



Information Embargoed Until June 4th at 9 am

News Release – Photo Opportunity

June 3, 2008

Release: Immediately

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(Washington County Agencies to Test Earthquake Disaster Plans)

This Wednesday and Thursday (June 4th and 5th) approximately two dozen agencies serving Washington County will test their ability to respond to a simulated earthquake in the Portland Metro area. The exercise—titled Seismic Shake ‘08—begins at 9 am on Wednesday and lasts until 5 pm that day, and continues again on Thursday from 8 am to 1 pm.

The scenario involves a 5.9 magnitude earthquake that has occurred along the Oatfield fault. The earthquake aftermath scenario in Washington County will include: collapsed buildings and bridges, building fires, landslides, damaged roads, and disruption of all utilities, including phone communications.

The following agencies will be participating to some degree on one or both days: Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Washington County, City of Banks, City of Beaverton, City of Hillsboro, City of Sherwood, City of Tigard, City of Tualatin, City of Wilsonville, Joint Water Commission, Tualatin Valley Water District, WCCCA (Washington County 9-1-1), Oregon Department of Transportation, Office of Consolidated Emergency Management, Oregon State Defense Force, American Red Cross, Washington County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, Kaiser Permanente, Legacy Health System, Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, SW Washington Medical Center, Tuality Healthcare, Willamette Falls Hospital, Metro West Ambulance, NW Natural, PGE, Intel, Nike, and District One Emergency Radio Network.

Photo Ops:

9am-1pm **Meridian Park Hospital** (19300 SW 65th Avenue, Tualatin) – TVF&R emergency responders and Meridian Park Hospital staff will respond to a SIMULATED building collapse with multiple fatalities and injuries, as well as an interruption of critical systems requiring evacuation of patients and staff.

9am **Washington County Emergency Operations Center** (Washington County Public Services Building / 155 North First Avenue, Hillsboro) - County employees and citizens will conduct a drop, cover and hold drill followed by a building evacuation.

News Release - Washington County Agencies to Test Earthquake Disaster Plans
June 3, 2008
Page 2

TVF&R's exercise calls for all of the District's fire stations to participate to some degree, outside of actual emergency incidents. The exercise differs from years past in that emergency crews and staff will have very limited emergency communications (radio, cell phone, etc.) capability during the drill. TVF&R Public Information Officer Karen Eubanks states, "That is what we could face following an earthquake of this magnitude and it is important to realistically test our emergency equipment and response protocols." TVF&R will also call-in off-duty firefighters to staff fire stations to assess how quickly it could occur in a real scenario. As part of Seismic Shake '08, the Fire District will also activate its Fire Operations Center in its headquarters in Aloha.

Eubanks states, "It is not business as usual following a major earthquake. If thousands of people are affected at once, the demand on emergency services will be overwhelming and we will be forced to prioritize incidents with multiple patients or life-safety threat." Citizens are encouraged to prepare now, before a disaster occurs. Ensure your readiness, and increase your ability to survive, by doing the following:

- Develop a disaster plan for you and your family, including procedures for contacting each other if separated during an emergency
- Assemble an emergency kit, containing food, water, clothing, emergency shelter, and other needs for you, your family, and your pets
- If you're dependent on electrical powered for life-safety equipment, consider a generator. For safe installation and usage, your local electric utility may be able to provide assistance
- Don't forget critical documents and financial preparedness!
- Are you adequately insured?
- Learn how (and whether) to shut-off your utilities
- Learn CPR, first-aid, and how to use a fire extinguisher
- Work with your neighbors to prepare your community

For more information visit:

www.tvfr.com

<http://www.take5tosurvive.com>

<http://www.redcross-pdx.org/prepareforlife/index.html>

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