

Emergency planners prepare for deadly 'Big One' earthquake

By **TERRENCE PETTY**
Associated Press

PORTLAND — As military helicopters ferry search and rescue teams over the Pacific Northwest, below them are scenes of devastation from a giant earthquake that could strike the region at any time.

Tsunami waters surge through coastal communities. Buildings, bridges and roads lie in ruins. Fires burn out of control. Survivors are stranded on rooftops, cling to floating debris or are trapped inside wrecked buildings.

Seismologists say a full rupture of a 650-mile-long offshore fault running from Northern California to British Columbia and an ensuing tsunami could come in our lifetime, and emergency management officials are busy preparing for the worst.

Federal, state and military officials have been working together to draft plans to be followed when the "Big One" happens.

These contingency plans reflect deep anxiety about the potential gravity of the looming disaster: upward of 14,000 people dead in the worst-case scenarios, 30,000 injured, thousands left homeless and the region's economy setback for years, if not decades.

As a response, what planners envision is a deployment of civilian and military personnel and equipment that would eclipse the response to any natural disaster that has occurred thus far in the U.S.

There would be waves of cargo planes, helicopters and ships, as well as tens of thousands of soldiers, emergency officials, mortuary teams, police officers, firefighters, engineers, medical personnel and other specialists.

"The response will be orders of magnitude larger than Hurricane Katrina or Super Storm Sandy," said Lt. Col. Clayton Braun of the Washington State Army National Guard, referring to two of the best-known natural disasters in recent



Washington State Army National Guard via AP

In this July 2015 photo provided by the Washington State Army National Guard, a Washington National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, right, lands next to a Snohomish County Sheriff's Department helicopter during exercise Evergreen Tremor, to prepare for a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

U.S. history.

Since 2013, Braun has led a team at work on putting together a military response plan for Washington state, to be used in conjunction with efforts by state and federal civilian agencies.

Oregon's response plan is called the Cascadia Playbook, named after the threatening offshore fault — the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The plan, unveiled last year, has been handed out to key officials so the state can respond quickly when disaster strikes.

"That playbook is never more than 100 feet from where I am," said Andrew Phelps, director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. When Phelps goes out to dinner, he keeps the playbook in his car for quick access.

A magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that devastated parts of Japan in 2011 gave greater clarity to what the Pacific Northwest needs to do to improve its readiness for a similar catastrophe.

"The Japanese quake and tsunami allowed light bulbs to go off for policymakers," Phelps said.

Federal and state emergency planners, as well as military officials, have been holding meetings to identify what can be done to lessen loss of life and to put the region in a better position to

recover.

Much still needs to be done, and it is impossible to fully prepare for a catastrophe of this magnitude, but those responsible for drafting the evolving contingency plans believe they are making headway.

The plans call for using a tiered system for delivering personnel, gear and supplies into the devastated region.

Large cargo planes, like the military's C-5 Galaxy, would land at airports or air bases capable of handling them, and then progressively smaller aircraft would be used to get personnel and supplies to smaller airfields close to devastated areas.

Helicopters will play a crucial role, especially in coastal communities, which would likely be unreachable by road because of destroyed bridges and roads. Ships will likely be needed to assist with the delivery of emergency supplies and to assist with the evacuation of displaced and injured people.

Emergency medical facilities to treat the injured will be set up because hospitals on the coast will probably be too damaged to use. Collection points for bodies will be created. Hotels, motels, college dorms, sports arenas and government facilities would be used as temporary shelters for evacuees.

Military and civilian engi-

"The response will be orders of magnitude larger than Hurricane Katrina or Super Storm Sandy."

— Lt. Col. Clayton Braun, of the Washington State Army National Guard

neers will be sent in to begin repairing an infrastructure that could be shattered in the western — and most populated — third of the Pacific Northwest.

Worst-case scenarios show that more than 1,000 bridges in Oregon and Washington state could either collapse or be so damaged that they are unusable.

The main coastal highway, U.S. Route 101, will suffer heavy damage from the shaking and from the tsunami. Traffic on Interstate 5 — one of the most important thoroughfares in the nation — will likely have to be rerouted because of large cracks in the pavement.

Base camps will be set up for emergency responders coming in from across the country, planners say, as will areas for the distribution of critical supplies such as water, food, tents, blankets and medical supplies.

Transportable water purification systems and emergency communications units will be deployed.

Seattle, Portland and other urban areas could suffer considerable damage, such as the collapse of structures built before codes were updated to take into account a mega-quake. Specially trained urban search and rescue teams would be sent to look for survivors in the ruins of destroyed buildings.

