

JIM HOUSE INTERVIEW: NOW ON SOUNDCLOUD!



We are excited to share our podcast interview with Jim House. Jim is the Disability Integration Manager for Coalition of Inclusive Emergency Planning at WA State Independent Living Council (WASILC). We want to thank Jim and Kim Conner, Executive Director for WASILC, for taking the time to talk with us last month and informing our readers and us about the organization and its resources.

Here is the link to the podcast:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-851177719/interview-with-jim-house>

To learn more about WASILC, check out their website at:

<https://www.wasilc.org/>

MAY - VOLCANO AWARENESS MONTH IN WASHINGTON STATE

Governor Jay Inslee has proclaimed that beginning May 2021, it will be Volcano Awareness month. Our state has five (5) active volcanoes located in the Cascade Range east of Seattle: Mt. Baker, Glacier Peak, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, and Mt. St. Helens. Each volcano, except for Mount Adams, has erupted in the last 250 years. It is important to remember that it is difficult to know precisely when or where a future eruption will occur. There are no regular intervals when it comes to volcano eruptions.



For more information on volcanoes in our state:

- <https://mil.wa.gov/volcano>
- <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/geology/geo-logic-hazards/volcanoes-and-lahars>
- https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vsc/file_mgrn/file-103/5-6-14%20USGS%20CVO%20NIE%20Part%201.pdf

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WILDFIRE SEASON OFF TO AN EARLY START: HOW YOU CAN BE BETTER PREPARED

By Kellie Hale



April showers, bring May flowers is the usual saying. However, now it seems that April fires will bring an early start to wildfire season. During the week of April 19, Washington has seen a reported 91 wildfires total. Again, that was all in one week. If we are already having wildfires in spring, then what does that mean for summer? What can we expect?

"This year is already heating up," said Commissioner of Public Lands, Hilary Franz in a Facebook post back in April, "We have already been out on a number of wildfires here in Washington, and it's only April... More than ever, we need consistent and reliable funding to reduce these catastrophic wildfires, save our communities and lives and prevent the Evergreen State turning charcoal black." The increase in wildfires is a real threat with no signs of slowing down. Fires will continue to begin early and last longer. Hot and dry weather, along with gusty winds, pose a real threat to the continued rise in wildfires across Washington State.

"It's never too early to start preparing your yard and home," Franz said in another Facebook post. She has been pushing the state legislature for more funding on combating wildfires as the seasons become drier

and more damaging to property, land, and lives. Thankfully, there are ways for people to prepare their homes for wildfires. By creating a 30 to 100-foot safety zone around one's property, there are steps to take to help reduce potential exposure to possible flames and heat. Contacting the local fire department in your areas or forestry office can help provide additional information on preparing your home for wildfires. Remember, wildfires can begin unnoticed and can be triggered by mere accidents. Fire can spread quickly and rapidly, destroying everything it touches.

Ways to help keep your home safe:

- Collect dead limb and twigs, rake leaves and clear out all flammable vegetation.
- Leaves and rubbish that are hidden or under structures should be removed.
- Branches that are dead and extend over the roof of one's home should be removed.
- Take the time to prune trees and shrubs that are within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney.
- It is okay to ask the power company to come out and clear branches from power lines.
- Regularly mow your grass.
- Should remove vines from the walls of your home.

Additional information on how you can protect your home from wildfires are here:

<https://www.wunderground.com/prepare/wildfire>

WILDFIRE MITIGATION

By Nancy Aird



“WILDFIRE READY NEIGHBORS” – WA new, free community initiative program

“Wildfire Ready Neighbors” is a new, free collaboration between the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), preparedness experts, fire districts, and landowners/residents. Chelan, Okanogan, and Spokane counties initiated this program in April to promote preparing properties against wildfire. Renters, homeowners, and landowners in the three counties sign up at www.wildfireready.com to have a wildfire expert visit their property and develop a detailed action plan. This plan includes mitigation and preparation steps, local resources information, and contractor lists. Washington wildfires burned 812,000 acres from January to September 2020, with more than 500,000

acres burned in less than 36 hours. Losses during the 36 hours included one civilian fatality and most of the structures in Malden and Pine City communities. Smoke from the last two of three wildfire seasons gave Washington the worst air quality in the world during the fires. Destruction by the most significant 17 WA fires in the 2020 season burned over 273,805 acres of forest, crops, structures, and homes. Total acreage breakdown from the DNR Wildfire Division Annual Report 2020: 41,816 Federal; 115,600 Private; 91,609 State; 24,779 Tribal acres; and 377 structures including 181 homes destroyed.

