

Bend would be worst-case scenario command center in big earthquake

Associated Press

BEND — A new state report says Bend would be the center of the state's emergency response in the worst-case scenario of a catastrophic earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone off the Oregon Coast.

The Bulletin reported that the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program's Bend campus is the fallback site for the state's Emergency Coordinating Center if the command center and two other locations in Salem are knocked out.

The Bend site was listed as backup Emergency Coordinating Center in the state's newly revised Cascadia Playbook, a 100-page outline of actions to be taken in the

first hours and days after the disaster. The playbook covers the first two weeks after an earthquake.

Scientists have predicted a possible 9.0 scale earthquake and subsequent tsunami along the 700-mile subduction zone could kill up to 25,000 people in the Pacific Northwest. Areas east of the Cascades are expected to escape with light to moderate damage.

That could make Bend the linchpin in state plans for a worst-case scenario disaster.

"The youth facility has plenty of capacity for people to bunk down, IT capability and communications facilities," said Andrew Phelps, director of the state Office of Emergency Management.

Oregon Youth Challenge

Program is a tuition-free, residential alternative high school associated with the National Guard that draws at-risk students from across Oregon.

The campus 9 miles east of Bend is undergoing a \$10 million renovation and building program to expand its facilities, including a new dormitory. Buildings are also being seismically retrofitted to withstand earthquakes. When work is completed, the campus will be able to house 240 students.

Because Oregon lacks the major military bases of neighboring California and Washington state, the Redmond Airport would also likely be a central staging ground if airfields at Portland, Salem, Eugene, Med-

ford and other points west of the Cascades are rendered unusable.

"We don't have that large federal footprint, like Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington, where you can expand operations without much additional planning," Phelps said. "We need to make sure we are on the same page as our federal partners about what they are going to bring, and when and where they are going to bring it."

Redmond Airport has two runways. Its principal runway is 7,038 feet long. The secondary runway, at 7,006 feet long, has recently undergone a \$10.1 million upgrade to bring its lights and paving up to Federal Aviation Administration standards.

Nationwide internet outage affects CenturyLink customers

Problems with 911 in Washington state

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Many CenturyLink customers across the U.S. were without internet service amid a lengthy outage that even affected some Verizon customers.

The outage began early in the day Thursday but by late Thursday night, the company tweeted that its engineers had identified a "network element" that was affecting services and expected to fully restore services within hours.

Pacific County, Washington, residents received automated phone calls and emergency text notifications Thursday night that

the 911 emergency number was likely to be inoperable, the Chinook Observer reported. A follow-up notification about 8:30 a.m. today advised residents that service had been restored.

The Oregonian and The Columbian reported that the Clark County, Washington, 911 center was down Thursday night, and that the outages appeared to be affecting 911 services statewide.

Residents in Clark County were not alerted of widespread 911 outages through a wireless emergency alert system until almost three hours after the county's emergency services agency appeared to have first acknowledged its 911 center phone lines were compromised, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.



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