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## 2017 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION

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# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

Earthquake Planning

Enacted: SB 850, HB 2140

Not Enacted:

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Finance and Tax

Enacted: HB 2687, HB 2933

Not Enacted: SB 364, HB 2886-A

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Intergovernmental Planning and  
Response

Enacted: SB 61, SB 62, SB 1000,  
HB 3427

Not Enacted: SB 531-A

Picture: Cape Blanco Lighthouse, Curry County - [Gary Halvorson](#), [Oregon State Archives](#)

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TASK FORCES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following bills created task forces and reporting requirements. Additional information is provided in the bill summaries.

Bill Number	Requirement	Deadline
SB 850	Directs Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission to create volunteer committee or committees to assist with its work, primarily to investigate issues related to provision of earthquake insurance to residential property owners, and mass care and displacement. Requires report to State Resilience Officer.	September 30, 2018
HB 2687	Directs Office of Emergency Management to evaluate the administration and effectiveness of emergency preparedness equipment distribution grants. Requires report to Legislative Assembly and the Oregon Homeland Security Council.	December 31 of each year

### [Senate Bill 61](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

#### Increasing Participation

**At the request of:** Governor Brown for Oregon Military Department

**Committees:** Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**Background and Current Law:** Oregon law currently requires 22 entities to designate an individual as a liaison with Oregon's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for emergency preparedness and response.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 61 requires the following 11 entities to also designate a liaison to the OEM to coordinate emergency preparedness and response: Department of Education, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Department of State Lands, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Employment Department, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Oregon Business Development Department, Military Department, Tourism Commission, Office of the Secretary of State, and Oregon Travel Information Council.

**Oregon Laws 2017:** Chapter 231

### [Senate Bill 62](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

#### Expanding Mutual Assistance

**At the request of:** Governor Brown for Oregon Military Department

**Committees:** Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**Background and Current Law:** Oregon law currently provides for the state's participation in an interstate compact for emergency management assistance, along with local governments' use of intrastate mutual assistance agreements, to enable flexible and responsive sharing of resources in the event of a disaster.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 62 expands the use of an intrastate mutual assistance agreement to include state and tribal governments along with local governments, and renames it the "Oregon Resource Coordination Assistance Agreement." The measure requires state government to participate while providing for local and tribal government to opt-out and opt-in, respectively.

**Oregon Laws 2017:** Chapter 192

### [Senate Bill 364](#)

Not Enacted

#### Supporting Local Disaster Planning Efforts

**Chief Sponsors:** Sen. Frederick

**Committees:** Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Tax Credits

**Background and Current Law:** Shipping containers are designed to transport goods, but are increasingly used for a wide variety of nonstandard building and storage purposes, given that they are relatively abundant and inexpensive, transportable, weatherproof and secure. Lincoln County School District has acquired five shipping containers and placed them within walking distance of one to three schools within the district. The containers are used to store emergency supplies for school use should a disaster strike during school hours, and they may be used by first responders and the larger community if a disaster strikes outside of school hours.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 364 would have created a refundable income tax credit equal to 10 percent of a shipping container's retail value, to encourage donation of containers to public entities for the storage of emergency supplies within 1,000 feet of public buildings.

### [Senate Bill 531-A](#)

Not Enacted

#### Improving Rural Disaster Recovery Participation

**Chief Sponsors:** Sen. Roblan

**Committees:** Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** Rural fire protection districts (RFPDs) are authorized to levy property taxes to provide fire protection and other public safety services. RFPDs may contract for water services and facilities, emergency medical service equipment and services, law enforcement services, fire protection, road-lighting facilities and services, mutual communication systems, and regional oil and hazardous materials emergency response teams. They are governed by boards that report to the State Fire Marshal, and the State Fire Marshal cooperates in their formation and administration.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 531-A would have directed the Office of Emergency Management to create a voluntary advisory committee to study how RFPDs might have assisted with community development after a disaster.

### [Senate Bill 850](#)

Effective Date: June 14, 2017

#### Seismic Safety Next Steps

**At the request of:** Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**Committees:** Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**Background and Current Law:** In 1991, the legislature established the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) to promote earthquake and tsunami awareness and preparedness. In February 2013, the OSSPAC issued the Oregon Resilience Plan, which exceeds 300 pages and contains more than 140 recommendations, emphasizing the importance of a sustained effort to make ongoing earthquake and tsunami preparations. Soon after, the legislature created a task force to study the implementation of the plan's recommendations and to prioritize issues for legislative action. The task force issued these recommendations in October 2014, which included centralizing implementation efforts through a State Resilience Officer (SRO), and addressing mass care and displacement. In 2015, the legislature created the position of SRO, fulfilling one of those recommendations.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 850 requires OSSPAC to create voluntary committees to assist with its work on emergency preparedness issues, particularly in the areas of residential earthquake insurance and mass care and displacement, and report to the SRO.

