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EMD Releases New State Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

Camp Murray, Wash. – Answers to a wide range of questions about Washington’s natural and man-made hazards are contained in the 2009 edition of the Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Assessment (HIVA) produced by the Washington State Emergency Division (EMD) of the Washington Military Department (WMD).

Perhaps you want to know:

- How many federal disasters have been declared in Washington State since 1956?
- What the estimated impact on the state’s economy is from the annual occurrence of flooding?
- What is the probability of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake off the Washington coast in the next 50 years?

The HIVA has answers to these and many other questions about the state’s hazards.

“This latest edition provides current research and information about those hazards to which the State of Washington is most vulnerable,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, director, Washington Military Department.

“Emergency Management has the task of planning, preparing, responding and recovering from natural and man-made emergencies and disasters. The better we plan and prepare, the less the impact from the disasters and incidents we have to respond to and recover from. This document is first step in an iterative process needed to build a “disaster resistant Washington.” Gen. Lowenberg stated.

The HIVA features assessments of 19 different man-made and natural hazards. The EMD prepared the list with the assistance of state agency emergency management liaisons, technical and scientific experts, and local emergency managers who reviewed the material. The document editor was Cathy Walker, WMD geographic information analyst.

The new HIVA assessment, which includes a glossary of terms and bibliography, is available at:

http://www.emd.wa.gov/plans/documents/HIVA_2009_FINALformattingNOV09.pdf

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