

A P R I L , 2 0 1 0 E D I T I O N

the SAFETY Corner

4J HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT / RISK MANAGEMENT



✧ Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month ✧

April is Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness month in Oregon. We cannot forget that while the earthquakes which have been covered on national news are occurring in foreign countries and in California, in reality the Northwest, including Oregon, is one of the most seismically active regions in the world.

Knowing this, April is a great time to review your school's earthquake drills, practice earthquake situations, and offer instruction to students and staff.

Oregon public schools are required by the State to at

least twice a year instruct and drill students on emergency procedures such as “**Drop, Cover, and Hold.**”

Earthquakes strike without warning, and the major shock is usually followed by numerous, after shocks, which may last for weeks or months. An earthquake's effect on buildings will vary from building to building. Fire alarm or sprinkler systems may be activated by the shaking. Elevators and stairways will need to be inspected for damage before they can be used.

Important Phone Numbers:

Eugene Police:
541-682-5111
Facilities Emergency Line
541-341-6256 (after-hours)
Risk Management
541-790-7672



The major threat of injury during an earthquake is from falling objects and debris, and many injuries are sustained while entering or leaving buildings. Therefore, it is important to remain inside the building and quickly move away from windows, glass and free standing partitions and shelves. Take cover under a sturdy desk or table, in a doorway, or against an inside wall until the shaking stops.

EARTHQUAKE PROCEDURES

1. Give **DROP, COVER AND HOLD** command.
2. After shaking stops, check for injuries, and render first aid
3. If ordered by the Incident Commander, evacuate.
4. DO NOT return to building.
5. DO NOT light any fires.
6. Keep a safe distance from any downed power lines.
7. Check attendance whether or not evacuation takes place. Report any missing students to the Incident Commander.
8. Stay alert for aftershocks
9. The Incident Commander will issue further instructions.

Drop, Cover and Hold Procedures

Inside Building

1. Get under desk or table or other sturdy furniture with back to windows.
2. If not near any furniture, sit in a corner or with back against a wall with back to windows.
3. Drop to knees, clasp both hands behind neck, bury face in arms, make body as small as possible, close eyes, and cover ears with forearms.



4. If notebooks or jackets are handy, hold over head for added protection.
5. Stay away from windows, bookcases, or other heavy objects.
6. Maintain position until shaking stops.

Outside Building

1. Assume **DROP, COVER AND HOLD** position in an open space.
2. Maintain position until shaking stops.
3. Move away from buildings, trees, overhead wires, and poles.
4. Do NOT enter building until it is determined to be safe.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on earthquake resources, below are some very good informational links:

Earthquakes for Kids

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids/>

Students & Teachers

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/classroom.php>