

PCEMA

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

Preparedness Post

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South Bend**

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Prepare for Summer Season Hazards



Photo Credit Long Beach Fire Department

Summer Hazards

Fires Happen Fast, So Practice Fire Safety



Photo Credit Cathy Hamilton via Facebook

Photo above: The aftermath of a large wildfire in Surfside on June 4th, 2016. The fire was started by a campfire too close to the dune grass. It rapidly covered 15 acres. Several houses were threatened by the tall flames and one was damaged. The temperature that day was in the 80s, leaving vegetation particularly dry.

Every year there are several wildfires throughout Pacific County. Residents and visitors must take extra precautions while burning in dry, hot, or windy conditions. Fires can and do break out in forested areas, beach grass, and even neighborhoods. Careless use of fire near dry vegetation can easily lead to a wildfire that threatens nearby people and structures.

Visit <http://www.ready.gov/wildfires> to learn about what to do before, during, and after a wildfire. Below are some tips from FEMA for preparing your home to withstand a wildfire:

- Regularly clean the roof and gutters.
- Maintain an area approximately 30' away from your home that is free of anything that will burn, such as wood piles, dried leaves, newspapers and other brush.
- Connect garden hoses long enough to reach any area of the home and fill garbage cans, tubs, or other large containers with water.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy

and also prepare/update a list of your home's contents.

- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.



Photo Credit Pam Harris via Facebook

June 4th, 2016 wildfire in Surfside. Controlling the fire was a multi-agency effort.

Summer Hazards

Crowds, Traffic, Fireworks & Ocean Swimming

Tourist Season

Pacific County sees an influx of visitors every summer. Some travelers are just passing through and others are settling in for a vacation. Residents in many areas should prepare for increased drive times, heavier than normal traffic, limited parking, distracted drivers, and more pedestrians. Roadwork, as well as traffic accidents will also increase congestion. Emergency responders may have difficulty getting around at times, especially during popular events like the Fourth of July, Kite Festival, and Rod Run.



Fourth of July in Long Beach.

Photo Credit <http://mapio.net/pic/p-5464025/>

4th of July "Warzone" on Beaches

Those heading to Pacific County beaches for the Fourth of July need to be prepared for a number of hazards that arise as thousands of people gather on foot and in vehicles to celebrate with fireworks, bonfires, and intoxicants in close proximity to one another.

People on the beach need to constantly assess their surroundings and watch out for stray fireworks and reckless drivers. They should be ready to move out of the way of emergency vehicles.

Those who need to call 911 should prepare a clear description of where they are located on the beach in relation to beach approaches and other landmarks.

Bonfires on the beach must be at least 100' west of the dune grass line and are limited in size to 4'x4'x3'. Fireworks may not be discharged within 150' of the dune grass. The dune grass and beach pines are typically very dry this time of year and can easily be kindled into a sprawling wildfire.

Ocean Swimming Not Advised

Swimming in the ocean is very dangerous at Pacific County beaches. Rip currents that run perpendicular to the beach and longitudinal currents that run diagonally are strong and can overtake even the most experienced swimmers. Submerged channels and crab holes are deep and cannot be seen above the water.

Even small waves have the force to knock a person off their feet. Once a person loses their footing, they are at the mercy of the currents. Watch children closely

while playing at the beach! Small children and pets are especially susceptible to strong "sneaker waves" that appear without warning.

Low-water temperature means that hypothermia can set in rapidly. Logs and other large debris present in the surf can cause crushing injuries and drowning.

Remember, there are no life guards on duty at Pacific County Beaches. By the time Surf Rescue arrives, it could be too late.



What to Expect from the AHAB Siren System



All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) Sirens can be found all across Pacific County.

