

Grays Harbor County Department of Emergency Management Preparedness on the Harbor

Volume 1, Issue 1

July-August 2015

BURN BANS

Are You Ready for a Disaster?

This newsletter has been created to share information, articles and events to help you prepare for the disasters that effect our county. Thanks to help from local, regional, state, nationwide agencies and organizations sharing information, you can read it here in one place.

This idea came from our friends to the South, the Pacific County Emergency Management Agency. They produce a similar newsletter bi-monthly on the even months, and ours will be on the odd months.

If you have an article, event or pictures to share please contact our editor, Stephanie Allestad. We will try to make sure credit is given. Please feel free to share this newsletter.

We hope you find it informative.

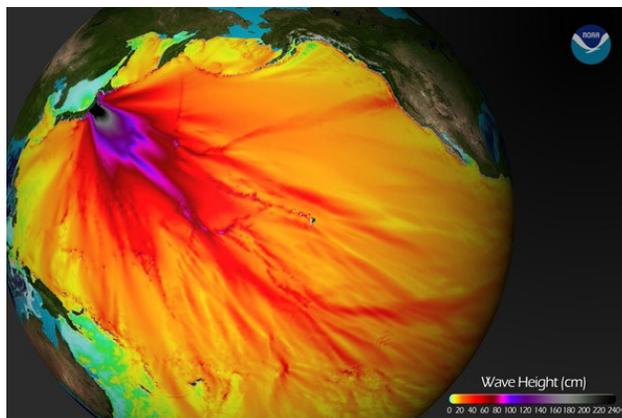
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Burn Bans in Effect for Grays Harbor and the State

STATE PARKS BURN BAN EXTENDS TO THE OCEAN BEACHES!

Washington State Parks announced a ban on campfires in ALL state parks because of extreme dry conditions and hot weather.

The **fire ban also extends to all ocean beaches** with the exception of federal and tribal lands. (If you are planning to visit those sites, please check with the local jurisdiction for burn ban restrictions)

Currently, Washington State Parks are under a Level 4 Extreme fire ban or higher. A Level 4 ban means that fires are restricted to gas and propane self-contained camping stoves. No charcoal or wood fires will be allowed in State Parks, even in designated fire rings.

As the Fourth of July weekend approaches, parks officials remind the public that fireworks are never allowed on state parks property. Governor Inslee has asked citizens to consider celebrating without fireworks this Fourth of July to prevent accidental ignition of the extreme dry, tinder-like brush and grasses in park and beach dune areas.

GOVERNOR INSLEE AND COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS GOLDMARK TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

With extraordinary heat and drought conditions across the state and forecasts for more of the same, Governor Jay Inslee and Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark are taking steps to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Inslee issued an emergency proclamation for all 39 counties, activating critical resources needed to prevent and contain expected wildfires. The emergency proclamation gives the Washington State Department of Natural Resources the ability to call on the resources of the National Guard and the State Guard on short notice to assist in responding to wildfires. The declaration comes early this year in an effort to have firefighting resources ready to quickly mobilize and stamp out fire starts before they expand to larger wildfires. The order also empowers the Washington State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray to coordinate all incident-related assistance to the affected areas.

Last week, about 125 new Washington National Guard members received firefighting training in Yakima. Last year, more

than 850 Guard members helped fight wildfires.

In addition, Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark has banned all outdoor fires on Washington State Department of Natural Resources-protected lands. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is likewise banning all campfires at state parks and on the ocean beaches Seashore Conservation Area.

This new burn ban, which supersedes DNR's June 22 statewide burn ban, prohibits campfires in state forests, state parks and anywhere else on the 13 million acres of Washington forestlands DNR protects from wildfire. It will be valid until September 30.

"The weather forecasts are pointing to a dangerous weekend, with an ominous fire-weather pattern that shows hot temperatures, low humidity and high potential for lightning and gusty winds," said Goldmark.

The expanded statewide ban prohibits all fires, including wood and charcoal fires in designated campground fire pits or campfire rings. Gas and propane cook stoves are allowed. Fireworks and incendiary devices, such as exploding targets, sky lanterns, or tracer ammunition, are always illegal on all DNR-protected forestlands, including state parks.

The DNR burn ban does not cover federal lands such as national forests, national parks, national wildlife refuges or other areas administered by federal agencies. It also does not cover county and municipal parks. Visitors to national, county and city parks should contact the park for specific restrictions on campfires.

Unincorporated Grays Harbor County Recreational Campfires will ONLY be allowed on private property in the following manner:

The campfire can be no more than 3 feet in diameter, and constructed with a ring of metal, stone or brick 8" above ground surface, with a 2 foot wide area outside of the ring cleared to the soil.

