Rizzo, the geologic hazards coordinator for Oregon OEM said that the success of what emergency management partners are doing to prepare Oregon for Cascadia and other emergencies is one aspect of preparedness, and that individuals and families should strive to be self-sufficient during a disaster. A good goal is to work toward having two weeks of emergency

supplies to be ready for an emergency.

"Now is a perfect time for everyone to evaluate a family emergency plan and update or establish emergency kits," Rizzo mentioned. "Make sure you and family members know about established exit routes, contacts, meeting places, etc., after a disaster."

For emergency kits, Rizzo said it is a good idea to add new items, over time.

"You don't have to run out and spend a lot of money," she added. "If you go camping, you probably have a lot of your preparedness already done."

Rizzo said everyone should practice what to do during an earthquake and know where tsunami routes are if they live near the coast. Oregon OEM is urging all Oregonians to participate in the Great Oregon ShakeOut earthquake drill on October 15 at 10:15 a.m. It is part of the nation's largest earthquake drill, and last year more than 390,000 Oregonians participated. Register at <http://shakeout.org/oregon/register/> and take steps to make your family safer.

For more information on preparedness go to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management preparedness page: http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/preparedness_information.aspx.

Accident on Highway 20 knocks out power

A single-vehicle crash on Highway 20 at Fryrear Road knocked out power and closed the highway for a couple of hours Wednesday afternoon, July 15.

Cloverdale firefighters responded to the wreck. Chief Thad Olson told *The Nugget* that a westbound vehicle left the roadway at the Fryrear Road curve and struck a road sign and a power pole. The collision brought down two power lines, one of which fell over the highway. There was also a fuel spill.

The female juvenile driver and her mother, both of Sisters, suffered minor injuries due to airbag deployment and broken glass, Olson reported.

The highway was closed for almost three hours as a Central Electric Cooperative crew dealt with the fallen power line and firefighters cleaned up the fuel spill.

Sisters youths work on Madras house

Walls went up on Casa Soñada (Dream Home) in Madras, on Tuesday, providing an affordable home for a local agricultural family. Co-developers Housing Works and NeighborImpact have partnered with Heart of Oregon Corps YouthBuild to build the first of six new affordable homes in Madras.

Heart of Oregon youth from Sisters participated in the build.

After the wall-raising, construction of the home is expected to take approximately five months. Families interested in leasing this new home can contact Housing Works for employment and income qualifications and an application. The home will be leased with an option to purchase after 10 years through a unique lease-to-own contract.

"This is a great way for a

family to purchase a home," shares Tom Kemper of Housing Works. "The lease-to-own structure provides families with an incentive to transition into homeownership and links them with resources to make that dream happen."

Heart of Oregon Corps' YouthBuild program provides young people ages 16 to 24 the opportunity to work toward their GED, high school diploma or college credits, learn job skills, and serve their communities by building affordable housing. Simplicity by Hayden Homes, another partner in this endeavor, has been instrumental in providing building plans and a materials package at a cost that allows this project to work financially. Financing is being provided by Bank of the Cascades.

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