

Massive rehearsal planned for mega-quake

By TERRENCE PETTY Associated Press

PORTLAND — Imagine a devastating earthquake and tsunami have cut off Pacific Northwest coastal communities.

This is the kind of scenario that will be rehearsed this week in a massive earthquake and tsunami readiness drill that has been developed by the U.S. government, the military, and state and local emergency managers over the past few years to test their readiness for what — when it strikes — will likely be the nation’s worst natural calamity.

The June 7-10 exercise is called Cascadia Rising. It is named after the Cascadia Subduction Zone — a 600-mile-long fault just off the coast that runs from Northern California to British Columbia.

“This is the largest exercise ever for a Cascadia break,” said Lt. Col. Clayton Braun of the Washington State National Guard.

Federal officials say about 20,000 people will be involved in the disaster drill, representing various federal agencies, the U.S. military, state and local emergency response managers across the Pacific Northwest, Native American tribes and emergency management



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Washington Air National Guard soldiers from Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Wash., work to assemble temporary living structures at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington.

officials in British Columbia.

One main goal of the exercise is to test how well they will work together to minimize loss of life and damages when a mega-quake rips along the Cascadia Subduction Zone and unleashes a killer tsunami.

Awareness of the seismic threat looming just off the Pacific Northwest dates back to the 1980s, when researchers concluded that coastal lands long ago had been inundated by a tsunami. Research also indicated that a tsunami that was documented in Japan in January 1700 originated from the Cascadia Subduction Zone, also known as the CSZ.

Research suggests that the CSZ on average produces magnitude 9.0 quakes every 500 years, but big quakes have been separated by as few as 200 years and as many as 1,000. So it is impossible to predict

when the next monster quake occurs. However, tectonic stresses have been accumulating in the CSZ for more than 300 years and seismologists say it could rupture at any time.

More than 8 million people live in the area that is vulnerable to the Cascadia Subduction Zone. It contains the most heavily populated areas of the Pacific Northwest, including Seattle and Portland, as well as Interstate 5, one of the nation’s busiest roads.

Coastal towns are especially at risk. Studies have forecast that while 1,100 people could die from a 9.0 magnitude quake, 13,500 could perish from the tsunami that would slam into the coast within 15 to 30 minutes after the shaking begins.

A scenario document written in preparation for Cascadia Rising exercise states “the scale of fatalities

across the coast may overwhelm the resources of local governments.” Whole towns along the coast may disappear. Hospitals could either collapse or be too severely damaged to handle casualties.

All across the region between the Pacific and the Cascade Range, bridges and roads could be destroyed, fuel supplies and communications disrupted, and buildings and crucial infrastructure may sink into soil that’s been liquefied by the intense shaking.

The region has taken steps over the last few years to better prepare for the looming calamity. Schools are being moved out of tsunami inundation zones. Money is being allocated for seismic retrofits of crucial structures. Tsunami evacuation routes to high ground have been identified.

Cascadia Rising is an important part of the planning that has picked up pace over the past few years.

Some of the exercise will put boots on the ground. For example, Washington State National Guardsmen will conduct a landing on Vashon Island to rehearse delivery of supplies with landing craft. About 2,300 National Guard soldiers are among the 6,000 or so exercise participants in Washington state.

Another major drill rehearses how to get the Port of Tacoma back into operation after it has been devastated by a quake, using a U.S. Army Reserve pier that consists of a logistics support vessel, a barge derrick crane and a large tug.

In Oregon, about 580 National Guard soldiers are among some 1,400 Cascadia Rising participants from across the state. Specialty

teams will practice their roles for the disaster that will come. This includes pulling people out of a pile of rubble that simulates a collapsed building and triaging them for medical care.

Much of Cascadia Rising will entail civilian agencies and the military coordinating in what will be extremely difficult conditions. Participants in the exercise will contact emergency management offices with reports of specific needs during the simulated disaster. It will be up to agencies to work together to come up with solutions.

Amateur radio operators are also participating in Cascadia Rising. If internet and phone service are severed, ham operators have the ability to act as the eyes, ears and messengers for emergency officials scrambling to figure out what they need to do to save lives and prevent more damage.

The region’s ham radio operators are even able to establish email service for emergency management officials, using amateur radio frequencies to bridge the gaps.

“We can leapfrog over the outage, to where there is still internet activity,” said Bruce Bjerke, Oregon section coordinator for Amateur Radio Emergency Services, a national non-governmental organization.

