

HOMESTEAD Neighborhood Emergency response Team (NET) REPORT:

A Cascadia subduction zone earthquake (CSZ) off the Oregon coast will create strong earthshaking in Homestead that will last a long time, ~2-4 minutes. Oregon and Washington west of the Cascades will experience massive damage to infrastructure (bridges, power, gas, water, internet, cellphone service, roads ...) as well as extensive damage to buildings and threat to lives that will overwhelm local, state, regional and national emergency response. For a number of days, in Homestead we will be required to shelter-in-place and help our neighbors survive before we get any outside help and minimal infrastructure begins to be re-established.

Homestead is one of the few neighborhoods in Portland without an established volunteer Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NET) or basic plan of how Homestead residents would respond to any large scale disaster much less the next CSZ. We need your help in designing approaches that would work best for our neighborhood.

Such CSZ earthquakes have happened periodically over thousands of years allowing scientists to determine that there is a 15% probability that the next CSZ earthquake will occur within the next 30 years. Such rare but predictable events are hard for all of us to agree on appropriate responses to minimize loss of life, damage to our homes and our ability to rebuild our lives in the aftermath.

We need to focus

- 1) as individuals on household education and basic planning,
- 2) as residents, know your neighbors and selecting a block captain (e.g., active Homestead NA member) who can organize the gathering of information and communication to assist in preparedness efforts and
- 3) the volunteer NET Team needs to develop operational plans and skills to implement them in case of major disasters.

What we would like you to do:

FIRST STEP:

In the case of a large scale disaster like the CSZ, each household should have a previously established plan of immediate action since normal communication means like cellphone, internet and transportation means will not be operating. How and where will they meet up if in different parts of the city when CSZ occurs? How will they communicate to concerned family and friends outside the impacted area? There are a number of different guides to making such a plan. FEMA has a fillable questionnaire that will create such a plan that can then be printed for each household member:

GUIDE

[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/
1530826217620-10775bfc5d7600be8e6b88308b24d8c/
P1094_CreateYourFamilyEmergencyCommunicationPlan_070318.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1530826217620-10775bfc5d7600be8e6b88308b24d8c/P1094_CreateYourFamilyEmergencyCommunicationPlan_070318.pdf)

FILLABLE CARD

[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/
1501681925535-41606db2566a70a863290fafd475a2a2/
Family_Communication_Plan_Fillable_Card_508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1501681925535-41606db2566a70a863290fafd475a2a2/Family_Communication_Plan_Fillable_Card_508.pdf)

We ask every Homestead household to complete the FEMA Family Communication Plan.

SECOND STEP:

In the case of a large scale disaster like the CSZ, Homestead residents will be isolated and without normal public services for a member of days. Collectively we will rely on our neighbors to identify those in greatest need and assist in the “shelter-in-place” until it is possible to evacuate to unaffected areas. We will be more resilient in such stressful situations if we know our neighbors better, their special needs as well as useful skills and tools on our block. With such knowledge we can work together effectively to support one another. Since this is true of everyday life in a community without an extreme event like a CSZ, focus on building stronger community through organizing each block should be immediately rewarding for all of us.

We are seeking Homestead Neighborhood Assn. members to volunteer to be a captain for their block and organize with the NET Team a Map Your Neighborhood inventory for their block.

<https://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/preparedness/map-your-neighborhood>

THIRD STEP:

As we develop these block by block neighborhood inventory maps, The NET team will integrate them into a Homestead wide map that will guide our development of specific prevention and mitigation strategies as well as an integrated Operational Plan required of all NET Teams. The Homestead NET will be the principal communication link between the official citywide Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and the residents of Homestead.

NEED FOR INTERESTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

The strength of a Homestead Emergency Response will critically depend on volunteers with specific specialized skills that will complement the activities of the relatively small NET team.

Our hillside community has special CSZ, wind/ice storm and landslide risks shared by other neighboring southwest hills communities. We need individuals with expertise [e.g., **geologists, forestry, civil engineering**] to identify specific risks and advice on mitigation approaches:

- 1) Learning from past events such as major power outage, historic wind or ice storms, rare precipitation events such as > 6” rain in a week causing landslides, prolonged heat or drought,
- 2) Potential for wild fire and subduction zone earthquake, based on existing models and experts in geology, climate change, structural and transportation engineering to interpret them for Homestead specifically.

In the case of a major disaster like a CSZ, loss of power, cellphone service, and internet locally will require a network of emergency radio. Given Homestead Topography we would like to have a **HAM network** with members at the top, middle and bottom of Homestead as well as Roger Wirt at Terwilliger Plaza. HAM operators are needed (whether currently licensed or interested in getting a license). Roger Wirt has been active in this city wide network and new developments for an emergency internet link. He can be contracted by those interested at rogerwirt@aol.com.

Homestead residents with medical training are needed to help develop effective Homestead disaster medical triage and care.

If you have interest in volunteering to help with any of the above activities please contact Bob Bonner (downhillhiker@gmail.com) or Laurie Lester (lesterlaura@gmail.com) 240-298-4211 218 SW Bancroft ST.