



# MAYOR ADAMS YEAR IN REVIEW

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

---

Over the last four years, we've had a chance to see the effects of natural disasters worldwide, whether Japan's tsunami or Hurricane Sandy. We know, now more than ever, that Portland needs to be prepared for an earthquake or other similar emergency.

To adapt, the [Portland Bureau of Emergency Management \(PBEM\)](#) and the City have ramped up [coordination](#) and [communications](#) in preparation for emergency situations. In addition to updating the City Code and revising emergency management plans, we completed several projects that will make you more informed and our city more resilient in the wake of large disaster or earthquake:

**Public Alerts** - [The City launched a central point of information for emergency alerts](#) at [www.publicalerts.org](http://www.publicalerts.org). Publicalerts.org is a one-stop resource for information related to transit, weather, school closures, utilities, road conditions and public health.

**NET teams** - The City formally codified Portland's Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) program and provided for the indemnification of NET volunteers when working under the direction of POEM and within their scope of training. [NETs](#) are residents trained by PBEM and Portland Fire & Rescue to provide emergency disaster assistance within their own neighborhoods. NET members receive basic training on how to save lives and property until the professionals can arrive. They have the skills

to help their neighbors without getting hurt themselves.

**Risk Assessment & Hazard Maps** - [The Portland Bureau of Emergency Management \(PBEM\) has published emergency maps](#) that focus on the natural hazards in each of our neighborhoods. The maps also list community resources that might help during an emergency such as fire stations, hospitals, evacuation routes, and more.

**New Emergency Communication Center** - In June 2012, the [City broke ground on the Emergency Communication Center](#). The building will consolidate emergency coordination services into one building that will streamline services and strengthen collaboration. It will help the city respond to emergencies with speed and efficiency.

**Emergency staging area on the west side of Portland** - Up until 2012, the City had no emergency staging site on its west side. During a major emergency, such as an earthquake, this would be a significant issue. Now, the decommissioned Sgt. First Class Jerome F. Sears U.S. Army Reserve Center in Multnomah Village serves as [the west side staging area for PBEM](#).

**Earthquake BEECNs Mailing & Neighborhood Maps** - A mailed postcard will be sent to every household in Portland in December 2012 with emergency preparedness information and specifically the BEECN program. The Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) is establishing 48 Basic Earthquake Emergency Communication Node (BEECN) sites

throughout the city. PBEM's goal is that within 24 hours after a major earthquake, a pre-designated city employee or volunteer will set up low-tech radio equipment under a clearly marked red and white tent. In a communications blackout—once your home is stable and secure—you can go to a BEECN

site to report severe damage and injuries. BEECN workers can also help you access resources such as water, shelter or first-aid. During this time, OPB radio 91.5 FM may broadcast official emergency messages directly from the City of Portland.

---