

# Grays Harbor County Emergency Management

Washington Coast

## Preparedness on the Harbor

Volume 3, Issue 3

May - June 2017

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### What does the Geographic Information System (GIS) Department of Grays Harbor County do?



*Dan Ehreth and Tim Triesch*

GIS is a very powerful decision-making tool that has a massive range of applications, from resource management, logistics, planning, transport, surveying, demographic studies, epidemiology and environment.

With GIS, you can analyze topographic, environmental, demographic and land use data to help with project management decisions.

The Grays Harbor County GIS Department performs an invaluable role to our citizens and various departments of County Government.



INFORMATION & DATA



Sage.unsw.edu.au



Photo by Lisa Ballou

They provide strategic mapping tools for damage assessment, planning and resource management for use in Emergency and Disaster exercises, planning and real world events, as well as assistance for our various Search and Rescue operations throughout the year.

The Grays Harbor County GIS Department provides access to aerial photography for the County Assessor's office in a newer, easier to use system called Pictometry, Connect Explorer.

GIS also maintains the County Parcel GIS layer and keeps the County Road Atlas and Roads GIS Layer, as well as providing Timber Sales maps and Timberland GIS data for the County Forestry Department.

Article by Chuck Wallace

**Currently Grays Harbor County GIS is working with Grays Harbor E-911 on the implementation of Next Generation 911 which will provide a statewide GIS database.**

[http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/departments/central\\_services/gis.php](http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/departments/central_services/gis.php)



# Mold Questions and Answers

*A mold problem always starts from an excess moisture problem. Molds can grow on almost any surface, such as wood, ceiling tiles, wallpaper, paints, carpet, sheet rock, and insulation. A leak, poor ventilation, condensation, or floods are primary reasons molds grow in the home. However, mold is preventable by keeping your home dry. Mold testing is unnecessary when mold growth is detected- you know you have mold when you smell a "musty" odor or see small black and white specks along bathroom walls, near windows, or in areas of water leaks. Some mold is not visible and can grow behind walls or above ceiling tiles. Even dry, dead mold can cause health problems, so it is always important to handle mold in a cautious manner.*

## Can mold affect my health?

A little bit of mold in your home is not a major cause of concern, but should be taken care of immediately before excessive mold growth occurs. Typically, molds do not harm healthy people. Those who may suffer from allergies may be more sensitive to molds. Some mold may even cause allergic reactions without knowing the source. Allergic reactions to mold are normal and may include symptoms such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and a skin rash. However, those with already existing conditions such as asthma, lung diseases, or other pre-existing health problems may be at higher risk of health complications from mold exposure, such as asthma attacks.

Even when people are healthy, high exposure to molds may cause imminent health effects. With high levels of mold exposure, one people may experience sleepiness, nausea, headaches, and irritation to the lungs and eyes. Therefore, if you are experiencing these symptoms and believe it may be from mold, it is recommended that you talk to your doctor.

## How can I prevent mold growth?

The key to preventing mold growth is limiting excess moisture in the home. One of the main causes of mold is due to condensation. An example of condensation may be water droplets that form around window sills, from leaks, or spills indoors. Condensation can be reduced by adding insulation near cold surfaces. This may include windows, piping, exterior walls, roof, or floors. All leaks will need to be fixed immediately to ensure mold does not damage property. Stop water leaks by repairing leaky roofs and plumbing.

Mold can also be eliminated by reducing the indoor humidity in the home. Bathrooms, washing machine areas, kitchens and basements have the most exposure to moisture and are likely areas mold will grow. An exhaust fan or a bathroom fan will help control mold growth if used a few hours daily. It is recommended these types of fans be installed in the home. If your home does not have an exhaust fan, open all windows and doors for five minutes on a daily basis. Also, ensure exhaust fans are used whenever cooking, dishwashing, or cleaning. Mold growth diminishes in home environments when humidity is between 30-60%. Use an indoor humidity monitor to ensure humidity is between 30-60%, and keep the temperature of your home above 60°F.

Mold will always have a presence in the home. However, general cleaning and vacuuming will reduce the number of mold spores that can multiply. Airing out areas such as attics and crawl spaces, as well as rooms such as basements is recommended. Move large furniture a few inches away from walls to increase air circulation.

## How do I clean mold in my home?

When cleaning large amounts of mold, be sure to use protective gear when cleaning, such as rubber gloves and goggles. A protective mask may also be needed. An N-95 respirator is recommended and can be picked up at your local hardware store. Removing mold spores completely will deter health risks associated with the presence of mold spores. Therefore, wiping the affected area with a bleach solution will not fully remove mold spores and the presence of the spores may continue to cause health related risks. Mold surfaces should be cleaned with a soap (such as a dish detergent) and warm water. Scrub the surfaces and allow the area to fully dry.

