EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS FAQS

1. What quantity of supplies should I have on hand?
   a. Current guidance is to try to put together emergency supplies to last at least two weeks. http://emc.uoregon.edu/node/46

2. What is the best way to go about retrofitting a home?
   a. The Institute for Business & Home Safety has resources available: http://www.disastersafety.org/earthquake/

3. Dam failure & flooding - How likely is this in the aftermath of a major earthquake?
   a. Dams were built to the design standards of their day, using the best available information of the time, to withstand significant earthquakes or other seismic events specific to their locations.
   b. Despite that uncertainty, the historical performance of dams in seismic events has been exceptionally good:
      i. Only one concrete dam in modern history has ever failed as the result of a seismic event; in that case, the fault ran directly beneath the structure. Generally, concrete dams have performed very well, sustaining only minor damage.
      ii. The data on the performance of embankment dams is more limited, but the number that has failed as the result of a seismic event is still extremely small.
      iii. Only about 1.5 percent of historical failures of embankment dams have been attributed to earthquakes.
      iv. The only known complete dam failures as a result of seismic shaking were tailings or hydraulic fill dams, or other relatively small earthfill embankments of older and possibly inadequate design and construction.
      v. One recent example: The March 11, 2011, 9.0 earthquake in Japan was basically the western Pacific analog of a Cascadia event. One small irrigation dam completely failed; of 252 dams inspected the next day, six embankment dams had shallow cracks on their crests. All damaged dams were functioning with no problems.
      vi. Another recent example: The February 27, 2010, earthquake in Chile was basically the South American analog of a Cascadia event. No embankment dams failed and only a few suffered more than minor damage.
   c. For more information, contact the Lane County Emergency Management program: http://www.lanecounty.org/departments/sheriff/office/emermgmt/Pages/default.aspx
4. Who will take care of the children at the Vivian Olum Child Development Center and Moss Street if the earthquake comes when their parents are on the other side of the river and cannot get across to pick their children up -- for days or months?
   a. We recognize that the top priority for all parents will be reuniting with loved ones, especially children. If an earthquake occurs during business hours of daycare centers, the priority will be continuing care for them until parents can arrive. The majority of Olum and Moss Street children have a parent who attends or works for the university, so that would not include significant distance or time for reunification.

5. How can I prepare my daughters age 4 and 7?
   a. FEMA has some good resources for disaster preparedness for children: http://www.ready.gov/kids

6. Which buildings on campus are up to seismic code?
   a. Buildings built in the last 20 years meet our new understandings about seismic resilience. Most buildings significantly renovated during that time included some remediation as well. Beginning in 2007 the legislature began making funds available to address seismic remediation and deferred maintenance issues on higher education campuses. At the University of Oregon funds have been awarded to remediate Fenton, Straub, and Chapman Halls. Prior to then Peterson Hall was remediated using a combination of state and privately donated funds and in 2011 Anstett Hall was remediated using only private funds.

7. What are the recommendations for getting to higher ground in case of a tsunami after the earthquake?
   a. The tsunami threat is only on the coast. The State of Oregon has placed signage along the coastal highways indicating when you are entering or leaving a tsunami inundation zone. It is recommended to have an understanding of where those zones are when you visit the coast and put a simple plan together of how you will get to higher ground. Tsunamis may start arriving within 15-20 minutes of the initial ground shaking.

8. Is earthquake insurance/flood insurance worth getting?
   a. Homeowners should explore whether or not insurance would be beneficial. Earthquake and flood are not covered by standard homeowner’s policies. Earthquake insurance deductibles can be 10-15% of the dwelling’s value. Insurance can also cover the costs of temporary housing should you need temporary housing following the earthquake.
9. What are the emergency plans in place on campus for various scenarios? What should I do if I’m teaching or in my office? Is it better to stay in a building or get out—does that vary by building?
   a. The best practice during an earthquake is to drop, cover and hold on until the ground stops shaking. In past earthquakes, the majority of injuries occur when people try to evacuate a building while the ground is shaking. Once the earthquake is over, you should grab your belongings and evacuate the building.

10. What kind of measures can UO departments take to prepare to shelter in place in case the bridges are out, and we can't get home?
   a. Departments can encourage staff to have a simple go kit at work that would provide for basic needs for a few hours or overnight (e.g., bottled water, snacks, flashlight, gloves, sturdy shoes, etc). This can be in a backpack stored in a car or under a desk. Departments may also choose to put together departmental emergency supply kits for use should a disaster occur during work hours. These kits would be similar to departmental first aid kits and may include flashlights, batteries, gloves, snacks, and water.

11. Is the UO going to participate in the Great Oregon Shake Out on October 15 (http://www.shakeout.org/oregon/) from now on and have a real total campus drill each year?
   a. Yes, we will be participating in the Great Oregon Shake Out. We will pair this with the fall test of the UO Alert! System. We are also working on plans to conduct a full campus evacuation drill with tentative plans for fall 2016.

12. What information are college students receiving about what they need to do?
   a. Students should review the emergency procedures flipchart page on earthquakes and be familiar with drop, cover and hold: http://emc.uoregon.edu/node/54. Students should also put together basic emergency kits. Faculty members and supervisors can play a role in educating students about earthquake risks and proper response procedures.

13. What places on campus or in the community will serve as distribution centers for food, water and blankets for those who do not have access to those things?
   a. Points of distribution will be established in various locations around the County following an earthquake. Because we will not know the full extent of the impacts until the earthquake, it is difficult to advertise locations ahead of time. First responders may find that locations on the list are no longer viable. Public information will be
disseminated about locations that are being set up. In the event of limited electronic or
digital communications, these locations will be shared through the radio and likely posted on message boards around the community.

14. Where should Eugene residents go if their home isn’t safe after an earthquake?
   a. Emergency shelters will be established following the earthquake. The locations of those shelters will be publicized following the incident when sites have been assessed. There will likely be at least one shelter that will allow pets. You may also talk to family member or friends in town about planning to host one another if one of you should find yourselves not able to stay in your home.

15. Which bridges are likely to be safe after a big earthquake?
   a. The State of Oregon has conducted an assessment of state owned bridges in 2009 and has been working on retrofits for several years. That study can be accessed on the following link: http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP_RES/docs/reports/2009/2009_seismic_vulnerability.pdf
   b. The Cities of Eugene and Springfield are also in the process of conducting seismic assessments on city owned bridges.

16. Will it be important to have the ability to filter water?
   a. Yes, the state anticipates the potential for significant disruption to local water distribution systems. The Centers for Disease Control has developed several resources about safe drinking water: http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/safe_water/personal.html

17. UOAlerts texts often arrive hours late on my phone – but other texts are fine – is this flaw going to be corrected to let seconds-based earthquake alerts work?
   a. The earthquake early warning system that was mentioned in some of the public presentations recently would be a separate system that the UO Alert! System. Those messages would be pushed out similar to Amber Alerts. If we are able to, when the University receives an early warning, we could also use the UO Alert! System to redistribute the message.

18. How to find a list of earthquake mitigation contractors (for homes)?
a. As a public entity, we cannot recommend contractors for seismic work on homes. The best approach would be to contact general contractors in your area who have good track records.
19. What should I consider living in the country with well water?
   a. Recommended preparation is consistent for in town and rural homes. Prepare an emergency supply kit, ensure the family practices meet-up locations, communications plans frequently, consider water filtration options, and get to know your neighbors.

20. Could Students be trained to help our Community in an Emergency response?
   a. The City of Eugene sponsors Community Emergency Response Team (CERT training) to citizens within the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area. It is a voluntary opportunity available to any members of the community including students.