

DNR RADIO: FOR RELEASE March 22, 2011

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STATE DNR MAPS TSUNAMI EVACUATION ROUTES IN WASHINGTON STATE AS 9.0 EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI DEVASTATE JAPAN

Timothy Walsh, Washington State Chief Geologist

(ANNOUNCER) In light of the devastating 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan, emergency preparedness is crucial in case of a natural disaster.

Timothy Walsh, the state's chief hazards geologist, says the Department of Natural Resources maps out tsunamis that have hit Washington in the past so communities can prepare safe evacuation routes.

(Cut ONE — 13 seconds) Download audio clip at:

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(TIMOTHY WALSH) “AS PART OF THAT PROCESS WE ALSO PAY ATTENTION TO WHERE YOU WOULD EXPECT TO HAVE LANDSLIDES OR LIQUIFACTION GENERATED BY THE EARTHQUAKE THAT CAUSES THE TSUNAMI BECAUSE THAT WOULD DAMAGE THE EVACUATION ROUTES.”

(ANNOUNCER) Walsh says the concern is timely because the same type of earthquake fault that caused the Japan tsunami runs underneath the waters just off Washington’s coastline. An earthquake big enough to cause a deadly tsunami is a distinct possibility someday for communities along Pacific Coast and many parts of Puget Sound.

(Cut TWO — 10 seconds) Download audio clip at:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/em_walsh_2_dnrradio12232009.mp3

(TIMOTHY WALSH) “IT’S CERTAINLY TIMELY TO THINK ABOUT IT NOW BECAUSE WE CERTAINLY COULD HAVE SUCH AN EVENT ANY DAY OR MAYBE IT’S A COUPLE OF CENTURIES AWAY—WE DON’T KNOW.”

(ANNOUNCER) In the meantime, Walsh suggests that people develop their own family disaster plans and get familiar with the [tsunami hazard zones and escape routes](#) already mapped out and available on DNR’s website.

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