



*From The Offices of Reps. David Gomberg and Paul Evans*

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**House Democrats Attend Oregon's Largest Coastal Earthquake Preparedness Exercise**

*Training made possible by the Legislature when it allocated funding to ODHS' Office of Resilience and Emergency Management to prepare Oregon*

NEWPORT, OR – Today, **State Representatives David Gomberg (D-Otis)** and **Paul Evans (D-Monmouth)** attended Oregon's largest coastal earthquake preparedness exercise.

"We've done a lot of good work to ensure the Oregon coast is better prepared for an inevitable seismic event. Exercises like these are critical to our readiness. But we have much more work to do to ensure our communities are hardened and more resilient. We need to make seismic safety an even bigger priority in this State," said Gomberg.

Made possible by critical funding allocated using funding in the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) budget during the 2021-2023 biennial budget ([SB 5529](#)), ODHS' Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) conducted an emergency preparedness exercise at the Newport Municipal Airport, which will serve as a vital evacuation assembly point (EAP) for two weeks in the event of an emergency.

The EAP at Newport is the second placed on the Oregon Coast. The first is located at the Tillamook Municipal Airport and OREM is working to place a third EAP on the southern Oregon coast.

"Let's be clear: the Cascadia Earthquake will most likely be the most powerful natural disaster in modern US History and we must be bold in our efforts to build a strategic resilience vision for Oregon," said Evans. "The Cascadia Earthquake will be a significant event that will change our state and communities forever. I will be working side by side with Representative Gomberg, and all our colleagues in the coming months to improve our capabilities to respond and recover from the catastrophe we know is headed our way. I'm grateful to OREM for taking the lead on this exercise with our local, state, regional, and federal partners."

OREM, as the lead state agency for mass care (e.g. shelter, food and water), has staged EAPs with supplies in coastal communities like Newport because these communities will be isolated from responders in the immediate aftermath of the Cascadia earthquake. These exercises serve to teach community leaders how to set up the EAP in the event of an emergency.

Details about the exercise can be found in [a news release](#) issued by Lincoln County and the Oregon Department of Human Services.

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