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Crescent Grange: Hoping For The Best; Preparing For The Worst

It's coming! It's definitely coming! Unfortunately, the experts don't know exactly when or where, but they do know that the Cascadia Fault is waiting to strike and those living along the Washington Coastline had better be prepared.

The small town of Joyce, population 3,500, on the Olympic Peninsula, is situated between two disaster areas. The Elwha Bridge going east on Hwy 112 and the slide area to the west. Should these events happen during an earthquake, the town would be totally isolated until emergency services got through to the residents. This could take up to thirty (30) days and the community needs to be self-sufficient. It was with this scenario in mind that JEPP, Joyce Emergency Planning and Preparation, came into existence.

Spearheaded by the Clallam County Fire District #4 and members of Crescent Grange #1123, the plan covers emergency food supplies for 300 people for 3 weeks, medical needs and evacuation supplies. Crescent Grange hall, together with the gymnasiums of Crescent High School and Joyce Bible Church will serve as evacuation shelters.

As the committee began to set down their plans, larger and more sophisticated cities said it couldn't

be done by such a small rural group. Many have lived to eat these words as JEPP is now a shining model of earthquake preparedness with interest from Seattle King Television Station #5 and the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation). King TV Station #5 aired a program on JEPP and the BBC sent a crew from their Washington DC Bureau to film the story of how the little town of Joyce is now better prepared than most of the major cities along the Cascadia Fault line.

The Joyce Emergency Planning and Preparation Program continues to evolve. The committee is sending speakers to groups and towns around the Peninsula explaining what needs to be done to survive an earthquake of the magnitude of the Cascadia Fault. Their programs include "Camping in Your House" and "30 Days on Own". Being prepared means having (a) a "pick up and go" bag in your home and car; (b) a communication system set up with the family and (c) food and water for at least 2 weeks.

For more information on how to get ready for the "big one" ... contact Donna and Jim Buck, at buckdj@olyopen.com

Note: Written by Kathleen Walton. Photos by Emil Moilanen & Donna Buck.



1st photo: BBC Correspondent Colleen Hagerty interviews Alex Baker, Fire Chief District #4 where the JEPP began.

2nd photo: Camping at home... food, water, pocket radio, space blankets, emergency phone numbers, warm clothes, cash - both coin and bills, flashlights, extra batteries.

3rd photo: Water tanks capable of furnishing 1,000 to 2,000 gallons of purified water per day.