The area must be at least 10 feet away, all around from any possible flammable material and 20 feet clear of overhead materials (trees, bushes)

The fire must be attend to by a person 16 years or older with a shovel, a bucket of water or a hose nearby.

Outdoor cooking at your private residence is allowed in an approved appliance using charcoal, wood, gas or propane.



Firework Notices for Grays Harbor

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY SHERIFF'S PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office would like to remind the general public to use due care and caution during the 4th of July weekend. With the extremely dry conditions, and the continued warm and dry weather, fireworks and recreational burning can be very hazardous if not done safely and legally. While there are still various areas throughout Grays Harbor County where the safe discharge of legal fireworks is permitted, law enforcement and fire officials are strongly encouraging residents to reduce the risk of fires and enjoy the professional fireworks displays.

Every year during this holiday weekend, law enforcement encounters individuals who discharge missile-type rockets (i.e. - bottle rockets) toward other individuals, residences, forested areas, hay fields, or the sand dunes. Given the extremely dry conditions, this type of behavior can have devastating results. Deputies will aggressively pursue individuals who are discharging these types of fireworks in the above mentioned manner. Individuals who are found committing these types of acts will be facing Unlawful Discharge/Use of Fireworks, or Reckless Burning 2nd Degree charges, both of which are gross misdemeanors. If the person's actions cause injury or start a fire, the subject will be looking at felony charges.

This is a public safety announcement. The Sheriff's Office truly hopes all will have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend. Below are the various restrictions throughout the county for the discharge of fireworks and recreational burning.

City of Aberdeen has the following restrictions:

Discharge of fireworks is allowed **only** on July 4th 9:00 AM until 12:00 midnight.

Lawful fireworks are defined as **common fireworks** labeled U.N. 0336 1.4G.

Recreation fire in approved burn pits per IFC still allowed at this time as well as BBQ LPG / Charcoal appliances.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter, the state statutes and regulations adopted herein is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Cosmopolis bans aerial firework discharge in residential areas

They are only allowed to be discharged in Cosmopolis from 6pm to midnight on the 4th of July.

All aerial projectile fireworks are prohibited in residential areas, they may however be discharged at the Cosmo Specialty Fibers boat launch.

Ground-based fireworks may be discharged between 6:00 PM and Midnight on the Fourth of July only.

Violations of the order will be considered violations of Cosmopolis Municipal Code, and will be dealt with accordingly.

Hoquiam

Fireworks allowed from 9am-midnight on July 3rd & 4th ONLY

Ocean Shores Absolutely No Beach Fires!

Fireworks can only be discharged during the following dates and hours:

July 2nd and 3rd between the hours of Noon and 11PM.

July 4th between the hours of Noon and Midnight.

Only legal fireworks may be discharged. **Firecrackers and bottle-rocket type fireworks are not permitted.**

Fireworks can only be discharged on the beaches from the Damon Road beach approach (Best Western) to Marine View Drive. Fireworks cannot be discharged in town.

Fireworks **cannot** be used within 100 feet of the dunes or fired into the dunes.

Fireworks **cannot** be discharged from decks or balconies of hotels, motels, or any residential properties.

Westport No Fireworks permitted within City limit

Fireworks may be discharged along beach at Half Moon Bay, 9am-11pm, No Other Areas Permitted.

Fireworks **cannot** be used within 100 feet of the dunes or fired into the dunes.

Elma, McCleary, Montesano, Oakville are permitting the safe discharge of legal fireworks according to local ordinance. Please check with your local jurisdiction for specific details.

Fireworks allowed now through July 3rd from 9am -11pm

Fireworks allowed on July 4th from 9am to Midnight

July 5th - Fireworks allowed from 9am-11pm (Check with your local jurisdiction for more specific details)

Unincorporated Grays Harbor County is allowing safe discharge of legal fireworks.

Fireworks allowed now through July 3rd from 9am -11pm

Fireworks allowed on July 4th from 9am to Midnight

July 5th - Fireworks allowed from 9am-11pm (Check with your local jurisdiction for more specific details)

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

Fireworks are Never allowed on State Parks property.

GRAYS HARBOR RESIDENTS ASSIST MILITARY COMPONENTS DURING COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

Local communities saw members of the Washington National Guard (WANG) the month of June testing their ability to respond to a catastrophic Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake and tsunami. Evergreen Tremor, weeklong exercises, kicked off June 17th, and involved more than 1000 Washington National Guard soldiers and airmen across the state, as well as local, state and federal emergency response agencies.

The exercise scenario tested the WANG's earthquake response plan, and involved training exercises at the Satsop Industrial Park and Grays Harbor County Emergency Operations Centers. On June 23rd, the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray was fully activated to help support the exercise.

