

# West Coast states meet to share spill-response efforts

By PHOUNG LE  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Washington state and Oregon environmental regulators said Tuesday that regional coordination and planning exercises such as drills aided in their response to the fiery train derailment along the Columbia River earlier this month.

The Northwest officials briefed their counterparts from other states on the June train accident in Mosier at the annual meeting of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force in Seattle.

The task force — consisting of members from British Columbia, Alaska, Washington state, Oregon, California and Hawaii — collects and shares data on oil spills, works together on oil spill prevention projects and promotes regulatory safeguards.

They were in Seattle to share knowledge and update each other on their spill response programs and other projects.

Dale Jensen, Washington's Ecology spills program manager, says the Oregon derailment is a reminder of how vulnerable the region

is to oil spills and underscores the need for states and federal agencies to continue to work together to improve spill prevention and response.

In British Columbia, regulators said they have effectively used drones to assess the extent of a tanker truck crash that spilled diesel fuel near Mount Robson National Park. Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister of British Columbia Ministry of Environment, said drones can be an effective tool to assess downstream effects of a spill.

Bruce Gilles, who manages the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's cleanup and emergency response program, told the meeting that "we couldn't have been luckier" during the Oregon derailment.

Strong winds typically blow through the Columbia River Gorge but not that day the trains derailed, with four cars catching fire. He also said that there are sections of the railroad that runs adjacent to the river, but the train crashed in an area that was farther away from the river.

Just several months earlier, more than a dozen

agencies participated in a national oil-spill response drill that was based on a scenario where a landslide had caused a 100-unit oil train to spill about 450,000 gallons of oil into the Columbia River between Washington and Oregon.

Jensen highlighted the dramatic changes in the way oil is shipped through Washington state, noting an uptick in rail transport of oil. In 2011, no Bakken crude oil was shipped by rail compared with about 2.55 billion gallons in 2015.

Washington lawmakers last year passed legislation requiring railroads to come up with oil spill contingency plans; it also requires facilities that receive oil to provide the state with advance notice of oil shipments. New rules are expected later this year.

California also has a similar oil spill contingency planning requirement for railroads.

"What we get out of this is new knowledge," Jensen said. "We're always looking ahead. We're always anticipating what the potential is and working very, very hard to be as prepared as we can."

# Brown wants annual toxics reports from Oregon schools

## High lead levels found at two Portland schools

By KRISTENA HANSEN  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon's 197 school districts could spend summer break crafting procedures for testing lead, radon and other chemicals at their campuses ahead of Oct. 1, when the plans would be handed over to the state.

These "Healthy and Safe Facilities Plans" were announced Tuesday by Gov. Kate Brown, who said she directed the state Department of Education to draft requirements for testing and monitoring the health safety of campus buildings that otherwise don't exist for schools at the state or federal level.

Brown's directive comes after last month's disclosure of high lead levels found in drinking water at two Portland schools, igniting community outcry at a time when the Flint, Michigan, water scandal has brought national attention to the issue.

The Department of Education will discuss the draft rules



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian

A water fountain is covered because of lead in the drinking water at Creston Elementary School in Portland.

during its next meeting Thursday, and is accepting the public's input through Aug. 17.

"Any threat to the health and safety of a child in any school or classroom is unacceptable," Brown said in a statement, adding that as state-level agencies respond to the crisis, "local school districts and public charter schools also have the obligation to ensure transparency and accountability to parents and communities."

Under the preliminary rules, school districts would submit plans for testing water, air quality and hazardous waste sites — paying attention to lead and radon specifically — with

any results reported annually to the state and disclosed to the community online.

The draft rules don't say how often these tests should occur, but Amy Wojcicki, spokeswoman for the education department, said schools will go by whatever testing frequency is recommended by a federal regulatory agency.

"So if it's an (Environmental Protection Agency) guideline, it'll be whatever the EPA regulations are," Wojcicki said.

Information on potential costs or funding sources for those costs was not immediately available.

# Search suspended for missing man in the river

The Daily Astorian

The search has been suspended for 22-year-old Taufu'i Taliauli, a resident of the territory of American Samoa, who was tying off the fishing vessel Lady Valerie Monday morning when he was pinned between the dock and vessel and fell into the river.

Deputy Chief Eric Halverson of the Astoria Police Department said the search was suspended Monday night, and Taliauli was listed as a missing person.

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office dive team might go back out at some point to continue searching for the body, Halverson said.

# Groups ask Oregon to boost protection for seabird

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Conservation groups are seeking to have the marbled murrelet listed as endangered under the Oregon Endangered Species Act, and also want the state to identify and protect forest sites considered vital to the bird's survival.

The marbled murrelet was listed as threatened in the 1990s and habitat protection has meant less logging in the Northwest. The tiny seabirds venture inland to raise their young and — like the spotted

owl — depend on old-growth forests for nesting.

Nick Cady is the legal director for Cascadia Wildlands. He contends the state hasn't taken meaningful steps to protect murrelets, and logging activity on Oregon forests has sped the decline of breeding habitat.

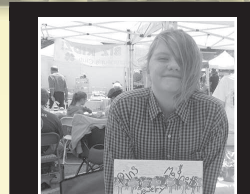
On Tuesday, Cascadia Wildlands and other groups petitioned the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to list the bird as endangered. A separate petition asks the Board of Forestry to protect forest sites.

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**A:** No. Some people do this so that the crab meat has a nice white look to it. This cooking method is common in restaurants. I don't like this method for two reasons: One, I find it barbaric to rip the back off a live crab. And two, it takes away from the flavor. Cooking the crab whole, with its guts and all, gives the crab a far richer taste. Chilling your crab in an ice bath or the freezer before you drop it into the boiling water, not only prevents the crab from losing their legs (due to shock), but is also gives them a painless death. The chilling puts the crab into an unconscious state, so that the boiling water can kill them before they come out of it.



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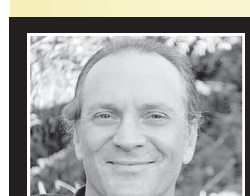
**Q: Can you fix my computer from your store?**  
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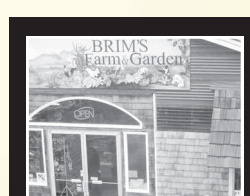
**Q: Are there products in your store that are not on your website?**  
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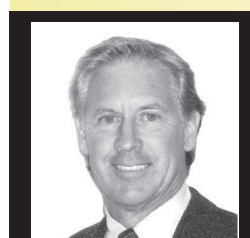
**Q: Chronic pain**  
**A:** Painkillers and anti-inflammatories can get us through a tough time with back, neck, head or leg pain, but they weren't designed for long-term use. Yearly deaths from pain medication are climbing. Other side effects can include constipation, liver and kidney damage; addiction from them is real and a growing problem. Pain is a signal that something is wrong. Pain medication does not fix the problem — it changes the brain. Reducing pain can be as simple as identifying its source and providing a different approach — chiropractic is an important part of that. "Maybe you don't have to live with it." Call 503-325-3311.



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