

Don't Be A Statistic!

FEMA projects that nearly thirteen thousand people will die in the projected 9.0 magnitude Cascadia earthquake and tsunami. Another twenty-seven thousand will be injured, and the agency expects that it will need to provide shelter for a million displaced people, and food and water for another two and a half million.

The emergency planners are saying that along the I-5 corridor it will take between one and three months after the earthquake to restore electricity, a month to a year to restore drinking water and sewer service, six months to a year to restore major highways, and eighteen months to restore health-care facilities. On the coast, and in rural areas those numbers go up dramatically.

In isolated areas, such as Gardiner, residents are likely to spend three to six months without electricity, one to three years without drinking water and sewage systems, and may be years without access to nearby hospitals. Those estimates do not apply to the tsunami-inundation zone, which will remain all but uninhabitable for years.

None of the support from FEMA or other governmental agencies will occur anytime soon. We have been told repeatedly that our community will be an island isolated from normal land access. If you are not prepared to survive under harsh conditions for an extended period of time, you will become a statistic. It may be weeks before professional responders can get to us.

Our community is spread out over a broad, hilly and forested area. Search and rescue efforts on foot to reach the approximately 350 residences will take days while dealing with aftershocks, downed trees, flooding, and injured victims. Realistically, there is no way that the small number of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members will be able to reach all our neighbors in a timely manner. Sadly, there will be victims we will not reach at all. They will become a statistic.

The average recurrence interval between the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquakes has been about every 243 years. It has been 315 years since the last occurrence. We are overdue! Please do not let apathy delay your efforts to prepare for this potentially deadly event. Now is the time to begin stockpiling water, non-perishable foodstuffs, medicines, sanitation items and pet supplies sufficient to care for your needs for a minimum of 30 days and preferably much longer.

Immediately following the first earthquake we must turn off the propane and water and must address critical family needs. **Once it is safe to do so please check on your neighbors.** Do not enter homes with significant damage.. Ask neighbors to come outside to you. If possible, take notes on the nature of your neighbor's health conditions. Share this information with emergency responders to help with timely response.

Remember! Don't be a statistic!

The following links may help you prepare:

<http://www.clallam.net/emergencymanagement/documents/30dayemergencysupplies.pdf>

https://www.fema.gov/media-librarydata/1390846764394dc08e309debe561d866b05ac84daf1ee/checklist_2014.pdf

http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m9440096_EmergencyPreparednessChecklist.pdf

https://youtu.be/XoatCzTY_k0