



CITY OF SEATTLE

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

DISASTER READY . . . PREPARED PEOPLE, RESILIENT COMMUNITY

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR BARB GRAFF

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

One of the major responsibilities of the Office of Emergency Management is to regularly develop or update emergency plans with the help and partnership of many key stakeholders. We train people in those plans and test the plans during drills and exercises. To some extent, those can feel like academic activities. A July article written by Kathryn Schulz in the New Yorker magazine made those activities feel less academic and much more real – even urgent. The article vividly portrayed what our region could look like following a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake. Quickly, the new Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Emergency Operations Plan, and Disaster Recovery Framework, and the freshly updated Hazard Mitigation Plan took on a deeper sense of meaning. More people asked for self-preparedness information and attended home seismic retrofit classes. More people attended training in Emergency Operations Center processes. More people participated in orientations to their responsibilities according to our plans.

The City of Seattle practiced the doctrine outlined in our suite of emergency plans multiple times in the month of September alone – organizing programs for students and families affected by a teacher’s strike, coordinating the deployment of personnel to Eastern Washington wildfires, dealing with the traffic impacts of the visiting President of China, and coordinating activities around the tragic multi-casualty incident on the Aurora Bridge involving a Ride-the Ducks tourist vehicle and a charter bus filled with international students from one of our local colleges. Over the course of the month – hundreds of people came together for hundreds of hours to act with unity, compassion, and common purpose in disaster response and relief. I am very proud of the people in this organization and the remarkable contributions they make every day.

We look forward to participating in 2016 in the Cascadia Rising earthquake exercise when local, state, federal, and tribal governments practice for the difficult roles they must play in a subduction zone earthquake (just like the New Yorker article described). It will involve the military, non-profits, and dozens of agencies across Western Washington and Oregon. Exercises give us the opportunity to test, evaluate and improve our plans.

I’m glad to be part of this extraordinary local program that rolls its sleeves up and gets to work in both good times and bad.

MILESTONES FOR 2015

AlertSeattle Emergency Notification System



A new Emergency Notification System was introduced this year replacing the City’s outdated community notification system. It allows the City to send the public information for situations that require taking immediate life protective measures and rapidly mobilizing emergency responders during events such as active shootings, serial arsons, urban flooding, landslides or a possible oil train accident. Public sign up was launched on National Night

Out Against Crime in August. OEM staff attended Night Out events to talk with community members about the new system and how to sign up to receive notices. Additionally AlertSeattle can be used for notifying City Employees. To date just under 18,000 people have signed up to receive alerts. The first alert was sent out in mid August when a severe rain storm knocked out power to several homes. It was also used during the Aurora Avenue bus collision to alert travelers to road closures. Implementing this new system required much coordination and work. In March, OEM Director Barb Graff testified at the Senate Government Operations and Security Committee regarding ESHB1980, which exempts personal information provided by citizens when they sign up for Smart 911 and Alert and Notification Systems from public disclosure. The bill passed the State Senate in April. OEM staff continue to promote the system encouraging all to sign up at alert.seattle.gov.

MILESTONES FOR 2015

Emergency Management Accreditation Assessment



OEM underwent a rigorous review to assess compliance with National Emergency Management Standards. In September seven EMAP Assessors were on site to review documentation, observe procedural and equipment demonstrations, and interview the city's emergency management personnel in relation to the set of 64 standards by which programs that apply for EMAP accreditation are evaluated. EMAP is an independent non-profit organization

that through standards, self-assessment, peer review and committee and commission review, accredits state and local emergency management programs across the country. The accreditation process allows improvement in capabilities (organization, resources, plans, etc.) in emergency management programs and increases the professionalism across the emergency management field at federal, state and local levels.

Teacher's Strike

In late August OEM was notified that the Seattle Public Schools had not reached an agreement on a new contract with the Seattle Education Association (SEA). With the first day of school fast approaching, OEM began a series of meetings to ensure a coordinated plan was in place if there was a strike. The major objective of the plan was to support low-resourced families by providing childcare and meals at Community Centers. The plan was activated on the first day of school when the SEA called for teachers to strike. It lasted for six days, during which the city provided day camps for the first three days of the strike. As the strike moved into the first full week of school the day camps transitioned into drop-in sites. Overall the day camps averaged 600-750 participants a day. The drop-in program (which utilized 21 Parks Department sites and could accommodate up to 2,400 a day) ran for three days, with the teachers returning to work on September 17th.

