



*We develop seismic policies and share information to promote programs intended to reduce earthquake related losses.*



*A non-profit earthquake consortium for the western states*

**Monthly Bulletin**  
**February**  
**2018**

**WSSPC Awards in Excellence and Lifetime Achievement Awards Announced**

*WSSPC Lifetime Achievement Award:* Donald Thomas, Ph.D., University of Hawaii Hilo, Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes (CSAV)



Donald Thomas, Ph.D., is the Director of the University of Hawaii (UH) at Hilo's Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes (CSAV) as well as a long-standing member of the Hawaii Earthquake and Tsunami Advisory Committee (HETAC). For many years, Dr. Thomas has been doing the work necessary to keep people and the government fully educated and engaged – from scientific inquiry and research, to training and outreach, to undergraduate education – in hazards, mitigation, and monitoring of seismic activity. His dedication to the work has changed the way responders, builders, scientists, policy makers and the general public view,

prepare for and respond to earthquakes.

A noteworthy example of his tireless efforts to promote hazard mitigation and awareness in Hawaii is making home earthquake retrofits accessible to homeowners. Don and his students took the detailed and complex designs for retrofitting post-and-pier foundations of homes damaged in the Kiholo Bay earthquake in 2006 and developed an online expert system that walked the homeowner step-by-step through the retrofit selection process. Based on identifying key elements of construction types, the expert system would determine the appropriate retrofit system, output construction drawings that homeowners or contractors could use to implement the retrofit, and provide a shopping list of hardware required to install the retrofit.

His work on seismic research, mitigation programs, and information dissemination has been built on collaboration with the UH Hilo Department of Geology, UH Manoa, the U.S. Geological Survey, the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, the Hawai'i Department of Defense, the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, the State Hazard Mitigation Forum, the State Lava Flow Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee, and the Hawai'i State Earthquake and Tsunami Advisory Committee – illustrating a hallmark of an effective leader: collaboration. Don's award summary and nomination reference letters are linked [here](#).

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*2018 Awards in Excellence* in the following categories:

*Non-Profit Agency Efforts:* U.S. Resiliency Council for “Earthquake Rating System”  
 Contact: Evan Reis, Executive Director, USRC

The U.S. Resiliency Council (USRC) Rating System rates building response to earthquakes in three categories: Safety, Damage, and Recovery. The Safety rating reflects the expected performance of the building in terms of loss of life, injury and egress. The Damage rating is an estimate of the cost to repair the building after an earthquake, and the Recovery rating is an estimate of the time it will take for the building to return to functionality. The rating system is designed for education as well as implementation to improve resiliency. Through webinars, presentations, online and print publications, and training, the USRC uses the Rating System to raise awareness about the performance of buildings in earthquakes, dispel misconceptions about performance, and show how building performance can be measurably improved in new design or retrofit. The Council’s website is linked [here](#).

*Use of Technology:* U.S. Geological Survey for “ShakeMap Scenario Suite”  
 Contact: Eric Thompson

The USGS ShakeMap Scenario Suite for the Conterminous U.S. is a collection of over 800 earthquake events that can be used for scenario exercises, planning, education and outreach. The effort to make this new Scenario collection consistent with the U.S. National Seismic Hazard Map (NSHM) required algorithmic advances to the ShakeMap system, including the use of multiple-weighted Ground Motion Prediction Equations (GMPEs) and other technical solutions. Also, the deployment and delivery of the 800 scenarios in an ArcGIS platform required significant software and rendering efforts.

In addition, substantial interaction with critical users in the private, government, utility and response communities is required to make these products useful. Groups like FEMA can use the maps to produce losses with HAZUS that are then widely used for earthquake planning exercises and drills. The new catalog has already been used by many WSSPC states, including Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, and California. A link to the map of the catalog is available [here](#).

All awards will be presented at the National Earthquake Program Managers Meeting on May 3, 2018. For more information: <http://www.wsspc.org/2018-awards-recipients/>

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## FEMA P-50 and P-51 Train the Trainer Courses

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management will be offering an opportunity to take *FEMA P-50 Simplified Seismic Assessment of Detached, Single-Family, Wood-Frame Dwellings* and *FEMA P-50-1 Seismic Retrofit Guidelines for Detached, Single-Family, Wood-Frame Dwellings* train the trainer courses within the next few months. This training will be free. They are looking for 3-4 structural engineers that would be willing to take the course with an intention to be available to teach the course, for a reasonable fee, in the future. The students will be able to teach the series after this training.

Contact Althea Rizzo, Oregon's Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator, if you are interested.

[althea.rizzo@state.or.us](mailto:althea.rizzo@state.or.us)

## AGI Geoscience Policy Annual Review

The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) compiled a summary of the major developments in federal geoscience policy during 2017.

“During the first year of the 115th Congress, federal lawmakers aligned their own policy positions and actions with many of the President’s priorities by advancing legislation focused on environmental regulation and energy development, but diverged from several other administration recommendations, particularly by maintaining funding for non-defense discretionary domestic spending. Now a year into the Trump administration and 115th Congress, the current direction of national policies is more clearly defined after a number of legislative and executive accomplishments.” (Written and compiled by Anna Normand, Michelle Barreto, and Maeve Boland for AGI, January 2018.)

To read the full summary visit: <https://www.americangeosciences.org/policy/annual-review>.

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