

Rainier study needed, report says

SEATTLE (AP) — Don't be lulled by the serene majesty of Mount Rainier.

The 14,410-foot peak is the second-most-seismically-active volcano north of California, after Mount St. Helens, and a new report recommends an extensive series of steps to understand and plan for its hazards, from geologic mapping to an information service on the Internet computer network.

"A major volcanic eruption or debris flow could kill thousands of people and cripple the economy of the Pacific Northwest," said Richard S. Fiske, a Smithsonian Institution geologist who led the report. "But most of the geological work on Mount Rainier was done more than 20 years ago. Its history and stability are still poorly understood."

The report released today was prepared by the U.S. Geodynamics Committee of the National Research Council. Its broad recommendations call for:

- Research, including mapping of the mountain's structure, reconstruction of its past eruptions, debris flows and other events, and an assessment of the mountain's face to determine which areas are most likely to collapse.

- Monitoring, to identify unusual signals that could serve as a warning of eruptions or other potentially disastrous events. This would include an expanded network of seismometers to detect earthquakes and other disturbances, satellite observation of surface deformation, monitoring of gas and fluid emissions to track changes in the mountain's hydrothermal activity, and stream monitoring to track floods and debris flows as they move toward populated areas.

- Steps to mitigate the threats, including communication among scientists, public officials and the public, studies to identify the areas and populations at risk, and land-use planning and engineering to minimize that risk.

"Social scientists, geoscientists, planners, engineers, citizens and decision makers should work together, from hazard assessment through implementation, if the populations around Mount Rainier are to coexist in reasonable safety with the volcano," the report says.

The mountain last erupted about 150 years ago,

when the region's population was minuscule compared with the 2.5 million who live today in the Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area about 25 miles northwest of the peak.

But, "its record of inactivity in the 20th century and minor activity in the past few hundred years is not unusual for an active volcano," the report warns. "Indeed, based on past history, there is good reason to believe that the volcano will erupt again."

Based on what is known, the report says, "the most likely future eruptive event at Mount Rainier is the extrusion of a lava flow at the summit, possibly accompanied by tephra eruptions (of ash and other debris)." Such lava flows would likely stay within or near the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park.

The greater danger to populated areas would be from sudden bursts of glacial water or from debris flows, known as lahars, that enter river drainages flowing to Puget Sound. Such flows clogged the Toutle, Cowlitz and Columbia rivers after the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens.

The largest known such debris flow, the Osceola Mudflow, occurred about 4,500 to 5,000 years ago and sent at least 3 cubic kilometers of rock debris about 70 miles down the White River drainage, reaching an arm of Puget Sound and burying some lowland areas that are now heavily populated.

More than 100,000 people live on mud flows deposited over the past 10,000 years. And in the past 45 years, about two dozen debris flows and floods have occurred on the mountain, traveling as far as 10 miles from their origin.

"Major edifice failures, glacier outburst floods and lahars could occur in the absence of volcanic eruptions because of the inherent instability of the volcanic edifice," the report adds. "Ground shaking during an earthquake, or ground deformation due to intrusion of magma ... could cause the gravitational failure of a large sector of the volcano, producing catastrophic avalanches and debris flows and possibly triggering an eruption."

Floods and debris flows also can occur during heavy rain or during occasional warming of the mountain, which melts its ice and snow cover.

Hells Angels attempt Spokane expansion

SPOKANE (AP) — The Hells Angels are trying to expand their sphere of influence to the Pacific Northwest, setting up their first clubhouse in the region in Spokane, police say.

The "prospect chapter" here was formed last summer with sponsorship from the Hells Angels' San Fernando Valley chapter in Los Angeles. It could become a full-fledged chapter by this summer, police say.

"We are trying to keep them from getting much of a foothold in this area," said Washington State Patrol Sgt. Brent Pfundheller of the Spokane Regional Drug Task Force.

"Historically, the Hells Angels have been involved in everything from drug trafficking to extortion, murders and assaults. There's no reason to think it will be any different here."