Oil Train Press Conference

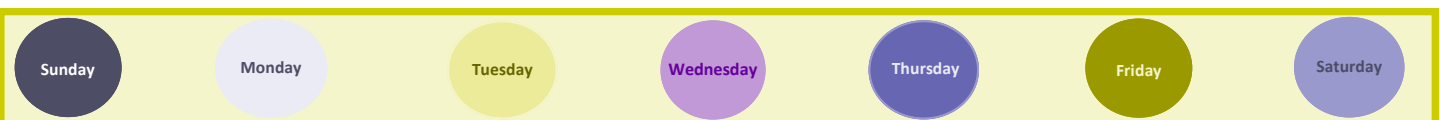
OEM hosted a press conference at the EOC with Senator Maria Cantwell, Mayor Ed Murray, King County Executive Dow Constantine, Seattle Fire Chief Harold Scoggins and Valley Regional Fire Authority, Administrator Robinson. All spoke on the dangers associated with oil trains traveling through Washington State and to highlight legislation that Senator Cantwell is supporting on the federal level to reduce the volatility of the oil, increase funding for training, and disclosure of routes and response equipment along the rail routes. The event was well attended by media outlets from across the region.

Revision to Seattle Municipal Code (SMC)10.020

2015 saw the revision of SMC 10.020 to update the section of City Code that describes the City-wide Emergency Management Program and were needed to be in compliance with the National Emergency Management Accreditation Program Standards. The revisions codify the position, office, and program responsibilities the way they currently exist.

EOC Technology Upgrade project

The City of Seattle Office of Emergency Management is upgrading the outdated and failing audio visual systems in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by updating existing analog system to a current and reliable digital video distribution system. The EOC's information technology (IT) and audio-visual (AV) systems assist in our mission as a central point of city-wide coordination during disasters. The systems support our focus on common objectives, problem resolution and situational awareness. This capability enables city departments and EOC partners to take the necessary city-wide actions to serve and respond to the community impacts and needs, as well as keeping the community informed on what is happening and how to keep themselves and their families safe.



EOC ACTIVATIONS & COORDINATED EVENTS

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

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December

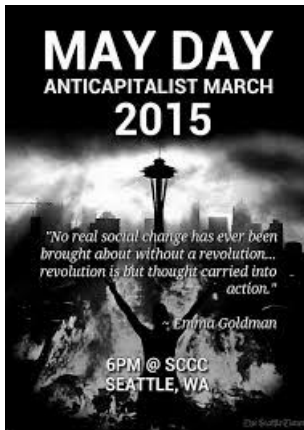
ACTIVATIONS

- May 1, 2015— Annual May Day marches
- May 2, 2015—Black Lives Matter marches
- May 18, 2015—Protests against Shell Oil Rig in Puget Sound
- July 25, 2015—Annual SeaFair Torchlight Parade
- September 22, 23, 24, 2015—Chinese Presidential Visit
- September 24, 25, 26, 27, & 28, 2015—Aurora Ave Bus collision

The Emergency Operations Center was activated

6

times in 2015.



