

Disasters put survival into perspective

Emily Rask
Associate News Editor

Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc on the East Coast of America while earthquakes across the globe and locally continue to shake the Earth on a daily basis. How prepared is the population and infrastructure for an earthquake, or other natural disasters?

Amit Krumer, Senior Structural Engineer with the City of Portland, is in charge of monitoring Portland's buildings. He said that due to their ages, approximately 20,000 non-residential buildings in the city were made in such a way that they would not fair very well during a violent and sustained earthquake.

"The brick would probably just crumble, and the building would collapse," said Krumer, "and the walls are not tied back to the roofs or the floors and so they will separate, causing the floors to fall."

Oregon has recently experienced a 4.2 magnitude earthquake. It was centered approximately 140 miles west of Gold Beach.

A 6.5 earthquake also hit the Pacific Coast of Guatemala this weekend, after the initial 7.4 earthquake the country suffered from last Wednesday. The quake left at least 52 people dead and thousands without homes. Aftershocks shook the county at magnitudes around 5.

Four small earthquakes have shaken up the Portland area since 8:49 p.m. Nov. 8. The first magnitude was listed at 2.1 and was about one mile away from the Portland City center. The second quake was recorded at 1.7 magnitudes at 9:26

p.m. and 30 minutes later another earthquake hit at a 1.2 magnitude. After that at 4:07 a.m. on Friday, the fourth earthquake had magnitude of 2.2.

Although there was no damage from these earthquakes to Oregon or California, there is always the potential for a dangerous quake to occur that could devastate populated areas in the region.

The number of Sandy-related deaths has risen to more than 121 since the hurricane began punishing the East Coast. The super storm was not common according to experts who have studied the unusual behaviors of this weather event.

"Sandy's course, from southeast to northwest, is not typical," said Rick Knabb, director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami in a press release.

At the direction of President Barack Obama, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is currently leading the government's efforts to provide assistance and support to the states affected by the disaster.

FEMA's website, ready.gov is designed to help civilians prepare, and stay informed of disasters. It provides information that help to prepare citizens for disaster situations. The site recommends having an emergency kit prepared. The kit should have all the basic survival equipment a person may need in case of an emergency, such as a flashlight, three day supply of food, extra money, first aid kit, and anything else a person may need in a disaster.

Civilians should always be aware of the possible hazards they may face and which kind of disaster may strike your area, whether it is a

hurricane, a blizzard, an earthquake, a tsunami, or a tornado. Being prepared year round for all of these can never be a bad thing.

Tyler Judson, an employee of Portland's military surplus store, Andy and Bax sells the items people are buying to potentially survive a disaster.

"We sell a lot of the freeze-dried military food packs and we carry anything from water proof matches, weather proof blankets," said Judson. "Anything you can think of for a survival kit, we sell here."

Whatever the disaster, citizens and infrastructure will have a hard time ahead when facing the destruction that can accompany it. Sandy and the Guatemalan temblor are proof that our planet is capable of life altering events. Those prepared for the worst may have an advantage when it comes to surviving such a situation.



Courtesy of FEMA

Some of the rubble that has been left behind with the American flag still rippling in the wind in Queens, New York. The damage of Hurricane Sandy has caused approximately \$60 billion in damages.

Monster drink under investigation

Hannah Duckworth
The Clackamas Print

Energy drinks have become an increasingly large part of daily life. High school and college students across America rely on these highly caffeinated beverages to keep them up on late study nights and to wake them up for work.

Aaron Calhoun, an 18-year old student here at CCC uses these beverages on a regular basis.

"I drink them because—well first off—I'm addicted to caffeine, so I get killer headaches when I don't drink them," said Calhoun, "and I guess I like the high for a little bit and then the crash. I'll take the high over the crash."

Monster Beverage Corporation's products are among the most popular, being sold in

over 70 countries. Unfortunately, this million-dollar company has suffered a huge hit in the last few weeks due to their products possibly being connected to 5 deaths and 1 non-fatal heart attack. They have successfully sold literally billions of energy drinks, with over 8 billion of those sold in the US. The company has been in operation for 25 years, and an ever-increasing popularity in energy drinks has raised the Monster Beverage Corporation millions of dollars.

Monster's stock started suffering about a year ago. According to "The New York Times," the mother of a 14-year old girl in Maryland pulled their records under the Freedom of Information Act and used that information to sue the company on a wrongful death charge. Her daughter, Anais Fournier, died of a heart attack after drinking two 24-oz. cans of Monster in

24 hours. Fournier had a mild pre-existing heart condition that she was aware of called heart arrhythmia, but her doctor did not advise her to restrict her caffeine intake. A heart arrhythmia is a problem with the rate of a person's heartbeat, such as it beating too fast or too slow.

The girl's parents, Wendy Crossland and Richard Fournier, are now suing Monster Corporation for not warning consumers about the risks of their products. They want to recover all damages for the injuries that their daughter suffered before death. Crossland has been stated as being an "energy drink activist," and is now trying to send word out to parents about the dangers of their kids drinking heavily caffeinated beverages. She also wants energy drink companies to do a better job of warning consumers about the risks of their products.

"The warning label is in bold letters," said Adam Wehage, a 24-year old student here at CCC. "They have a warning label on there, they should not be held responsible for any physical reactions."

Monster is fighting this lawsuit by letting the facts of their products speak for them. They have released a press statement stating that they will stand by the safety of their products. They believe that all their ingredients and labeling comply with all the rules and regulations of the different countries that they market to. They do not believe that any science or facts support the allegations that their products are anything but safe.

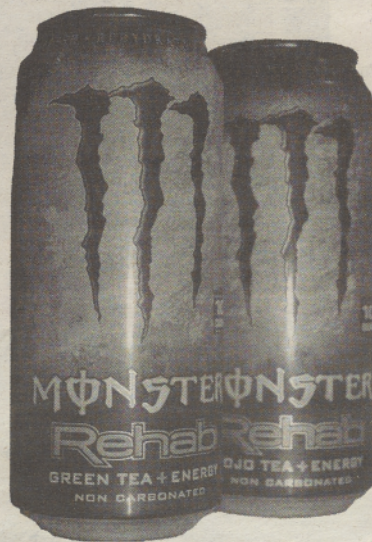


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