As of April 30, 2021, 272 fires have burned 650 acres in our current wildfire season. <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/wildfire-resources> has many wildfire resource links and articles for everyone to use to promote mitigation and preparation against wildfires.

CHECK INSURANCE POLICIES

Check your insurance coverage on your property. Make sure it is up to date on values and replacement coverage. My insurance carrier (American Family Insurance) added a free policy endorsement to show partnership with a wildfire defense company. The contracted agency will monitor wildfire activity and deploy preventative services when a wildfire can threaten a covered property. Check with your insurance carrier for their policy coverages. This link is being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only. It does not constitute an endorsement or an approval by the COE of any products, services, or opinions of the organization or individuals. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.

WASHINGTON STATE HOUSE BILL 1168: CONCERNING LONG-TERM FOREST HEALTH AND THE REDUCTION OF WILDFIRE DANGERS

HB 1168 was delivered to Governor Jay Inslee on April 26 to sign into law. The Bill focuses on the concerning increase of forestland and rangeland wildfires. The impact of wildfires has continued to grow larger, more intense, and destructive in the last four decades throughout Washington State. It is a trend that is alarming, with no plans on decreasing unless policies are put in place to help. Wildfires have a significant impact on fish and wildlife and devastating state, federal, tribal, and private lands. Homes and properties of residents get destroyed, and lives are lost. The after-effects of the fires can cause harmful smoke to pollute the air, pollute waters, the risk of flooding and landslides increased, and the economy is damaged.

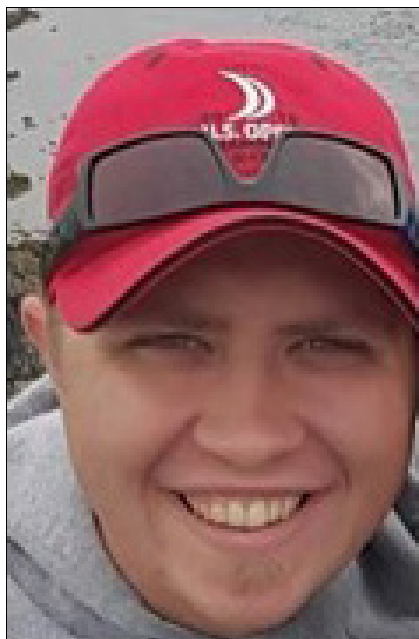
What is causing the increase in wildfires? The Bill states that “these uncharacteristic wildfires are the

result of a combination of climate change-driven drought.” Hotter temperature and windstorms are also a factor, along with human development patterns and land use planning and activities; and where uncharacteristic fires occur in forests, by past fire suppression and departures from native ecosystem structure and function.”

Wildfires pose a significant threat to the safety and health of Washington residents’ life and property, along with our State’s wildlife habitat. If there is a continuation not to help decrease the effects of wildfires, our communities will continue to feel the “impact and devastation of flames and smoke.”

You can read the full HB -1168 here: <http://lawfile-sext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Amendments/Senate/1168-S2%20AMS%20ENGR%20S2613.E.pdf>

FEATURED INTERVIEW: JOSEPH DILLEY



1. The last time we talked with you was in January 2020. How have things changed since then in regards to the Fire Services Program?

The FSLM program itself has not changed much, however; our approach has become more a holistic approach. Our program at Pierce College is still attempting to fill needs of the fire service as a whole. The FSLM has added courses that are exam and certification preparation courses that are being ran through the Community and Continuing Education program. There were two courses added to the course catalog to develop a pathway for firefighters to attend our program through the Washington State Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. Currently, the FSLM program is awaiting approval to provide education through the Washington Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. Once approved this will add another element to the holistic approach, we are

attempting in the mission of filling needs within the fire service for education. This approach has started to pay off, in only our second year of the Bachelor of Applied Science, the Pierce College FSLM was ranked sixth in the nation for online fire science degree. This ranking put our program ahead of big schools in the fire industry. This was led by the Pierce College's administration's willingness to branch out and try this holistic approach and jumping on opportunities that were presenting themselves to fill those gaps of education within the fire service.

