

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Earthquake Preparedness

Meeting Date: September 16, 2015
Department: Central Services
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Agenda Item Number: A
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ISSUE STATEMENT

The July 4 magnitude 4.2 earthquake and recent national and local media attention surrounding the Cascadia Subduction Zone has prompted many questions about earthquake preparedness and mitigation activities in Eugene. This item provides information on activities related to earthquake preparedness.

BACKGROUND

The City of Eugene is involved in earthquake preparedness on many levels including planning, training, exercises, community outreach and emergency response volunteer coordination, all of which play a part in our preparations for the Cascadia earthquake and other disasters. We are working closely with community partners in all of this work. Key projects are summarized below.

[Eugene-Springfield Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan](#): Eugene and Springfield coordinate planning and implementation of a joint Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) that addresses multiple natural hazards including flood, wildfire, and earthquake. The latest update of the *Eugene-Springfield Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*, adopted by the City Council in February 2015, includes a climate and hazards vulnerability assessment of 12 essential sectors of the community, including drinking water, electricity and transportation. The vulnerability assessment involved many community members and City staff and was used to inform the development and prioritization of specific mitigation activities, including earthquake-specific mitigation activities such as seismic evaluation of bridges and critical facilities, as well as other activities that would mitigate earthquake and other risks. The action items in the Eugene-Springfield NHMP are consistent with the priorities identified in the Oregon Resilience Plan, discussed below. Priority earthquake mitigation actions include:

- Conduct seismic evaluations of Eugene and Springfield bridges and prioritize bridges to be retrofitted or replaced;
- Conduct seismic evaluations of critical facilities and prioritize facilities/services to be retrofitted, relocated, or replaced;
- Develop a long-term plan to underground, relocate, or “harden” key electric distribution lines along critical corridors to reduce interruption to the transportation system and to reduce risk of outages from severe winter storms or earthquakes;
- Develop Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plans for City operations;

- Assess the seismic resiliency of local fossil fuel distribution.

The City is actively working on several of these priority action items. The Public Works Department has contracted with OBEC, an engineering consulting firm, to conduct a seismic analysis of 30 City-owned bridges and prepare a report listing seismic liabilities and recommendations for each bridge along with an estimated cost of their seismic retrofitting or replacement recommendations. The Central Services Department has begun work on a similar analysis of critical City facilities.

[Eugene-Springfield Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan](#): In October 2014, the Cities of Eugene and Springfield adopted the first joint *Eugene-Springfield Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan*. The new plan follows FEMA format and includes a three-year work plan for the development of 19 Emergency Support Functions as well as additional Operational, Support and Incident Annexes. Working with the City of Springfield and community partners, staff updated or developed 14 annexes to the EOP in FY15. Twelve additional annexes are scheduled to be updated or developed in FY16.

Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP): Staff is developing Continuity of Operations Plans for all City departments to help ensure that the most essential missions after a disaster will continue to be able to be fulfilled. The first phase of COOP planning with the Police Department Technical Services Division has been completed, including Central Lane 911, and Central Services Divisions' (HR, Facilities, ISD, Municipal Court and Risk) participation in a pilot project. Phase 2 is underway, with the goal of having plans developed by all departments by the end of 2015.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT): The City of Eugene has coordinated the Eugene-Springfield Area CERT program since 2004 and holds semi-annual academies for new volunteers. The next academy begins on October 5. The CERT program provides training to community members to increase pre-disaster preparedness and enhance post-disaster resilience. CERT volunteers are trained to aid first-responders in the event of a disaster and the Eugene Springfield Fire Department pays a key role in the CERT volunteer training program. To date over 450 CERT volunteers have been trained.

Community Outreach Program: Given the expected magnitude of the Cascadia earthquake, it is very important to help community members prepare their homes and families for disaster. The Emergency Management program provides disaster preparedness education and training for the community. In the past year, many preparedness presentations have been made to neighborhood associations and other community groups, and assistance provided to the Southeast Neighbors in the development of a Neighborhood Disaster Plan that is a model for other neighborhood groups. In response to the huge demand following the University of Oregon's (UO) public forum on "The Big One," staff is partnering with the U of O's Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience in order to expand the scope of community outreach.

