

# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

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## 45th Anniversary of the last destructive tsunami to hit Oregon

**Portland, Oregon:** 45 years ago today, a massive magnitude 9.2 subduction zone earthquake struck Alaska, unleashing a deadly tsunami that would ultimately claim 5 lives in Oregon and cause damage to coastal Pacific Northwest communities from northern California to British Columbia.

The Good Friday quake claimed 128 lives, most of those from the tsunami generated as the earthquake ruptured the ocean floor off the Alaskan coast. The tsunami, traveling at 500 miles an hour, reached the Oregon coast about 4 hours later where it destroyed cars and homes in Seaside, wrecked wharves, houses and the Elk Creek Bridge in Cannon Beach, tore out docks and smashed boats in Gold Beach and swept 4 children out to sea at Beverly Beach near Newport.

Because of the continuing threat from local and distant tsunamis, coastal communities in Oregon prepare, train, practice and drill year round in anticipation of another tsunami. Plus, every year Governor Kulongoski proclaims April as Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month and encourages all Oregonians, as in years past, to "review their family emergency plans and update their emergency kits."

As part of Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month, Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), the NOAA National Weather Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be conducting tsunami preparedness workshops in 7 south coast communities beginning April 4th in Brookings.

The *Tsunami Roadshow* workshops will feature experts on emergency preparedness, the science of tsunamis and how to make your community Tsunami Ready. Workshop participants will learn how the tsunami warning system works, the critical difference between a local and distant tsunami and the latest tsunami research being done at the coast.

Learn more about *Tsunami Roadshow* workshops by going online at:  
<http://www.OregonGeology.org>

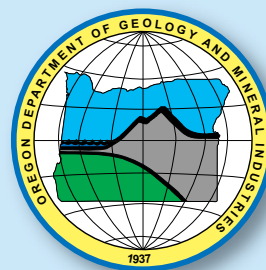
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The 1964 Great Alaskan Earthquake created a destructive tsunami that caused damage at the Oregon Coast from Seaside (above) to Gold Beach and would ultimately claim 5 lives. Photo courtesy of Tom Horning.



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Look for the *Tsunami Roadshow workshops in these communities:*

**April 4**

**Brookings Emergency Preparedness Fair**

**11:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**Kalamiopsis Elementary School**

**650 Easy Street, Brookings**

**April 5**

**Gold Beach Tsunami Prep Workshop**

**1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

**Curry County Fairgrounds**

**29392 Ellensburg (Hwy 101), Gold Beach**

**April 6**

**Port Orford Tsunami Prep Workshop**

**7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**Gable Council Chambers, City Hall**

**555 W. 20th St., Port Orford**

**April 7**

**Bandon Tsunami Prep Workshop**

**7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**"The Barn" Conference and Community Center**

**1200 11th St. SW, Bandon**

**April 8**

**Coos Bay Tsunami Prep Workshop**

**7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**Eden Hall, Southwest Oregon Community College**

**1988 Newmark Ave., Coos Bay**

**April 10**

**Florence Tsunami Prep Workshop**

**7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**Florence Events Center**

**715 Quince St., Florence**

For more information, contact James Roddey, DOGAMI Earth Sciences Information Officer (971) 673-1543 (direct line), (503) 807-8343 (cell), Jennifer Bailey, OEM Public Affairs Coordinator (503)378-2911, Ext. 22294, or Althea Turner, OEM Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator (503) 378-2911, Ext. 22237.

***The mission of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.***

Learn more about Oregon's fascinating geology by going online at:

**<http://www.OregonGeology.org>**

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