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## *Nisqually Earthquake 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summary*

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### **1. Overall Damage**

Damage from the Nisqually Earthquake of February 28, 2001, to public facilities, businesses, and homes totaled between \$1 billion to \$4 billion according to damage estimates. Although centered in south Puget Sound, Nisqually earthquake damage was reported in as far east as Bridgeport and Walla Walla. The Emergency Management Division (WEMD) of the Washington Military Department provided more than \$150 million in assistance under the federal Stafford Act Disaster Declaration.

Many individuals and private sector companies funded their own damage claims and repairs without any federal assistance. For more information about the state's past earthquakes and other major hazards, visit the state's Hazard Identification Vulnerability Analysis at:

[http://www.emd.wa.gov/plans/documents/HIVA\\_2009\\_FINALformattingNOV09.pdf](http://www.emd.wa.gov/plans/documents/HIVA_2009_FINALformattingNOV09.pdf)

### **2. Major Improvements Since 2001**

- A. Increased the number of preparedness products and public safety information offerings through a variety of formats such as streaming videos, brochures, and web pages. Links to our preparedness videos is at:  
[http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep\\_personal\\_prep\\_video\\_index.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_personal_prep_video_index.shtml)
- B. Effectively used mitigation grant dollars in our state to seismically upgrade critical infrastructure facilities, schools, and bridges.
  1. The state has distributed more than \$50 million in federal hazard mitigation grant monies to 44 seismic upgrade projects since 2001. Additional information about the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program can be found at:  
[http://www.emd.wa.gov/plans/documents/ehmp\\_9\\_loss\\_avoidance\\_study.pdf](http://www.emd.wa.gov/plans/documents/ehmp_9_loss_avoidance_study.pdf)

2. Since 2007, the Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has completed full or partial retrofits of 386 bridges in central Puget Sound with another 481 bridges still in need of retrofits. More information about the DOT seismic retrofit program can be found at: [http://www.emd.wa.gov/hazards/haz\\_earthquakes.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/hazards/haz_earthquakes.shtml)
- C. WEMD launched a major community outreach program called *Map Your Neighborhood* (MYN). This program organizes local neighbors into disaster preparedness and response units. MYN has spread to 29 counties and 78 cities in Washington as well as to 30 other states and to New Zealand. For more information about *Map Your Neighborhood*, click: [http://www.emd.wa.gov/myn/myn\\_intro.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/myn/myn_intro.shtml)
- D. Developed a private industry collaboration program that allows the state to more effectively leverage their capabilities before, during, and after a disaster strikes. A one-stop shop business portal provides a variety of valuable resources and information. For more information visit: [http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep\\_business.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_business.shtml)
- E. Our knowledge of the region's earthquake threat has significantly increased in the past decade.
1. One example is the multi-agency *2004 Seattle Fault Study* that demonstrated the vulnerability of the Seattle area to a shallow magnitude 6.7 earthquake. Other studies have revealed additional earthquake faults in northern Puget Sound. See the *Seattle Fault Study* at: <http://www.emd.wa.gov/hazards/documents/EQScenarioFullBook.pdf>
  2. Nisqually earthquake hazard mitigation money funded an update to the state soils map that displays areas particularly vulnerable to earthquake shaking. More information on the state's soil map can be found at: [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/GeologicHazardsMapping/Pages/geologic\\_mapping.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/GeologicHazardsMapping/Pages/geologic_mapping.aspx)

- F. Developed the *All-Hazard Alert Broadcasting System (AHAB)* for the Washington-Pacific Coast. The need for this system was highlighted by the December 26, 2004, Sumatra earthquake and tsunami that killed or injured more than 400,000 persons. Washington identified a need to install 96 AHAB systems to cover high-risk population areas on the coast. To date, 50 AHABs have been installed along Washington's outer coast funded by state and federal sources. Two additional AHABs are scheduled for installation in 2011. More information about AHAB's can be found at:  
[http://www.emd.wa.gov/hazards/prog\\_ahab.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/hazards/prog_ahab.shtml)
  
- G. Updated the state's building code to reflect the identified greater earthquake threat to the state. More information about state building codes can be found at: [http://www.emd.wa.gov/hazards/haz\\_earthquakes.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/hazards/haz_earthquakes.shtml)

### **3. Is Washington better prepared for a major earthquake?**

Overall, Washington is better prepared today for a major earthquake than in 2001. However, major challenges remain. Nisqually was not the "Big One, and based on the best and most current research, Washington could experience much larger and more damaging earthquakes.

- A. The Washington State Seismic Safety Committee is in the middle of a three-year program called "The Resilient Washington State Initiative." When completed, the program will outline our current resiliency to the state's earthquake threats; identify specific goals to protect human life, property and economic recovery following an earthquake; recommend policies to the Governor / Legislature and identify performance measures to achieve those goals. For additional information about the Committee and "the Resilient Washington State Initiative," click:  
<http://www.emd.wa.gov/about/SeismicSafetyCommittee.shtml>
  
- B. Public interest in earthquakes ebbs and flows depending on major earthquake stories in the news. There is probably more awareness today around how to prepare than 10 years ago, but individuals need to take recommended actions to ensure that they and their loved ones are self sufficient for a period of time following an earthquake. Small disasters, like the severe snowstorm last November, reminds us that we often don't take action until the last minute. **But earthquakes are a no-notice event.** More information on earthquake preparedness activities is available at:  
[http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep\\_index.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_index.shtml)