



Bainbridge Island Fire Department Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bainbridge Island to Participate in Regional Earthquake Preparation Scenario

Bainbridge Island, WA - June 8, 2016 the City of Bainbridge Island and the Bainbridge Island Fire Department (BIFD) will be participating in a multi-state disaster exercise to prepare for a major earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

The exercise known as *Cascadia Rising* is a four-day scenario that includes counties, state agencies, federal officials, the military, tribal nations – as well as non-government organizations and the private sector in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The scenario tests our ability collectively to respond to a 9.0 magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The City of Bainbridge Island, BIFD and select staff members of the Bainbridge Island School District will participate in the exercise on Wednesday, June 8. Staff from the City and BIFD will be exercising all day to test our response and recovery capability. During the exercise citizens might see some things that seem out of the ordinary around town such as cones with notes on them, etc. Residents should not be alarmed.

Additionally, 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 reconnaissance team from the Seattle Fire Department make contact with BIFD units at the landing site.

“Over the past few years the City of Bainbridge Island has made emergency preparedness a top priority,” says City Manager Doug Schulze. “We understand that because we are on an island, in a regional disaster we will be dependent on ourselves for survival likely for an extensive period of time. Participating in exercises such as *Cascadia Rising* is part of a larger plan to make sure that City and our public partners and non-governmental partners are prepared for a disaster.”

A 9.0 magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) and the resulting tsunami is the most complex disaster scenario that emergency management and public safety officials in the Pacific Northwest could face. 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 governments at all levels – cities, counties, state agencies, federal officials, the military, tribal nations – as well as non-government organizations and the private sector. One of the primary goals of *Cascadia Rising* is to train and test this whole community approach to complex disaster operations together as a joint team.

Community members should also take this opportunity to think about how they can prepare themselves, their family, and their neighborhoods for a disaster. The City encourages all Bainbridge Island residents to sign up to receive emergency notifications by texting 98110 to 888777 or visiting www.nixle.com. More information on how to get prepared at home and work can be found on the [City website](http://www.bifd.org) or www.bifd.org.

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