



Tales of the I.C.E. Man

I.C.E. - In Case of Emergency

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April is Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month

In recognition that we live in Earthquake Country and that while much has been done by state and local governments to be prepared when an earthquake strikes, the State of Oregon has again designated April as Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month to further emphasize everyone's need to be prepared and aware.

The 9.0 earthquake that struck Japan 3 weeks ago has certainly captured everyone's attention and prayers, especially with its ongoing drama. The tsunami created by that quake even impacted people here in Oregon. Although not on the magnitude in Japan, the damage was enough to warrant a Presidential Disaster Declaration. In addition, [ORVOAD](#) a collection of non-governmental and faith-based groups activated to assist people in Brookings who were displaced from their residences by the tsunami.

Finally, the Oregon Emergency Management office reprinted the booklet "[Living on Shaky Ground](#)." Copies are available at City Hall or the City of Sherwood Police Dept.

Take "5" to Survive –

If you find it difficult to set aside time to prepare for emergencies, you're not alone. This year get prepared in small steps. Here are a few easy 5-minute projects:

- **Take a look around your house.** What will fall on your head when the ground starts shaking? Most earthquake injuries are from broken glass or falling items, NOT collapsing buildings.
- Put a pair of sturdy soled shoes/slippers under your bed with a flashlight. Do the same for everyone in your family. Broken glass after an earthquake can be a surefire source of injury.
- Remind your family that when the ground starts shaking, to **Drop, Cover, and HOLD-ON!**
- Is your home in an earthquake hazard zone? Go to <http://www.portlandmaps.com/> and enter your address, then click on Maps/Hazard.
- Contact Skip Booren (503 925-7110 boorens@sherwoodoregon.gov) to learn more about having a **Map Your Neighborhood** meeting in your home.

We All need to be **Ready, Willing, and Able** when the time comes to take care of ourselves and our families.

Earthquakes and Us (2)

Many of us are unaware of the earthquakes that are occurring around us, all of the time, because they are of such a small magnitude. Some people wrongly suppose that many small earthquakes will take the pressure off, and thus we won't have "The Big One." Unfortunately, geologists estimate it would take 32,000 magnitude 3's to equal the energy of one magnitude 6 event, and that's not even close to a magnitude 9. (Learn more at [USGS – FAQ Earthquake Myths](#)).

Some people have also reasoned that we will behave differently from the Japanese, when our earthquake hits here. The idea is that the Japanese are better prepared mentally because they experience so many earthquakes. (See attached article – "[Learning from the Earthquake in Japan](#)"). The reality is that regular people will help their neighbors, much like the Japanese and in fact more rescues will be by everyday people than by the professionals.

This is not to say the professionals won't be doing their duty, because they will, it is just that there will be so much more than they will be able to handle early on. This too is fairly typical in a disaster, be it in Japan, Chile, or Oregon. Since a number of Sherwood residents have attended our Sherwood CERT classes, I am confident that the residents of Sherwood will quickly and effectively reach out to one another when the time comes. There is a very good article in [Homeland1](#) (attached) by Joseph Scanlon on regular people and disasters - "[Admirable, yes; different, no.](#)"

This by no means diminishes our need to be prepared, by minimizing the impacts of an earthquake on our homes by reducing [non-structural hazards](#) or by stocking our pantries or building [72-hour kits](#) for our families. **CERT** training and **Map Your Neighborhood** home meetings are other ways we can be better prepared. Picking up, reading a copy of the booklet "[Living on Shaky Ground](#)," and then discussing it with your families will also be valuable. As we all do our part, as a community, we can be **Ready, Willing, and Able** to effectively respond when the "Big One" comes our way.

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It is Always easier to Prepare than to Repair.

Good Links

Learn more about **Amateur Radio** - [ARRL](#) or **Washington County** [ARES](#)

[US Geological Survey – Earthquakes](#)

Good stuff by DOGAMI [Oregon Geology Videos](#)

BBC Horizon Science series [Cascadia Mega-Quake](#)