



PACIFIC COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Tsunami Roadshow Returns to Pacific County

South Bend, Washington – Tsunami and earthquake experts will be in Pacific County on April 10 for presentations focused on tsunami hazards, alert messages and getting residents at least two weeks ready.

Officials from the Washington Emergency Management Division will be joined by the Washington Geological Survey, the National Weather Service, the University of Washington/Sea Grant and Pacific County Emergency Management officials in the 90-minute presentation, which will include time for questions.

The presentations are slated for 1 p.m., Tuesday, April 10 at Raymond Timberland Library, 507 Duryea St. in Raymond with an evening presentation on the Long Beach Peninsula at 7 p.m., April 10, at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, 115 Lake Street SE, in Ilwaco.

“Our goal is to do presentations like this every year but we’re expecting even more interest given the most recent tsunami event on January 23rd,” said Scott McDougall, Director of the Pacific County Emergency Management Agency. “In spite of the fact this information may seem familiar we think it’s even more imperative than ever to help people understand the advantages of having a NOAA Weather Alert Radio, the difference in tsunami alert levels, near source vs distance source tsunamis and when the AHAB sirens will be activated. Based upon reaction to the event on January 23rd we still have lots of work to do to ensure our community is aware and prepared.”

Director McDougall also added his thanks to the Don R. Grable American Legion Post 48 in Ilwaco for their help in scheduling and their sponsorship of the Ilwaco presentation. “We truly appreciate these awesome community partnerships.”

The outreach campaign is partially funded by the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP), which is also providing funding this year for more tsunami evacuation and hazard zone signs in tsunami threatened communities, new tsunami inundation modeling studies and the development of a best practices guide for building vertical evacuation structures in Washington, as well as other efforts.

In Pacific County, NTHMP funding is also providing for a new tsunami siren to be placed at the South Bend East End Fire Station at the corner of First and Madison in South Bend. There are currently 22 sirens in Pacific County (including the two located on the Shoalwater Bay Tribe Reservation) out of 69 located in tsunami threatened coastal communities across the entire state.

In addition, Pacific County Fire District 1 at Ocean Park was recently awarded \$120,000 from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to perform initial modeling and design work for a potential tsunami vertical evacuation site. The goal is to develop foundational documents needed to secure a larger hazard mitigation grant that may help fund the completion of the vertical evacuation structure design/build project.

Besides Pacific County, presentations are also scheduled April 11 through April 13 all along Washington's outer coast to include locations in Clallam, Jefferson and Grays Harbor counties with presentations also hosted with the Hoh and Quileute Nations. More information about the road show locations, its presenters and the topics being covered can be found at <http://mil.wa.gov/tsunami>

The week before the presentations, officials from both inner and outer coast counties will be gathering at the state Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray for a tabletop exercise to become more familiar with communication and coordination procedures in response to a distant source tsunami event.

More information about tsunamis can also be found at www.tsunamizone.org/washington

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