

# Earthquake Dangers in Our Backyard

## Time to plan for disaster is now

BY REBEKAH BELLE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Really big earthquakes in densely populated areas don't happen often enough for everybody to learn by experience, especially here in Portland where the dangers for earthquakes are high but the frequency of earthquakes are low.

Surviving an earthquake and reducing its health impact requires preparation, planning, and practice. Far in advance, you can gather emergency supplies, identify and reduce

the Klamath Falls area and may threaten the coast from Coos Bay south to Brookings.

The amount of earthquake damage will depend on its distance from the epicenter, local soil conditions, and types of construction.

Buildings constructed in Oregon prior to the 1990s were built to lower seismic standards and are especially at risk of collapse or structural failure during an earthquake. Discoveries about great earthquakes, such as the recent disasters in Chile and Haiti, also help convince public officials and corporate executives to strengthen dams, bridges, water systems, schools, and factories in

a heavy light fixture that could fall, so move to a safe place.

Use a doorway for shelter only if it is in close proximity to you and you know it is a strongly supported, load-bearing doorway.

Stay inside until shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Most injuries occur from falling objects when entering or exiting buildings.

Be aware that electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on during an earthquake. Do not use the elevators.

If you're outside when the earth shakes, you should step away from buildings, streetlights and

a tsunami by a sounding a steady 3-minute siren blast. But in isolated areas along beaches and bays you may not hear a warning. Here, a sudden change of sea level should prompt you to move imme-

diately inland to high ground.

For more information on earthquake preparedness and other disasters, visit [fema.gov/hazard/](http://fema.gov/hazard/) earthquake or call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).



A historic photograph from the *Oregonian* shows the destruction caused by an earthquake-caused tsunami at Seaside on March 28, 1964. The house was 4,000 feet from the shore.

possible hazards in your home, and practice what to do during and after an earthquake.

Geologic research tells scientists that Oregon some day will experience a catastrophic earthquake. Scientists cannot predict whether the big one might occur in 200 years or the next hour. Because we are poorly prepared, the damage could be great.

On the Oregon Coast, the danger doubles with the risk of tsunamis, giant waves caused by earthquakes that can reach the coastal communities within minutes. When the waves enter shallow water, they can rise to devastating force.

The seismology lab at the University of Washington records roughly 1,000 earthquakes per year in Washington and Oregon. Local earthquakes are most common in the Portland metropolitan area, the northern Willamette Valley area and

the Pacific Northwest.

What to do during a quake can be confusing. Surviving an earthquake and reducing its health impact requires preparation, planning, and practice. Far in advance, you can gather emergency supplies, identify and reduce possible hazards in your home, and practice what to do during and after an earthquake.

During an earthquake, you're advised to minimize your movements by taking a few steps to a safe place. If you are indoors that can mean taking cover under a sturdy desk, table or against an inside wall, and holding on. If you cannot take cover, cover your head and crouch in an inside corner of the building.

Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall. Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow. If you are under

utility wires. And if you're in a moving vehicle, you should stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires.

If trapped under debris, do not light a match. Do not move about or kick up dust. Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing. You can tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you, but shout only as a last resort. Shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

A tsunami on the Oregon Coast could come onshore within 15 to 20 minutes after a local earthquake—while a distant earthquake could create a tsunami that will take four hours or more to come onshore.

Some coast communities will signal the need for evacuation for



## N/NE Minority Youth And Young Adults Being Connected

### Calendar of Events

To register for an event or for more information: Please contact Tiara at 503-281-0224

Meet at OAME building (between Mason and Williams)  
4134 N. Vancouver Ave

#### Spring Events 2010

Let's Connect Session- Tuesdays

April 13th 2010 -Spring Kickoff

April 24th garden work out

May 11th - connect session

June 19th - Juneteenth Garden

#### Announcements-

Students receive a community service letter for their participation and Stipend

Get involved and be involved. It's All about the GREEN TEAM!

## Notice of TriMet Public Hearings

### Share your comments on proposed service cuts and fare increase

Due to the weak economy, TriMet is facing a \$27 million budget shortfall that requires a 5 percent cut in administrative programs and services plus cuts to bus and MAX service. In February, we proposed reductions to bus and MAX service and a five-cent fare increase, to be effective in September. After reviewing more than 1,000 public comments, some of the proposed cuts have been restored in order to keep riders' connections to jobs and other services; additional changes have been made to other lines. We also are exploring potential changes to WES.

#### Summary of revised proposal

**3 bus lines would be discontinued:** 27-Market/Main, 65-Marquand Hill/Barbur Blvd, 157-Happy Valley

**6 bus lines would have changes to weekend hours of operation:** 32-Oatfield, 35-Macadam/Greeley\*, 45-Garden Home, 58-Canyon Rd, 73-NE 33rd\*, 155-Sunnyside

**4 bus lines would have significant changes to weekday frequency and/or hours of operation:** 51-Vista, 58-Canyon Rd, 73-NE 33rd\*, 154-Willamette\*

**MAX and various other bus lines would have reductions in route, frequency and/or hours of**

**operation.** Read the complete service cut proposal at [trimet.org](http://trimet.org).

TriMet is holding three public hearings on the proposed changes:

**Tuesday, April 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
Clackamas Community College Oregon City Campus, McLoughlin Auditorium, 19600 Mollala Ave., Oregon City, OR 97045

**Wednesday, April 7, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
Portland Building Auditorium, Second Floor, 1120 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97204

**Thursday, April 8, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
Portland Adventist Academy, Library, 1500 SE 96th Ave., Portland, OR 97216

#### How to contact us

Comments will be accepted through Friday, April 23, 2010, 5 p.m. by the following:

**Web:** [trimet.org/feedback](http://trimet.org/feedback)  
**Comment line:** 503-962-5806  
**Fax:** 503-962-6469

**Mail:** TriMet-MK2, 4012 SE 17th Ave., Portland, OR 97202  
**TTY:** 503-238-5811 (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays)

For communication assistance at a meeting, call 503-238-RIDE (7433) or TTY 503-238-5811 (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

\*Changes effective June 6, 2010