Director’s Corner

Recently, the UWEM Office (and the EOC command center) was recertified by the UW’s Sustainability Office as a Gold-Standard “Green” Office. Obviously, besides being proud of our staff and the tremendous effort that they put into this annual recertification effort, it got me thinking ... exactly how can a disaster management function of the university be more aware of our actions to protect and conserve the environment? After all, disaster management is by its very nature, primarily a response function. But, as I read and researched more, I discovered that this issue of being “green” is more than just a passing-fad like mood rings or pet rocks – it is an ongoing trend that we can truly embrace!

Our 93% score, allowing us to be considered “gold” was no mistake. Your UWEM team continually looks for ways to reduce waste and conserve our limited operating resources. Some say that much of this is a result of continued budget cuts since the great recession began in 2008. Rather, I found that our ability to harness employees’ Idea Card suggestions and highlight our success stories does more to improve our operations and implement green (and lean) ideas than anything else. Call it being Green, sustainability or even resiliency, all of the buzz-words have the same impact on our strategy and daily operations. A perfect example is our new-and-improved UWEM website. If you haven’t already noticed or taken a peek at it, you may be amazed by the number of changes and improvements that were made as a direct result of customer suggestions. By placing more of our documents on the new website, we are indirectly saving people time, energy, and (hopefully) paper. Conscious effort in these areas are all paramount in the mission of emergency managers: Save Lives, Protect Property, and Safeguard the Environment. We are realizing that this recent Green recognition is really not a separate activity, but is truly embedded as part of our mission. As Kermit the frog once said, “It’s Good to be Green!”

Steve Charvat, UWEM Director

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... And so much more!
Somebody once asked if all of the UWEM Partner of the Quarter recipients – dating back to 2008 – were full- or part-time emergency management professionals, volunteers or people who have emergency planning listed as part of their regular job duties. And yes, while most of them have emergency management, crisis communications or continuity planning listed somewhere in their official UW job description – our next quarterly award recipient definitely does not fit the mold! In fact, the qualities that brought her to our attention and ultimately being unanimously selected, was the fact that she performs these emergency and safety duties not as part of her “regular” job, but she demonstrates her passion for service as a volunteer. We are proud to present the April – June 2015 Partner of the Quarter Award to Ms. Leslie F. Anderson, Advancement Services Officer with the UW’s Advancement Office. Since 2001, Leslie has worked at the UW Office of Development and Alumni Relations in various positions, each advancing in responsibility. But what brought her to our attention was her immediate call to action when UWEM moved to the new EOC in 2011. Leslie has tirelessly volunteered in every EOC drill and activation for over 4 years. She completed all the required FEMA training courses as the lead EOC Staff Support volunteer. She has become an invaluable resource in the EOC in assuring that it runs smoothly when the call goes out. Not only does she excel in her position in the EOC, but she has also continually recruited other volunteers throughout the university to provide additional staff support for the Center. In the little free time she has, Leslie also is a champion for campus safety, where she currently serves as the U-wide Health and Safety Committee Chairwoman. Elected by her peers from throughout the UW, Leslie continues to be a role model for employees who not only “talk-the-talk” but truly “walk-the-walk” when it comes to helping others and ensuring that the UW continues to be a safe place to study, work and play. Congratulations Leslie!
MIPM Graduation Symposium Features UWEM Staff and Student Employee

UWEM staff member Scott Preston and student employee and soon-to-be graduate Stacie Smith were featured in an Emergency Management-focused Symposium at the UW Tower Auditorium on the morning of June 12, 2015 as part of the graduation festivities for the latest Masters in Infrastructure Planning and Management (MIPM) cohort. Stacie, as a member of the student panel, presented her capstone topic for the program—resiliency as a function of the relationship between emergency management and the food system—and Scott attended as a member of the Faculty Response Panel.

Other discussion topics included: community resiliency, attention to vulnerable population (senior) evacuations, emergency planning, and the importance of a functioning transportation infrastructure.

UWEM is proud to support nearly a dozen undergraduate and graduate student employees and interns since our service-learning program began in 2006.

We’re Looking for a Few Good Men (and Women)!

Are you a Techno-Geek? Good with Computers? Do you like tinkering with technology and communications gadgets? Is the idea of helping the UW during times of crisis or disaster interest you? Or do you know a co-worker who fits the bill? If so, please read on….

