



Bainbridge Island Fire Department Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Bainbridge Island Fire Department
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Date: May 20, 2016

Bainbridge Island Fire Department Participates in the Cascadia Rising 2016 Earthquake Exercise

Bainbridge Island, WA - For over eight months, the BIFD and many other Federal, state and local agencies around the region have been working together to plan for the Cascadia Rising 2016 earthquake exercise. On June 7-10, 2016 Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) at all levels of government, including COBI, will activate to conduct a simulated field response operation within their jurisdictions and with neighboring communities, State EOC's, FEMA and major military commands.

Conducting successful life-saving and life-sustaining response operations in the aftermath of a Cascadia Subduction Zone disaster will hinge on the effective *coordination* and *integration* of emergency responders. In our community, the use of helicopters is a key component of emergency response following a disaster where the bridge and the ferries are no longer available. To prepare for this, the BIFD is participating in training to help us manage the safe operation of helicopters designed to handle the medical and other needs of our community.

On Monday, May 23 between 10:30 a.m. and noon, an air ambulance operated by Airlift Northwest will practice helispot operations in the sports field between Woodward Middle School and Saki Elementary School which is designated as an alternate landing site. The exercise will involve up to three landings and take-offs as we train personnel on the different tasks involved in landing aircraft at remote sites.

On Saturday, June 11 between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. a second exercise will take place in support of Cascadia Rising 2016. This will involve landing a National Guard Blackhawk helicopter (or equivalent) and having a marine/technical rescue recon team from the Seattle Fire Department make contact with BIFD units at the landing site.

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