

Grays Harbor County Emergency Management

Washington Coast

Preparedness on the Harbor

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March—April 2017

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Grays Harbor Auxiliary Emergency Communications (AEC)

Who are they and what do they do?

The Grays Harbor County, WA Amateur Radio Group is made up of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) members. These knowledgeable and dedicated men and women, perform their volunteer communications roles on an as needed basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year without accolades. They are the unheralded communications lifeline for police, fire, the community and many response agencies through severe weather, natural disasters, terror threats, and public safety responses.



Doyle Wenzel
Grays Harbor AEC
Emergency Coordinator

The distinguished dedication of the amateur radio members and amateur radio groups throughout the state, is invaluable to every community we live in. These men and women work behind the scenes with little personal recognition, yet are the most essential members in every Emergency Operations Center in every corner of the state. Without the ability to communicate, we cannot report damages, we can't request food, water or medical assistance. They are our eyes and ears during every disaster and emergency that may grip us. While using the spoken and written word they provide a transmitted lifeline to those who can provide assistance during our time of greatest need.

Remember, amateur radio (ham radio) will work in virtually every disaster scenario which could affect the citizens of the Pacific Northwest and the entire country. The numbers of amateur radio operators is slowly dwindling in the United States and even though technology is improving at lightning speed, amateur radio is still the most effective means of communication when all other communication systems fail. New radio operators are desperately needed in every community. If you would like information on amateur radio, the equipment used and how to become licensed, please contact Grays Harbor County Emergency Management at GHCDEM@co.grays-harbor.wa.us or call (360) 249-3911.

**GRAYS HARBOR VOLUNTEER
AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS
ENSURE AN ESSENTIAL
COMMUNICATIONS AND CAPABILITIES
LINK WITH LOCAL, STATE AND
FEDERAL AGENCIES**

We have other AEC Operators like George Stone who has been an operator since 1980 and involved with Emergency Management since 2002



Doyle Wenzel has been an Amateur Radio Operator for 26 years and involved with Emergency Management for 23 years



Looking Back



REMEMBER WHEN??

March 17, 1997—winds to 58 mph with peak gusts of 71 mph at Westport and Hoquiam

March 30, 1997— winds to 82 mph at Ocean Shores and 62 mph at Hoquiam

March 2, 1999— gusts to 70mph

March 12, 2003—winds to 75mph with the strongest wind along the coast

Source: *National Climate Data Center.*

Flooding Forces Families to Evacuate

March 20, 1997 | From Times Staff and Wire Reports

Flooding forced evacuations and closed roads in western Washington state, the result of heavy rain and melting snow that also caused mudslides that destroyed two homes. At least 300 families were urged to evacuate in the coastal Aberdeen, Wash., area because of flooding along the Wynoochee River. Twenty people had to be rescued by boat. More rain was forecast for today, and flood warnings were posted for nearly 20 rivers.

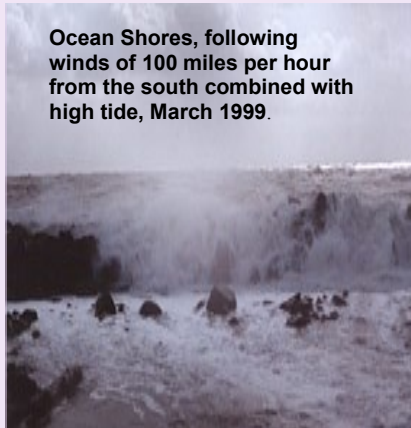
<http://articles.latimes.com/keyword/floods-washington-state>

1999 Storm Surge

On March 3, 1999, a storm surge of 4.6 feet, accompanied by 49.7 mile an hour winds, caused widespread coastal flooding. Wave heights exceeded 29.5 feet for over 5 hours, peaking at 34.8 feet. At Ocean Shores, several houses were damaged and a public restroom was destroyed.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/coast/storms/weather.html>

Ocean Shores, following winds of 100 miles per hour from the south combined with high tide, March 1999.



Winter Storm—March 2002

A Pacific storm had collided with an Arctic cold front over the state, bringing the blustery, wintry weather.

Heavy snow fell on the south Washington coast and inland to the Willapa Hills Thursday, and record cold temperatures were set in several cities on the east side of the state.

Ocean Shores on the coast reported up to 9 inches of snow in places, while nearby Aberdeen had about 6 inches, the weather service said.

