Update on New Scientific Research of Earthquake Hazards to Seattle

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Workshop on the Update of the Pacific Northwest Portion of the National Seismic Hazard Maps March 21-22, 2012 Seattle, WA









2014 Map update

- Use best available science, need peerreviewed published information
- Consider alternative models and range of input parameters
- Learn from the past: consider recent large subduction earthquakes (Tohoku, Chile)



New research results haven't substantially changed our assessment of earthquake hazard for Seattle





Approximate 50 year probabilities

- Cascadia M9: 10-14%
- Seattle Fault M ≥ 6.5: 5% (from slip rate, GR model; 1000 yr return time) ???
- Deep M ≥ 6.5: 84% (from 1949, 1965, 2001)
- Random shallow M ≥ 6.5 in entire Puget Sound area: 15% (mostly from rate of M ≥ 4 since 1963, b=0.8)



Recurrence times for great earthquakes on the Cascadia subduction zone

- Unlike Japan seismic hazard maps, the U.S. national seismic hazard maps use inputs based on evidence of past earthquakes over thousands of years.
- For example, for the Cascadia subduction zone, we use evidence of coastal subsidence and tsunamis over past 5000 years in the inputs to the national maps



Cascadia Subduction Zone

- Produces similar type of earthquakes as occurred in Tohoku, Japan (2011, M9.0) and Maule, Chile (2010, M8.8)
- How often do M8-9 earthquakes occur on the CSZ? Last one was in 1700; estimate 10-14% chance in 50 years; 25% chance in southern part
- How close will the earthquake get to Seattle?
- How strong will the ground shaking be in Seattle?





PERCEIVED SHAKING	Notfelt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very ight	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	L	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	Xt

Scientific consensus is that these M8.8-9.2 earthquakes occur about every 550 years, on average

Last one was in 1700

Estimate a 10-14% chance of occurring in the next 50 years





Seismograms showing ground accelerations from M9.0 Tohoku earthquake

(figure from NIED)

Offshore and onshore studies indicate that the Cascadia subduction zone sometimes produces M8 earthquakes in its southern portion, in addition to M9 earthquakes that probably rupture the entire length of the subduction zone Consensus from our workshops is that these M8 earthquakes occur about once in 1000 years, although more research on submarine landslides is needed; they suggest a shorter recurrence time.



Turbidite Workshop, Oregon State University, Nov 18-19, 2010



Figure from Goldfinger et al. (in press); great earthquake ruptures inferred from turbidites over past 10,000 years

We convened workshop at OSU on Nov 18-19, 2010 to evaluate turbidite data for constraining recurrence models for CSZ

1) Consensus on M9 whole CSZ rupture events with ave. recurr. time of 500-600 yr (or serial M8's in some cases)





PLANNING SCENARIO ONLY -- Map Version 10 Processed Thu Oct 1, 2009 10:09:21 AM MDT

PERCEIVED SHAKING	Notfelt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC.(%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
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INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I.	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	Xt

-- Earthquake Planning Scenario --ShakeMap for Casc_South8.3 Scenario Jun 4, 2009 12:00:00 GMT M 8.3 N42.97 W124.73 Depth: 0.0km



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Neak	leak Light Moder		Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
1.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	Xt







Great earthquakes on Cascadia Subduction Zone have been included in NSHM's since 1996 with rates based on paleoseismic studies (e.g., Atwater, 1992) Included in design values Of building codes since IBC 2000

How close do these earthquakes get to Seattle?

Figure shows different models for eastern edge of rupture used in 2002 and 2008 maps; we already accounted for possibility they may get within about 80 km of Seattle



How close will subduction zone earthquakes get to Seattle? Use GPS measurements to estimate where the fault is locked

McCaffrey and King (2011)



Schmidt et al. (2011)





Nonvolcanic tremor locations From Aaron Wech, UW

Indicates deep portion of fault where slow slip occurs releasing strain

Top of zone is possible location of eastern edge of great earthquakes

Already considered in 2002 And 2008 hazard maps

Crustal faults in NW Washington used in the current hazard maps (with slip rates in mm/yr)

Lake Creek-Boundary Creek 0.5 Strawberry Point 0.25 Utsalady Point 0.15

Devils Mountain

Southern Whidbey Island About 1000 yr M >= 6.5

Boulder Creek

1100 yr M>=6.5 5000 yr M7.2

Seattle



Faults near Seattle

- Seattle fault: no changes, estimate 5% chance in 50 years of M>= 6.5
- Southern Whidbey Island fault
- Will add Tacoma fault to national seismic hazard maps
- Also can have M6 earthquakes on faults that haven't been identified or mapped





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INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I.	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
POTENTIAL DA MAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Notfelt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme

Scenario maps done for Washington Emergency Management Division

This scenario is for a M6.7 on the Seattle fault





INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	DX	X+
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
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POTENTIAL DA MAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Notfelt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme

Scenario for M7.2 earthquake on Seattle fault,

Similar to earthquake that occurred 1100 years ago





PLANNING SCENARIO ONLY -- Map Version 1 Processed Thu Jun 4, 2009 03:09:25 PM MDT

INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I.	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	Xe
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
PEAK ACC.(%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Notfelt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme

Scenario for M7.1 Earthquake on Tacoma fault





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PERCEIVED SHAKING	Notfelt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
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INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	11-111	IV	v	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

Scenario for M7.4 on Southern Whidbey Island fault



The Seattle fault is a splay off the SWIF system in new models



Magnitude



Deep earthquakes like 2001 Nisqually and 1949 and 1965 earthquakes

- No change in our understanding of these
- Given 30 year recurrence time, highly likely to have another one of these in the next 50 years
- At workshop we debated possibility of having deep M6-7 earthquake under Portland; this is included in current maps





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Scenario map for M6.7 earthquake on Seattle fault

Scenario map for M7.2 deep earthquake under SeaTac



1 Hz S.A. (%g) with 2% Chance of Being Exceeded in 50 Years; this is the period



that would most affect a 10 story building

Seattle urban seismic hazard map with soil conditions, basin effects, and rupture directivity

Combines results of 3D simulations of 541 scenarios (Seattle fault, Cascadia subduction zone, random shallow and deep earthquakes)

> USGS Open-File Report 2007-1175





Unreinforced Masonry Building locations in Seattle plotted on USGS urban seismic hazard map showing spectral accelerations with 2% probability of exceedance in 50 years.

Urban seismic hazard maps useful for screening purposes and as check for site-specific studies; most site-specific studies do not consider basin effects or directivity effects

Need to get basin amplification terms into the building code for tall buildings

> Map from City of Seattle Unreinforced Masonry Building Seismic Hazards Study, 2007

