

Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer, General Manager,
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WOEC Participates in Earthquake Exercise

Over the past few months, WOEC has been involved in a series of meetings designed to identify measures that essential services in Columbia County would need to do themselves in an earthquake event, and what we need to do together to serve our communities and members. Included in this process will be an exercise to test out some of our responses. WOEC will be participating in this exercise on the morning of April 26th, and will act out an earthquake situation in the office and with operations in the field. We would also like to pass on to our members what you should do in the event of an earthquake. This article is to inform you of the mock earthquake exercise and recommendations for your own protection.

Are you ready for an earthquake? Do you know what you need to do if one occurs? Columbia County Emergency Management is promoting "Columbia County Quake Shake 2010" on Monday, April 26th at 10 a.m. It is a time where the department would like everyone in Columbia County to spend a few moments going over their earthquake procedures and plans, specifically "drop, cover and hold on".

"Quake Shake" is based on the State of California's Shakeout program, which promotes a day of earthquake preparedness through California. "Quake Shake" is a Columbia County effort, however. "It is our intention to make sure that people are prepared locally for earthquakes, among other hazards", says Derek White, interim director of emergency management for Columbia County.

White states that it is important to be prepared for earthquakes in our area due to the location of the Cascadia Subduction Zone fault off the Oregon Coast. "These faults only erupt occasionally, but when they do, they release a tremendous amount of energy. Earthquakes such as the 1964 Anchorage earthquake

and the one in the Indian Ocean a few years ago were caused by subduction zone faults."

"Quake Shake" is intended to get folks to think about what they need to do to prepare for earthquakes. According to scores of emergency preparedness and response agencies, dropping to the floor, taking cover under a sturdy table or desk (or covering the head while getting next to an interior wall or something that is stable), and holding on until the earthquake is over is the best way to respond. Once the earthquake ends, you should try to evacuate as quickly but as safely as possible. If you are stuck, do not yell, as this will use up oxygen and will cause you to breathe in deadly amounts of dust. Instead, knock on a nearby wall or pipe so that neighbors or rescuers may notice.

For earthquake and other preparedness tips, go to <http://www.oregonredcross.org>. To learn more from Columbia County Emergency Management, check out its blog at <http://columbiacountyem.blogspot.com> or on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/columbiacoem>.

ODFW seeks committee members

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University announced that they are seeking three candidates for the Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) Advisory Committee. The 15-member committee advises the OHRC Senior Scientist on activities and functions related to the operation and maintenance of the OHRC.

The committee meets quarterly, with meetings scheduled for June 14, September 20, and December 13, 2010.

Three positions on the committee, one each representing commercial fishing, watershed councils and sport fishing, will open May 2010. Members are appointed for three-year terms, and may be reappointed for a second three-year term.

Candidates must submit a letter of interest by April 16. The letter should specify why

the applicant is interested and provide three references. ODFW and OSU representatives will finalize selections by June 1.

Members of the Advisory Committee represent the federal government, local governments, conservation groups, sport fishing groups, the commercial fishing industry, tribes, resource producers (agriculture, timber and gravel), watershed councils and education. Two members represent the public-at-large and four represent the scientific community.

For more information about the Advisory Committee or how to submit a letter of interest, contact Margaret Cleveland at 503-947-6230, or margaret.l.cleveland@state.or.us. For more information about the OHRC, see their Web site at www.dfw.state.or.us/OHRC.

Winter sports report, continued

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ment and, of those nine, placed three in the top six at state. This team had a very good performance by the young men and women representing Vernonia. The Loggers entered 19 athletes in the district tournament and placed 15 competitors in the top six. The top state winners for the Loggers were; Joe Benes (6th place), Shylo Dooley (5th place) and Calvin Barnes (4th

place). Thirty athletes started the season, with 20 completing the effort. In AAA wrestling three athletes qualify for the state tournament. In AA only two will qualify for the state tournament. This will make it much more difficult to reach post-season play next year, however, with only four seniors graduating, the prospects for the Vernonia Wrestling team look good.



Consider all of the conditions before you drive this winter.

Winter weather in Oregon can make driving downright hazardous at times. But weather isn't the only condition that leads to safe winter driving. Here are a few things to consider before you hit the road.

Weather conditions Check a weather web site, such as www.weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/pacnorthwest.php, for driving conditions to help you decide when and if to hit the road, or across the mountains and into the city.

Road conditions Oregon Department of Transportation continually updates www.tripcheck.org with road and weather conditions, construction zones and road camera views.

Your car's condition How are your tires? Do you have chains? You should also be prepared with emergency supplies, a full tank of gas and a charged cell phone so you can call 9-1-1 in an emergency. We hope you never need us, but if you do, we're here to help you arrive safely at your destination.

Your own condition Have you had enough rest? Or a few drinks? Honestly assess your own ability to drive safely before you get behind the wheel in winter's more challenging driving conditions.



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