When mold affects items such as furniture, clothing, or carpeting, it should be cleaned and dried within two days. Throw away any furnishings or personal belongings if they are no longer cleanable or able to dry within the two day time frame.

If the area is more than about 10 square feet (about a 3ft by 3ft patch), or your home has severe water damage, you will want to hire a contractor that specializes in the cleaning of mold.

## What if I am renting and I have mold within my property?

If you are renting and suspect mold, it is the renter's responsibility to handle condensation. The renter must wipe up the condensation and follow the recommended steps above to prevent mold growth. However, if there are leaks within the property, the landlord is responsible for fixing leaking pipes. The renter must notify the landlord immediately in writing of any leaks or structure damage causing mold growth. Failure to notify the landlord can result in damage to the structure, as well as exposure to mold that can be costly fix if gone too long without maintenance.

**Additional information on mold can be found at the resources below. If you have any additional questions about mold in your home, you can contact the Grays Harbor County Environmental Health Division at (360) 249-4222.**

Centers for Disease Control Mold Guide:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mold>

Residential Landlord/Tenant Act RCW:  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=59.18>

Provided by: Jeff Nelson,  
Grays Harbor County  
Environmental Health Director



The [Ocean Shores CERT](#) Team turned one year old on St. Patrick's Day. During the past year this team has taken every advantage to get the word out about CERT. They have manned information tables at many city events with information on how to prepare for a disaster. They have handed out flyers on how to join CERT as

well as talking to citizens on how to prepare "go-bags".

During the year, the team has been taking many on-going

training's that have been offered. Team Leader Tammy Fairley and Team Secretary Kat Holman-Smith have developed an excellent tracking system for all members records of trainings and events that they have taken part in, as well as manning their own team Facebook group page. The team is currently working on fund-raising ideas and events. Each month the Team Leader can be heard on KOSW radio 9am the 4th Thursday of each month. They have made it a priority to spread the word among citizens on how to be ready if and when an event occurs in their community. The team also won the "Most Improved Team" award in December at the CERT year end banquet for Gray Harbor County Teams. Keep up the good work Ocean Shores and we look forward to what year two brings.

Article and Picture Provided by Tammy Fairley



Pictured left to right: Chris McCaughan, Heather Worley, Kat Holman-Smith, Tammy Fairley, James Nelson, Amy Bledsoe, Martha Tello, Stephanie Allestad.

Not Pictured: Michael Gershman, Aaron Bledsoe, Darrell Myers



K-9  
UNIT

Saturday, June 3rd

9:00am to Noon approx.

Learn how the K-9 Unit from Grays Harbor Volunteer Search & Rescue works and trains to find lost people in a multitude of areas. Afterwards, will be a live training scenario followed by a short debriefing and Q & A. This event is FREE and open to all responders.

Dress for Field Training



North Beach Community Center/GHFD#8

(4576 State Route 109, Pacific Beach)

Register at [www.NorthBeachCERT.org](http://www.NorthBeachCERT.org)

# Memorial Day weekend



This holiday is often considered the start of summer, and in most years, it is a bad day to drive. According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), about 400 people a year die during a typical Memorial Day weekend, and on average there are 13.1 percent more traffic deaths than on a non-holiday weekend.

**Booze is a big factor; 44 percent of all traffic fatalities that occur over Memorial Day are alcohol-related.**

It is a big driving weekend as well. AAA projected last year that 36.1 million drivers would drive at least 50 miles from home during Memorial Day Weekend. Too many cars on the road, combined with booze-fueled parties and barbecues, results in more accidents and more deaths.

YAHOO! NEWS

## Celebrate Pet Safety this Memorial Day

As the unofficial start to summer, Memorial Day is a great excuse to get outdoors. But whether you're partying, barbecuing, or just soaking up some rays, it's important to keep your pet's safety in mind at all times. To prevent any Memorial Day mishaps, we've put together some tips to help protect animals during the "Dog Days" of the season.

Visit ASPCA at:

<http://www.aspc.org/news/celebrate-pet-safety-memorial-day>



## Congratulations

*Please join us in congratulating Diane McNett and Teresa Hart for recognition of 25 years of distinguished employment and service to our community!*

### APRIL 15TH 1992 TO PRESENT

Diane and Teresa work for South Beach Fire & EMS as billing clerk/secretaries at the office in Westport. They have been the life blood of our department for so many years. While wearing many hats they have helped this community through their compassion and professionalism.