The Washington State Emergency Management Division has developed the pole-mounted AHAB siren warning system all along the coast. There are 20 sirens in Pacific County alone. The sirens are tested on the first Monday of every month at noon. Here are some important facts to remember about the AHAB Sirens:

- When the AHAB Sirens activate, there are three minutes of siren tones followed by a voice announcement. The sirens are tested on the first Monday of every month at noon.
- The AHAB sirens are only part of a tiered notification system and are meant to be an OUTDOOR warning. In addition to the AHAB sirens, this system includes: NOAA Weather Radio alerts and announcements, Emergency Alert System announcements on television and radio, and Emergency Notification System (reverse 911) announcements.
- If there is a local earthquake that lasts longer than 30 seconds, the warning system may not be activated in time. Anyone who feels the ground shake for 30 seconds or more should consider the shaking their warning and immediately evacuate to higher ground. If there is no tsunami threat, that information will be relayed via our tiered warning system as soon as possible.

Teen CERT Growing in Pacific County

As part of a Teen CERT pilot program in Pacific County, seventh and eighth grade students in the South Bend School District have completed CERT training this school year. The students involved were all part of teacher Alyssa Olsen's leadership program. Olsen has been instrumental in getting this useful training to her students. PCEMA staff have also been involved in the training.

So far, 45 students have participated in Teen CERT, with an average class size of 10. The training is offered as an elective class. The class runs for one school quarter and has been taught almost daily by PCEMA's AmeriCorps member Roger Jones. PCEMA bears the cost for any staff time devoted to the program, and the South Bend School District funds the rest.

Just as in a standard CERT training, teen CERTs have a chance to put classroom lessons into action with many hands-on activities. Students learned and practiced a range of skills, ranging from disaster first aid, to disaster psychology.

Teen CERT will continue in the South Bend School District next year, with the support of PCEMA. Curriculum for a class with younger students is being developed by PCEMA. Roger has already taught an abridged version to first-fourth graders at the Boys and Girls Club in Ilwaco, and it went over well. Other school districts in the county have shown interest in Teen CERT, so there is hope the program will grow in the future.



South Bend School District middle schoolers practice search and rescue as part of the Teen CERT training at their school.

Amateur Radio Field Day June 22nd-24th

The Pacific County Amateur Radio Club (PCARC) will be participating in Amateur Radio Field Day once again this year. During this event, Amateur "Ham" Radio Operators set up radio stations in "the field" to simulate disaster conditions and then attempt to contact as many like stations as they can within 24 hours. This year's event will be held on June 23rd and 24th (Saturday and Sunday of the last full weekend in June).

Event set-up will happen on Friday, June 22nd. The on-air operations will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, and will continue for 24-hours until Sunday morning. The location of this exercise is still being determined. The Port of Peninsula, where the event is typically held, is under construction. Contact Frank Wolfe (info. below) for more information on location. This is a great opportunity to find out about Amateur Radio and you even be able to get you on the air.

Amateur Radio can be a life-long hobby, and can even offer emergency communications in a disaster. For more information please contact the club president, Frank Wolfe at 360-665-5292 or nm7r@yahoo.com

This information provided by Frank Wolfe.



Pacific County amateur radio volunteers set up antennas during the 2009 Amateur Radio Field Day.

Check out a PCARC Meeting!

Held every second Saturday of the month at Hunter's Inn, Naselle - 9:00 a.m.

TSUNAMI HAZARD ZONE



IN CASE OF EARTHQUAKE, GO TO HIGH GROUND OR INLAND

QUIZ

Test your knowledge about local vs. distant tsunamis!

1. What year did Pacific County last experience a local tsunami?
 - A. 1964
 - B. 1700
 - C. 2011
 - D. 1882
2. What type of warning can you expect for a local tsunami?
 - A. AHAB Sirens
 - B. Reverse 911 Calls
 - C. Social Media Communications
 - D. Intense Ground Shaking
3. You can use your vehicle to evacuate a distant tsunami.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. What is the longest your evacuation route should take you (on foot) for a local tsunami?
 - A. 1 hour
 - B. 15 minutes
 - C. 30 minutes
5. If you are not near high ground but need to evacuate, what should you do?
 - A. Prepare to die.
 - B. Climb a tree
 - C. Go as far inland as possible.