Phelps said he has learned to live with the threat from the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Still, "it's a little unsettling to know that in five minutes I might have to grab that playbook and call the governor," among others.

BRIEFLY

Fisherman dead, 2 missing after boat hits jetty

PORTLAND (AP) — A crabbing boat collided with a jetty on the Oregon coast, killing one fisherman and triggering a search for two others, the U.S. Coast Guard said Wednesday. A fourth man aboard, the vessel's captain, survived.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jonathan Klingenberg said the commercial fishing boat sank at about 9 p.m. Tuesday. The Coast Guard dispatched helicopters and boats and found one body early Wednesday.

The search continued into Wednesday afternoon and was suspended around 4 p.m. after crews completed a search of the crash site area without finding either missing man, Klingenberg said. The Coast Guard could relaunch the search if new developments arise in the case, he said.

The 40-foot vessel broke apart, leaving a large debris field, said Cmdr. Robert Workman, operations officer for Air Station North Bend.

The boat, identified as the Eagle III, was based in Port Orford, near the California state line. Officials have not released the names of the crew.

Klingenberg said the wind was blowing at more than 30 mph when an emergency beacon alerted the Coast Guard of a boat in distress. Swells were 8 to 10 feet.

The captain washed ashore, and a good Samaritan took him to Air Station North Bend. The Coast Guard said it had no reports that he needed to go to a hospital.

Commercial fishing regularly ranks as one of the nation's most dangerous jobs. The Discovery network series, "Deadliest Catch," which highlights the dangers of fishing in Alaska, announced last

month it was going to launch a spinoff in Oregon. The program will focus on the Dungeness crab fishing industry in a village about 100 miles north of Coos Bay.

Oracle files new lawsuit against Oregon over settlement

PORTLAND (AP) — Oracle, the primary tech contractor on the failed Cover Oregon health insurance exchange portal, is suing Oregon again.

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday in Marion County Circuit Court, Oracle Inc. claims the state reneged on a settlement agreement that was reached in October. The software company claims the agreement was made during a phone call between a senior Oracle official and Gov. Kate Brown's former chief of staff, Brian Shipley.

The complaint says the settlement was for Oregon to receive \$25 million of products and services from Oracle. In return, Oregon would drop all claims against the company related to Cover Oregon. The failed exchange cost the state more than \$300 million, money that Oregon is trying to recoup from Oracle along with other costs. Oracle, in turn, has accused Oregon of copyright infringement and breach of contract.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said there never was a settlement agreement. State officials said it's the attorney general, not the governor, who has the authority to manage the state's litigation and approve such a settlement.

Rosenblum called the lawsuit "a true act of desperation on Oracle's part" and "a figment of their imagination ... designed to protect their bosses at the highest level."

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Rather cloudy with a shower	Cloudy with a shower in the area	Mostly cloudy with a little rain	Cloudy to partly sunny	Rather cloudy
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
49° 43°	51° 39°	46° 35°	46° 29°	45° 31°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
49° 40°	53° 38°	48° 38°	50° 30°	46° 31°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
50°	37°
Yesterday	42°
Normals	42°
Records	67° (1968) -18° (1930)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.01"
Month to date	1.01"
Normal month to date	1.00"
Year to date	1.01"
Last year to date	0.70"
Normal year to date	1.00"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
53°	37°
Yesterday	42°
Normals	42°
Records	60° (2010) -32° (1930)

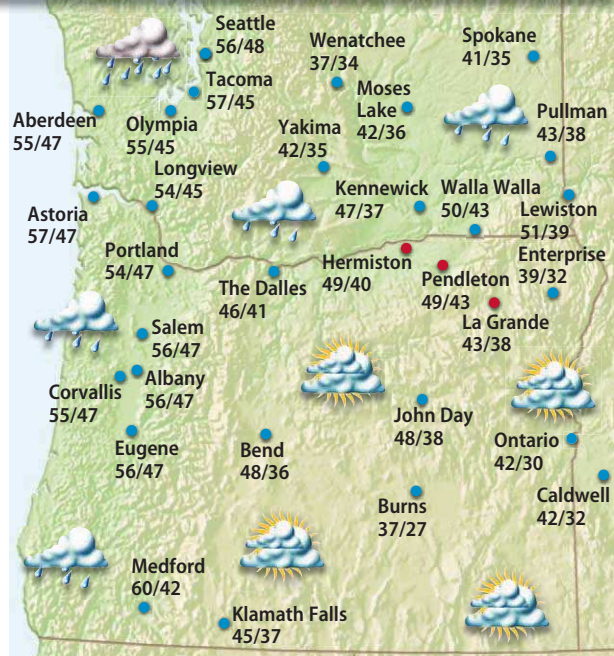
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.09"
Month to date	0.79"
Normal month to date	0.84"
Year to date	0.79"
Last year to date	0.43"
Normal year to date	0.84"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:28 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:45 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:56 p.m.
Moonset today	5:12 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Jan 23	Jan 31	Feb 8	Feb 14



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Cloudy today with a little rain. Periods of rain, some heavy tonight.