We are looking for action-oriented, service-minded current (or retired) UW staff who are willing to assist us in the UW’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as Technical Support Volunteers. We are seeking to identify, recruit and train 6-8 individuals to be part of our EOC emergency response cadre. These new volunteers will provide critical general technical (phone, computer, A/V) support to the 130 senior university officials who activate when disaster strikes. If an “army runs on its stomach”… then conversely, “an EOC runs on information and communications”.

Current knowledge, interest and/or skills in computer systems, software, IT networks, telecommunications, general technology, and audio/visual systems are all we ask. We will provide additional free training, access to the EOC and most importantly, access and exposure to senior university officials.

Interested individuals should contact Steve Charvat, UWEM Director (charvat@uw.edu) to receive additional information. No prior disaster or emergency planning/response experience is necessary!
Why Effective Leadership Matters

Some of the UWEM staff are in the middle of attending advanced academy courses in leadership at FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute. Emergency management is often about leadership in the community. Sometimes it’s by soliciting the cooperation of the community to help itself become better prepared before an incident and other times it’s by ensuring collaboration and coordination during an incident to ensure effective management and resolution of the problem.

Organization leadership is particularly important, since the effectiveness of the community response relies on the health of the emergency organizations performing the response. A dysfunctional emergency organization will result in a dysfunctional emergency response and poor incident management.

All organizations require some level of leadership to be effective. Effective leadership is an often difficult, dynamic responsibility that requires constant attention to the organization and introspection on behalf of the leader. All forms of leadership have 2 elements in common:

First, leadership is the ability to influence people to action. The best leaders are those who have been able to convince a majority of people to pursue their prescribed course of action and then actively move to satisfy those actions. Simply touting a particular thought or philosophy is not enough. Effective change, through leadership, must involve decisive action that supports the change effort.

Second, the reality is that leaders only have as much real credibility and authority as they are granted by the people they lead. This is true of any organization, including those organizations with a strong “command and control” element to their cultures, such as the military or in law enforcement. Even under extreme dictatorships, people may still choose to disregard or even actively oppose the leader if they feel committed enough to be willing to accept the consequences of their choice. This is why influencing groups through fear and intimidation has never been sustainable in the long term. Eventually, the body of the group gets tired of the threats and becomes reconciled to the consequences of opposing the tyrant. The individuals of the group begin to feel that removal of the dictator is a worthwhile goal.

History has proven that the best, most sustainable leadership styles that have the longest positive influence in society have some common character traits and behaviors:

- **The leader is not seeking self-aggrandizement.** The best leaders lead in humility. Leaders who consistently make decisions that focus on personal gain quickly lose the respect of the group they are leading. The best leaders see their leadership as a position where they are in service to those they lead and not the other way around. Historical example: Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus (519-430 BC), a Roman statesman who was also a humble farmer until an invasion of Rome caused him to accept a call to serve as a temporary dictator of Rome during the crisis. Once the crisis was over, Cincinnatus voluntarily laid aside the absolute authority that had been granted to him. He was a major influence in President George Washington’s leadership style.

- **The leader passes credit to the group but keeps the blame to their self.** The Harvard Business Review and Forbes Magazine both have several articles lauding modern examples of CEO’s who pass along praise to their employees but assume responsibility for any misconduct of their companies to themselves. This behavior creates trust in the leader by the employee. It also has the added benefit of helping the leader better understand how the community at large views the organization. Historical example: Robert E. Lee (1807-1870). Lee was the Commanding General for the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia during the Civil War. Considered a brilliant military strategist and leader, he was well-regarded by colleagues and society on both sides of the conflict.
and had been asked by President Lincoln to lead the Union Army at the outset of the War. Following his defeat at the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863, Lee is quoted as saying "No blame can be attached to the army for its failure to accomplish what was projected by me, nor should it be censured for the unreasonable expectations of the public—I am alone to blame, in perhaps expecting too much of its prowess and valor." Lee’s popularity among the people in the North and the South only grew after the war.

- **The leader is willing to solicit, listen to and even accept criticism.** The best leaders encourage and consider criticism of their leadership style. This creates a workplace environment that helps the leader to avoid any myopic blind spots or Group Think that will inevitably lead to poor situational awareness and poor decisions. The Danish author Hans Christian Andersen’s classic story “The Emperor’s New Clothes” describes the fallacy of a leader who is only willing to hear what he wants to hear, rather than what is reality. Historical example: Albert Einstein once said “Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.” A leader who is unwilling to acknowledge an uncomfortable truth is not going to have enough clarity of vision and understanding to effectively lead. This is why many of history’s most notorious tyrants eventually failed: these despots create a condition under which people are afraid to report the truth if it conflicts with the leader’s personal views. Without an accurate understanding of situations and conditions, they cannot hope to make effective, relevant decisions. This leads to the eventual loss of control and the inevitable revolution against their leadership administration.