1. B, 2. D, 3. A, 4. B, 5. C

Large-Scale Regional Active Shooter Drill at Grays Harbor College

Both PCEMA and Pacific County Sheriff's Deputies participated.

On Saturday, April 28, 2018, an "active shooter" drill was conducted at Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen. This drill was at the request of Grays Harbor College and was financially and operationally supported by US Homeland Security Region 3, which encompasses Grays Harbor, Thurston, Pacific, Mason and Lewis Counties.

This latest active shooter drill was a continuation of ongoing exercises designed to practice response skills and coordinate rescue protocols between law enforcement and fire/ emergency medical service agencies. The last full-scale exercise was held in Elma in December 2016; this

Three Pacific County Sheriff's Deputies were a part of this drill. PCEMA Director Scott McDougall served as the Liaison Officer for the drill planning team as well as the Homeland Security Region 3 Incident Management Team that oversaw the drill.

drill at the College incorporated agencies from not only Grays Harbor, but also law enforcement and medical personnel from surrounding counties.

In total, there were 231 drill participants, to include observers, volunteer actors and members of the Incident Management Team organizing the drill, from [agencies across the region...]

Drill observers from the College, which included President Jim Minkler, met after the first

drill rotation to discuss what they experienced and the next steps for the College in preparing their Emergency Operations Center.

As expected, some portions of the drill response went very well while other benchmarks were a challenge, to include radio communications and organizing the extraction and transport of patients. The fact the skies opened up during the first drill rotation, with typical Grays Harbor rain, also created operational challenges. But, as we like to say around here: "if it isn't raining, it isn't training".

Two drill rotations were completed in the morning while the afternoon was used for skill building sessions for law enforcement officers and fire fighters to practice the advanced active shooter response protocols developed in Grays Harbor. Law enforcement officers and EMS personnel from other counties participated in the drill to learn more about the concepts; some agencies indicated they were going to take the protocols and lessons learned back to their



own communities as they prepared for an active shooter response.

The Incident Management Team felt the drill was a great success as with each of the rotations and the training sessions, participants learned what would need to be accomplished in a real event, as well identified ideas to improve protocols to make a response more effective.

This information comes from a press release by Chief Jeff Myers, IMT Public Information Officer for the City of Hoquiam. It has been condensed for the purposes of this newsletter



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Contacts & Info.

The Pacific County Amateur Radio Club meets every second Saturday of the month at Hunter's Inn, Naselle - 9:00 a.m.
All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) Sirens occur the first Monday of every month at noon.

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LIKE the PCEMA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pcema to follow frequent emergency management and preparedness dialogue.

FOLLOW @PCEOCNews on Twitter to get updates from the Pacific County EOC when it is activated. If you are not signed up for Twitter, you can receive the same information via text message. Just text "follow PCEOCNews" to 40404.

RECEIVE the latest emergency management information, hazardous weather notices, and monthly newsletter by signing up for the PCEMA Weather Warning list. Provide your name via email to PCEMA staff and include the word "Subscribe" as the subject.

READ the latest emergency management information and press releases on our website at [http://
www.pacificcountysheriff.com/emergency-
management.html](http://www.pacificcountysheriff.com/emergency-management.html)

VISIT the PCEMA website at <http://www.pacificcountysheriff.com/plans.html> for valuable preparedness materials and to learn about hazards prone to Pacific County.

Emergency Notification

Sign Up for the Emergency Notification System!

Residents can register cellphones on the PCEMA website. Use the QRL code below to sign up using your smart phone!

In the event of an emergency, this system may be used by emergency response personnel to notify specific homes and businesses at risk.



To view tsunami inundation maps, visit:
[http://
www.pacificcountysheriff.co
m/plans.html](http://www.pacificcountysheriff.com/plans.html)

