

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

Evidence of the last great subduction zone earthquake can be seen at Youngs Bay near Astoria

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New multi-year tsunami mapping and outreach program comes to the Oregon Coast

Several coastal communities selected to become TsunamiReady, TsunamiPrepared over the next year

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), in partnership with Oregon Emergency Management and the National Weather Service, are enhancing and expanding tsunami preparedness for Oregon coastal communities with a new program called *TsunamiReady, TsunamiPrepared*.

Funded by a multi-year, multi-million dollar grant from the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program overseen by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), *TsunamiReady, TsunamiPrepared* will accelerate the remapping of the Oregon coast for tsunami inundation using state of the art computer modeling and laser based terrain mapping (lidar). The outcome will be the creation of new, more accurate tsunami evacuation maps for the entire 362 mile length of the Oregon coast.

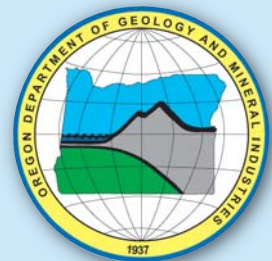
The enhanced tsunami mapping and outreach program, *TsunamiReady, TsunamiPrepared*, will also build on the hard work coastal communities have already accomplished, or assist in work they are ready to begin, by supporting a grass roots program of awareness and preparedness. *TsunamiReady, TsunamiPrepared* will also provide much needed resources to help these communities create or maintain a sustained effort of education and preparation in anticipation of the next, inevitable tsunami to strike the Oregon coast.

Communities chosen for the first year of accelerated funding of the *TsunamiReady, TsunamiPrepared* program include Rockaway Beach, Manzanita, Nehalem, and Wheeler on the north coast, Yachats, Wald-

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port and Seal Rock on the central coast and Bandon on the south coast. Adjacent state parks to these communities will also participate in the program, with details of individual community efforts being finalized.

Support for all coastal towns interested in accelerating their earthquake and tsunami programs is also available in many forms, from an on-line clearing house of resources and emergency prep ideas, to workshops, printed materials, and media resources.

“Many local communities at the coast have been working at tsunami preparedness for years. Our goal is to help build on those efforts to include the whole coast of Oregon,” said Vicki McConnell, State Geologist. “We know a united, coast-wide, grass roots program of outreach and education begins in individual neighborhoods, and is the best way to save lives in the event of an earthquake and tsunami that impacts the Oregon coast.”

This program of tsunami mapping and education has taken on a greater importance since new scientific research conducted by Dr. Chris Goldfinger, Director of the Active Tectonics and Seafloor Mapping Laboratory at Oregon State University, and ongoing research by DOGAMI geologists, suggests a much greater risk of a tsunami striking the Oregon coast than thought even a few years ago.

“New tsunami inundation modeling and mapping (showing how far the ocean pushes inland in a tsunami) has been done in Cannon Beach and Bandon and now with this 4 year grant from NOAA, we’ll be able to move much faster to finish the rest of the coast,” said Rob Witter, Regional Coastal Geologist and leader of the modeling and mapping team.

“There’s actually a great deal families and businesses can do to prepare for earthquakes and tsunamis at the coast,” said Althea Turner, Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator for Oregon Emergency Management. “With this new program we hope to reach nearly everyone in the tsunami inundation zone and provide them with the information they need to get themselves prepared. We welcome anyone in coastal communities interested in participating, and we in turn will help them bring tsunami preparedness to their neighborhood and community.”

The new program will be administered by DOGAMI in collaboration with Oregon Emergency Management, the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association and the National Weather Service.

The mission of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous. <http://www.OregonGeology.org>

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