



Frequently Asked Questions Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) Earthquake and Tsunami Functional Exercise 2016



1. What is Oregon's Role Cascadia Rising 2016?

Oregon is committed to being a full partner with Washington, Idaho and FEMA, in the development and presentation of the regional Cascadia Rising Exercise. Oregon is conducting statewide exercise planning in concert and collaboration with the regional effort.

2. What are priorities for exercise objectives for Oregon?

Oregon utilizes the six overarching objectives as identified in the regional exercise planning effort:

- Operational Communications
- Public Health and Medical Services
- Mass Care Services
- Situational Assessment
- Critical Transportation
- Operational Coordination

In addition, Oregon has adopted a selection of joint exercise objectives that are keyed to the 18 Emergency Support Functions (ESF), reflecting statewide goals and points of evaluation.

3. Who is participating in Cascadia Rising from Oregon?

Currently, several major Oregon cities, 20 county jurisdictions, all 9 tribal nations, 13 state agencies and departments, the American Red Cross, and 2 private sector partner organizations have signed on to play in the exercise.

4. What is the extent of play for Oregon?

State agencies and Emergency Support Function (ESF) leads will play for the full four days of the exercise, with counties and tribes agreeing to participate from one to four days, with additional simulated play as necessary. Participating non-governmental organizations and private sector entities will determine the extent of their play.

Exercise Design:

1. What is Oregon doing to prepare for the exercise?

An Oregon specific Ground Truth Document has been developed by the Oregon Office of Emergency Management Geologic Hazards Coordinator, and other subject matter experts, to bring threat data from a regional to state perspective. The Ground Truth process is pivotal to development of a realistic and meaningful exercise scenario that will integrate with the entire statewide effort.



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In addition, quarterly emergency management drills are being conducted to test selected Emergency Support Functions (ESF), as well as inter-jurisdictional communication and coordination protocol, using a Cascadia earthquake as the background for each exercise.

2. Will local emergency managers have input in the exercise design?

Yes, the Ground Truth Document is being formatted to assist local and tribal governments in the inputting of their own information to ensure the impacts and capabilities are well represented when Oregon submits back to FEMA for integration into the regional event scenario. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management is working to obtain quality data from exercise participants and ESF partners.

3. What are the exceptions that will make the exercise in Oregon unique?

Oregon will be testing action items that are organized in the “Cascadia Playbook” using a new, expanded 18 ESF structure to provide clear roles for managing traditional ESF functions as well as new areas of military support, volunteers and donations, animal care, and business and industry.

4. What is the “Cascadia Playbook”?

The Cascadia Playbook is a cross-cutting emergency management tool for the State of Oregon that supports various, existing plans and efforts for the first 14-days of a catastrophic incident.

5. How will the exercise improve Oregon’s ability to respond to a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami?

It will help ensure emergency response partners are in sync and provide decision makers with information to implement programs and policies that will save lives and property, and allocate and manage resources efficiently and with urgency during a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami and other disasters.

Emergency Preparedness

1. What can Oregonian’s do to prepare?

Now is a perfect time for everyone to evaluate a family emergency plan and update or establish emergency kits. Refresh yourself and family members of established exit routes, contacts, meeting places, etc. after a disaster. If family dynamics have changed, you will need to update the emergency plan. Double check your emergency kits! Add new items and check expiration dates and replace out of date items. Every car should have a kit, too. For more information, go to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management [preparedness page](#).