Protesters sit in street during protest

Kayaks in Puget Sound protesting Shell Oil Rig



Torch Light Parade favorites—Pirates

SPD Officer secures traffic during Chinese Presidential visit



COORDINATED EVENTS

OEM Staff Duty Officers offered coordination and support services on

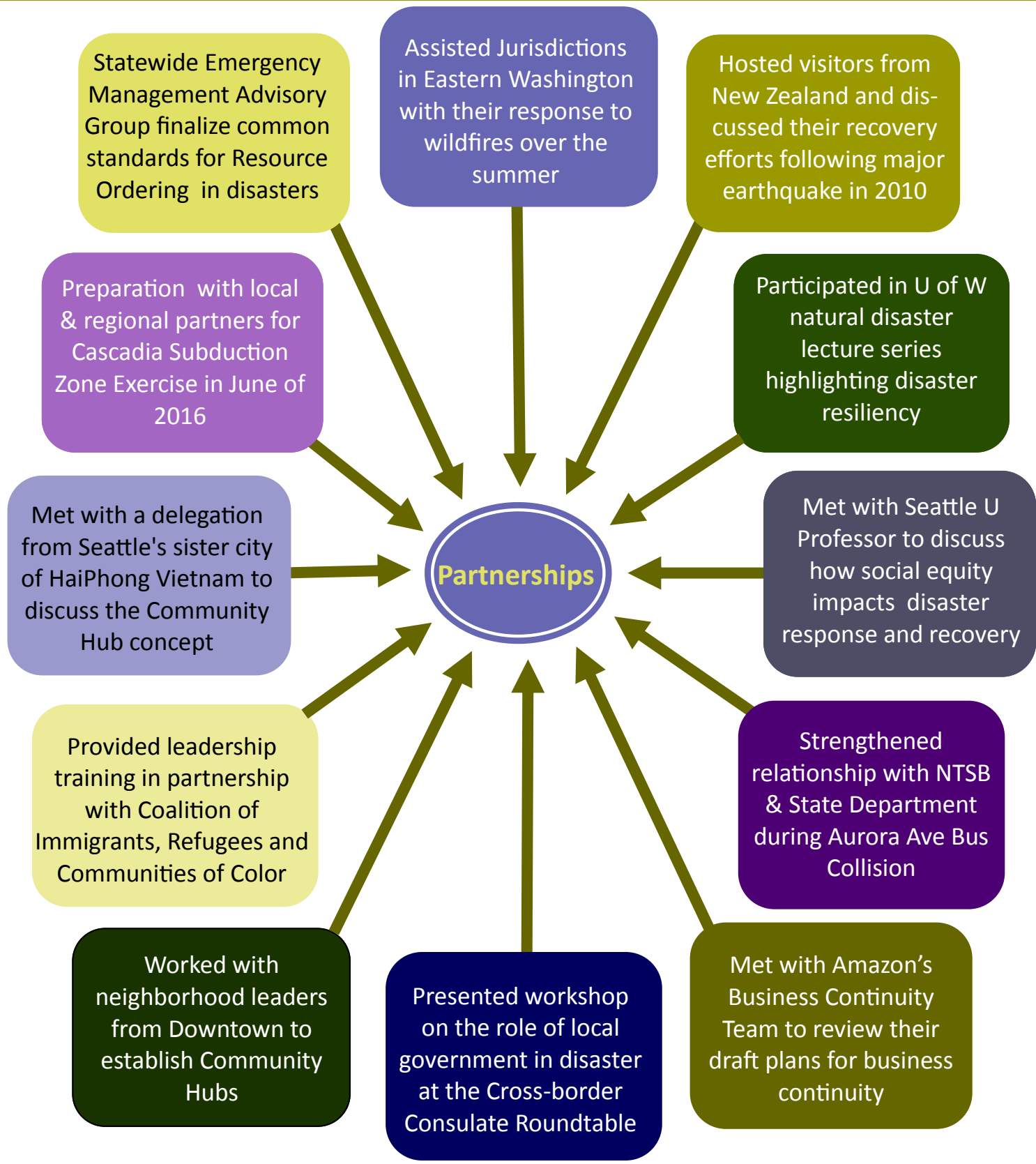
17

events during 2015.



Firefighters respond to crash on Aurora Bridge

PARTNERSHIPS



PLANNING

January

SUITE OF EMERGENCY PLANS APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

OEM consolidated emergency plans by creating a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) which outlines the principles that guide the City's Emergency Management Program. The CEMP is a suite of plans that include the Emergency Operations Plan (including Incident Annexes for response to specific incidents), an All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Seattle Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis and the Recovery Framework.

