

Know it before you need it...

Getting Real about Earthquakes:

Will this be our Hurricane Harvey?

- New science about local faults
- A realistic scenario for Pierce County
- Impact on our infrastructure
- What to do during an earthquake
- What you need to do after an earthquake
- How to protect your loved ones
- Governmental recovery plans



Imagine the 6.8 magnitude Nisqually earthquake – for 5 minutes. Or the 6.2 magnitude Amatrice, Italy earthquake that destroyed roads, water service, electrical power and more for weeks. While the news highlights “the big one,” what will happen when a much more probable “normal” earthquake hits? Will the Tacoma fault or another nearby fault rupture? With a region so dependent on highways, utilities and health care, what will likely happen? How can families with children, seniors and individuals with disabilities prudently prepare? Find out what you can/should do today and in the coming months.

October 11, 2017 – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Evergreen State College - Tacoma
1210 6th Avenue

Sponsored by:



Free; No RSVP; Information only

For additional information call 253-798-4600 or (800) 562-0332
To request accommodations call 253-798-2221 by September 29



Pierce County

Human Services

1305 Tacoma Avenue, Suite 104
Tacoma, Washington 98402

Learn How an Earthquake Could Paralyze Puget Sound

It might happen on a bright and warm summer morning. Or it might happen on a wet and windy winter night. Either way, scientists expect Pierce County and the entire Puget Sound region to be hit with a significant earthquake without warning. It could make the Nisqually quake look like a minor trembler.

“Getting Real about Earthquakes” will examine the consequences of a significant earthquake in Pierce County and the surrounding area. The south sound area is built on a web of faults, each of which can cause significant tremors. As a result, the area is subject to crustal quakes, deep quakes as well as subduction zone quakes – each with their particular impacts.

“The disaster that befell Houston, Texas is a wakeup call to us all,” said Aaron Van Valkenburg, manager of Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources. “Even with advance warning, residents were overwhelmed with the consequences. We live on the edge. Earthquakes don’t give any warning. We have to be prepared at all times.”

The keynote speaker for the presentation is Bill Steele from the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network at the University of Washington. Steele has been recently touring the region introducing the ShakeAlert, West Coast Earthquake Early Warning Project (EEW) to businesses, utilities and public agencies. He is also seeking to document how EEW can be used to reduce injuries and economic losses during an earthquake and speed recovery.

In addition to the keynote, a panel discussion will focus on impacts and preparation steps for families, older adults and individuals with disabilities. School staff will also discuss how elementary and secondary schools have prepared for the eventuality of a seismic event.

“Getting Real about Earthquakes” will be held on Wednesday, October 11 at the Evergreen State College – Tacoma campus, 1210 6th Avenue in Tacoma from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The event is free. No RSVP is required.

The presentation is jointly sponsored by Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network and Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources. Accommodations may be requested by calling 253-798-2221 before September 29. For more information call the Aging & Disability Resource Center at 253-798-4600 or (800) 562-0332.

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