Guards members trained on the following operations:

- Dual Status Command, the process in which National Guard and Active Duty soldiers work together under one Commander;
- Joint operations between the state and county emergency operation centers and the National Guard;
- Joint Incident Site Communications Capabilities (JISCC) operations, which will provide phone and internet services to areas that have lost communication abilities



Along with Evergreen Tremor, the WANG will participate in Cascadia Rising in June of 2016. Conducting successful life-saving and life-sustaining response operations in the aftermath of

a Cascadia Subduction Zone disaster will hinge on the effective coordination and integration of governments at all levels – cities, counties, state agencies, federal officials, the military, tribal nations – as well as non-government organizations and the private sector. One of the primary goals of Cascadia Rising is to train and test this whole community approach to complex disaster operations together as a joint team.

Grays Harbor County was part of a very large communications exercise as part of the Evergreen Tremor exercise. This was the first of two communications exercises prior to Cascadia Rising, a multi state exercise with Canada and various National Guard and military components in June 2016.



On June 23 & 24th, they were utilizing and testing every piece of communications equipment we have with State and military entities. Amateur radio played a major role during the exercise since it may be the only viable communication method following a disastrous event such as a 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone fault line earthquake with resulting tsunami waves.

The Cascadia Rising Exercise in June 2016 will develop a plan for response to earthquake and tsunami affected areas of Grays Harbor County. So far, the draft plan is extremely robust and will bring assistance to our county far quicker than ever expected.



Grays Harbor residents and ECC (Emergency Coordination Center) Volunteer Amateur Radio Operators Doyle Wenzel and George Stone were integral parts of the two day Military Communications exercise this past week in preparation for the June 2016 Cascadia Earthquake and Tsunami exercise. "We were able to test many military facets the military has not had the chance to test with a working ECC. Military Components were represented by the WA Guard, National Guard and Air Force men and women." reported Chuck Wallace.



Of course some barriers existed, as usually become evident during exercise and testing, but Wenzel and Stone made great suggestions on how to communicate during this exercise and for

future real time events. Their suggestions will create easier and more fluid pathways for communication between military assets and amateur radio assets benefitting all jurisdictions and citizens nation wide.

Amateur radio operators are invaluable during disaster and will most likely be the ONLY way to communicate for assistance for the initial first days of any major disaster incident. Grays Harbor Emergency Management would like to thank not only George Stone and Doyle Wenzel for their outstanding commitment and volunteer efforts but wish to thank all other amateur radio operators who will become involved during true events for their volunteer efforts maintaining our communication lifeline.

Story is a combination from Chuck Wallace and KBKW. Pictures courtesy of Chuck Wallace



Grays Harbor Fire District #2 Chief, Leonard Johnson Receives Plaque for Special Recognition

On January 5, 2015, the cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam were devastated by an unprecedented rain-storm which apparently focused mainly over the two communities. Over 11 inches of rain was recorded in a 24-hour period at the Moon Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Police officers and firefighters came to the aid and rescue of residents displaced first by mudslides and shifting hills-some in homes actually knocked from the foundation into the

street. As the ground saturated, the water pooled deeper and deeper until spilling into homes and businesses through both cities.

In the immediate response, police, fire and public work personnel jumped into action. They took steps to move people to shelters and mitigate the damage to keep the cities operating. Arrangements were made for the immediate impact. As the skies cleared, our public and private partners, assisted by scores of volunteers rallied to help clean up the streets and flooded homes.

For public safety, we tried to return to “normal” in the sense we had to respond to calls for service, thefts and domestics for the police and aid calls for fire.

What no one realized was the bow-wave of recovery now that response was done.

As the recovery lingered and fell flat (not as a result of good intentions but lack of organization), Sheriff Scott requested the assistance of the Region III Incident Management Team. This IMT consists of personnel

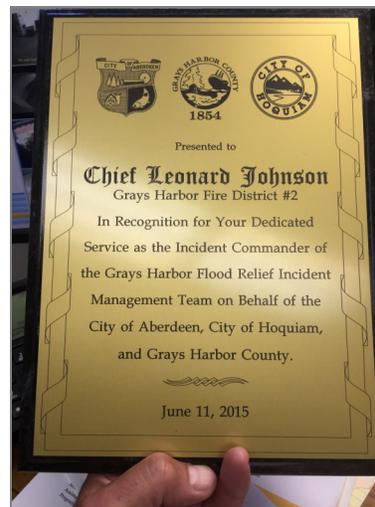
from our neighboring counties and included Chief Leonard Johnson.

Chief Johnson immediately assumed the role as Deputy Incident Commander to lend his local knowledge and contacts to the success of the team.

After weeks of work, the IMT transitioned to a local IMT consisting of personnel from agencies within our county. Chief Johnson was automatically selected as the Incident Commander.