Diane held the certification as a First Responder for many years and when needed would play a vital role in staffing our emergency vehicles.

Diane says " many things have changed over the years but its always been about the people" and that philosophy shows.

Teresa has been an active Emergency Medical Technician for 28 years besides her administrative duties in the office. She has responded to countless calls for help over the years. Teresa says " she feels so proud and grateful to be apart of such a wonderful community".

**Please don't hesitate to stop by the office and wish them well!**

Article by Daryl Brown

# Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs

For the millions of Americans who have physical, medical, sensory or cognitive disabilities, emergencies such as fires, floods and acts of terrorism present a real challenge.

The same challenge also applies to the elderly and other special needs populations. This [booklet](#) will help people with disabilities prepare and emergency plan to protect themselves, family, friends, personal care assistant and others in the support network in the event of an emergency. Post the plan where everyone will see it, keep a copy with you and make sure everyone involved in your plan has a copy.



## Pet and Animal Emergency Planning

### Make a Pet Emergency Plan

ID your pet. Make sure your pet's tags are up-to-date and securely to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. If your pet gets lost, his tag is his ticket home. Also consider microchipping your pets.

Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.

Make a pet emergency kit. Click [HERE](#) for a full list of items to include in your pets kit.

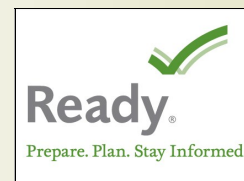
#### Check out this quick list:

- Pet food
- Bottled water
- Medications
- Veterinary records
- Cat litter/pan
- Manual can opener
- Food dishes
- First aid kit and other supplies



Identify shelters. For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. [Find out which motels and hotels in the area you plan to evacuate to allow pets](#) well in advance of needing them. There are also a number of guides that list hotels/motels that permit pets and could serve as a starting point. Include your local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers.

Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, leash or harness for your pet so that if he panics, he can't escape.



# Looking Back

## Look Back: IN REMEMBRANCE The Mount St. Helens Eruption

### Mount St. Helens, May 18, 1980

At 8:32 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time on May 18, 1980, a 5.2 magnitude earthquake struck below the north face of Washington's Mount St. Helens. The earthquake triggered the largest debris avalanche in recorded history, wiping out the northern summit of the volcano and exposing its core.

Erupting 6,000 feet into the air, it was the biggest eruption to rock the volcano in 123 years. Fifty seven people were killed.

Credit: USGS

<http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/look-back-mount-st-helens-eruption-washington/>

[From the USGS Mount St Helens May 18, 1980](#)



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Discovernw.org

# Congratulations !

## Grays Harbor E-911 annual Telecommunicator Recognition Awards

Grays Harbor E-911 is recognizing employees for their performance in 2016.

In recognition of the public safety dispatcher's critical role in the protection of life and property and the preservation of society and law, Governor Jay Inslee has proclaimed the week of April 9th thru April 15th as Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

During the week-long celebration, Grays Harbor E-911 will take the opportunity to present the agency's annual Telecommunicator Recognition Awards for exemplary job performance in 2016.



<http://www.gh911.org/main-menu/award->

**2016 Critical Incident Team**  
Wendy Richey, Sarah Saunders,  
Heather Cowser & Krystal Eastham

Krystal Eastham has been selected to receive the Sustained Job Performance Award for her outstanding performance, effort, knowledge and dedication.

Megan Hamilton has been selected to receive the Critical Incident Award for her role in handling a lost hiker call.

Eastham, Heather Cowser, Wendy Richey and Sarah Saunders are being recognized with the Team Critical Incident Award for their performance during an incident involving an assault.

They will also recognize individuals who were instrumental in developing and installing their new Computer Aided Dispatch system that went live in February.

<http://www.kxro.com/grays-harbor-e9-1-1-annual-telecommunicator-recognition-awards/>

## UNDERSTANDING TSUNAMI ALERTS



## Meet the First "Sue Nami"

TSUNAMI = FAST-RISING FLOOD



by Designmatters at ArtCenter

## Know the Signs !

Previously posted in the Pacific County Preparedness Post

## Looking for Tsunami Information?

Visit the [Grays Harbor Emergency Management](#) website where you will find:

- West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Information
- Lessons in Surviving a Tsunami
- Tsunami Safety Advice
- Evacuation Maps



# Congratulations !

## Retired OS Chief Styner named Police Officer of the Year



**For Article:**

<http://www.thedailyworld.com/news/retired-os-chief-styner-named-police-officer-of-the-year/>

By Scott D. Johnston

## District 2's Josh Ambrose is Firefighter of the Year



Photo By Cheryl Thompson

**For Article:**

<http://www.thedailyworld.com/news/district-2s-josh-ambrose-is-firefighter-of-the-year/>

By Dan Hammock

## Firefighter of the Year nominees

*There were two other nominees for  
Firefighter of the Year.*

Stephanie Allestad is a longtime volunteer from Fire District 8 on the North Beach. She is involved in certification training for the district and also is the organizer of the annual Ocean Shores Chocolate on the Beach festival. Allestad has been with the department since 2006 and is currently the community liaison for the district.