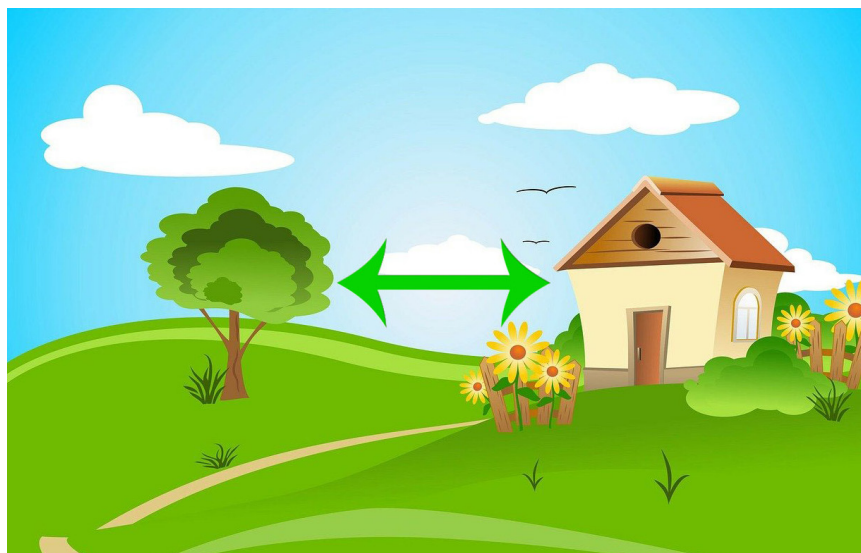
a. What your new goals for the Program?

The FSLM program's goal has not changed is to be THE education program Washington State firefighters attend to complete their higher education. Also, being ranked first in the nation would not be bad either for the online bachelors of fire science. In all seriousness we are striving to fill the needs of education in the fire service. In simple terms, keep evolving with the fire service to meet the fire service's needs.

2. Our state is expected to have a rough wildfire season. How can people be better prepared for wildfire season?

People do not need to be forestry or wildland fire experts. The best way to be prepared is understand the concept of defensible space. Defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire—either from embers, direct flame contact or radiant heat.

The NFPA also has a great public education program called Firewise. The national Firewise USA® recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. Any community that meets a set of voluntary criteria on an annual basis and retains an "In Good Standing Status" may identify itself as being a Firewise® Site.



3. Are there additional training and education that firefighters need to obtain in order to be prepared for fire season?

There are differences between wildland and structural firefighters. The certifications are different and require different trainings. There are a lot of structural firefighters certified to fight wildland fires. Firefighters receive training to the level of qualification they hold, must pass a task book for that level of qualification and complete continuing education annually. The annual trainings include lessons learned on major incidents from the past to reinforce and educate firefighters.

4. How important is it for firefighters to continue their education and partake in additional training opportunities?

The world is constantly evolving and changing, so is the equipment, tactics, strategies, and knowledge in the fire service. The fire service

constantly must change to meet the needs and demands of the community it serves. This is where education and additional training opportunities comes in to play. To meet the needs of the community as it evolves there needs to be training, and education. The only constant is change, and we in the fire service must gain as much knowledge through training and education as we can to keep up with these changes.

Education and training are extremely important for the safety of firefighters and the community. Attending training or completing education only makes the firefighters, no matter the level, more aware of safety aspects within the fire service. When you combine the safety aspects and the needs of the community, you will have a more effective and efficient fire service.

5. How has COVID-19 impacted the Fire Services industry?

COVID has had many impacts of

the fire service. Obviously, the impacts are going to change throughout the counties, state and nation depending on where you are located. But to name a few, there have been a lot of firefighters retiring. There have been shortages of firefighters due to quarantines, not so much now but in the beginning of COVID. On the EMS side of the fire service, firefighters have been conducting more of a public health/community health role, by conducting COVID testing and administering vaccines. The state expanded the scope of practices for EMT's, AEMT's and Paramedics to accomplish this. The fire service has also had a more increased role of emergency management, by the increased roles of the incident management teams, beyond just wildland fires. There were also changes in how we respond to calls and what PPE to wear and when. This is also based on locale. These are just some examples, I know there are many more.



