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# Hazards: City's threats are flood, tsunami, wind

Continued from Page 1

quest, it's a really important aspect of this plan."

The effort was funded primarily by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but the state and local jurisdictions chipped in as well.

In addition to cities, the report includes scenarios for the county's rural areas, the Port of Astoria, Sunset Empire Transportation District, Clatsop Community College, Seaside School District, fire protection districts and water districts

"It's an opportunity for everybody to have a say on what we're spending tax dollars on," Brown said. "Without (the plan), we do not have access to very important funding streams that FEMA provides. And it's FEMA's way of vetting our projects. FEMA's just trying to be smart about tax dollars as well."

Some of the report's findings:

Warrenton is the most vulnerable community for losses due to floods. An estimated 4.5 percent of structures could be damaged in a 100-year flood. All other communities were at 1 percent risk or below.

Other communities, such as Astoria, Cannon Beach and Arch Cape, are far more vulnerable to landslides, which is not a big problem in the largely flat city of Warrenton.

Astoria, Warrenton and Cannon Beach fell in the medium range for exposure to volcanic ashfall, should another Mount St. Helens disaster occur.

Astoria's downtown fire in December 1922 is the only recorded urban wildfire in the county. Astoria, Gearhart and Cannon Beach fall in the high-risk category for exposure to wildfires; War-



A 'king tide' washes over a lookout in Coos County.

Rick Poecker  
King Tide Project



Tiffany Brown

renton is the only city in the low-risk category.

All cities and jurisdictions were deemed to be at high risk for windstorms and severe winter weather.

Following is the community assessment for Warrenton, although other cities and jurisdictions are included in the report.

- Drought: Warrenton's water supply comes from small dams on the hills east of Seaside. But the city doesn't manage its watershed, which is owned by a timber company. Businesses such as Pacific Seafood could experience economic challenges if the water supply became an issue.

- Earthquake: Because Warrenton has few concrete and unreinforced masonry structures, it is fairly resilient to smaller quakes. However, there are some areas with soil subject to liquefaction in the lowest elevations.

- Erosion: The city's probability of coastal erosion due to tidal and wave actions was deemed to be low. Only Hammond Marina has had erosion problems.

- Flood: Warrenton is protected by 12-foot levees, which are maintained by Public Works. The city has never had a breach and never had a flood.

- Landslide: Warrenton is flat. The vulnerability to and probability of a landslide is low.

### To learn more

The draft Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is available on the county's website, [co.clatsop.or.us](http://co.clatsop.or.us), and click on "Departments" and then "Emergency Management." The website includes an online survey and public comments will be accepted through Jan. 18.

- Tsunami: Warrenton is at extremely high risk due to the prevalence of liquefiable soils, its reliance on levees and its limited access to evacuation areas, according to the report. To see a map of tsunami evacuation areas, visit [thecolumbiapress.com](http://thecolumbiapress.com).

- Volcanic event: An event similar to the eruption of Mount St. Helens, which delivered less than a half-inch of ash to the area, would be expected.

- Wildfire: Generally, Warrenton is at low risk for wildfires due to its high coastal humidity. But it could be vulnerable during intermittent dry periods with winds coming from the east. About 29 percent of Warrenton could be at high risk during these times.

- Wind and winter storms: Potential problems are high based on the 2007 storm, which caused a loss of power, communication, roads, and access to Portland hospitals.