- **The leader is focused on living the values of principled leadership.** The best leaders emulate principles and values that support a healthy organization. These principles may vary as to whatever is valued by the organization, but are generally considered to be positive and constructive in nature. Perhaps the organization values honesty and integrity or service to the community. Perhaps the principle is to always be learning and growing as individuals and as an organization. Whatever the organization, the key element is that the leader must be authentic and a sincere example of living the principles that they are promoting to the group. Historical example: Mahatma Gandhi (October 02, 1869- January 30, 1948) an early civil rights leader in British-ruled India once said “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”

The quality of leadership during times of crisis is directly related to the quality of the daily leadership of the organization. If the organizational leadership of an emergency services/public safety agency is poor or the agency is curtailed by a toxic work environment, then it becomes operationally ineffective. An agency that cannot perform well in regular daily operations cannot hope to perform well under the stressful incident management conditions of a disaster. That organization will become part of a greater problem, rather than part of the solution.

This is why emergency managers study organizational leadership to ensure our agencies are well lead and well run, so that we are effective leaders when it matters the most.
FACTS: What the movie got right

Compared to many disaster movies, San Andreas got a lot right in terms of earthquake safety messages and earthquake science! Here are some examples:

**Earthquake Safety**

- The globally advocated "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" message for self-protection during earthquakes is strongly promoted throughout the movie.

- People running or trying to exit buildings are shown getting injured, which is quite common during earthquakes.

- The reactions of people in the movie are fairly realistic: some run while others are frozen in fear, yet some help others and most act rationally (being afraid is not the same as panicking).

- The movie demonstrates that previous training, first aid, knowing how to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On," checking for injuries, having a backup plan, and knowing how tsunamis often start by water receding... are all very useful knowledge during and after a real earthquake!

- Cell phones are shown to not work after the earthquake, with non-powered landlines remaining operational (however this may not last long either). Texting may work even better, and takes less bandwidth on networks, so Text First, Talk Second!

- The depiction of official Tsunami warning radio broadcasts and the use of sirens in San Francisco demonstrates how scientific information (delivered at the right time and in the right way) can save lives.

**Earthquake Science**

- Dr. Lawrence Hayes gives a decent review of major earthquakes in the past and the role of tectonic plates of the Earth's crust. His description of the San Andreas fault as the plate boundary between the North American and Pacific Plates is correct. He also is correct that big earthquakes have lasted up to 11 minutes.

- The sequence of earthquakes triggering earthquakes in other areas is very realistic and has happened in California many times. Scientists classify "triggered" earthquakes differently from "aftershocks," which are smaller earthquakes within the area of the "mainshock."

**Tsunami Science**

- The hero’s recognition of the onset of a tsunami event was portrayed well. Water levels do sometimes drop/retreat prior to the arrival of a tsunami and it is important to take action to seek safety after recognizing these signs. Vertical evacuation, as shown in the film, is a good response.

FICTION: What the movie got wrong

Disaster movies are all about edge-of-your-seat thrills and harrowing escapes, with little concern for what might happen in the real world. So while San Andreas gets a lot right, it also gets a lot wrong, as follows:

**Earthquake Safety**

- The scene where the crowd is told to get next to the outside wall of the baseball stadium to avoid a crumbling building across the street is NOT correct. Getting next to a wall is advised ONLY when you are inside a building and there is nothing to get underneath for shelter. When outside it is important to move to an open area, as debris falling off of buildings will land close to walls. Dwayne Johnson’s character says that this advice to get next to "something sturdy" is called the "triangle of life," which refers to a broadly debunked theory about what to do when inside a building.

- By focusing on downtown Los Angeles and San Francisco, with only brief aerial views or scenes elsewhere, the movie depicts the experiences of less than 2% of the people who will experience strong shaking in these earthquakes. While most people won’t be dealing with falling skyscrapers, their dangers are just as real. More people get injured (or die) during earthquakes from falling objects (furniture, TVs, etc.) than by collapsing buildings. (Of course the movie would be far less entertaining if The Rock were saving people from 10,000 tipping bookcases!) Fortunately, these objects can be secured in place to prevent them from falling.

