



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

*Brad Alexander
Chief of Public Information &
Media Relations
916-845-8455
Brad.Alexander@CalOES.ca.gov*

Cal OES, FEMA Exercise North Coast Earthquake and Tsunami Response Plan

Sacramento - Officials from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services ([Cal OES](#)), the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)) and other state, federal, non-governmental and public sector partners participated in the statewide Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake and Tsunami exercise Wednesday to test and evaluate the response plan for a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami that would catastrophically impact California's North Coast.

The functional exercise began 48 hours after a simulated magnitude-9.0 earthquake that ruptured the Cascadia Subduction Zone fault line from Cape Mendocino in California, to Vancouver Island in the Northwest affecting several North Coast and Bay Area counties. As part of the drill, Cal OES activated the State Operations Center (SOC) in its Mather Headquarters and deployed emergency management experts to county operational area emergency centers to support exercise operations there.

"We know it's just a matter of time for the big quake to hit California," said Mark Ghilarducci, Director of the California Office of Emergency Services. "Exercising our response plan, collaboration and coordination with state, federal, non-governmental and private sector partners will help everyone in the long run."

Major objectives of the exercise included testing the interactions between California's Emergency Functions (EFs) and their federal counterparts, FEMA's Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) as they develop joint incident action plans, and evaluating procedures for requesting skilled emergency management personnel from unaffected cities and counties in California through the state's Emergency Managers Mutual Aid (EMMA) plan.

Testing these emergency plans help address needs and gaps that exist and are critical to saving lives, minimizing injuries and effectively meeting the needs of the thousands of Californians who could be affected after a catastrophic emergency along the North Coast or another part of the state.

"Today's valuable and wide ranging Cascadia Subduction Zone Exercise is another example of why both FEMA and the State of California invest so much time and resources in working together," said FEMA's Steve Deblasio, the Federal Coordinating Officer on the exercise. "The opportunity to better we know the priorities, personnel and structures mean a better and more rapid response when real disasters strike."

State and federal emergency officials stressed that – in addition to planning efforts by Cal OES, FEMA and their partner agency organizations – planning and preparedness actions by individuals, families, communities, businesses and other elements of the community are essential.

Additional information about the Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake and Tsunami Response Plan, are available [here](#).

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