

Partners for Disaster Resistance & Resilience: Oregon Showcase State

Oregon & Natural Hazards

Oregon faces a number of natural hazards with the potential to cause loss of life, injuries and substantial property damage. Consequently, the state is presented with many unique challenges and opportunities in natural hazard risk reduction. Despite the growing recognition of the need for long-term coordination to reduce risk from natural disasters, many communities continue to experience difficulty in developing and implementing natural hazard risk reduction plans, policies and activities. Communities regularly suffer from a lack of technical and funding assistance, as well as insufficient coordination among public, private, and non-profit sectors at the local, regional, and statewide levels. The *Partners for Disaster Resistance & Resilience (PDR or The Partnership)* works to address these issues and offers a model of how increased *communication, coordination* and *collaboration* between diverse partners can assist communities in reducing their risk from natural hazards.

Disaster Resistant *by* Design

What is “Partners for Disaster Resistance & Resilience: Oregon Showcase State” and how can it help Oregon?

The Partnership provides a comprehensive, cost-effective approach for partners to bring together resources – both human and financial – to enhance disaster safety and preparedness statewide. The Partnership fosters collaboration among private and public agencies; works with communities and organizations to determine needs, identify issues and resources; and helps develop strategies for risk reduction. Activities are organized on three levels: statewide, regional, and local. Each level of activity builds off of the other and leads to a more coordinated and collaborative statewide program.

What are the goals of the Partnership?

- Prevent injuries and death caused by natural disaster;
- Protect public and private property from disaster impacts; and
- Create a disaster-resilient economy.

The Partnership seeks to make disaster resistance and resilience a part of every community’s routine decision making, thus making Oregon safer-now and for generations to come.

“Partners for Disaster Resistance & Resilience coordinates limited resources to generate activity that could not be accomplished by any one group/organization working alone.”

What are the Partnership’s primary activities?

The Partnership is based upon 14 core elements. A five-year strategic plan identifies which activities are priorities. Primary activities to make Oregon “disaster resistant by design” include:

- **Community Plan Development and Activity Support:** The Partnership supports communities in developing natural hazard risk reduction plans by providing training programs, workshops, and hands-on assistance to communities. Additionally, PDR aims to build local capacity for disaster safety and risk reduction, while developing a support network among communities and partners.
- **Technical Resource Development & Research:** The Partnership develops and distributes resource manuals and CDs (e.g., Technical Resource Guide, Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Plan Framework, etc.) that assist communities in planning and preparing for natural hazards.
- **Training Programs & Capacity Building:** The Partnership continually develops new training programs that benefit communities, agencies and partners involved in natural hazard risk reduction. Samples include Open for Business, Benefit/Cost Analysis, Vulnerability Assessment and a “How-To series” for communities developing FEMA-approved natural hazards risk reduction plans.
- **Partnership Development:** The Partnership facilitates collaboration between agencies through providing networking opportunities at the training programs, and further provides information exchange through a newsletter and web newsletter.



www.OregonShowcase.org

copyright © ONHW 2003
rev. 11/2003

Who started the Partnership and who can become involved?

The *Partners for Disaster Resistance & Resilience* started with a core group of state agencies, insurance companies, Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW) and Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), who provided the model and framework for the development of the Oregon Showcase State. ONHW at the University of Oregon's Community Service Center works as the coordinating body to unite partners working to increase natural disaster safety and risk reduction statewide.

PDR continues to engage a broad range of organizations—from state and local government, nonprofit organizations, and citizen groups—to private industry of all varieties. The Partnership focuses on audiences who have authority and accountability to make a difference in natural hazard protection and loss reduction. These individuals range from those making household and business decisions to those who affect the sustainability of an entire community and beyond, e.g. urban planners, local fire marshals, city managers, conservation club members, builders/contractors. By becoming involved in *Partners for Disaster Resistance & Resilience*: Oregon Showcase State, organizations and agencies can enhance their work and improve their capacity to reach their goals as they relate to loss reduction, protection of public safety, corporate citizenship and community sustainability.

Contact Information:

For further information about the *Partners for Disaster Resistance & Resilience* please visit www.OregonShowcase.org or please contact one of the following partners:

André LeDuc
Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup
541.346.5833
onhw@uoregon.edu
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~onhw>

Krista Fischer
Insurance Information Service of Oregon & Idaho
503.241.1757
iisoi@teleport.com
<http://www.insuranceoregon.org>

Diana McClure
Institute for Business & Home Safety
617.879-3145
dmclure@ibhs.org
<http://www.ibhs.org>

State's Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team

Ken Murphy
Oregon Emergency Management
503.378.2911
kmurphy@oem.state.or.us
<http://www.osp.state.or.us/OEM/>

Vicki McConnell
Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
503.731.4100
Vicki.McConnell@dogami.state.or.us
<http://sarvis.dogami.state.or.us/homepage/>

Supporting funds for Oregon Showcase State provided by:



Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI)



SAFECO SAFECO Insurance Companies



Oregon Emergency Management