

Your Gardiner Community Needs Your Help.

We are reminded almost weekly of the concerns being raised throughout the Puget Sound region about the lack of preparation for the projected 9.0 magnitude earthquake and potential tsunami resulting from the rupture of the Cascadia Subduction Zone. It has been said that, of the three west coast states to be impacted, Washington State is the least prepared for this event.

Those of us who live in Gardiner, the Miller Peninsula and in Clallam County are perhaps more aware of this potential disaster than our neighbors to the east.

Following a major earthquake we know:

- Gardiner and Miller Peninsula will be isolated and an island without significant outside support for a minimum of 30 days and possibly longer.
- We will, most likely, be without public power for over a year.
- Our community water storage system will likely be destroyed and will take months to repair. Without power, it may be a year, or more, before community water distribution is possible.
- It will be months before we have meaningful ground transportation.
- There will be no telephone and internet service and limited communications outside our community for perhaps months.
- We will have to rely on our own stockpiles of food, water, medical and pet supplies.
- Sanitation systems will be severely damaged.

But awareness does not equate to preparedness. If we want our community and neighbors to survive, we must begin preparing as individuals **and** as a community. There are countless online check-off lists individuals can do to prepare for their own personal safety and survivability. Not all our neighbors are in a position to fully prepare. **Bottom line, our survivability will depend on neighbors helping neighbors.**

Over 20 Gardiner community neighbors have received Community Emergency Response training. These individuals have, thus far, undergone over 400 hours of disaster preparedness training. In the event of a major emergency or disaster they have committed themselves to search and rescue, extraction, and treatment of our neighbors who may be victims.

The Gardiner Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) must have a secure location and storage area for their emergency supplies, as well as a location for their operational command center. The Gardiner Salmon Derby Association has provided funding for a storage container for this purpose and a site has been offered by one of our neighbors for its location. However, the site needs clearing and costly preparation is necessary before the container can be sited.

The professionals tell us that each individual will need about 1 ½ gallons of water daily for health and sanitation. We are told individuals can only live for 3 days without water. Water will not only be needed for our neighbors but for those stranded on Hwy 101 with no food or water.

Thus, there is a need to build an emergency mobile water filtration system for our community capable of producing a minimum of 350 gallons of treated water daily from existing ponds/lakes, wells, and streams.

While the Clallam County Fire District 3 has provided basic personal protection equipment for your CERT team, team members have supplemented these materials with personal first aid and search and rescue materials. There are three search and rescue squads. Each squad is in need of extraction tools and materials including gas powered chain saws, pry bars, sledges, fire extinguishers, litters, and medical treatment supplies.

It quickly becomes apparent that funding for these critical projects and items is not insignificant. While Clallam County Fire District 3 has received some grant funding to support our CERT team from our Gardiner Salmon Derby Association, the funding needs exceed these grants.

The timing of the disastrous event is impossible to forecast. Geologists are strongly encouraging us to prepare now! The items needing funding mentioned above are high priority items. Not everyone is able to actively participate in emergency response. However, everyone can contribute to the survivability of our community.

For that reason, your Community Emergency Response Team is asking you to consider an annual tax-deductible donation of any amount to the "Gardiner Salmon Derby Association" earmarked for "Community Emergency Response".

Because the Gardiner Salmon Derby Association is a 501-(c)(3) non-profit organization all donations are tax deductible and donors will receive a receipt for their contribution for tax purposes. Donations may be mailed to the Gardiner Salmon Derby Association, PO Box 357, Sequim, WA 98382 or given to Pete Erickson, Treasurer of the Gardiner Salmon Derby Association. Enter "Community Emergency Response" in the remarks section of your checks.

Finally, there are far too few volunteer responders to reach the approximately 350 Gardiner residents in a timely manner when the projected earthquake occurs. Please consider enrolling in Community Emergency Response (CERT) training. It is not physically demanding and you may help save lives of your neighbors.

Your community emergency responders thank you in advance for your support and contribution to the health and safety of our community.

Dick Bennett

Captain

Gardiner Community Emergency Response Team