- Fires following these earthquakes would be a much bigger and broader issue than shown in the movie. In the much smaller M7.8 "ShakeOut Scenario" earthquake scenario for southern California, more than 1,600 fires are projected to start, some becoming superconflagrations.
Earthquake Science

- The San Andreas fault is not long and deep enough to have a magnitude 9 or larger earthquake as depicted in the movie. The largest historical earthquake on the northern San Andreas was the 1906 magnitude 7.9 earthquake. In 1857 the Fort Tejon earthquake occurred on the southern San Andreas fault; it is believed to have had a magnitude of about 7.9 as well. Computer models show that the San Andreas fault is capable of producing earthquakes up to about magnitude 8.3.

- Earthquake prediction is not yet possible. Magnetic and electric signals, strain meters and even animal behavior have been studied without success. Yet scientists are working on many aspects of improving our understanding of earthquakes and use this understanding to create long-term forecasts.

- The fictional magnitude 9.6 that devastates San Francisco would be 90 times more intense overall than the largest earthquake possible (“only” a magnitude 8.3) on the San Andreas fault!

- Shaking from even the largest possible San Andreas fault events will not be felt on the east coast, as described in the movie.

- For the of magnitude 9.1 and 9.6, earthquakes in the movie, the actual shaking shown is over far too soon (it should last 6-10 minutes), and doesn't shake strongly enough (people can walk, run, and drive). The shaking also does not depict how earthquakes typically have an initial sharp jolt and then are followed a few seconds (possibly up to 30 seconds) later by more violent shaking. Click here to see a simulation of how long the ground will shake throughout southern California for only a M7.8 earthquake.

- Faults do not split apart during earthquakes as shown in the movie. The ground on the two sides of the fault slide past each other, they do not pull apart. Narrow crevices may form due to bends in the fault or in regions with very strong shaking.

- The scene in central California with the chasm along the fault has another error; the San Andreas is shown as having moved to the left (‘left-lateral’) but in reality the motion on the fault is “right-lateral” along its entire length. Looking from the North American plate side, the Pacific plate is very gradually moving to the northwest, towards Alaska.

- The plate boundary between the North American and Pacific plates does not go through southern Nevada as suggested in the movie. The plate boundary location along the San Andreas fault is well established, including through the use of GPS instruments that record the slow movement of the plates.

- While a magnitude 7+ earthquake in Nevada is possible (events this large have occurred in central Nevada in the 20th century), there is no direct connection between faults in Nevada and the San Andreas fault. Such a connection is not needed for the Nevada earthquake to trigger the much larger San Andreas earthquake.

Tsunami Science

- The San Andreas fault cannot create a big tsunami, as depicted in the movie. While a part of the fault near and north of San Francisco is offshore, the blocks on either side of the fault slide past each other horizontally; this will not cause significant vertical motion of the ocean floor that pushes up water, is need to cause a damaging tsunami. Local tsunamis might be generated along the California coast, if the shaking from an earthquake on the San Andreas fault triggers underwater landslides or if there is slip on a smaller offshore fault. In contrast, the Cascadia Subduction Zone, north of the San Andreas fault system does generate very large earthquakes that have caused large tsunamis.

- Many of the characteristics of the tsunami portrayed in the film are done for dramatic effect and are inaccurate. For example, a tsunami would not form a plunging breaker of that size in shallow water near the coast and the water levels do not stay in place upon arrival, they would continue to swirl and be very active and then drop back to the original sea level. Also, tsunami events typically have multiple waves, and the first is not always the largest.

Earthquake Engineering

- The strength of ground shaking and the widespread collapse of buildings depicted in the movie San Andreas is unrealistic. Modern building codes are designed to prevent buildings from collapsing during an earthquake. However, many older buildings were built prior to the establishment of modern building codes and they might collapse during prolonged, severe ground motions. If an earthquake occurs while you are in a multi-story building, you should not panic, but should Drop, Cover, and Hold On to protect yourself from injury.

This article is from the Earthquake Country Alliance. Click here to find out more information.

Earthquake Public Service Announcement from the ROCK.
MYTH: “I’ll just call 9-1-1 and help will come!”

REALITY: In a disaster situation that has the potential to not only injure you but also leave you stranded alone for days on end, there is no way first responders will be able to make it to every single person who calls in for help. This is assuming that the phone lines are even working and you are able to get a local call out.

NEXT STEPS: Make sure you and your household are prepared to take care of yourselves for at least three whole days. This includes a personal preparedness kit that contains the necessities like food, water, and first aid supplies for yourself and others. You should also have a pre-designated “Out of Area Contact” that lives at least a state away that you and all your family should call in case of a disaster so they can check and make sure everyone’s safe. In most cases, when local phone lines are jammed because of a disaster, longer distance calls can still be made. This way you can be in contact with your immediate family through your out of area contact.

