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**Western States Seismic Policy Council Names 2011 Awards in Excellence Winners;
Washington State Emergency Management Division wins 2011 Overall Award in Excellence**

Sacramento - The Western States Seismic Policy Council Board of Directors is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 WSSPC Awards in Excellence. The *Overall Award in Excellence* in the category of *Outreach to the General Public* went to Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division, for their program *Tsunami Public Education Instructor: Train the Trainer (T-3) Program*. The purpose of the Tsunami Public Education Instructor (T-3) Program is to train a cadre of professionals who are qualified to serve as Tsunami Public Education Instructors at the community level. In addition, the T-3 Program graduates provide an additional resource for local emergency managers for the community in which they reside.

“We are deeply honored to be the recipient of the *2011 Overall WSSPC Award in Excellence*”, said John Schelling, the Earthquake and Tsunami Program Manager for Washington State. “In today’s challenging economic environment, we needed to find a way to continue to support local emergency managers with earthquake and tsunami public education efforts while at the same time making the most effective use of the limited resources available. Training local community members through the T-3 Program enables us to do just that. We are truly thankful for the recognition by WSSPC for our efforts.” said Schelling.

Also selected for a 2011 WSSPC *Award in Excellence* were the following:

- *Outreach to Schools*: presented to the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council for a *Drop, Cover and Hold* 3D animation; and
- *Outreach to General Public*: presented to Linda Kozlowski of the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay, Oregon for their volunteer efforts to prepare their community for earthquakes and tsunamis; and
- *Outreach to Business/Government*: presented to the Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division for: *Disaster Response Training for the Hospitality Industry on Washington’s Coast*.

The WSSPC *Awards in Excellence* program was started in 1996 to recognize achievement in different areas of earthquake mitigation, preparedness and response. “The Awards have been an effective method for sharing model programs and products throughout the western United States, western Canada, and the far Pacific region, and in recognizing the hard-working, creative and innovative efforts within the earthquake hazards reduction community,” said WSSPC Chairman John Parrish.

The Awards will be given at the 2011 WSSPC Annual Meeting held at The Grove Hotel in Boise, Idaho April 4, 2011. Summaries of the 2010 winning programs and projects are posted on the Western States Seismic Policy Council’s website at www.wsspc.org.

The mission of the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) is to develop seismic policies and disseminate information about programs intended to reduce earthquake-related losses.

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