

# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

NEWS RELEASE: April 1, 2008

## 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.

“State agencies, and cities and counties throughout the state will highlight earthquake and tsunami preparedness during April and provide the citizens of Oregon the information they need to plan for these events,” said Governor Kulongoski. “If you haven’t thought about it, now is a good time to learn how to make your neighborhoods, communities and families safer from the threat of earthquakes and tsunamis.”

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). “There’s actually a lot of simple things people can do to prepare that don’t take a lot of time and effort, but will really pay off if we get a damaging earthquake or tsunami.”

**Find out how to prepare for earthquakes and tsunamis by going online at:**  
<http://www.oregongeology.com/sub/earthquakes/NatHazardResource.htm>

In proclaiming April as Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month, Governor Kulongoski noted Oregon laws enacted in 1995, 2001 and 2005 that help Oregon communities prepare for future earthquakes and tsunamis. He also mentioned recent legislation that will provide state funds to help mitigate high risk schools and emergency facilities using the Statewide Seismic Needs Assessment.

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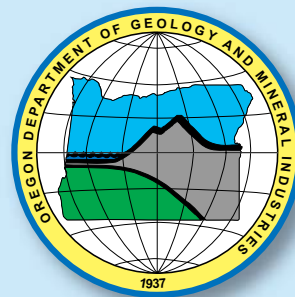
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Learn more about the Statewide Seismic Needs Assessment and the granting process by going online at:

<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 using state of the art LIDAR surveys and upgrading our seismograph network throughout the state. We’re also working on remapping the entire Oregon coast using LIDAR to create updated tsunami hazard maps and evacuation brochures for all coastal communities.”

Learn more about LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) by going online at: <http://www.oregongeology.com/sub/lidar/index.htm>

“We don’t get damaging earthquakes or tsunamis very often in Oregon, but we have an earthquake fault system off our coast that can generate incredibly destructive earthquakes and tsunamis,” said Roddey. “We also have a history of damaging crustal earthquakes that have done millions of dollars in damage like the 1993 magnitude 5.3 “Spring Break Quake” that struck the northern Willamette Valley and the magnitude 5.9 and 6.0 quakes that hit Klamath Falls, also in 1993. Preparing for these events is a long term commitment by many people and organizations around the state. Individual preparation is an important part of the commitment.”

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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