Eastern Washington: Ice in the mountains today; a snow, rain mix in the north late. Snow and rain near the Idaho border and in central sections.

Cascades: Cloudy today. Periods of rain across the north; a passing shower in central parts.

Northern California: Cloudy today; a morning shower, then a little rain at the coast.

Western Washington: Periods of rain today and tonight. Cloudy tomorrow with a couple of showers.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	57	47	r	53	42	sh
Baker City	38	29	c	37	29	r
Bend	48	36	c	47	31	c
Brookings	59	49	r	56	46	r
Burns	37	27	c	40	28	c
Enterprise	39	32	c	39	30	r
Eugene	56	47	r	55	41	c
Heppner	48	41	c	49	35	c
Hermiston	49	40	c	53	38	c
John Day	48	38	c	49	38	r
Klamath Falls	45	37	c	44	33	r
La Grande	43	38	c	44	36	r
Meacham	43	38	c	43	35	r
Medford	60	42	c	58	40	r
Newport	57	46	r	53	43	c
North Bend	62	49	r	59	46	r
Ontario	42	30	c	41	32	c
Pasco	47	38	c	53	36	c
Pendleton	49	43	c	51	39	c
Portland	54	47	r	54	41	sh
Redmond	51	39	c	51	32	c
Salem	56	47	r	56	43	c
Spokane	41	35	c	43	33	r
Ukiah	44	35	c	45	33	c
Vancouver	54	45	r	52	42	sh
Walla Walla	50	43	c	50	41	c
Yakima	42	35	sh	47	31	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	28	10	c	18	-2	pc
Hong Kong	66	57	sh	60	48	r
Jerusalem	55	37	pc	54	38	c
London	43	39	pc	52	39	r
Mexico City	71	40	pc	68	38	pc
Moscow	14	2	pc	11	6	sn
Paris	38	27	s	42	36	c
Rome	54	34	c	54	35	s
Seoul	29	8	s	30	10	pc
Sydney	94	75	pc	87	70	t
Tokyo	47	35	pc	46	34	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	NNE 4-8	WSW 3-6
Pendleton	SE 7-14	S 7-14

UV INDEX TODAY

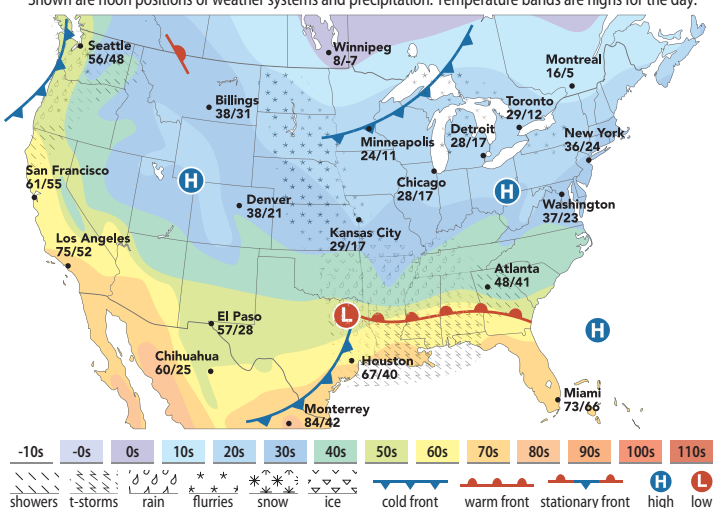
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Rain and thunderstorms will ramp up over the central Gulf Coast states today as a swath of snow and flurries extends from the Dakotas to Missouri. Rain and mountain snow will affect Washington and Oregon.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 83° in McAllen, Texas Low -22° in Embarrass, Minn.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.				Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	47	24	s	51	28	s	Louisville	37	26	c	32	26	sn
Atlanta	48	41	r	51	32	r	Memphis	42	32	r	35	25	sn
Atlanta City	37	24	s	34	31	sn	Miami	73	66	pc	77	59	t
Baltimore	37	20	pc	33	27	sn	Minneapolis	27	17	c	29	19	sf
Billings	38	31	pc	48	33	c	Minneapolis	24	11	c	21	9	c
Birmingham	55												