

RDPO Disaster Sanitation Symposium

March 5th from 8am-12pm
Portland Convention Center

Background:

A Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake would change all aspects of life as we know it, including running water and flushing toilets. Most people in this part of the world have no experience living without water and sewer service, and many would not know how to maintain adequate hygiene practices. When pipes break across the region, we could see a secondary disaster affecting public health and the environment.

The RDPO's multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional Regional [Disaster Sanitation Task Force](#) is addressing this issue. The task force is comprised of representatives from public health, public works, waste removal, environmental sustainability, and emergency management.

The Task Force has created recommendations for public messaging (www.emergencytoilet.org). One of the recommendations is to use the Twin Bucket method, which instructs people to contain their feces in heavy-duty garbage bags until public agencies can provide further guidance. The Task Force is now developing recommendations for jurisdictions on how to collect, transport, and dispose of bagged feces.

Symposium:

Join us on March 5, 2019 to discuss these recommendations. Continental breakfast will be provided, thanks to the generosity of [Metro](#). Sue Langston from Oregon DEQ will facilitate.

Agenda:

1. **History of the project.** Task Force members from various disciplines will explain what was considered and how they landed on the current recommendations.
2. **Topical breakout sessions.** Gather input on the recommendations (fix errors, add data, rank options based on feasibility, address regulatory barriers).
3. **Create a dissemination plan.** Who else needs to get this information? How can attendees help with dissemination? How can we plan for those who will be most heavily impacted?

Who Should Attend?

Everyone who has participated in the Task Force thus far should attend. If you know of anyone else who should be part of this discussion, please extend the invitation to them. We may need to cap attendance if we reach capacity.

Next Steps:

If you want to attend, please complete this [Save the Date form](#). In February, we'll send out more info about the event, including the current recommendations and a packet of read-ahead materials.