

School Safety and Emergency Management

Monthly Minute: Cascadia Awareness

January 2024

Monthly Minute is a newsletter providing insight and tips on potential threats and hazards brought to you by your regional school emergency management professionals in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education.



law ([ORS 336.071](#)) requires that schools conduct two earthquake drills per year, and on the anniversary of the last big CSZ earthquake, we recommend you conduct your second earthquake drill of the year—with a particular eye toward the impacts a CSZ earthquake could have on your school community.

Don't just conduct an earthquake drill this month. Review your local and regional risks and hazards associated with a CSZ earthquake. Pull out that big binder with your Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and review your reunification and emergency shelter plans. Make sure your reunification site is accessible and agreements for their use are up to date. **Check out our website with information on developing your EOP** and addressing specific threats and hazards your school community may encounter.

January 2024 marks 324 years since the most recent Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake. If you want a specific day this month to mark the occasion, scientists believe January 26, 1700, was the last big one. That CSZ earthquake was so massive that there were reports of a phantom tsunami that reached across the Pacific to the shores of Japan. The CSZ has the potential to produce an earthquake of a magnitude 9.0 or greater and there is a significant chance of a CSZ earthquake of a magnitude 7.0 or higher within the next 50 years.

The **Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM)** suggests that Oregonians could be without services or assistance for up to two weeks following a major earthquake. The damage caused by the shaking and subsequent tsunami along the coastal region could affect power and transportation for much of the state. Because of these hazards, ODE recommends

You may recall that we promoted **the Great Shakeout in October 2023**, recommending that your school conduct an earthquake drill. Oregon

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This Month... Conduct an Earthquake Drill this month. Review your reunification and shelter-in-place procedures.

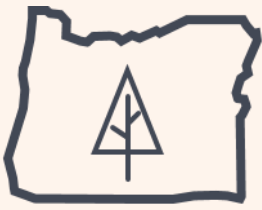


Conduct an earthquake drill.

Up Next... February's Monthly Minute will talk about environmental threats and hazards: what to consider and plan for in your building. Conduct a Secure! or Hold! drill next month.



Conduct a Secure Drill in February.



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Below are the steps to take during an earthquake: Drop! Cover! Hold on!



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contacting your local emergency responders to help you identify your vulnerabilities and options in the event of a major earthquake. Contact information for your county emergency management offices, as well as your Deputy State Fire Marshals can be found in the links section below.

A high-quality emergency operations plan will consider actions to take before, during and after an earthquake. Set goals that are achievable in any time or place. Here are some things to consider before, during and after an earthquake:

- Inspect your facilities early and often to identify weak points that could worsen in an

earthquake—even if you are unable to reinforce all weak points now, knowing what and where they are could inform your plan of action during and after an earthquake.

- Have a **communications plan** that will notify parents of an early dismissal if your facilities become unsafe to occupy.
- Have a plan in place that will support all persons with access and functional needs—consider everyone who may need additional assistance in a disaster.

For assistance with this or any other school emergency preparedness topic, **visit our webpage** to find resources and contact information.

Contact Information

Scan the QR code below or [click this link](#) to connect with a school emergency management professional for help on this or any other school emergency topic.



Join us on the **2nd Wednesday of every month at 8:30am** to get assistance with this or other emergency preparedness topics: [ZOOM LINK!](#)

Additional Resources

[Oregonian story on CSZ earthquake](#) with background, tips and other resources.

[Office of the State Fire Marshal website](#) with contact information for Deputy State Fire Marshals.

Oregon Emergency Management [local contacts list](#).