February

March

COMPLETION OF DISASTER RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

After much work, the Disaster Recovery Framework was completed and approved in 2015. This important document outlines how the City will go about the long and difficult task of recovery following a catastrophic disaster. This Framework provides an outstanding roadmap for avoiding pitfalls experienced in past disasters and identifies key roles in recovery.

April

May

UPDATE TO ALERT AND WARNING & EVACUATION ANNEXES

With the acquisition of a new Alert Notification System, 2015 saw the update to the city's existing Alert and Notification and Evacuation Annexes. This required much coordination and communication across city departments to come up with policies that worked for all involved in the complex set of procedures required to ensure public safety.

June

July

COLLABORATION WITH AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (APA)

OEM provided a seminar entitled "Working toward a Healthy, Resilient and Sustainable Community after Disaster" at the APA National Conference that was held in Seattle in April. Additionally OEM co-hosted a networking reception for the newly formed Hazard Mitigation & Disaster Recovery interest group. Both events were well attended.

August

September

TRAINING

OEM hosted

2

EOC training series in 2015, training over

60

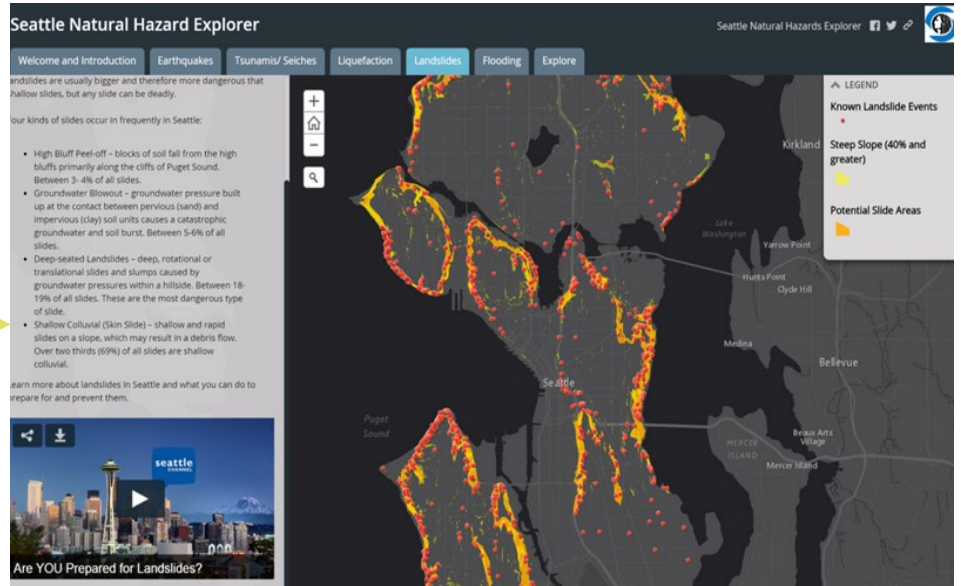
new EOC responders

OEM provided training to the Mayor's Executive team on emergency preparedness using an earthquake scenario. Discussion included specific roles for Mayor's Staff and personal safety and disaster preparedness tips.

OEM conducted a day long EOC Planning Section refresher training for existing and new OEM staff. Training covered the purpose, intent, procedures and tools used by the Planning table during activations.

