

# Fire: Dispensary will remain closed during the investigation

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fronting Industry Street. West, 40, and Jacob Alan Magley, 34, were identified as the two people injured in the fire. Both were listed in serious condition at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center's burn unit. Oei was at the scene when the blast occurred, but was uninjured.

Sweet Relief Natural Medicine, a marijuana dispensary, subleases an adjoining upstairs portion of the building facing Portway Street. Sweet Relief co-owner Oscar Nelson said the dispensary also sustained smoke and possible structural damage and will remain closed through the investigation.

Astoria Deputy Police Chief Eric Halverson said

Higher Level Concentrates has submitted applications through both the Oregon Health Authority and state Liquor Control Commission to be a registered processor of marijuana products.

"There are many questions about what was or was not allowed through those processes," Halverson said in a release today. "Information from the investigation, once complete, will likely be submitted to the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office for their review."

### Legal status

Even though Higher Level Concentrates is unregistered through the Health Authority, the company was allowed to process extracts without crimi-

nal liability through the end of the year by submitting a full application. Processors can transfer products to registered medical dispensaries. The dispensaries can sell concentrates and edibles to Oregon Medical Marijuana Program patients and primary caregivers.

"This is the first — and I use this term loosely — professional-type processor that has had such an incident," said André Ourso, head of the state's medical marijuana program.

Ourso said the Health Authority is awaiting the results of the state fire marshal's investigation to see if Higher Level Concentrates was following all the rules for processors. The rules include using a closed-loop extraction system and a

hydrocarbon-based solvent that is at least 99 percent pure. The extraction must take place in a facility with good ventilation that meets building and fire codes.

If it is found Higher Level Concentrates wasn't following the rules, Ourso said, the company could risk not being registered by the Health Authority or licensed through the Liquor Control Commission.

Like marijuana dispensaries, most processors are trying to go from the medical jurisdiction of the Health Authority to licensing under the Liquor Control Commission by the end of the year, in order to access the recreational market. As of Jan. 1, medical dispensaries can only sell to medical marijuana cardholders.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
A fire started after an explosion around 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night in a commercial building at the corner of Industry and Portway streets. The fire started in marijuana-extraction company Higher Level Concentrates and damaged an adjoining marijuana dispensary, Sweet Relief Natural Medicine.

# ShakeOut: Tsunami warning is 'worse than Hood to Coast'

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"I feel like slowly everyone is becoming more prepared," Ipson said. "It's definitely something we've thought about our entire lives, because ever since elementary school we've been doing these walks."

As they headed to the tsunami-safe zone on Ocean Avenue near the RV resort, students and teachers said they felt confident in their preparedness.

"At least I know where to go," senior Nate Coburn said.

Some expressed concern about whether bridges and the school building would hold up long enough for them to exit the tsunami zone.

"If half of (the bridge) gets knocked down, how are you going to make your way across the broken-up concrete?" math teacher Trent Rollins said while walking across a bridge on 12th Avenue.

Jason Boyd, athletic director and social studies teacher, donned a bright rainsuit for the walk.

"If we do have to make this walk, most of the building is not going to be standing, as well as the bridges are not going to be standing," Boyd said. "So even though we're telling kids to get to the hill, it may not be as easy as we think it's going to be."

Though she said she feels prepared, senior and student body officer Lizzy Barnes said "we might not be able to make it out of our school." She also worries if children and elderly people will make it to high ground.

High school students will be able to "pick up the pace quite



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
Students exit the Seaside High School campus during a Tsunami evacuation drill on Thursday.

a bit and hustle up there and be okay," Rollins said. "A lot of people who grow up in this area, they prepare for the big tsunami."

"But the elementary school, I worry about my son that's over there," he added.

### 'Worse than Hood to Coast'

Student Riley Hebert said an actual tsunami warning is "worse than Hood to Coast."

"It's straight gridlock," he said. "Nobody goes anywhere and it's kind of crazy, but the schools try to teach us what to do."

"When there's a warning and the sirens go off, everyone jumps in their cars and drives about 45 feet, then realizes

everyone else is driving and you can't go anywhere," Boyd said. "You have to get out and walk. At least they (students) know where a safe place is."

During the approximately 20-minute walk, some students ran to the front while others took their time.

"If there were an actual earthquake, we would all be running," Barnes said. "We wouldn't be walking like this."

Once in the safe zone, rain-soaked students squeezed into school buses to return to campus. On the ride back, they sang

songs and chatted among themselves. Despite reservations about the school building's conditions and Seaside bridges, many students, like sophomore Scott Budig, felt "more or less" prepared.

Boyd said it was important for the school to do twice-yearly tsunami walks for new students.

"It gives them an option to hopefully survive as opposed to stay in the building and wait for it to get inundated with water and drown," he said. "If the building's still standing."



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
Lucy Bodner, right, and other Seaside High School students practice an earthquake drill during The Great Oregon ShakeOut on Thursday.

**'It gives them an option to hopefully survive as opposed to stay in the building and wait for it to get inundated with water and drown. If the building's still standing.'**

Jason Boyd

athletic director and social studies teacher, speaking of the twice-yearly tsunami walks for new students

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