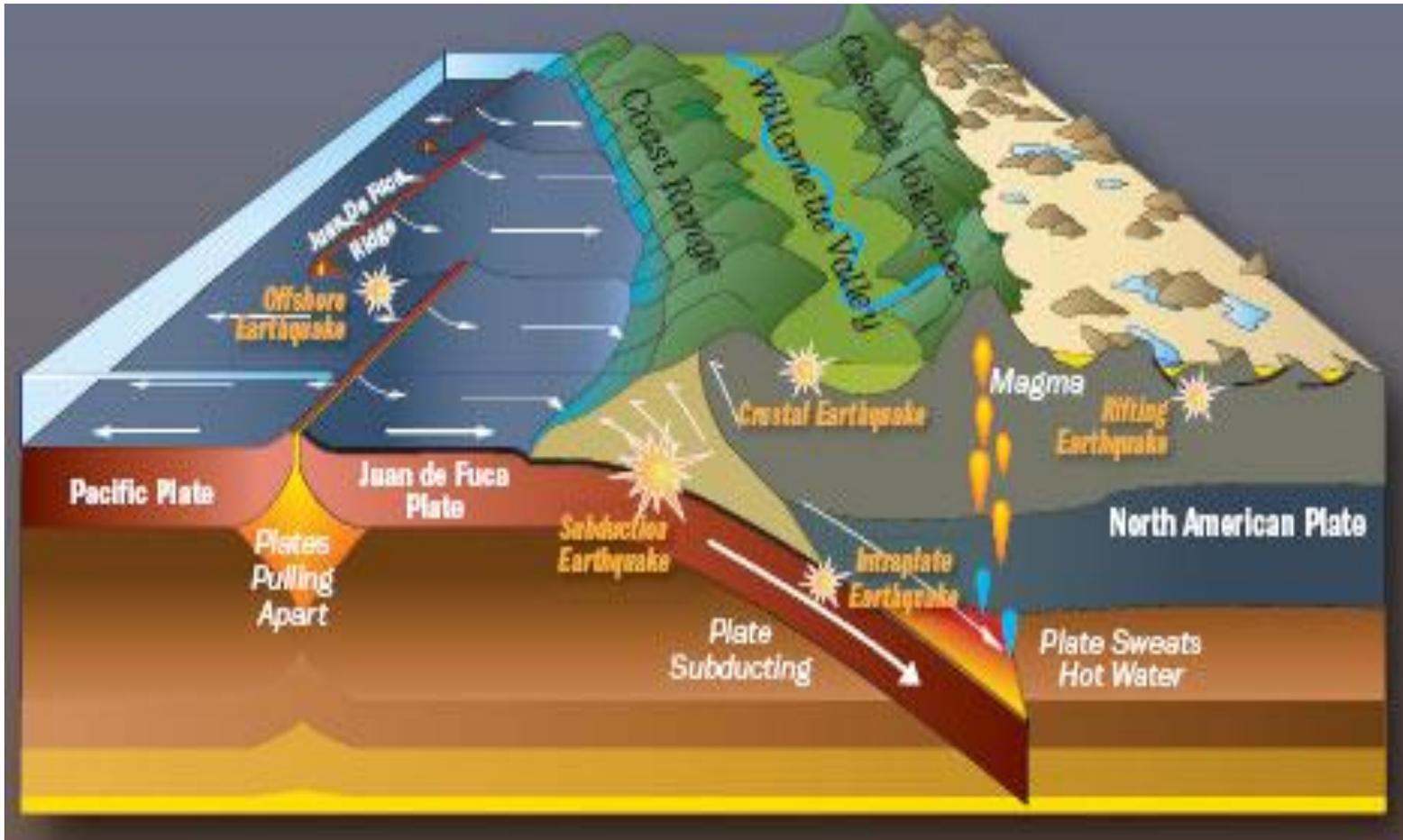


“CAN WE DO ANYTHING FOR THE SHAKIN’?” IF SO, SHOULD WE?



In last month's newsletter, we discussed the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and the inevitability of an 8.0 – 9.0 earthquake there, and its resulting tsunami.

The distance between Sublimity and Lincoln City, if you were to drive it, is about 74 miles. As the crow flies, it is about 61 miles. So, as we live here in the most sublime part of Oregon, a Tsunami will not impact us directly ... unless we happen to be visiting the Coast. If you are, everything changes.

Still, should we be concerned. Well? if you consider that a 9.0 earthquake off our coast might be felt in Sacramento, California (460 miles away), what might preparations for such an event consist of?

That will be the subject of this article, and the two that follow.

First, though, let's review the damage that would likely be caused in our area by a major earthquake 50 miles off our coast. (By the way, our only 'early' warning, from 15 to 45 seconds prior to this quake, will likely be the barking of dogs, who will 'hear' what we may barely feel.)

The ground will shake for several minutes (the 2011 Japanese quake lasted for over four minutes.)

Many of our bridges will collapse; if they don't the first time, they might be by the aftershocks. The Oregon Department of Transportation estimates, for example, that of the 135 bridges carrying U.S. 101 traffic, 56 might collapse and 42 could be heavily damaged.

But we use I-5, not 101? ODOT estimates that 19 of its bridges could be heavily damaged.

What may be far more important to us, though, isn't the damage to our airports, roads, or bridges.

We will experience 'widespread power outages – with partial blackouts *in every city* within 100 miles of the coast ...” It likely will take from a few days – for us - to several weeks or even months as one gets nearer the coast, before everything is restored.

Do you have an emergency generator?

Drinking water. How much do you have stored?

Do you have an earthquake kit?

Will your cell phone work? Even if it does initially, for how long, given the enormous number of phones that will demand service?

And, if you have time for only one phone call (remember the barking dogs?) who will you call? And is that individual also within the earthquake zone? Or safely beyond it?

Finally, have you made a Family Plan: Mom's working in Salem. Dad's gone fishing. Daughter is at OSU. And Son is staying with a friend. How are you going to find one another?

We will talk about these questions, and many more, next time