

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

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Governor declares April Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month

Portland, Oregon: Have you practiced your drop, cover and hold drill lately?

Now is a great time to think about this question because Governor Kulongoski has decreed April to be Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month.

“Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month is a great time to review your family emergency plan and update your emergency kit,” said Governor Kulongoski. “If you haven’t started planning, now is a good time to learn how to make you home and workplace safer. We must all work together to keep our neighbors, communities and families safe.”

Throughout the state, schools will be practicing state mandated drop cover and hold drills or tsunami evacuation drills and local communities will be holding disaster preparedness meetings. State agencies and private businesses will also be reviewing disaster response plans and practicing earthquake safety drills.

“A lot of people in Oregon still don’t realize we live in earthquake country,” said James Roddey, Earth Sciences Information Officer with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). “We’ve just passed the 14th anniversary of the Spring Break Quake (magnitude 5.6, March 25, 1993, centered near Molalla, with \$30 million in damage) and over the last year we’ve had a couple of tsunami scares and have had earthquakes felt all over the state.”

In proclaiming April as Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month, Governor Kulongoski noted Oregon laws enacted in 1995 and 2001 that require all schools, state and local agencies, and large private employers to drill with their students and employees on emergency procedures. He also mentioned recent legislation (Senate bills 2-5) that will provide state funds to help mitigate high risk schools and emergency facilities.

Learn more about the Seismic Needs Assessment (Senate bill 2) and the granting process (Senate bills 3,4,5) by going online at:

**800 NE Oregon Street
Suite 965, Portland, OR 97232
www.oregongeology.com
(971) 673-1555**

**Media Contact: James Roddey
Earth Sciences Information Officer
james.roddey@state.or.us
(971) 673-1543 (direct line)
(503) 807-8343 (cell)**

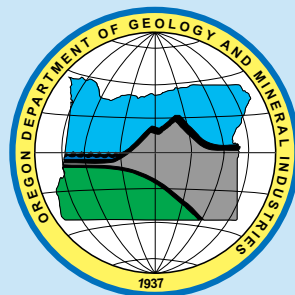
Mineral Land Regulation
and Reclamation Program
229 Broadalbin Street, SW
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 967-2039,
Gary W. Lynch, Assistant Director

Baker City Field Office
1510 Campbell Street
Baker City, OR 97814
(541) 523-3133,
Mark L. Ferns, Regional Geologist

Coastal Field Office
313 SW 2nd Street, Suite D
Newport, OR 97365
(541) 574-6642,
Jonathan C. Allan, Coastal
Team Leader

Grants Pass Field Office
5375 Monument Drive
Grants Pass, OR 97526
(541) 476-2496,
Thomas J. Wiley, Regional Geologist

The Nature of the Northwest
Information Center
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 177
Portland, OR 97232-2162
(503) 872-2750
Donald J. Haines, Manager
Internet: <http://www.NatureNW.org>



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<http://www.oregongeology.com/sub/projects/rvs/default.htm>

“DOGAMI, Oregon Emergency Management and other State Agencies are working on a number of ongoing earthquake and tsunami related initiatives that will help save lives in the event of a devastating earthquake and tsunami,” said Vicki McConnell, State Geologist. “For DOGAMI, these include earthquake hazard mapping, establishing an enhanced seismograph network throughout the state and creating tsunami hazard maps and evacuation brochures for all coastal communities. We’re also working on assessing the earthquake safety of schools, colleges, police and fire stations and hospitals statewide with results of our survey being released this summer.

DOGAMI has also been working with the Oregon University System since 2004 to oversee the seismic upgrading of important university buildings across the state. The most recent grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency targets \$2.6 million for seismic upgrades at Oregon State University and Western Oregon University.

You may go online to learn more about Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month at: <http://www.OregonGeology.com> or contact James Roddey with DOGAMI for more information (971) 673-1543 or cell phone at (503) 807-8343.

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 individuals to help reduce the risks from earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. We assist in the formulation of state policy where an understanding of geologic materials, geologic resources, processes, and hazards are key to decision-making. The Department is also the lead state regulatory agency for mining, oil, gas and geothermal exploration, production and reclamation.

Learn more about Oregon’s geology by going online at: <http://www.OregonGeology.com>

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