

Annual Meeting Tsunami Preparedness Presentation

How The Capes HOA needs to be Prepared

The State is taking Earthquake/Tsunami preparation very seriously. They have already held several area wide Evacuation drills. At the Oceanside/Cape Meares/Netarts drill 60 members of the Capes took part! DOGAMI, has produced **updated** maps showing the latest predicted inundation zones, evacuation routes, assembly points etc. Please get copies of these maps from the Manager's Office and put them in your home for all to study.

Everyone should know there will be **no warning sirens**, the ground under you shaking violently will make you aware of the pending disaster. The shaking could last for up to 5 minutes and be so violent that you could be thrown to the ground. Predictions are that you will only have about 10 minutes after the shaking stops to evacuate to higher ground before the tsunami hits our shore.

Unfortunately, we do not know how our homes will survive this length of violent shaking, what we do know is that there will be major structural damage. Homes could be shaken off their foundations, the ground under our homes could subside, and the dune may not survive the quake and/or subsequent tsunami. What we do know is that constant shaking of sand can turn it to liquid and most homes in the Capes are built on sand!

How to prepare NOW for an Earthquake/Tsunami:

There are so many unknowns but what we can do is to make sure we have made the best preparations possible.

- Develop evacuation plans to cover different scenarios since we cannot guarantee where we will be when disaster hits; on the beach, in Netarts, on the Spit etc. (*Escape by car is **not** an option; roads will be impassable almost before the ground stops shaking; bridges will have collapsed, road beds buckled and landslides everywhere*)
- Know where in your house you will take cover (duck and cover) in the event of an earthquake. Every time you visit a low lying area, like the beach, take a moment to look around and decide where you could climb in order to reach higher ground if you had to escape in a hurry.
- As soon as possible tie a pair of old, thick soled shoes and a pair of leather work gloves to the leg of your bed. The reason: The first things to shatter in an earthquake are windows and if you are in bed when the earthquake starts, without shoes you will

be unable to escape without severely cutting your feet. The gloves will help remove fallen debris from your path to safety.

- Put Emergency Action information and the DOGAMI maps in a clearly visible place within your home for all to see. List where the survival items can be found in your home and where the gathering place is for the Capes, at the Manager's home.
- Put together survival supplies, a first aid kit and a Grab and go Bag. (*information on these are included*)
- Clean drinking water will be most crucial to survival. The body can survive longer without food than it can without water. Keep a supply of bottled water in the house along with your nonperishable foods.

KNOWING what to do FOLLOWING the earthquake:

- Emergency personnel will be overwhelmed and not be able to respond for days or weeks.
- Protect yourself against broken glass by wearing thick soled shoes and wearing thick work gloves.
- Your best source of clean drinking water is your hot water tank. As soon as the shaking will allow, turn off your water intake valve at the main shut off. Doing this will keep contaminated water from entering your home. Your hot water heater holds 50 gallons of clean, drinkable water.
- If you have a propane tank shut off the valve on the main tank. This is one of the best ways to prevent fires.
- If you have a fire extinguisher, keep it in an easily accessible place.
- **If your home is anywhere on the front row of the dune, the Fire Chief advises that you evacuate as soon as possible and move to higher ground and away from the ocean. Our dune is unstable and the damage to the dune from the earthquake and subsequent tsunami is unpredictable.**
- Once you have checked that all members of your immediate family are safe. Check on your neighbors, especially those who have difficulty in getting around. Make sure no one in your immediate area is trapped or in need of emergency help.

- As soon as possible report to the Cape's Gathering Point which is the Manager's Home. Here you will receive additional information and directions.

THE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE's NEXT STEPS.

- First and foremost get as many people as possible involved. We need help from everyone. Please do not wait to be asked. Everyone has a gift/skill that we can use... I repeat, everyone possesses a gift or skill which can be used in disaster situations.
- Develop a community wide Tsunami Disaster Preparedness Plan.
- Equip one volunteer in each area of the Capes with a short wave radio so that they can communicate with the Cape's Central Command post.
- Plan for the creation and activation of a Central Command Post, Communications Center, First Aid Center, Emergency Supplies etc.
- Offer a **Community Emergency Response Training** course (CERT, for short) over a couple of weekends. This course covers all aspects of how to respond in ALL emergency situation NOT just earthquakes and Tsunamis. Work on plans to have a CPR/First Aid course on a weekend, this course is a four hour course. Dates will be announced once we hear from the Fire Chief as to when he is available to teach. If we can have as many people as possible trained in either or both of these two courses, the whole community will benefit. Please let the Manager know if you are interested in taking either of these courses. *(some of you have already signed up)*

Within the Capes community we have five people CERT qualified, three licensed HAM Operators and soon our Manager Tim will receive his HAM Operator's license. Additionally, we have four certified CPR/First Aid Responders BUT we can certainly use more trained people.

Our goal is that everyone at The Capes is prepared and knows what to do when the disaster occurs. We must all be prepared, this is the only way we can survive a disaster of this magnitude. **Please take this preparedness very seriously.**

• If you live on the front row of the dune. Seek safety away from the dune and on higher ground. What will be the major structural damage? Will homes be shaken off their foundations? Will the ground under our homes subside? Will our dune survive the quake? We do not have answers to these. We do know that sand will liquefy when shaken

- As soon as you are able to stand, turn the water off at the mains in order to prevent contaminated water entering your home. Your water heater is the best source of clean drinking water for the days ahead. The violent shaking will rupture the areas main water lines, allowing contamination to enter the system

- If you have propane gas tanks attached to your home. As soon as possible turn the gas off at the tank. Leaking gas from ruptured pipes can cause a fire

- Once the shaking has ceased and your family has been accounted for and no injuries have occurred. Check on your neighbors to make sure they are not in need of immediate help.

- If you have any concerns that your home has suffered structural damage and may be unsafe to reenter. Stay out until such a time as the full extent of the damage can be fully assessed.

- Using your car to evacuate will not be an option. With an earthquake the magnitude of the one they are predicting, roads will buckle and slide, bridges will collapse, trees will fall and landslides will occur. Even if you could make it out of the Capes, the road to both the North and South would have collapsed due to slides.

Your Disaster Preparedness CoChairs along with their spouses and your Manager are have just completed the CERT course; Community Emergency Response Team and will be developing a more detailed plan for the Capes Community.

In order to have the Capes community prepared we will be contacting you and asking you to join our Disaster Preparedness Team (DPT) in helping to have our entire community prepared. It does not matter whether or not you are here at the Capes full time, once or twice a month or even less frequently. NO ONE CAN TELL JUST WHEN A DISASTER WILL STRIKE...

One thing is certain: if we are all prepared then the disaster can be greatly reduced and the loss of life and severe injuries greatly diminished.