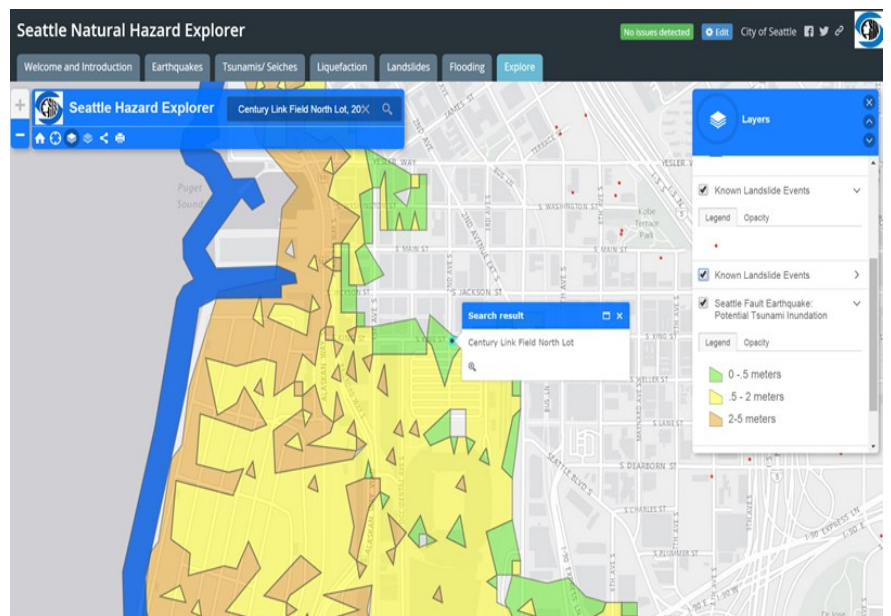
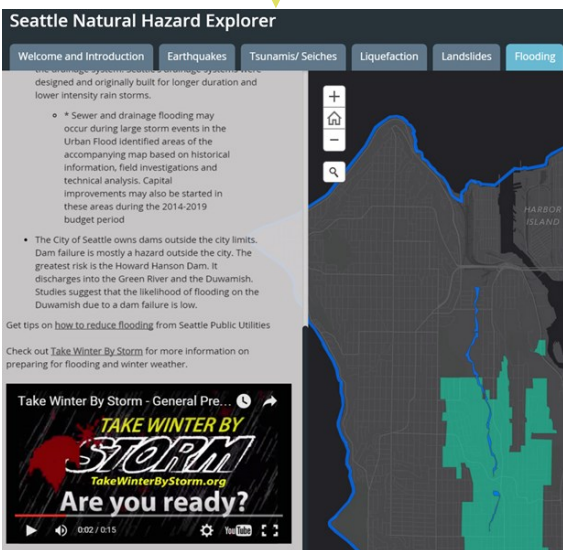
NEW HAZARD IDENTIFICATION TOOL

The Office of Emergency Management has developed a tool that will help the public learn about some of the hazards that impact the City. **The Seattle Natural Hazard Explorer** was launched in November and is an easy way to view the hazards that exist in your neighborhood. The Natural Hazard Explorer showcases key content on some of the City's top hazards as outlined in the Seattle Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (SHIVA). This platform provides a hands on, interactive way for people to learn about the city's hazards and the importance of preparedness.



Informational videos and other content provide more in depth explanations of each of the hazards. Each section also includes links to critical preparedness information so people learn what steps they can take to mitigate the impacts from these hazards.

The "Explore" section allows you to zoom in on your home, work place, or any other location to see what hazards are most likely to impact you.



To visit site: <http://seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/>



COMMUNITY PLANNING

NEW COMMUNITY ORGANIZING TOOL

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

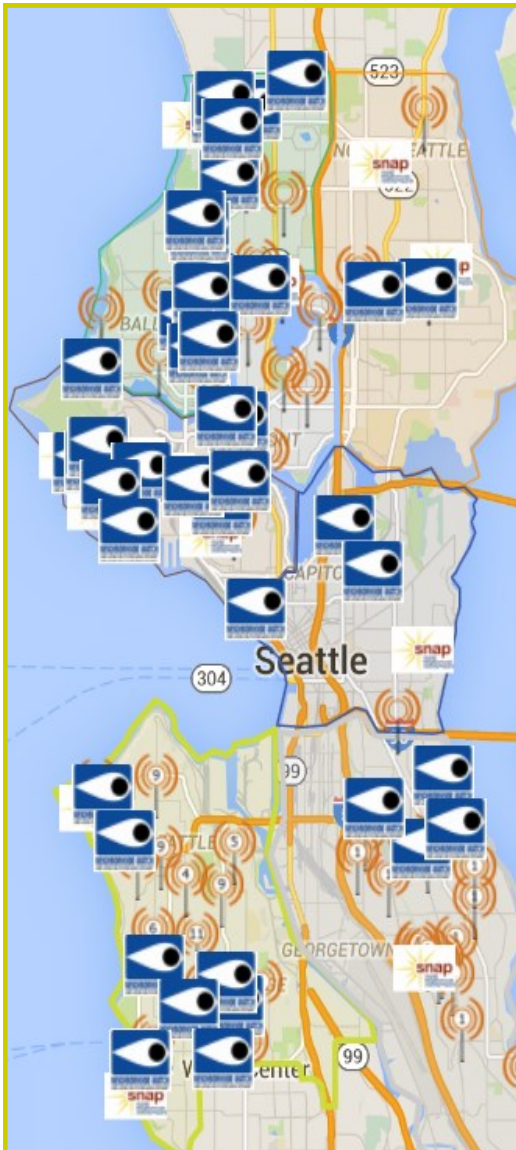
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An on-line community organizing resource was launched this year, [the Seattle Emergency NeighborLink map](#). This interactive map allows neighborhood coordinators to share their contact information with others in the area who have also organized as a Block Watch or SNAP neighborhood. This allows for neighborhoods that adjoin each other to work together to increase the effectiveness of their preparedness and personal safety efforts.