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6. Have you read about HB 1168 that was sent to Governor Inslee to sign into law? The subject of the Bill is about the concerning long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers.

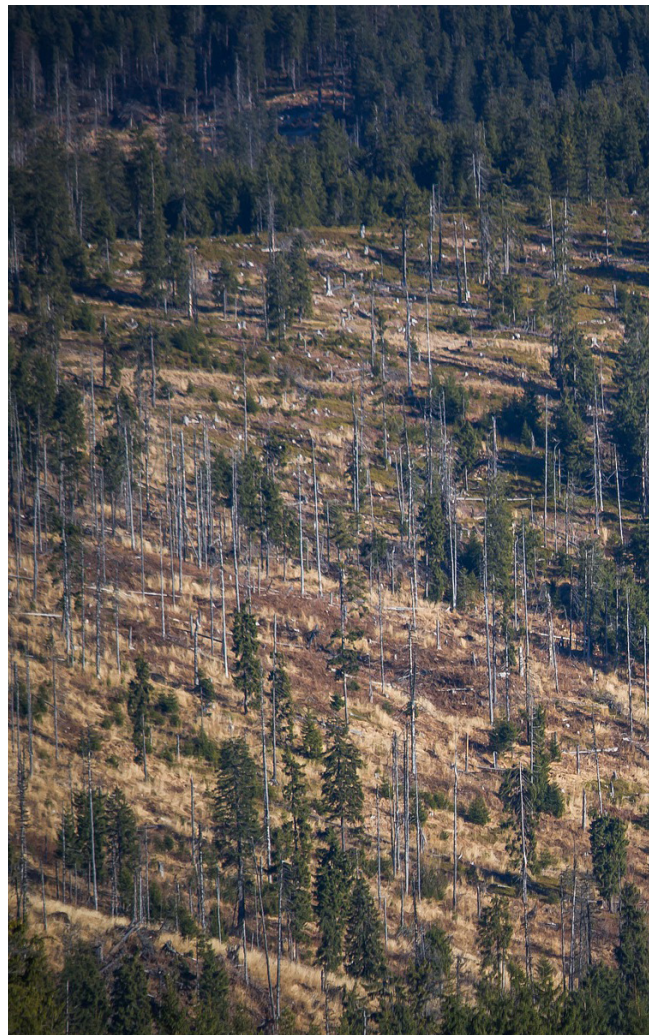
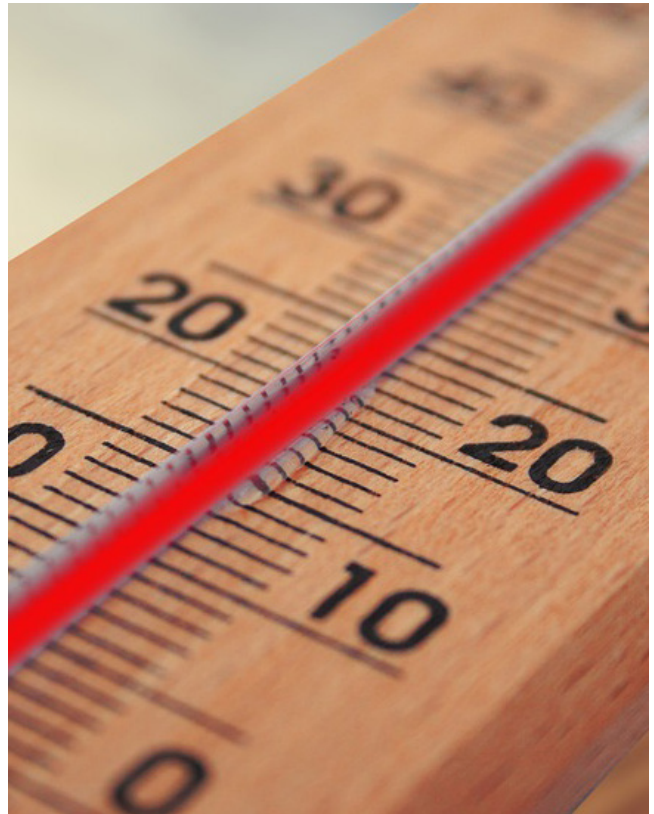
I have read HB 1168 and have had a few discussions with employees of DNR about it as well.

a. What do you think is causing the increase in wildfires in our State?