"I facilitate a lot of the trainings and meetings and attend meetings with the county and North Beach area," she said. "I work with fire and law enforcement in the county, and on the scene I handle crowd control and traffic, and work with the families and law enforcement so the EMTs can do their job."

In the past she has also worked with the Red Cross and Grays Harbor Volunteer Search and Rescue. For the past 10 years she has helmed the annual Chocolate on the Beach festival. "It started off as a fundraiser for the Museum of the North Beach, and it kept getting bigger and bigger," she said. "In the fifth year we became our own entity, and we've donated more than \$26,000 back into the North Beach community."

Matt Miller with the Hoquiam Fire Department was also nominated. "Matt Miller is one of our headquarters captains, and he is in charge of all our training for the department," said Hoquiam Fire Chief Paul Dean. "He's also in charge of all of our probationary training for new firefighters."

Hoquiam is a fairly large department, making the training job particularly time consuming and complicated.

"It's a big chore," said Dean. "We have 21 personnel here that require a certain number of hours of training on pieces of equipment and other vehicles throughout the year, and he supervises all that training, coordinates it and keeps track of it all. It's a big chore and he does a great job."

Miller just hit the 18-year mark with the Hoquiam Fire Department, having come on board in March 1999.

<http://www.thedailyworld.com/news/firefighter-of-the-year-nominees/>

## Gene Schermer named Citizen of the Year



**For Article:**

<http://www.thedailyworld.com/news/gene-schermer-named-citizen-of-the-year/>

By Dan Hammock

**CHECK OUT !!**

# How to Get Involved in Your Community

## 2017 NATIONAL SEASONAL PREPAREDNESS MESSAGING CALENDAR



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)

[ready.gov/calendar](http://ready.gov/calendar)

# 2017

## NATIONAL SEASONAL PREPAREDNESS MESSAGING CALENDAR

### MAY

- [Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#)
- [National Small Business Week](#)
- [National Hurricane Preparedness Week](#)
- [National Police Week](#)
- [National EMS Week](#)
- [National Building Safety Month](#)
- [National Dam Safety Awareness Day](#)



### JUNE

- [Pet Preparedness Month](#)
- [Extreme Heat](#)
- [National CPR/AED Awareness Month](#)



# Contacts & info

Westport Marina - 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](mailto:cmccullough@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)  
Deadline is June 5, 2017

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

**Sheriff Rick Scott**  
Director Emergency Management  
(360) 249-3711  
[soadmin@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:soadmin@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)

**Chuck Wallace**  
Deputy Director  
(360) 964-1575  
[cwallace@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:cwallace@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)

**Carmin McCullough**  
DEM Assistant & Editor  
(360) 964-1576  
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**Grays Harbor Emergency Management**  
Grays Harbor Forestry Building  
310 W Spruce Street,  
Montesano, WA 98563  
(360) 249-3911  
Fax (360) 249-3805  
[ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)

### Article & Photo Credit

Front page GIS photos by Lisa Ballou  
Article by Chuck Wallace

Page 2 Mold Questions & Answers  
Provided by Jeff Nelson

Page 2 Ocean Shores CERT article  
and photo provided by Tammy Fairley

Page 3 S. Beach 25 year recognition  
article and photo by Daryl Brown

Back cover photo of Westport 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](http://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](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](http://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](http://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/departments/emergency_management/index.php)

### Upcoming Events

**Emergency Management Personal Preparedness Forum**

(held at local library's)  
May 4th [Oakville](#) 6pm  
May 23rd [Westport](#) 5pm  
June 6th [O. Shores](#) 5pm

For more information  
Contact Emergency Management at  
[ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:ghcdem@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)

Learn how the **K-9 Unit** from **GH Volunteer Search & Rescue** works and trains to find lost people.  
June 3rd NB Community Ctr.

Listen for Tammy Fairley of the Ocean Shores CERT Team at 9am on: **91.3FM** or at <http://koswradio.com>

May 25th  
June 22nd



### Upcoming Meetings

**Citizen Corps**  
May 10th—9:00am  
June 14th—9:00am  
**LEPC**  
May 10th—10:15am  
June 14th—10:15am