51

The number of Community Emergency Hubs currently organized in the City of Seattle.

“Hubs” vary from neighborhood to neighborhood, but each is common in that it is a pre-determined location where community members have agreed to meet follow a major disaster to begin assisting each other by sharing information & resources, solve problems and support each other throughout the duration of the disaster.

RAINIER BEACH COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HUB FAIR



Rainier Beach Community HUB hosted an event to promote emergency preparedness and working together to take care of each other following a disaster.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

THE REALLY BIG ONE



The Office of Emergency Management regularly provides disaster preparedness trainings and programs to Seattle residents, businesses, and community groups. This includes programs on personal and family preparedness strategies, disaster skills training, and earthquake home retrofit classes.

When large disasters occur anywhere in the world, we often see an increased awareness of the importance of disaster preparedness and an increased demand for public education programs. This was the case in 2011 when the Japan earthquake and tsunami. In 2015 we saw this same affect from “The Really Big One”, a New Yorker article that highlighted Seattle’s earthquake risk. Following the article the number of requests for earthquake preparedness and home retrofit classes increased dramatically.

HOME RETROFIT

Seattle OEM, in partnership with the Department of Planning & Community Development, has offered a Home Retrofit class for many years. The classes (which are instructed by volunteers) teach homeowners how to assess their home to determine if it could benefit from a seismic retrofit and introduces them to a standard set of plans and city permit requirements. The heightened awareness of Seattle’s Earthquake risk as the result of “The Really Big One”, increased the demand for OEM’s Home Retrofit class and **2015 saw the highest attendance to date with 252 people attending Home Retrofit classes.**

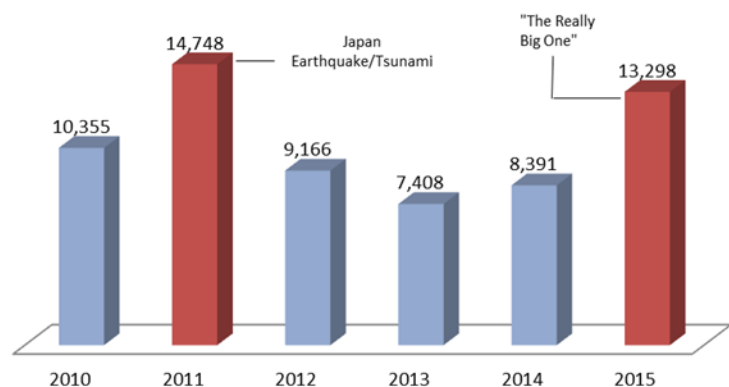


Damage to home that has not been retrofitted

“PREPARING FOR THE BIG ONE”

During the Fall Seattle OEM offered a series of classes titled “Preparing for the Big One” at various Seattle Public Library locations throughout the city. With so many questions as the result of the July New Yorker article, these sessions offered the public an opportunity to learn more about Seattle’s earthquake risk and what they can do to prepare. A total of 163 people attended the four sessions offered during the fall.

