



Oregon Disaster Medical Team
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Portland, OR - (August 2, 2015) Most agree that a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake is among the greatest natural disaster threats for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Scientific and historical records document recurring episodes of violent and prolonged ground shaking and tsunami inundations not unlike Japanese and Sumatran events in recent memory. In Oregon, geoscientists anticipate devastating destruction to building and bridge stock and damage to infrastructure, including transportation routes connecting the coast to the valley. As with any disaster, assessing and prioritizing the immediate needs and getting help to disaster victims in a large geographic area will be an enormous challenge. Because of that, **Oregon Disaster Medical Team** and State, local and military units will assemble and exercise a coordinated response for the fourth consecutive year, again on the Oregon coast and again using a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake as the disaster scenario.

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Dr. Jon Jui

“Operation Pathfinder Minuteman 2015” will envision a Cascadia subduction earthquake and local tsunami to challenge disaster responders to combine, organize, assess, formulate and execute an initial medical response. This will be the fourth exercise that integrates civilian and military organizations together to test a tsunami response on the Oregon coast. “This functional exercise provides us with what we believe will be one of the biggest disaster challenges to face the Pacific Northwest: a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami,” according to Team Leader, Dr. Jon Jui. Participants will spend a day cross-training and a day responding to an unfolding earthquake/tsunami scenario with victims requiring rescue, treatment and transport.

ODMT is one of many assets that Oregon can call upon when disaster strikes. Other participants in the August 4-5 functional exercise at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, OR include Oregon Department of Transportation, medical professionals from SERV-OR, Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Emergency Management, Clatsop County Emergency Management, Tillamook County Emergency Management, Columbia Memorial Hospital, Providence Seaside Hospital, Astoria Fire Department, Medix Ambulance, Amateur Radio Emergency Services and more than 225 participants from U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), U.S. Air Force 304th Rescue Squadron, Oregon Army and Air National Guard. Air National Guard units from six states are expected to participate including two C-130 missions as well as rotary aeromedical evacuation training. From the Oregon National Guard, the 173rd Medical Group, 142nd CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), 142nd Force Support

Squadron, 125th Special Tactics Squadron and the Oregon National Guard's Medical Command and Oregon Army National Guard aviation units from Pendleton and Salem.

Most of the members of the **ODMT** are experienced disaster medical responders who have worked in domestic and overseas deployments that have challenged US and even international response capabilities. "Among the lessons learned from our experiences are the importance of forging and maintaining critical partnerships, creative problem-solving and staying agile and flexible," Jui recalled.

The **ODMT** is prepared and equipped to provide situation assessment, triage and treatment, hospital decompression and assistance with patient transport. "In this exercise we will field-test combining civilian and military assets to conduct an initial situation assessment as well as the medical response." Jui said. "Our goal is to get in to the disaster area to collect and relay key situational information, then to rapidly deploy the right assets to the right place in the field."

Oregon Disaster Medical Team members set to participate in the exercise this week include: **George Apostopolus**, MD, Portland; **Jamie Baxter**, RN/Safety, Salem; **Gary Brain**, EMT, Summer Lake; **Teresa Bubb**, (RN, Portland); **Erin Burnham**, (MD, Hood River); **Susanne Carlson**, Administrative Officer, Portland; **Lorraine Churchill**, Emergency Management, St. Helens; **Guy Gehling**, MD, Manzanita; **Mary Gehling**, RN, Manzanita; **Robert Gentry**, MD, Grants Pass; **Merrill Gonterman**, Operations/Portland Fire, Portland; **Jon Jui**, MD/Team Leader, Wilsonville; **Dan Kearl**, EMT/Communications, Philomath; **Paul Lasardi**, Communications, Corvallis; **Peter Mackwell**, EMT-P/Planning, Hood River; **Steve Myren**, Operations, Boardman; **Nanette Newell**, Administrative Officer, Oregon City; **Dan O'Connell**, Support, Albany; **Roberta O'Connell**, RN, Albany; **Joe Olson**, Communications, Monmouth; **Diana Papska**, Pharmacy, Vancouver; **Peggy Peirson**, EMR/Logistics/PIO, Philomath; **Kurt Pothast**, Paramedic, West Linn; **Trish Ramos**, MD, Portland; **Ethel Reeves**, RN, Hood River; **Steve Sager**, Paramedic, Sandy; **Terri Schmidt**, MD, Portland; **Eric Stroud**, PA, Salem; **Jeremy Stuart**, EMT-P, Vancouver; **Steve Vets**, DO, Corvallis; **Christie Wells**, EMT-P, Milwaukie.

Oregon's Disaster Medical Team, a 501C3 organization, is a volunteer team of healthcare providers and support personnel from around the State of Oregon and southwest Washington. **ODMT** is organized and equipped to provide rapid and austere medical response to emergencies. Members plan, train and respond to provide relief healthcare services when local, county and mutual aid resources may be overwhelmed due to a mass casualty incident or disaster event.

Members of the **Oregon Disaster Medical Team** bring extensive national and international disaster medical response to the team including deployments through national disaster medical teams and other non-profit organizations to: 2001 Tropical Storm Allison in Texas, the World Trade Center after the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks in New York, 2002 Winter Olympics in Utah, 2004 Typhoon Sudal on the south Pacific island of Yap in Micronesia, 2004 Hurricanes Frances and Ivan in Florida, 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Mississippi and Louisiana, staged in Georgia in 2006 for Hurricane Ernesto, 2008 Hurricane Gustav in Texas and Louisiana, 2009 earthquake and tsunami in American Samoa, the 2010 Haitian earthquake, the 2010 Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the US Gulf Coast, and 2012 Super Storm Sandy.

Members of **Oregon Health Sciences University** participating with **ODMT** include: OHSU Emergency residents (RN) Starr Edge, Mercedes Wilson, Guri Cfarku, Lindsay Olson, Mary Hansen; Trauma Fellow Amanda Sammann, MD; OHSU Emergency Management, Sherrie Forsloff; OHSU Regional Hospital residents and past residents Dylan Morris, Shannon Lee, Rebecca Dugy, Diane West, Kasey Rowe, George Apostolopoulos.

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Media tours are scheduled for 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August. 5. To RSVP for the media tour, or for more information on the event, **contact Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs, 503-269-6470.**