



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Public Invited to Experience and Learn about ‘The Big One’

Port Alberni, BC. -- In the lead up to Exercise Coastal Response (ECR), scheduled for June 7-10, the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) and the City of Port Alberni are pleased to announce two free public events:

Exercise Coastal Response – Public Information Session

What would happen if a mega thrust earthquake and tsunami were to hit the Alberni Valley? The public is invited to learn about this very real scenario at an information session on Tuesday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Capitol Theatre. A number of resource professionals with expertise in earthquake seismology, urban search and rescue, and emergency preparedness, will present information on the upcoming Exercise Coastal Response event and the impacts of a damaging crustal earthquake on southern Vancouver Island.

“Exercise Coastal Response is going to be the first full-scale earthquake and tsunami response exercise with the real-time deployment of federal, provincial and local resources. This information session is a great opportunity to not only learn about this exciting event but also about how to prepare and protect yourself in the event a real disaster occurs,” said Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer for the ACRD.

Presentations will be provided by Alison Bird, a seismologist with Natural Resources Canada, by representatives of the provincial planning and design team for the exercise and also by Kirk Heaven, a member of Vancouver’s Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) task force. Members of the Exercise Coastal Response volunteer coordination team will also be in attendance to answer questions regarding volunteer opportunities during the exercise.

Pre-registration for this free session is not required. The Capitol Theater is located at 4904 Argyle St, next to City Hall.

Shake Zone Earthquake Simulator

After learning about earthquakes and the upcoming exercise from experts, the public will get the chance to experience ‘the Big One’ in the Shake Zone. This mobile earthquake simulator, sponsored by the Insurance Bureau of Canada, allows people to safely experience a significant 8.0 magnitude earthquake.

Shake Zone will be on-site Tuesday, May 31, 3:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the Echo Centre parking lot. Firefighters and other emergency personnel from across the Alberni Valley will also be in attendance with displays to provide residents with information to prepare for, respond to and recover from earthquakes and other disasters.

“The Shake Zone provides a safe opportunity for people to experience what an 8.0 earthquake feels like,” said Tim Pley, Fire Chief and Acting CAO for the City of Port Alberni. “We invite the public to come down to Echo Centre, take a ride in the Shake Zone, and then think about how you and your family would manage if an earthquake struck”.

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More Information:

<http://www.acrd.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=emergency-preparedness>