In addition, staff has actively participated in the Lane Preparedness Coalition and this year partnered in the establishment of the Lane County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), a collaborative effort led by Food for Lane County, the American Red Cross, the City of Eugene and Lane County.

Employee Preparedness: The City provides disaster preparedness training for employees annually and encourages employees to create family emergency plans and acquire emergency supplies for their families. *For the last three years, the City has purchased emergency supplies* which employees can purchase from the City at the City's cost in order to help employees prepare their families and homes for a disaster and increase the likelihood that our essential employees will be able to report to work during a disaster. The employee preparedness emergency supply initiative is currently underway as part of National Preparedness Month activities.

Training and Exercises: The City of Eugene requires FEMA training for employees who will be involved in disaster response and actively sponsors training opportunities. In the past year, nine different trainings have been hosted for City employees and for employees of other agencies. Two major emergency training programs for City staff are being held this year in preparation for the June 2016 FEMA-coordinated Cascadia Subduction Zone exercise called "Cascadia Rising". The exercise is a multi-day simulation in which Emergency Operations Centers at all levels of government and the private sector will activate to coordinate simulated field response operations. Eugene Emergency Management participated in a successful State Homeland Security Grant application with Lane and several other counties which will provide consulting services to assist with planning for and evaluation of the Cascadia Rising exercise.

Community Partnerships: City staff is working on earthquake preparedness with a variety of partners in both the public and private sectors. For example, staff is working with community partners on the following activities:

- National Preparedness Month public outreach;
- Eugene Water & Electric Board's (EWEB) Emergency Water Storage Container distribution program and emergency water points of distribution;
- Emergency Preparedness Fair to be held in conjunction with the Disaster Resilience Trials in October;
- The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) Subcommittee's work on mitigation activities. Eugene Emergency Management staff coordinates the NHMP subcommittee which includes representatives from EWEB, Lane County, the University of Oregon, Lane County and the local hospitals.

In addition, staff works with the Lane Preparedness Coalition and Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) on preparedness activities, as mentioned above.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Numerous City policies and plans offer opportunities to mitigate seismic risk, including:

- Eugene Comprehensive Plan
- Capital Improvement Program
- Facility Management and Strategic Plans

State Planning Efforts

Oregon Resilience Plan: The State of Oregon developed the 2013 *Oregon Resilience Plan* on reducing risk and improving recovery for the next Cascadia earthquake and tsunami. The *Oregon Resilience Plan* drew on statewide expertise that included Jeff Lankston from Eugene Public Works, Andre LeDuc from the University of Oregon, and Mel Damewood of EWEB. The primary recommendations include:

1. Plan for a 50-year implementation horizon to take advantage of long-term investments and to make large investments affordable;
2. Undertake comprehensive assessments of the key structures and systems that underpin Oregon's economy;
3. Launch a sustained program of capital investment in Oregon's public structures;
4. Craft a package of incentives to engage Oregon's private sector in efforts to advance seismic resilience;
5. Update Oregon's public policies.

Related State Bills Passed in 2015 Legislative Session

HB2270 created the office of "State Resilience Officer" in office of Governor to direct, coordinate and oversee seismic safety and resilience planning and preparation by state agencies.

HB 5005 makes available \$175 million for seismic improvements at schools across the state. The bill also allocates \$30 million for retrofits of public safety buildings.

SB 85 authorizes local governments to implement programs to make loans or facilitate private financing of seismic rehabilitation of multi-family residential dwellings or commercial or industrial buildings by property owners.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

No City Council action or recommendations are suggested at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

No recommended action at this time. As implementation of the NHMP continues, staff may request funding of specific NHMP action items.

SUGGESTED MOTION

No council action or motions are suggested. This item is informational only.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Eugene-Springfield Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Action Item Table

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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