Regional and local emergency managers are welcoming the opportunity to rehearse a Cascadia calamity.

“The Cascadia is relatively new to us,” said Tiffany Brown, emergency manager for Clatsop County, the northernmost county on the Oregon coast. “We’re behind in terms of getting ready for it.”

Gross receipts tax certified for ballot

By PARIS ACHEN Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Secretary of State’s Office early Monday certified a corporate sales tax initiative to be placed on the November general election ballot.

“This measure will be a positive game-changer for Oregon’s critical services,” said Gary Cobb, one of three chief petitioners for Initiative 28, the name of the tax measure. “Our kids will graduate from high school ready to succeed, Oregon kids and families will have access to affordable health care, and

seniors will be able to retire with dignity. This is great news for all Oregonians.”

The milestone is expected to trigger a bitter multi-million dollar battle between supporters of the union-backed measures and opponents from the business community.

“The nonpartisan Legislative Revenue Office confirmed that most of this tax would be passed on to Oregon consumers through higher prices for nearly everything they buy — with no exemptions for food, medicines, clothing, insurance, electricity, gas

and other essentials,” said Rebecca Tweed of Defeat The Tax On Oregon Sales. “Our coalition will run a robust campaign to inform Oregonians about how harmful this measure would be for Oregon families and how it will make Oregon businesses less competitive.”

More than 6,000 volunteers and paid staff with A Better Oregon campaign submitted 121,704 signatures in support of the measure. The Secretary of State’s Office verified and accepted 95,272 accepted of those.

Often referred to as a gross receipts tax, the 2.5 percent

levy would apply to transactions of certain corporations with annual sales exceeding \$25 million. The tax would affect less than 3 percent of Oregon’s 30,000 corporations but would apply to about 75 percent of Oregon sales, according to the Legislative Revenue Office.

An analysis by the revenue office last week showed that the tax would generate about \$3 billion in new revenue each year, stabilizing the state’s budget. The study also found the tax could trickle down to consumers and smaller businesses in the form of higher prices.

State officials lift moratorium on glass company over metals

PORTLAND (AP) — State officials have lifted a cease-and-desist order on a Portland company after the company agreed to restrictions on its use of toxic metals, including lead.

The Oregonian reports Bullseye Glass agreed on Monday to stop using certain heavy metals.

February voluntarily ceased using arsenic, cadmium and hexavalent chromium in furnaces lacking pollution controls. The agreement adds lead to the list.

Gov. Kate Brown issued the order to Bullseye in May after monitoring at a day care near the business showed lead levels four times higher than the 24-hour benchmark.

The company in

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 WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY. Partly sunny, Partly sunny and not as hot, Not as warm; a morning shower, An afternoon shower in spots, Cloudy and comfortable.

ALMANAC PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yesterday TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW, PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m., 0.00".

REGIONAL FORECAST Coastal Oregon: Low clouds breaking for some sun today. Eastern Washington: Sunshine and patchy clouds today.

REGIONAL CITIES Table with columns: Today, Wed. Rows: Astoria, Baker City, Bend, Brookings, Burns, Enterprise, Eugene, Heppner, Hermiston, John Day, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Meacham, Medford, Newport, North Bend, Ontario, Pasco, Pendleton, Portland, Redmond, Salem, Spokane, Ukiah, Vancouver, Walla Walla, Yakima.

WORLD CITIES Table with columns: Today, Wed. Rows: Beijing, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo.

WINDS (in mph) Today Wednesday Boardman WSW 4-8 W 8-16 Pendleton W 4-8 WNW 7-14

UV INDEX TODAY 2 5 7 7 4 1 8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

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

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 110° in Tucson, Ariz. Low 31° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES Table with columns: Today, Wed. Rows: Albuquerque, Atlanta, Atlantic City, Baltimore, Billings, Birmingham, Boise, Boston, Charleston, SC, Charleston, WV, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Fairbanks, Fargo, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, ME, Providence, Raleigh, Rapid City, Reno, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Tucson, Washington, DC, Wichita.

SUN AND MOON Sunrise today 5:06 a.m., Sunset tonight 8:42 p.m., Moonrise today 8:03 a.m., Moonset today 11:02 p.m.

REGIONAL FORECAST Western Washington: Sunny to partly cloudy today, but low clouds followed by some sun at the coast.