OREGON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HELPS LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOLS PREPARE FOR NATURAL DISASTERS (PHOTO)

News Release from Oregon Office of Emergency Management
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Downloadable file: Volunteers assemble one of the donated tents for the Taft Disaster Supply Cache, a project aimed at meeting the basic survival needs for 1,300 students and staff at Taft Elementary School, Taft High 7-12 School in Lincoln City, and Oregon Coast Community College.

Oregon Emergency Management donated supplies to the Taft Disaster Supply Cache, a project aimed at meeting the basic survival needs for 1,300 students and staff at Taft Elementary School, Taft High 7-12 School in Lincoln City, and Oregon Coast Community College.

"Oregon is due for a major 9.0 or higher Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake at any time, preparing our coastal schools is imperative," said Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator, and Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

The Cache is located at Taft High 7-12 School in the southeast area of the parking lot, next to the softball field. Supplies are stored in two secured 20-foot shipping containers which are wind and water tight. It contains basic survival supplies including food, water, shelter and medical supplies.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management donated eight large tents valued at $2,000 for the project. Other goods donated by partnering agencies include rain ponchos, Mylar blankets, and water barrels.

"We realize that while we cannot prevent an earthquake and tsunami, preparing in advance with basic survival supplies will greatly reduce suffering and promote resiliency during and after a disaster," said Sue Graves, Safety Coordinator, Lincoln County School District.

The project was made possible through matching grants from the Lincoln County Commissioners and partnering organizations including the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, City of Lincoln City, and North Lincoln County Fire and Rescue.

"It took a lot of people with a clear understanding of the risks we face here in Lincoln County to make this project a reality," said Graves. "One of our hopes in putting this cache together was that it would inspire others in Lincoln County to put similar caches together in their areas - which has already started to happen," she added.

Those interested in learning more about the cache project or wishing to donate may send an email to: susan.graves@lincoln.k12.or.us or call her at 541-270-4367

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