Police are circulating mugshots of men identified as members of the Spokane club and holding special training sessions for officers.

"The new club is about 10 to 12 strong right now," said Spokane police Officer Jeff Clark, who specializes in biker gangs. "That's about average size for an Angels' chap-

ter."

Already, police say, members of the group have been arrested in drugs and weapons cases in Spokane and nearby Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Hells Angels also may have been involved in an eye-gouging, metal-pipe brawl last month with a rival gang in Spokane, the Ghost Riders.

"Until now, the Angels have left the Northwest alone," said Deputy Ricky Fairbanks, who tracks biker groups for the Spokane County Sheriff's Department. "This is a really significant move."

"They're just expanding, trying to control the entire West Coast," said Mike Vaughn, a biker expert with the Los Angeles Police Department.

The Hells Angels have 14 chapters in California, but none in Washington, Idaho or Oregon. There are Hells Angels in British Columbia and Alaska, and chapters are being formed in Las Vegas, Nev., and in Northern California's Shasta.

The Los Angeles Police Department considers the Hells Angels "nontraditional organized crime," Vaughn said. Hells Angels elsewhere have been involved in a variety of criminal activities.

Air Force B-52 bomber will fly out of Spokane

SPOKANE (AP) — The last B-52 bomber at Fairchild Air Force Base flies east to North Dakota on Wednesday, ending a 37-year history with Spokane.

The Air Force is retooling in the post-Cold War era and Fairchild's mission is changing from bombing to refueling.

"It's a proud tradition that the bombers have had here," Michael Archer, manager of the Armed Services Committee of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, said Monday.

"The chamber of commerce considers itself the father of Fairchild Air Force Base. We helped found it and bring it here."

The base, 10 miles west of the city, began dispatching its 16 B-52s to bases in other states last November.

No other warplane has been an active part of the nation's arsenal as long as the B-52, which has been in service since 1955.

Officially, it's called the Stratofortress, the last in a long line of Boeing Co.-built fortresses that included the B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-29 Superfortress.

The B-52 was called Stratofortress because it was originally designed to be flown above 50,000 feet by crews in spacesuits.

Unofficially, it's known as the BUFF, for "Big Ugly Fat Fellow," at least in polite company.

The first B-52 arrived at Fairchild AFB on March 26, 1957. It was named the City of Spokane.

Boeing Co. built 744 B-52s in eight different variations. The last one rolled off the assembly line in 1961. That plane, with tail number 1040, will be the last one to leave Fairchild for Minot, N.D., on Wednesday.

The Air Force has 126 B-52s still flying, but those numbers could be down to two dozen in two years.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Circle K will meet tonight at 6 in EMU Century Room A.

Order of Omega will meet for initiation tonight at 6:30 in Room 159 Straub. For more information, call 342-8590 or 342-8586.

Geography Club will meet today to discuss its peer advising program, charter and membership at 3 p.m. in Room 301 Condon. For more information, call 484-6025.

MISCELLANEOUS

Americorps will offer a presentation about domestic peace corps today from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Rooms A and B. For more information, call 342-6542.

Student Programs will have an end-of-the-year celebration, picnic and live music today from 2 to 5 p.m. on the EMU East Lawn. For more information, call 346-0622.

Asian/Pacific American Student Union, ASUO, and Ethnic Studies will present Bong Huan Kim, who will speak on racial division, conflict and resolution after the LA riots,

today from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room and from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Gerlinger Lounge. For more information, call 346-4342.

People United For Love and Education presents Judy Osburn, co-author of *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, speaking with Bill Vosberg, the Oregon coordinator of Forfeiture Endangers American Rights tonight from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room F. For more information, call 345-9317.

Deadline for submitting *Et Als* to the Emerald front desk, Suite 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. *Et Als* run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon and is requested to be published earlier.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style.

Et Als run strictly on a space-available basis.



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Curtis Salgado

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Brett Estep

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 Wednesday • Fun Run
 at Alton Baker Park 4 p.m.

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