<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/weather/news/2002/2002-03-08-wash-snow.htm>

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE STORM PICTURE TO SHARE??

Email cmccullough@co.grays-harbor.wa.us

Easter and Springtime Safety Tips for Pets

Spring has sprung, and with the change of season, our thoughts turn to Easter celebrations, spring cleaning and much needed home improvement projects. Before you embark on seasonal chores or outdoor revelry, take inventory of potential springtime hazards for your furry friends.

For full article visit ASPCA:

<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/springtime-safety-tips>



DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!

SPRING AHEAD March 12th

1. Check your Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Flashlights and your All Hazard Weather Radios.

Don't forget to replace the batteries!

2. Check your fire extinguishers and replace if needed.



3. Check your first-aid kit and replace missing supplies.

4. Check or begin to assemble your **GO KITS!!**

ready.gov/calendar

2017

NATIONAL SEASONAL
PREPAREDNESS
MESSAGING CALENDAR



MARCH

American Red Cross Month
Severe Weather Preparedness

APRIL

Financial Literacy Month
National Volunteer Week



Eight Preparedness Myths: How Realistic is Your Plan?

Previously posted in the Pacific County Emergency Management April 2013 Preparedness Post.

Knowing what to expect can make all the difference in an emergency. Effective response requires realistic preparation. From a popular post on emergency management.com, PCEMA has compiled a list of eight misconceptions.

1. "Just call 911!" There are over 20,000 residents in the county and a limited number of first responders. If a wide-spread incident causes damage to infrastructure or produces mass casualties emergency responders will be



overwhelmed. Don't expect help right away. Be prepared to care for yourself and those with you, which could mean applying life saving first aid or helping to carry the injured to a secure location.

2. "Insurance will cover all the damage." If you own a home, insurance can be a great safety net. That said, don't assume that the type of damage resulting from earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, or landslides is covered by your policy. In fact, more often than not, standard homeowners insurance policies are said to include "all perils" but do not cover geologic and other natural hazards. Earthquake and flood insurance are examples of "named perils" insurance that might actually help you if disaster strikes.

3. "I can't afford to get prepared." You don't need a \$200 Deluxe Disaster Kit or a \$50.00 collapsible toilet to be prepared. Most essential emergency supply items can be purchased for a few dollars. Many things like flashlights, manual can openers, or rope can be found around the house or garage and just need to be gathered to a central location.

4. "If there's an earthquake, the tsunami sirens will let me know if I need to evacuate." In the event that a tsunami is generated off the coast, the earthquake will be your only official warning to get to high ground. There won't be enough time between the quake and resulting tsunami for the emergency alert system to fully activate AHAB sirens or NOAA weather radios.

5. "What does it matter? We'll all be dead anyway." It's true that large disasters cause mass destruction, but don't be fooled into thinking they cause *total* destruction. Most people survive; some by sheer luck, and others by quick and decisive action. If you choose not to prepare because you'll probably die anyway, that means only luck is on your side.

6. "I'll bring my pet to the shelter with me." Many emergency shelters do not accept animals, including many operated by the American Red Cross. In an emergency, people are the first priority and unfortunately there won't always be space or resources to accommodate pets and livestock. Pet owners can prepare by finding out which shelters or organizations will house pets. Having food, a restraint, a portable kennel, toys, and blankets ready for your pet is also a good idea.

7. "Somebody else will know what to do." You better hope so! In case you find yourself alone or with a group of people who also don't know what to do, a little preparedness training could end up meaning a lot.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) periodically offers training. There are many other options available online or through organizations like the American Red Cross, Medical Reserve Corps or FEMA.

8. "I'll drive to high ground." That might work alright for a distantly generated tsunami, but if the earthquake occurs just off the coast, driving will likely be impossible. An earthquake large enough to generate a local tsunami will cause



intense ground shaking. Intense ground shaking will topple trees and utility lines, blocking roads. Subsidence and liquefaction will also render many of our roads and bridges impassible. Find an evacuation site within fifteen minutes walking distance from your home or work to adequately prepare for a local tsunami. Plan on walking, unless you own a helicopter.

**If you feel the earth shake:
DON'T HESITATE, EVACUATE!**

For past issues of Emergency Management Magazine visit:
<http://www.govtech.com/magazines/em/Fall-2016.html>



WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN YOUR COMMUNITY??

DID YOU KNOW???
The *Ocean Shores CERT Team* can be heard on the radio!!!