**Oregon Laws 2017:** Chapter 355

### [Senate Bill 1000](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

#### Volunteer Civil Defense Forces

**At the request of:** Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**Committees:** Senate Workforce; Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**Background and Current Law:** Oregon law provides for the existence of supplemental volunteer civilian defense forces at both the state and local levels that are distinct from the activities of professional first responders and the United States Armed Forces. At the local level, county volunteer forces answer to county Sheriffs, and at the state level, the Oregon State Defense Force answers to the Adjutant General of the Oregon Military Department. However, the Oregon State Defense Force has been suspended for some time.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 1000 authorizes the Department of State Police to form the Oregon State Police Civil Defense Force.

**Oregon Laws 2017:** Chapter 472

### [House Bill 2140](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

#### Seismic Information Disclosure for Real Property

**Chief Sponsors:** Rep. Boone

**Committees:** House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Senate Business and Transportation

**Background and Current Law:** Oregon, like other states, requires sellers of real property to disclose certain information to buyers, including information about title, easements, water, sewage system, the condition of the roof, pests, mold, use of lead-based paints, and the condition of the dwelling's systems and fixtures. Oregon currently has no seismic information disclosures that sellers must provide in real property transactions.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2140 adds two questions about seismic risk to the required list of disclosures: "Was the house constructed before 1974?" and "If yes, has the house been bolted to its foundation?" As with present law for seller representations, the seller may answer each question with "Yes," "No," or "Unknown."

**Oregon Laws 2017:** Chapter 147

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### [House Bill 2687](#)

Effective Date: August 8, 2017

#### Grant Program for Equipment

**Chief Sponsors:** Rep. Evans

**Committees:** House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** Local jurisdictions may not have the resources to obtain needed emergency preparedness equipment in the event of human-caused and natural events. A central part of state emergency planning is the understanding that an earthquake caused by the Cascadia Subduction Zone poses a devastating threat to life and property in the Pacific Northwest. However, the state of Oregon must also be prepared for a multitude of other emergency events. Being prepared for a worst-case scenario such as an earthquake also enables the state to respond to lesser events.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2687 creates a grant program administered by the Office of Emergency Management to enable the purchase and distribution of emergency preparedness equipment throughout the state by local governments, special government bodies, and private organizations that qualify for federal tax-exempt status. The bill requires the Homeland Security Council to develop a list of needed equipment.

**Oregon Laws 2017:** Chapter 657

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### [House Bill 2886-A](#)

Not Enacted

#### Funding for Staging Areas

**Chief Sponsors:** Rep. Evans

**Committees:** House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** States declare emergencies when federal and state recourse are needed to supplement local resources in an imminent threat or its aftermath. An emergency declaration puts a state's emergency plans into effect to coordinate and direct response and recovery efforts that can include private entities, volunteer networks, and the deployment of National Guard troops. Staging areas, where resources are placed awaiting an assignment, are a critical part of emergency action plans.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2886-A would have created a fund that continuously appropriated money to the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for the implementation of strategies that identify and develop staging areas for emergency response, and would have created a 26-member advisory committee within OEM to make recommendations regarding fund distributions.

### [House Bill 2933](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

#### More Funds for Local Emergency Projects

**Chief Sponsors:** Rep. Boone

**Committees:** House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**Background and Current Law:** The Oregon Legislative Assembly established the Special Public Works Fund (SPWF) in 1985 to provide financing for local governments to construct, improve, and repair public infrastructure and facilities. The SPWF is appropriated to and administered by the Oregon Business Development's Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA). Current law restricts the IFA to expenditures of no more than \$2.5 million in any biennium for emergency project grants.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2933 removes the \$2.5 million cap on SPWF Emergency Project grants per biennium.

**Oregon Laws 2017:** Chapter 398

## Plans for State-Regulated Dams

**Chief Sponsors:** Rep. Lewis

**Committees Assigned:** House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** Oregon has dams of many different sizes and uses, owned and operated by different entities including the federal government, state government, and private parties. Some dams are very large and used for generating power, while others are smaller and used to create ponds for waterfowl, livestock, and the irrigation of crops. All state-regulated dams are classified by hazard, which is based on what could happen if the dam fails, not on the condition of a dam. Oregon has more than 900 state-regulated dams, of which 75 are high hazard. Presently, not all high hazard state-regulated dams have emergency action plans.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 3427 requires owners or operators of a state-regulated dam with a high hazard rating to develop an emergency action plan with the Water Resources Department, the Office of Emergency Management, and the emergency services agency in the county where the dam is located. The Water Resources Department will determine the frequency for conducting emergency response exercises at high hazard dams and inspect them annually, unless a different inspection schedule is determined to be appropriate.

**Oregon Laws 2017:** Chapter 723

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