MYTH: “In an earthquake, the safest place to be is standing in a doorway.”

REALITY: The doorways in modern homes are no longer structural features that bear any more weight than the rest of the wall. If the wall is going to fall down, the doorway will go with it. You also may find it difficult to stand up during the shaking of an earthquake and if you are not standing up in the doorway it defeats any small purpose of being there in the first place.

NEXT STEPS: Think right back to what we learned in grade school: “Drop, Cover, and Hold” is still the safest option in an earthquake. DROP to the ground: you may not be able to walk or run effectively so crawling to safety is your best bet. COVER your head and neck: use your arms to protect these very important parts of your body. You should also seek cover underneath a table or other sturdy piece of furniture. HOLD the position and HOLD onto your table: the last thing you want is to be holding your head and neck and realize that the table has been shaken right off of you and you are once again exposed to falling objects. Hook one elbow around the table leg in order to keep it over your body. Make sure to stay in this position for as long as the shaking lasts and be ready for aftershocks!

MYTH: “The best way to help with disaster relief is by sending clothing, food, and blankets.”

REALITY: The cost of sorting, shipping, and distributing these items often makes them more of a hassle than they are worth.

NEXT STEPS: Monetary donations are always the best way to help out in a disaster. It gives the organization the ability to assess and prioritize the needs of the relief mission. Be careful and make sure you are donating to a real and established relief group like the Red Cross or other ones specific to your community. Do your research before writing a check! Remember, unless an organization is specifically asking for items to be donated, monetary donations are always the most helpful.
CrisisMappers: The Humanitarian Technology Network

The International Network of Crisis Mappers (Crisis Mappers Net) is the largest and most active international community of experts, practitioners, policymakers, technologists, researchers, journalists, scholars, hackers and skilled volunteers engaged at the intersection of humanitarian crises, new technology, crowd-sourcing, and crisis mapping. The Crisis Mappers Network was launched at the first International Conference on Crisis Mapping (ICCM) in 2009. As the world’s premier humanitarian technology forum, the Crisis Mappers Network engages 7,800+ members in over 160 countries, who are affiliated with over 3,000 different institutions, including more than 400 universities, 50 United Nations agencies & projects, first responders operating in both the civilian and military space, dozens of leading technology companies, several volunteer & technical community networks and global, national, and local humanitarian and disaster response and recovery organizations.

Crisis Mappers leverage mobile & web-based applications, participatory maps & crowdsourced event data, aerial & satellite imagery, geospatial platforms, advanced visualization, live simulation, and computational & statistical models to power effective early warning for rapid response to complex humanitarian emergencies. As information scientists the network also attempts to extract meaning from mass volumes of real-time data exhaust.

Crisis Mappers Net is not an organization or institution, and deliberately so. All of its members have very different goals, aims, strengths, interests, and backgrounds. Crisis Mappers Net offers a neutral space for conversation and information sharing.

For more information visit… http://crisismappers.net

Red Cross Apps

Rather than just one app, the Red Cross offers a whole series of apps, including a Hurricane App, a Shelter Finder App, a First Aid App, an Earthquake App, a Wildfire App, and even a Volunteer App. Each app includes emergency notifications; step-by-step instructions on how to prepare your family and your home; how to help friends and neighbors; and hints on how to handle food and water during power outages. There are even interactive quizzes to help you prepare for the real thing. (For Android™ and iOS)

There is no way that everyone can know everything about everything, so thank goodness for the American Red Cross’s library of Mobile Apps.

- First Aid
- Blood Donor
- Emergency
- Flood
- Tornado
- Earthquake
- Wildfire
- Hurricane
- Team Red Cross (Volunteer)
- Shelter
- Swim
- Pet First Aid

So if you are all about having vital information at your fingertips, or simply want to have expert advice for everyday emergencies at your fingertips, the Red Cross app’s have provided instant access to vital information that can help your family prepare, recover, or volunteer.

For more information visit: http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps
As we move into the hottest months of the year in Seattle, it is important to watch out for ourselves in the extreme temperatures that are predicted to hit us this summer. Heat Exhaustion is a very real threat when spending so much time outside doing fun summer activities like hiking and camping.

Some telltale signs of Heat Exhaustion are:

- Muscle cramps and pains, most often in the legs or abdomen
- Excessively heavy sweating
- Fatigue
- Extreme thirst
- Headache
- Dizziness and light-headedness
- Muscle weakness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Cool, moist skin

If you or someone you know is experiencing any combination of these symptoms, there are a few steps you should take to cool them down.

