

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An online PDF version of this release can be found at:

<http://www.oregongeology.com/news&events/NewsReleases.htm>

Earthquake study looks at Clackamas County Schools

Portland, Oregon: A new study by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has found that about half of Clackamas County Schools are in need of possible structural upgrades to lessen their risk of damage in an earthquake.

The study is part of a Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-funded project for earthquake mitigation of K-12 schools, community colleges and public universities in Oregon.

Results from this pilot project show that about half of K-12 school buildings in Clackamas County may be in need of further study and potential seismic upgrades. It is likely that schools across the state will have similar results as more surveys are done, as many of Oregon's schools were built long before the 1993 statewide building code change that specifically mandates seismic (earthquake) design.

In the study, a "sidewalk survey" using FEMA guidelines was used on each of the K-12 school buildings in Clackamas County, resulting in earthquake safety scores for each building.

A detailed explanation of the scoring process and how each building scored can be found in DOGAMI publication **Open-File Report O-04-16, Earthquake Safety and Sidewalk Survey Scores in Clackamas County Schools, Clackamas County.**

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It is important to note that the sidewalk surveys used in this study are estimates—that is— there may be some school buildings that are not as seismically deficient as some ratings indicate. The sidewalk survey may also not account for upgrades that have been completed which are not visible from the exterior of the building.

Copies of **Open-File Report O-04-16, Earthquake Safety and Sidewalk Survey Scores in Clackamas County Schools, Clackamas County, Oregon** by Yumei Wang, Carol S. Hasenberg, and Vicki Harguth are available on CD-ROM for \$10 from the Nature of the Northwest Information Center (NNW), 800 NE Oregon Street #5, Portland, Oregon, 97232.

You may also call NNW at (503) 872-2750 or order online at <http://www.naturenw.org>. There is a \$3 shipping and handling charge for all mailed items. For additional information, please contact the Nature of the Northwest Information Center. Additionally, this item as well as all department maps and publications can be purchased at DOGAMI Field Offices including 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass, (541) 476-2496 and 1510 Campbell Street, Baker City, (541) 523-3133.

For information regarding earthquake hazards and preparedness information for Clackamas County, please contact Cindy Kolomechuk, Clackamas County Emergency Management at (503) 723-4848 - cindykol@co.clackamas.or.us.

For information regarding the DOGAMI study, please contact James Roddey at (503) 731-4100, ext. 242 – james.roddey@state.or.us

You may also visit the following websites for more information:

Clackamas County Emergency preparedness:

<http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/emergency/preparedness.htm>

Oregon Department of Geology information:

<http://www.oregongeology.com>

Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency:

<http://www.fema.gov/library/prepandprev.shtm#earthquakes>

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is an independent agency of the State, and has a broad responsibility in developing a geologic understanding of natural hazards. We then make this information available to communities and indi-

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viduals to help reduce the risks from earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. The Department is also the lead state regulatory agency for mining, oil, gas and geothermal exploration, production and reclamation.

For more information on upcoming events and current projects, contact James Roddey at 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, OR 97232, (503) 731-4100, ext. 242 or DOGAMI field offices at: 1510 Campbell St., Baker City, (541) 523-3133; 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass, (541) 476-2496; and the Mined Land Regulation and Reclamation Program, 229 Broadalbin St. SW, Albany, (541) 967-2039.

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