

Cascadia Rising gives lessons in seismic preparedness

Four-day exercise for quake, tsunami

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — In one of the first drills in a four-day exercise to test Oregon's preparedness for a catastrophic earthquake, the Oregon Army National Guard whisked the governor away in a helicopter to survey the damage.

While the drills were instructional on better ways to prepare, people familiar with federal modeling of a 9.0 or greater-magnitude earthquake say the exercise tested an optimistic scenario.

"The notion that they are going to spin up in a helicopter on the first day is probably unrealistic," said state Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness. "We probably aren't going to have any fuel to do anything."

The Cascadia Rising exercise tested a scenario in which a massive quake strikes and damages 10,000 Pacific Northwest buildings, bridges and structures; forces more than 10,000 people into shelters; and causes about \$50 billion in economic damages.

Geologists believe the Pacific Northwest is at risk of a 9.0 or greater-magnitude earthquake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone. About 15 million people live in the subduction zone, which is roughly on the west of the Willamette Valley from British Columbia to Northern California.

Catastrophic disaster

The four-day simulation of the earthquake and tsunami started Tuesday, with Gov. Kate Brown declaring a catastrophic disaster and notifying federal



Danny Miller/EO Media Group

An Idaho Army National Guard helicopter takes off after simulating a patient transport to a field hospital at Astoria Middle School Tuesday as part of the statewide Cascadia Rising earthquake exercise.

and out-of-state authorities of the need for assistance.

Dozens of drills around the state were held in the following days.

Portland Fire and Rescue and the Air Force Reserve performed joint rescue and recovery operations, such as mass casualty treatment, rooftop extraction and collapsed space rescue operation.

In Warrenton, about 800 soldiers assembled at Camp Rilea and ran through a series of simulated rescue operations. Soldiers moved and broke up heavy boulders from a rubble pile to reach victims. They practiced bringing casualties to a centralized site and checked the area for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials while decontaminating people suspected of exposure.

Meanwhile, county emergency operations staff practiced communicating and coordinating efforts with local agencies and military personnel. They performed successful

amateur radio operations with other emergency responders in the state and as far as Bothell, Washington.

Weeks without electricity

With the possibility of weeks without electricity, amateur radios may be the only way for emergency responders to communicate, said Cory Grogan, a spokesman for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

"It's really clear that there is more work to be done in terms of being prepared, thinking through what you need to have in place in terms of folks ready to rock and roll and ready to go," Brown said. "The reality is that, for example, for our National Guardsmen and women, we may only be able to activate 20 to 50 percent of them, and so what other resources can we deploy? How can we make sure we have the resources and tools we need as quickly as possible in this type of situation?"

Grogan said one thing he learned during the exercise was the need to develop scripted messages to streamline the process of notifying residents that they need to boil water and communicate other life-saving information.

"You're hearing a lot about the major mechanical aspects of this but those first 36 to 72 hours where the life-saving measures are really going to be had is neighbor-to-neighbor looking out for each other, being able to assist, knowing that they have got those personal readiness kits ready as they wait out that federal response," said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, the adjutant general of Oregon. "Again a lot of roads and infrastructure is going to be coming down, and we are going to be relying on people to be able to look out for themselves and help their neighbor until that major logistical response is able to get on scene and take us to the next level."

Erick Bengel contributed to this report.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

The Seaside Carousel Mall.

Carousel Mall goes up for sale

Asking price is \$4.1 million

By **NANCY MCCARTHY**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The Seaside Carousel Mall is for sale with an asking price of \$4.1 million.

An entire city block, bordered by Broadway, Edgewood, Oceanway and Downing streets, is included in the sale, said Thomas McDowell, senior commercial real estate broker at Norris & Stevens in Portland. His listing partner is Raymond Duchek.

The total 33,106-square-foot area contains 21 shops, as well as the full-size carousel for which the mall is named. Current store leases will be maintained and assigned to the new owner, McDowell said.

Zoned as commercial resort, the one-story building could go to four stories if the next owner wants to enlarge it, he added.

Although he declined to reveal the amount of income the mall produces annually,

he said it was "very good" and that the mall has no debt. Economic details will be released to a serious buyer after a confidentiality agreement is signed.

The mall will be marketed to investors on the West Coast, as well as nationally and internationally.

Developed by Portland businessman Raymond Arthur Dodge in 1985, the mall stayed in the family even after Dodge's death last year. The mall was built on the site of the old Bungalow Dance Hall, which began operating in the 1920s and was a draw for big dance bands in the 1940s.

When the mall first was built, a small, "portable" carousel, which traveled occasionally to other destinations, was installed.

Later, however, a Dodge family member, who especially loved carousels, hired a San Francisco company to build a larger, permanent carousel for the mall. It was installed in 1990.

Instead of only horses, the carousel also includes rabbits, cats, reindeer, ostriches, a pig, bear and sea horse.

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