Number of People Reached Through Public Education Programs by Year



Graph shows a comparison between the requests for programs over last five years

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

PREPARING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

January

BIG DAY OF PLAY

In Partnership with Target Corporation, OEM staff attended the Big Day of Play in June to deliver preparedness messaging and distribute disaster kits to the community. The event was hosted by Seattle Parks and Recreation and provided an opportunity for community members to learn about preparedness in fun and active ways.



"Wheel of MisFortune" tests your preparedness knowledge

February

March

SHARP

In Partnership with Seattle Housing Authority, OEM participated in the Seattle Housing Authority Resident's Prepare (SHARP) event in October. The event was attended by over 50 SHA residents and included preparedness information and presentations by OEM, Seattle Fire, and American Red Cross staff and volunteers.

April

May



2015 saw the launch of the Community Safety Ambassador (CSA) program. This effort provides basic emergency preparedness and safety skills to Seattle's non-English speaking and communities faced with other access issues by enlisting community members from those groups to provide outreach and training.

June

Goals:

- Reduce barriers to accessing disaster and emergency related information/services.
- Provide basic disaster preparedness education and safety skills to vulnerable communities in the City of Seattle.
- Expand and improve the City's understanding of the needs and concerns of vulnerable communities around emergencies.
- Provide opportunities for immigrant, ethnic and low income communities to engage their own communities with city initiatives

July

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Community Safety Ambassador helps community members understand what to put in a disaster go kit.

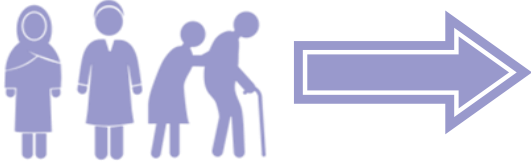
Seattle OEM currently has

30

CSAs representing Chinese, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Spanish, Oromo, Tigrinya, Somali, Amharic, Romanian, Bosnian, and Arabic speaking communities.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



Ethnic, immigrant, senior and low income individuals have participated in preparedness programs and activities