- Have the person lie down in a cool place. Raise the person's feet about 12 inches.
- Apply cool, wet cloths (or cool water directly) to the person's skin and use a fan to lower body temperature. Place cold compresses on the person's neck, groin, and armpits.
- If alert, give the person a beverage to sip (such as a sports drink), or make a salted drink by adding a teaspoon of salt per quart of water. Give a half-cup every 15 minutes. Cool water will do if salt beverages are not available.
- For muscle cramps, give beverages as noted above and massage affected muscles gently, but firmly, until they relax.
- If the person shows signs of shock (bluish lips and fingernails and decreased alertness), starts having seizures, or loses consciousness, call 911 and give first aid as needed.

It can be hard to take care of ourselves while out and about on summer adventures, but there are some easy ways to plan ahead for the heat. Make sure you dress accordingly, don't wear long pants on a hike in 90 degree weather! You should also avoid consuming alcohol directly before or during exposure to the heat in order to avoid severe dehydration. And as always, bring and drink plenty of cold water wherever your travels take you this summer!

(All information regarding Heat Exhaustion symptoms and treatment are directly from the National Institute of Medicine (NIM) website. More info)

Can You Handle the Heat?
Wildfire season officially began April 15, as specified by state law, and already the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has had more than 60 forest fires reported this year on lands protected by the agency.

“This year, we have ominous predictions for a hot, dry summer,” said Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark. “While we work hard to prepare for what could be a challenging season, there are some things property owners can and should do to prepare.”

Property owners can reduce fire risk to their homes and lands by keeping dead vegetation off roofs and away from buildings. The Firewise program explains how to use these techniques and offers incentives to communities who follow Firewise principles.

Prediction for this summer’s weather is available from the National Weather Service. The risk of wildfires can change rapidly during the spring when warmer, dryer weather increases. Among other things, that means people working in the woods or clearing land need to have fire prevention equipment on hand.

Already, above average temperatures and low snowpack have created dry grassland and forests. On March 13, Governor Inslee declared a drought in three Washington regions – the Olympic Peninsula, east slopes of the Central Cascades and Walla Walla. On June 26th the Governor also declared a State of Emergency for all of Washington’s 39 counties.

Last year, more than 315,000 acres of DNR-protected lands were consumed by about 900 wildfires, in the state’s worst ever fire season. Even though Washington experienced more lightning strikes than normal, 75 percent of the fires were human-caused.

A state wide burn ban is in now effect for the entire State of Washington from June 22 - September 30th 2015. The statewide burn ban applies to state forests, state parks and forestlands under DNR fire protection. It does not include federally owned lands such as national forests, national parks, national wildlife refuges or other areas administered by federal agencies. The statewide burn ban applies to all outdoor burning on DNR-protected forestlands with the exception of recreational fires in approved fire pits within designated state, county, municipal and other campgrounds. Charcoal briquettes may be used only in approved campground fire pits.

DNR’s Fire Twitter: http://twitter.com/waDNR_fire
Incident Information System (InciWeb): http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/

Information courtesy of Department of Natural Resources.
July: Under the Bed Items

When disaster strikes, it may be difficult to think as rationally and as quickly as you would like. The more procedures you have in place, and the easier they are to remember and implement, the more effective and efficient will be your response. We recommend that you keep these basic response supplies under the bed. That way, day or night, you’ll know where to go to get the essentials.

August: Utility Safety

Natural gas leaks and explosions are responsible for a significant number of fires following any major earthquake. It is vital that all household members know how to shut off the natural gas. Water quickly becomes a precious resource following many disasters. It is vital that all household members learn how to shut off the water at the main house valve.

September: Drop, Cover & Hold

During earthquakes, many people’s fight/flight instinct urges them to run! – even when they know they should “drop, cover, hold.” Why? Rational thought (in other words, the knowing) flees. We learn to counter this instinctual response to run by practicing doing the safe thing. Studies show that people in our country tend to be hurt by falling objects, not collapsing structures. If you are on your feet trying to move, you are in danger from toppling bookcases, breaking windows, flying dishes, falling televisions, collapsing fireplaces, or shifting furniture. Safety comes from quickly getting to a place of safety.

VOLUNTEER’S WANTED

UW Emergency Management is always looking for volunteers to be trained and ready to work in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) upon activation. If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful opportunity please email: disaster@uw.edu