



Partners in Prevention

Volume 19, Issue 9, September & October, 2017

Wyoming Tabletop Exercise Still Open for Registration

On November 2, state and local officials will gather in Afton, Wyoming, to conduct a seismic tabletop exercise to help prepare for earthquakes. Afton, a small town near the Idaho border, was chosen as the venue for the meeting as it is a potential hotspot for geologic activity in Western Wyoming.

"The Afton area has significant Late Quaternary-aged faults nearby, the Grand Valley, and Greys River faults, that are capable of producing damaging ground motions," said Seth Wittke, Wyoming Geologic Manager. "The faults coupled with nearby historic earthquakes, a M 4.8 in 1992 and a M 5.3 tremor on September 2, 2017, point to the benefit of such exercises to prepare local communities for seismic events."

One of the potential benefits and goals voiced by the planning committee for the exercise was to ensure local responders are well-prepared for remote settings where they will be required to work during the response.

Officials identified the road network as a critical focus point because it is remote and mountainous with a few towns that are accessible by only one road. This makes communication connectivity crucial. These and other concerns such as communication, medical response, and planning for future mitigation will be the focus of the exercise.

The day-long event will include a presentation on seismic activity from the Wyoming Geologic Survey. The scenario for the day will be based on various hazard risk models run by the state and supported by FEMA from its Denver regional office.

According to Wyoming Hazard Mitigation Officer with the Office of Homeland Security Melinda Gibson, "It's our intent with this exercise to provide an opportunity for interactive collaboration and discussion in 'peacetime,' which leads to local successes during earthquake response. This opportunity will enable us to address not only anticipated response activities and effective communication tools and methods, but also to discuss mitigation actions which may be taken in advance of an event, making future response efforts more focused and successful."

To attend the Wyoming tabletop exercise, [click here](#) to register.