

# HMSC EARTHQUAKE/Tsunami EVACUATION PLAN

## If you feel an earthquake:

- Protect yourself but evacuate the building as soon as you deem it safe; note the time if possible. You must reach a tsunami evacuation point within 15 minutes.
- When the shaking stops enough to walk, immediately evacuate to high ground. The nearest evacuation point from the HMSC campus is the high ground around the south entrance of the bridge. Stay off the bridge.
- Bring only items you can easily grab, including backpacks especially packed with emergency gear, coat, hat, phone, essentials (i.e. handbag).
- Walk; don't try to drive. Encourage others to move quickly.
- Be prepared for aftershocks. Remain at high ground until the all-clear signal is given. Remember that tsunamis occur as a series of waves.

## Do not make these potentially life-threatening mistakes:

- DO NOT go back to your office or spend time packing; grab your emergency gear ONLY if it is handy. Evacuate to higher ground immediately.
- DO NOT wait for an official warning. Evacuate even if the shaking is slight.
- DO NOT re-enter buildings. You will not have time, and they may be unstable.
- DO NOT return to the HMSC campus until an "all clear" from local officials has been issued; beware of unfounded rumors of an all-clear.

***Remember, you have 15 minutes or less to reach an evacuation point.***



## Preparation tips for workplace emergency evacuation:

- Think through your evacuation scenario from different parts of the campus or your commute. Be familiar with the tsunami evacuation route map, including alternate routes, as your planned route may be impassable. See <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/tsunami-evacuation>
- Frequently review the instructions and the DO NOTs noted on the front page.
- Have a backpack ready with emergency gear; see <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/tsunami-evacuation> for details. Routinely store (if practical) your coat, hat, phone, and essentials (i.e. handbag) where they can be accessed easily. Expect to spend 10-24 hours at the evacuation point.
- Be prepared, but also be mentally prepared to leave everything behind if not readily accessible. Timely evacuation is a higher priority than emergency supplies or personal items.
- Plan in advance for off-site data back-ups; do not stop to collect data.
- Prepare a communication plan for your family. Keep in mind that your home may not be structurally sound.
- Preprogram essential phone numbers and alerts into cell phones and other devices. See <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/tsunami-evacuation>.
- Secure, or ask Facilities staff to secure, items in your office or work area that would be a hazard in an earthquake, i.e. bookcases.
- Develop a habit of noting your whereabouts outside your door (i.e. gone for the day; on leave until Thursday). This will prevent others from looking for you unnecessarily.

## Managers:

- Impress upon your staff that they are expected to evacuate immediately in case of any earthquake, regardless of how slight the shaking might seem.
- Brief visitors including students and others working at HMSC or staying in housing.
- Encourage staff to consider evacuation routes when planning and implementing field research.
- Be prepared to contact staff in the event of a tsunami or other evacuation in the absence of warning signs (i.e. shaking).

## Neighborhoods:

- HMSC staff members are encouraged to communicate with individuals along their hallway or section of the building. Self-designated 'neighborhoods' may be formed on a voluntary basis (i.e. west wing, east wing).
- Meet with your 'neighbors' to talk through evacuation. Focus especially on the first few minutes after the shaking stops.
- Some topics to discuss are checking on neighbors, grabbing gear for neighbors if they are not in their offices; drilling as a group; designating a meeting spot; what to do about injured/trapped coworkers; recording your whereabouts regularly outside your door; keeping contact #'s for the group in your backpack.
- Respect, but note, individuals' wishes (i.e. to opt out of the group, or to meet up with family members instead).

