



# Josephine County, Oregon

Board of Commissioners: Dwight F. Ellis, Sandi Cassanelli, and Dave Toler

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## NEWS RELEASE

**To:** News Media  
**From:** Board of County Commissioners  
**Date:** February 16, 2010  
**Subject:** Town Hall Meeting – February 23, 2010

A Disaster Preparedness Town Hall will be held in the Anne Basker Auditorium on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 PM. to 8:00 PM.

Recent events in Haiti have brought citizens' attention to the issue of preparedness and what to do during and after a destructive earthquake. Devastating landslides and mudflows are commonly associated with such quakes. Seismologists have warned that a **magnitude 9 earthquake** could happen at any time since they occur about every 300 to 350 years and the last was 310 years ago.

All natural and man-caused disasters have much in common regarding preparation. In this Town Hall we will use earthquakes as the focus for preparedness activities. Some ways in which preparedness for other kinds of disasters that differ from the earthquake example will also be discussed.

The meeting is sponsored by the County Commissioners, hosted by Sandi Cassanelli, and chaired by Dr. Harry Smedes. Smedes is Adjunct Professor of Geology at SOU where he teaches the course on Earthquakes and Volcanoes. He and his colleague, Prof. Eric Dittmer, prepared the video used by Jackson County schools to instruct students on earthquake drills and precautions. Dr. Smedes has completed the Ashland CERT Program and will address why we know a devastating earthquake is due and what we should do before, during, and after the quake.

Additional preparedness information will be presented by:

- > Eric Schaafsma, Chairman of Neighborhood Program and Neighbor to Neighbor Project
- > Aaron Whiteley, Oregon Department of Forestry
- > Hal Kiltz, expert outdoorsman

Each attendee will receive a copy of the 68-page booklet "*Disaster Preparedness For Survival*" written by Dr. Smedes, booklets by the Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Co-Op, pamphlets from the Josephine County CERT program, and miscellaneous fliers.

The cost of printing and binding the booklet by Dr. Smedes has been generously donated as a public service by Home Valley Bank. Additional copies will be available at the bank at 4<sup>th</sup> and G Streets.

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners sponsors this Town Hall to encourage public involvement and cooperation on issues of local concern.

Please join in the discussion which will be recorded and aired on RVTV, Channel 14.