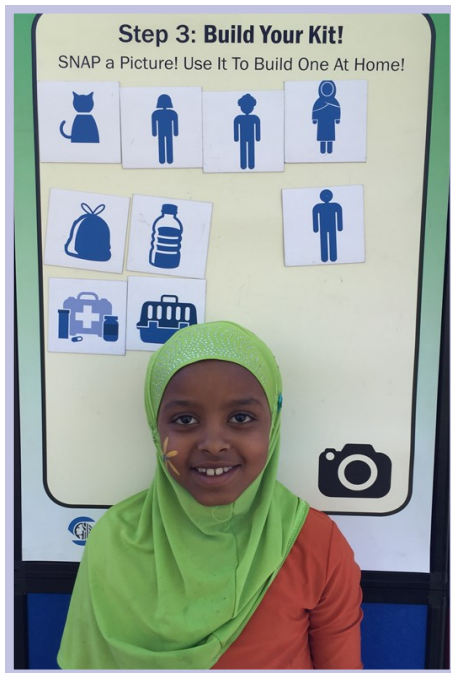
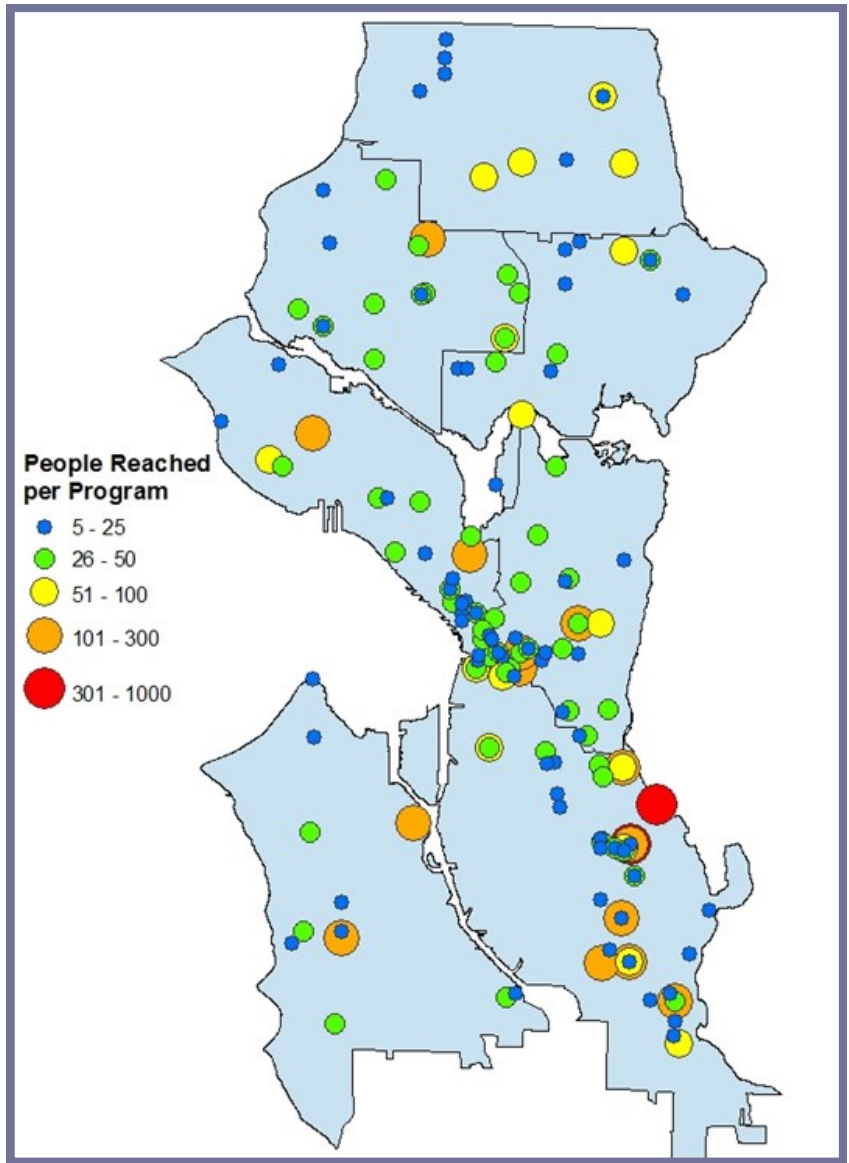
Overall Seattle OEM provided

200

public education programs and reached

13,298

people in 2015.



Young girl poses in front of "Build Your Kit!" pictographs



OEM PERFORMANCE SEATTLE METRICS

The Citywide Performance Seattle program uses specific data points to monitor the progress of each city department against the goals set for the future of the City of Seattle. The Office of Emergency Management has two performance metrics under Public Safety. The two graphics (right) highlight our progress toward reaching those goals in 2015.

Help the community

13,421

people trained on emergency preparedness this

✓ Achieved Goal
December 2015

Promote City safety

17,778

people signed up for AlertSeattle

Measured
December 2015

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Three new staff members joined OEM this year.

Kristin Tinsley is our new Outreach and Training Specialist. Kristin came to OEM with past experience in web management, graphic design, crisis communications and public education. She most recently worked as the Communications Coordinator for Pierce County Public Works & Utilities, and prior to that as a Community Program Educator and PIO for Pierce County Department of Emergency Management.

Matt Auflick joined the staff as the Community Outreach and Training Coordinator. Matt's experience includes volunteer management, grant writing, community outreach, and the design and implementation of public education campaigns. He has held several positions with the Red Cross and most recently worked for Peace Winds America as the Project Manager for the U.S.-Vietnam Disaster Preparedness Initiative.

Luke Meyers was hired to fill the newly created Planning Coordinator position allocated in the 2015 budget. Luke came to the OEM with experience working for a number of federal, state, local and private non-profit entities. Most recently he worked for the City of Bellevue as their Emergency Manager.



OEM 2015 highlights: 1-May Day Activation; 2-Police discussing issues during Aurora Avenue Bus crash Incident; 3-Protesters during Chinese presidential visit; 4-Home Retrofit instructor Tony Holder conducting class; 5-Staff Duty Officers visit to Cedar River Watershed