As the IC of this Recovery Effort, Chief Johnson led the charge to not only organize the relief efforts, but bring all the partners together. His tact, organizational skills, professionalism and dedication assured our outcomes and success as a local IMT for this incident.

He also worked his tail off and still managed to work his day job here at GHFD #2.



On behalf of Aberdeen, Hoquiam and Grays Harbor County, we sincerely appreciate the support of GHFD #2 in loaning us Chief Johnson to serve the role as IC for this incident; an incident and recovery effort which went weeks and months beyond what we ever expected.

We learned so many valuable lessons and are

putting operational infrastructure in place from what we learned under the leadership of Chief Johnson. Please commend him for his work and know we stand ready to assist GHFD #2 whenever needed likewise.

Weather Spotters Needed for Grays Harbor Communities



In January, Grays Harbor County and the surrounding regions experienced an unusually high amount of rain. SKYWARN Weather

Spotters for the National Weather Service (NWS) submitted observations and photos that were used to create a post weather event debrief for local emergency management agencies.

Through the post-weather event debrief, it became apparent that there is a need for more Weather Spotters in Grays Harbor County, as little data was submitted for the area, though impacts from the weather event were felt. There are a small number of registered Weather Spotters in the area, but more are needed to gain a better record of weather and related events that may occur.

There are nearly 290,000 trained Weather Spotters nationwide. Their main duty is to report severe weather conditions to NWS. According to NWS, "these volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather."

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication, such as HAM radio, to join the program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become a spotter.

Those interested in becoming a Weather Spotter should contact their local NWS Weather Forecast Office, which is responsible for administering the SKYWARN program in their local

area. Training is conducted at these local offices and covers: basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, identifying potential severe weather features, information to report, how to report information, and basic severe weather safety.

To become registered with SKY-



The Moclips river running it's banks. Picture taken by Lee Marriot of the Museum of the North Beach. No observations were submitted to NWS from this event.

WARN, a basic class must be completed. Weather Spotter Classes are free and typically are about two hours long. To find out when a SKYWARN class will be conducted in local your area, contact your local Warning Coordination Meteorologist at: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm>

This article is a compilation of information from the National Weather Service SKYWARN program. More information can be found on their website: www.skywarn.org

National Weather Service
Regional Contact:

Ted Buehner
206-526-6095

Ted.Buehner@noaa.gov

Construction Continues On Ocosta Elementary

The Ocosta Elementary School construction is moving along at a quick pace.

Last summer about 3,000 voters approved a levy to fund replacement of the Ocosta Elementary "Round building," at the time administrators were looking at the vertical evacuation possibilities.

Last October, the community of the Ocosta School District was recognized with an Honorable Mention in the Community Preparedness Heroes category – "In recognition of your service to the whole community, the Federal Emergency Management Agency hereby awards you an honorable mention in the 2014 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards."

The school will be the first Vertical Evacuation, Tsunami Engineered, Safe Haven Building in North America. The eyes of the world are watching this tremendous accomplishment enabled by the citizens of the Ocosta School District, teachers, employees and Superintendent Paula Akerlund.



Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Stair 01 Tower for the Ocosta Elementary School (taken May 21st)



Grays Harbor County Department of Emergency Management



Contacts & Info

All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) Sirens occur the first Monday of every month at noon.

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Grays Harbor Forestry Building
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Montesano, WA 98563

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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

follow frequent emergency management and preparedness dialogue.

RECEIVE the latest emergency management information, hazardous weather notices, and bi-monthly newsletter by signing up for the GHCDM email list. Provide your information safely online via GHCDM's website.

<http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/DEM/EMailTWS.asp>

ATTEND the Grays Harbor Citizen Corp meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 9am, at the Grays Harbor County EOC. Located in Forestry Building.

Meet with other county agencies and organizations working on disaster preparedness in our county.

FOLLOW [@GHCDEM](https://twitter.com/GHCDEM) on Twitter to get updates from the Grays Harbor County EOC when it is Activated for up to date emergency information.

VISIT the GHCDM website at
www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/DEM
for valuable preparedness materials and to learn about hazards prone to Grays Harbor County.

Upcoming Events And Articles

Next Newsletter Deadline
August 14th

Disasters & Dunktanks
August 1st, Noon to 4pm
Pacific Beach Elementary
11 4th St, Pacific Beach

Packing for a Disaster
Do you have everything you
and your family need for a
"Go Pack"

**Grays Harbor Volunteer
Search And Rescue**
What does the team have to offer?

Article & Photo Credits
Front and Back cover photos,
and right firework photo
Provided by Michael Bruce

Hoquiam slide photos and
Johnson Award story from
KBKW and Hoquiam PD
Chief Jeff Myers
Group and award photo from
Brian Baldwin GHFD#2