

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

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Tsunami inundation study of Cannon Beach released

Portland, Oregon: The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has released **Open-File Report O-08-12, Prehistoric Cascadia Tsunami Inundation and Runup at Cannon Beach, Clatsop County, Oregon** by Robert C. Witter.

One of the most important tasks for the Oregon Department of Geology is helping coastal communities understand and mitigate for the risk of possible tsunamis. Communities located in exposed, low-lying areas along the Oregon coast face the risk of inundation by tsunamis produced by earthquakes around the Pacific Rim far from Oregon, as well as local earthquakes on the Cascadia subduction zone.

As part of this important effort, DOGAMI is remapping the state's entire 362-mile long coastline for tsunami inundation using state-of-the-art computer models, coupled with laser based terrain mapping and field based geologic investigations. This report by Dr. Robert C. Witter of DOGAMI discusses field investigations conducted over the past 2 years that detail the landward extent of sand deposits left by Cascadia tsunamis that inundated the lower Ecola Creek valley in Cannon Beach over the last 2,000 years.

From these efforts, DOGAMI, along with its many partners, including the City of Cannon Beach and the Seaside School District, have created a new tsunami evacuation brochure for Cannon Beach using this groundbreaking research. The brochure and map can be found online at:

<http://www.oregongeology.org/pubs/tsubrochures/CannonEvac.pdf>. This is the first of a new generation of tsunami evacuation brochures that will result from the remapping of the coastline for tsunami inundation. Similar efforts are now underway near Bandon.

The goal of DOGAMI's tsunami program is to reduce the loss of life and property damage from tsunamis by applying the best available geological information and state-of-the-art modeling to develop the most accurate picture of Oregon's tsunami inundation zone. DOGAMI and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management are responsible for assessing tsunami hazards and promoting tsunami preparedness and mitigation strategies. We also work with a

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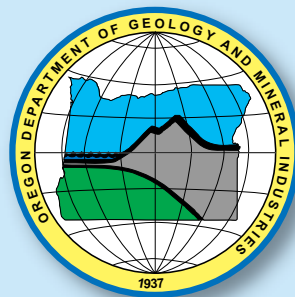
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number of organizations to reach coastal communities with a strong outreach and education program.

“The most important tool to mitigate tsunami hazards is the education of the public. Without proper knowledge of the hazards, even the most sophisticated technology may fail communities facing tsunami risk,” notes Dr. Witter.

“After all, it’s just a matter of time before our coast is impacted with a damaging tsunami,” said James Roddey, Earth Sciences information Officer with DOGAMI. “Everyone, from coastal residents to visitors, needs to know what to do and where to go if a tsunami hits.”

Open File Report O-08-12 is available on CD-ROM for \$10. There is no map associated with this report, but an evacuation map for Cannon Beach is available inside the brochure that can be found at:

<http://www.oregongeology.org/pubs/tsubrochures/CannonEvac.pdf>

Open File Report O-08-12 can be purchased from the Nature of the Northwest Information Center (NNW), 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 177, Portland, Oregon, 97232. You may also call NNW at (503) 872-2750 or order online at <http://www.naturenw.org>. There is a \$4 shipping and handling charge for all mailed items.

For additional information, please contact the Nature of the Northwest Information Center. Additionally, these items 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.

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 fascinating geology by going online at:

<http://www.OregonGeology.org>

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