



PBEM
Randy Neves
(503) 209-0549

Multnomah County
Mike Pullen
(503) 209-4111

INVITATION FOR MEDIA ATTENDANCE ONLY

Media Release: Joint city-county downtown walking tour to highlight earthquake challenges and solutions

The Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) and Multnomah County will co-host a brief walking tour in downtown Portland for Mayor Sam Adams and members of the news media on April 18, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. The tour will take place in a part of the city known for its dense collection of old masonry buildings. Some of these buildings are reinforced against earthquakes; others are still seismically vulnerable.

During the tour, experts in the fields of engineering and geology will describe seismic challenges and successes at four different sites. The goal of the event is to discuss vulnerabilities, highlight solutions and promote the concept of earthquake resilience. The tour will include Multnomah County's Burnside Bridge. It's the only county bridge that has received a partial seismic upgrade. A county engineer will explain those seismic improvements and share plans for other county bridges.

Attendees will meet at 2:00 p.m. at Skidmore Fountain. The tour will move efficiently, visiting nearby Mercy Corps headquarters, the Burnside Bridge, the harbor wall along the Willamette River and Fire Station 1. Media are asked not to publicize this event in advance and to limit their questions as much as possible during the tour. There will be a more thorough question-and-answer period at the end of the tour.

This event is happening in conjunction with the Portland Earthquake Project, a collaboration among Mercy Corps, Oregon Red Cross, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and PBEM. The group's mission is to focus public awareness on the unique earthquake vulnerabilities in our region and to encourage preparedness. Three crustal faults travel through Portland while much of the entire West Coast of North America faces the threat of a probable 9.0 magnitude Cascadia subduction zone earthquake.

WHO: Four speakers to include city, county and state engineers and geologists plus engineers from the private sector. Mayor Adams will attend and field questions from media after the tour is over.

WHEN: April 18, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Meet at Skidmore Fountain, near the MAX line at Ankeny Square, SW First Ave. and SW Ankeny St.

###