

How/When Does a School Site Become a Shelter?

Sometimes districts receive well-meaning calls from the public asking them to prepare the school for a shelter because a local event is occurring.

1. Districts do not decide when a shelter is created. (they are consulted during the process but they are only one part of the decision making process)
2. Districts do not run shelters (a shelter may be at a school site but the shelter is run by Red Cross staff and volunteers)

What really occurs ...

An incident occurs in a community, a wildfire for example. People may need to evacuate due to the location of the fire, smoke, or potential path of the fire. Emergency agencies make the call for the evacuation to occur and contact the Red Cross with the need for a shelter. Red Cross already has a list of potential shelter sites in each community. They may also already know certain amenities at the site (does it have kitchen, showers, accessible rest rooms, good parking, etc...) Red Cross contacts the administrator of the building to see if it is possible to have a shelter at the site. If school is not in session (vacation break or summer break), schools are an easy fit for shelters. Red Cross and the host site sign a contract that states the Red Cross is responsible for the site while it is a shelter. Red Cross sets up the shelter (stocks it with cots and other comfort items) and staffs the shelter at all times. When the shelter is closed, Red Cross removes the shelter items and leaves the site in the condition it was before it was used as a shelter.



Meeting Schedules 2013/2014

Risk Management Committee Meetings

Sept. 5, 2013 Nov. 7, 2013 Jan. 9, 2014
 Mar. 6, 2014 May 1, 2014

All meetings will start at noon and will be held at the Humboldt County Office - Annex

Emergency Preparedness Meetings

Oct. 16, 2013 Jan. 16, 2014 May 15, 2014

All meetings will be from 1:30 - 3:00 pm and will be held at the Humboldt County Office - Annex

Lead/Supervisor Maintenance Meetings

Oct. 10, 2013 Feb. 6, 2014 May 8, 2014

All meetings will start at noon and will be held at the Humboldt County Office - Madrone

Put Out Your "Welcome Mat"!

NCSIG's Risk Manager is heading your way for a site inspection

Arcata
 Big Lagoon
 Bridgeville
 Ferndale
 Fieldbrook
 Fortuna Elem
 Fortuna HS
 Green Point
 Jacoby Creek

Kneeland
 Loleta
 Maple Creek
 Mattole
 Orick
 Peninsula
 Southern Humboldt
 Trinidad



We will contact your district regarding the exact date of the inspection at each site.

Do not feel left out... Everyone Gets an AHERA Inspection this Year

The AHERA inspections will occur during the site inspections. For the districts that will not be inspected this year, a separate AHERA inspection will occur. It is a requirement that all schools receive a 3 year re-inspections. The inspection will refer to the previous report, review the districts AHERA management plan and visually inspect the areas identified in the report to note any changes that has occurred in the last three years.

focus

risk management newsletter

volume 19, number 4

focus

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Printed by the Humboldt County
Office of Education
Communication Center
September 2013

How to Get Notification From the National Weather Service



Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

How it works: Pop up message will appear on CMAS/WEA capable smart phones. Check with your cell phone carrier for a list of CMAS/WEA-capable phones.

To set it up: you don't have to do anything to receive WEAs.

Notes: This system is limited to significant events such as those that would trigger a Warning.

Facebook

How it works: when we post to our Facebook page it will show up in your news feed.

To set it up: sign up for a Facebook Account at www.facebook.com and then like us at: **"US National Weather Service Eureka California"**

Notes: this will get information to you for a range of events including those that are not major threats but are still of concern...such as small hail, or the first snow of the season.

Twitter

How it works: When we Tweet something it will show up in your Twitter feed.

To set it up: Sign up for a Twitter account at www.twitter.com and then follow us at **"@NWSEureka"**

Notes: this will get information to you for a range of events including those that are not major threats but are still of concern... such as small hail, or the first snow of the season

Tests from Tsunami Warning Center

How it works: When the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center issues a product, your phone will receive a text message.

To set it up: Send a text to the number 40404 with the content **"Follow NWS_WCATWC"**

Notes: You will get texts for all products issued by the Warning Center, including Information Statement

Japanese Tsunami Debris on California's North Coast

The March 11, 2011 tsunami that hit Japan produced five million tons of debris. While most of the debris stayed near Japan, over a million tons were caught in the Pacific Ocean currents and pushed by winds towards North America. The first verified California debris, a boat from a Japanese High School, arrived in Del Norte County in April 2013. Debris is likely to continue to arrive for a number of years.

Japanese Tsunami Debris is no different than any other debris you may find on the beach. The tsunami debris is very dispersed and it is not likely to arrive in large concentrations.

Hazardous. Call 911 to contact law enforcement agencies

Be Safe. Use common sense. If you think the debris may be hazardous (oil or chemical drums, gas cans, propane tanks) or poses a risk to health and safety, contact law enforcement immediately.

Not Hazardous

Post your observations at disasterdebris@noaa.gov or leave a message at the Humboldt Earthquake Education Center 707 826-6019.

A Bigger Problem – The Northern Pacific Garbage Dump

Debris from the Japan tsunami highlights the much bigger and longer-term problem of debris from human activities in the world's oceans. The vast majority of the debris will not be from the tsunami. Find out more about global marine debris at www.marinedebris.noaa.gov and tsunami debris at disasterdebris.wordpress.com

Is It Radioactive?

Not Likely. Debris from the Japan tsunami is no more likely to be radioactive than debris from any other source. The nuclear releases did not occur until long after the debris was washed offshore. No debris found outside of Japan's Fukushima coast has shown radioactivity.

What about Invasive Species?

A few of the large objects that have washed up on the West Coast have had invasive marine animals and plants that could harm our local marine ecosystems.

Who Handles the Cleanup?

Local agencies will deal with the debris. If a situation arises that is beyond the ability of local authorities to handle, assistance will be requested from the State.



GUIDELINES BY DEBRIS TYPE

Litter and Other Typical Marine Debris

Remove debris such as plastic bottles, aluminum cans, Styrofoam, buoys and other litter from the beach. Recycle or dispose of in a trashcan.

Debris with Marine Life

If debris is covered in marine life, record the location, collect or move above the high tide line if possible. **Do not put the debris back into the ocean!**

Large Debris or Derelict Vessel

If you find a boat, shipping container, dock or other large debris, record the location, note whether it is covered in marine life, and photograph if possible. Contact law enforcement as soon as you can.

Mementos or Personal Possessions

If you find a memento or possession with unique identifiers, names, or markings, record the location and collect the item if practical. It might be possible to trace it back to an individual or group. Notify law enforcement. Report finding to: disasterdebris@noaa.gov

Hazardous Debris or Suspicious Item

If an item is suspicious or appears hazardous, don't touch it. Record the location, describe accurately, and immediately contact law enforcement.



This information has been prepared by the Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group and is based on information from NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard and the State of California. Recommended actions may be updated as more is learned about the debris. Visit www.humboldt.edu/rctwg for more information. 6/15/2013