

He had attended Infantry Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer (Senior Sergeant) School. Hawke was also certified as a paramedic (NR-EMT-PM) and scuba diver and attended training in sky-diving with the Green Beret Sport Parachute Club.

After Hawke left active duty to attend college and raise a family, he worked many jobs such as bodyguard, private investigator, and paramedic. Because of his love of training and deploying with his Special Forces brothers, it took him eight years to earn a four-year degree.

As a contractor, Hawke has provided training and services all over the world.

During the Be Ready Disaster Preparedness Expo, Hawke will speak from 11 a.m. to noon on survival skills, relying on your own resources and preparing for any contingency.

For more information on Hawke, go to [www.mykelhawke.com](http://www.mykelhawke.com).

# LET'S DO THIS — TOGETHER

**E**mergency Preparedness is clearly an important topic of conversation for all of us who now recognize we live, in some sense, in the shadow of the Cascadia event that could result in a huge earthquake followed by a devastating tsunami. Some day, the experts say, trouble is coming.

That kind of trouble can cut two ways.

The optimists among us can too easily whistle as we pass the proverbial graveyard, mindful that the experts just aren't sure of either the timing or the impact. We have "just" a 30 percent chance of enduring some event within the next 50 years, we're told, and so we're willing to roll the dice — maybe it will take longer, maybe it won't be so bad.

And the pessimists among us can easily become blinded by the light of inevitability, freeze like the deer in the headlights, overwhelmed by fear and,

in the end, do nothing.

Neither response is useful or responsible.

Here in Florence, Mapleton, Dunes City and the surrounding communities, we ought to move squarely into the responsible middle, staring our fears in the face, refusing to pretend they don't exist or throwing our hands up in despair.

Life offers no guarantees. But we can stack the deck and load the dice in our favor, really thinking through a reasonable strategy for survival and preparing appropriately for what may come.

We can do this alone, of course, but it is far better to do it together. In this lovely land where "a river runs through it," we can join hearts and hands to educate ourselves and to help one another make reasonable preparations.

At the municipal level, we can identify regional resources and stage them

to create the most benefit. We can buttress our schools with seismic reinforcement and use our zoning and planning to be sure that mission-critical facilities aren't in high-risk areas. We can prepare our own "go kits" and help our neighbors with their preparations, too.

Whether you're a Mapleton native or a Florence transplant fresh from California, we are a hardy, coastal people, living here by choice. And we can choose resilience.

Lane Community College wants to help. We strongly support the Western Lane Emergency Operations group (WLEOG). We live and work here, too. We can educate the next generation of skilled workers in health care, in emergency operations and more. This year marks 40 years at our Oak Street location. Like you, we are rooted and grounded here in Western Lane County.

Let's do this together.



## Are you ready?

Visit the Mercatures booth for Essential Preparedness Books

Complete guides on how to prep for a disaster.

Learn everything from how to prep your pantry to organic gardening and savings seeds.

**Kathy Salter • 541-556-6258**

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