Listen for Tammy Fairley and other team members on the fourth Thursday of each month at 9:00am on 91.3FM or at <http://kosradio.com>



You will hear about.....

- Upcoming Classes
- Events the Team will be at.
- Learn what CERT is all about and how to reach them.
-

Does your CERT Team have an upcoming event you would like announced on the radio??
Email OSTLCERT@aol.com



Disaster Master

Help the Heroes! Will you know what to do? Make the right decisions and earn points to unlock new levels. But watch out! The wrong choice could end the game. Survive all 7 levels plus a turn in the hot seat and become a Disaster Master! Print out chapters of your own graphic novel as you play.

<https://www.ready.gov/kids/games/data/dm-english/index.html>

Emergency Preparedness Guide

Disasters Happen: Are you Ready?

<http://mil.wa.gov/uploads/pdf/Publications/emergencypreparednessguide2016.pdf>

Hard copies can be obtained from Personal Preparedness Forum's held at your local Library. For schedule visit: http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency_management/training.php

Winging it is NOT an Emergency Plan!



"Seat of Your Pants" PSA (60 seconds)

YouTube

(courtesy of NYC Emergency Management)



IS YOUR FAMILY PREPARED??

(Let's get started)



FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

<http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/Emergency%20Management/Family%20Emergency%20Plan.pdf>



GO-KIT FOR EACH PERSON & PET

<http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/Emergency%20Management/PREPAREDNESS/DISASTER%20GO%20KIT.pdf>



ALL HAZARD WEATHER RADIO

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>



KNOW YOUR EVACUATION ROUTE

<http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergencymanagement/tsunamievacuationmaps.php>



SIGN UP FOR THE GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

<http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergencymanagement/DEMNotificationRequest.php>

How to Get Involved in Your Community



The community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as: fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

For more information contact Grays Harbor County Emergency Management at (360) 964-1575 or email ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us



The Medical Reserve Corps is a group of volunteers prescreened and trained to augment Public Health staff during an emergency situation in Grays Harbor County. The Medical Reserve Corps plays a major role with:

- Dispensing medications and vaccinations
- Conducting health assessments
- Disease surveillance

For more information contact Grays Harbor County Emergency Management at (360) 964-1575 or email ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us



American Red Cross The American Red Cross Northwest Region brings together local volunteers to

care for their neighbors, trains hundreds of thousands of people each year in life-saving skills, and responds to a local disaster almost daily. With offices located throughout the state, we serve the people, businesses and communities of Washington and the Idaho Panhandle.

For more information contact Grays Harbor County Emergency Management at (360) 964-1575 or email ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us



Contacts & info

Friends Landing—Photo by Lisa Ballou



Request for *Preparedness on the Harbor* Newsletter Articles

Do you have Grays Harbor County News to Share??

Submit your article and pictures to cmccullough@co.grays-harbor.wa.us
Deadline is April 3, 2017

All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) Siren testing occurs the first Monday of every month at noon.

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Article & Photo Credit

*CERT Photos on page 4
provided by Tammy Fairley*

*Back cover photo of Friends Landing
Provided by Lisa Ballou*

ATTEND the Grays Harbor Citizen Corp meetings the second Wednesday of every month at 9am, in the Grays Harbor County Forestry Building.
310 W Spruce St Montesano, WA 98563

Meet with other county agencies and organizations working on disaster preparedness in our county. Check out their Facebook page too.
www.facebook.com/GraysHarborCitizenCorps

SIGN UP for the Grays Harbor Emergency Notification System to receive Emergency & Disaster information on winter storms, earthquakes, flooding, from Grays Harbor
http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency_management/DEMNotificationRequest.php

LIKE the Grays Harbor Emergency Management Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/pages/Grays-Harbor-County-Emergency-Management

FOLLOW Grays Harbor Emergency Management [@GHCDEM](https://twitter.com/GHCDEM) on Twitter

VISIT the Grays Harbor Emergency Management website at
http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency_management/index.php

Upcoming Events

GHC CERT
Training Opportunity
March 1st & 2nd

Emergency Management Personal Preparedness Forum
(held at local library's)
March 8th Amanda Park
March 23rd McCleary
April 4th Ocean Shores
April 25th Montesano

For more information
Contact Emergency Management at
ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us

Looking For Something To Do??
Check out
Emergency Management
TRAININGS

Upcoming Meetings

Citizen Corps
March 8th—9:00am
April 12th—9:00am
LEPC
March 8th—10:15am
April 12th—10:15am