



*The Best of Oregon*

## CITY of BEAVERTON

### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BEAVERTON'S COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM HOLDS MEGA-EARTHQUAKE DISASTER EXERCISE**

**BEAVERTON, Ore.** – The City of Beaverton's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will conduct its annual Mayday training exercise on Saturday, May 21, in cooperation with the Westbrook Homeowners Association (HOA).

CERT members and residents of the Westbrook neighborhood will simulate a scenario in which the Cascadia Subduction Zone has produced a 9.0 mega-earthquake. CERT members will search the neighborhood for victims portrayed by Westbrook residents and other volunteers.

"We have the same mission as CERTs across the country," said Todd DeBow, CERT training coordinator. "That is, to help in the recovery of our communities in the event of local emergencies. This year we have the privilege of training in a real world environment in cooperation with Westbrook HOA. Together we will learn what to expect of one another, and how to work together when the time comes to help our community."

With the Cascadia Subduction Zone's capability to produce a devastating earthquake in the Pacific Northwest, Beaverton CERT conducts regular training exercises to improve their response capability in a disaster.

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide police, fire, and emergency medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Through basic CERT training, residents can organize themselves and use spontaneous volunteers to manage utilities, put out small fires, triage and treat minor and life-threatening injuries, and search for and rescue victims until professional responders arrive.

"Our volunteers make a big difference in the city's level of preparedness," said Mike Mumaw, the city's emergency manager. "Partnering with neighborhoods like Westbrook provides a whole new level of training and fosters awareness about emergency preparedness."

In 2015, more than 175 emergency management program volunteers including CERT, Map Your Neighborhood, and ARES participated in 235 events and donated a collective 7,450 hours.

For more information, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov/CERT](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov/CERT) or contact Mike Mumaw at 503-526-2344 or [mmumaw@BeavertonOregon.gov](mailto:mmumaw@BeavertonOregon.gov).

**ABOUT BEAVERTON**

Beaverton is a welcoming and responsible city that enjoys one of the most diverse populations in Oregon. In 2015, Beaverton was recognized as one of the **safest cities** in the Pacific Northwest (according to CQ Press with cities more than 75,000). Recently, the city's award-winning finance department received the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** as well as the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**. In 2012, the city was awarded the **Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was named one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine. The city was named **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com* and **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine. The city also received the **Recycler of the Year** award from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, named a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, received a **Silver Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists, and recognized as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**. Lastly, the city's nationally acclaimed visioning program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter and also received the prestigious **3CMA Award of Excellence**.

For more information, reminders and community news, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov). Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton), or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton).

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**Caption:** The City of Beaverton's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program will hold a mega-earthquake simulation in the Westbrook neighborhood on Saturday, May 21. Basic CERT training allows residents to provide emergency assistance in their community, such as putting out small fires and triaging minor injuries, in the event of a major disaster such as an earthquake. (Photo/City of Beaverton)