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Contact: Bill Steele, Vice President, Board of Directors
wsteele@uw.edu / 206-601-5978

CREW President to Promote Cascadia Earthquake Safety at the White House

PORTLAND and SEATTLE— Cascadia’s last great earthquake occurred on January 26, 1700. Stresses have been building on the Cascadia fault ever since, which extends along the coastlines of northern California, Oregon, Washington, and southern British Columbia. “Advancing the safety of communities in the Pacific Northwest requires cooperation from all levels of government, including the White House and Congress” said Ines Pearce, Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup (CREW) President. Pearce will represent CREW initiatives on February 2 at the White House’s Earthquake Resilience Summit at 9:30 am PST. CREW and others will announce new commitments such as advancing the development of an earthquake early system, increasing earthquake education and improving public safety. More on the White House event or to watch it live: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/live/white-house-earthquake-resilience-summit> [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#).

Since CREW has been leading public-private partnership initiatives to improve education, safety, and solutions regarding the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami since its formation in 1995. CREW has brought public awareness to the serious survivability issues in coastal communities, including supporting the understanding and development of tsunami vertical evacuation structures. Similarly, CREW has emphasized the necessity of strengthening critical infrastructure including water, medical services, electricity and transportation systems throughout the Pacific Northwest. To this end, CREW will be working to identify commonalities in the Resilience Plans of Oregon and Washington to identify projects to advance across the Cascadia region to build resilience.

CREW’s development of earthquake scenarios including Magnitude 9.0 Cascadia scenario, which provided a basis for FEMA’s upcoming 2016 “Cascadia Rising” exercise are used widely by businesses and government agencies seeking to understand their risk. According to Pearce, “CREW’s Cascadia scenario is a crucial tool for use by regional leaders in developing policies and plans for the next earthquake. I am pleased FEMA found it valuable in the design of Cascadia Rising.”

CREW fully supports the development of a much-needed public earthquake early warning system and will work this year to identify opportunities to design “ShakeAlerts” to help the public make risk-wise decisions with the warnings.

CREW also supports higher performance standards for all new buildings and certain existing critical buildings and facilities, including hospitals and electrical transmission systems. “The Federal Government can lead by example in the standards it adopts for the resilience of federal buildings,” said Pearce. “We will need a functional federal building infrastructure in place after the earthquake to support response and speed the region’s recovery.”

CREW is a nonprofit coalition of business representatives, emergency managers, scientists, government officials and civic leaders who work together to improve seismic resilience throughout the entire western Washington, Oregon, Northern California and British Columbia, Canada. For more about CREW, the 2013 Magnitude 9.0 Cascadia Earthquake and Tsunami Scenario and other available materials, please visit www.crew.org or contact [CREW at director@crew.org](mailto:CREW@director@crew.org)

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