I am not an expert of wildland fires or forestry. There are some things that I feel are contributing to the increase of wildland fires in our State. Not in any order, population expansion, lack of forest management, rising temperatures, extreme weather, and more wildland urban interfaces. When you combine these elements, I believe you will begin to get an increase in the amount of and severity of wildland fires.

7. What are the benefits to being in the Fire Services industry?

It is the best job in the world. What other job do you get challenged everyday with something new, build a second family, and know that what you are doing makes a difference in your community?



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP PROFILE – MARY KAYE BREDESON

By Deb Moller



When someone retires, a common comment is that they are starting a new chapter in their lives.

Most of the time, people are secretly certain that the coming chapter will be less interesting, less challenging, and less important than the work-life the person is leaving. But people who know Mary Kaye Bredeson are secretly certain that her track record of reinventing her life in wondrous ways will continue, and whatever comes next is sure to be as remarkable as what has come before.

As the eldest of seven children in a Catholic family, Mary Kaye had ample practice for her parents' role assumed she would embrace one day – that of wife and mother. They were right that Mary Kaye would find being married and having a family a central joy in her life. What they hadn't expected was that there was another role Mary Kaye would decide on as well.

In the late 1960s, when she was in

seventh grade, Mary Kaye's career day choice was to interview a male police sergeant. Most young girls in this era had never seen a female police officer. But the interview led Mary Kaye to make up her mind to work in law enforcement. She did have to wait until the height requirement in Washington – officers had to be at least six feet tall – was changed!

Mary Kaye was the first female to get through the law enforcement physical agility test given to applicants for Lynnwood and several nearby cities. She was the first female to pass the full screening for the Lynnwood police department. It wasn't easy in 1978, being a twenty-two-year-old and the first female officer for the City of Lynnwood. While many of her fellow officers mentored her, others refused to ride with her. Mary Kaye followed her values. She treated everyone, including suspects and resistant colleagues, with respect. Mary Kaye maintained her femininity, keeping her blonde hair the length; she liked it and never felt she had to change who she was.

She gave 110% to the job. She learned all she could learn about police work. She made sure she was a top marksman. She decided she'd make herself such a good officer that even the men who didn't believe women should be in law enforcement would want her as a partner. And she baked treats and brought them to work. It all contributed to making her an accepted and respected member of the force. Life changed. She married a fellow officer. They had their first child. She returned to work

when their daughter was eighteen months old. They managed. But with her second pregnancy, Mary Kaye considered the consequences if she died in the line of duty. The price was too high. She resigned from her job to ensure she would be there for her children.

What would you expect this woman who'd broken ground in an almost all-male occupation would do next?

After years at home with her family, she built on her love of style, feel for fashion, and excellent people skills to become a top performer personal shopper for Nordstrom's. No doubt the first former police officer in that position!

Mary Kaye explained that she looked at work opportunities based on what her family needed. She chose jobs based on what would be the best fit between her priorities and the available options. Her work life covers an impressive array of positions. It is a reminder to others trying to juggle work and family that it is possible to make it work. It may be no easier now than it was for Mary Kaye. It takes energy, creativity, flexibility, and a passion for life-long learning!

After nearly seventeen years as Executive Director of the Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing, Mary Kaye is off to a new chapter in her life.

There is no doubt that she will continue to have significant influence in whatever comes next in her life.



DEB MOLLER BIO

Deb Moller is the former public-private partnerships manager at the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. She is a senior fellow at the Center of Excellence, Homeland Security -Emergency Management. As principal of Moller Consulting, Deb has over ten years of experience assisting local, state, federal and tribal governments, as well as private profit and not-for-profit organizations, achieve performance goals. Deb's experience includes twenty years designing and managing adult education and job training programs for marginalized populations. She holds an M.A. in applied behavioral science from Bastyr University. She is the founder of Cascadia Calling, a community based earthquake preparedness organization.

CONTINUING TO HONOR JAMYE WISECUP THROUGH THE JAMYE WISECUP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

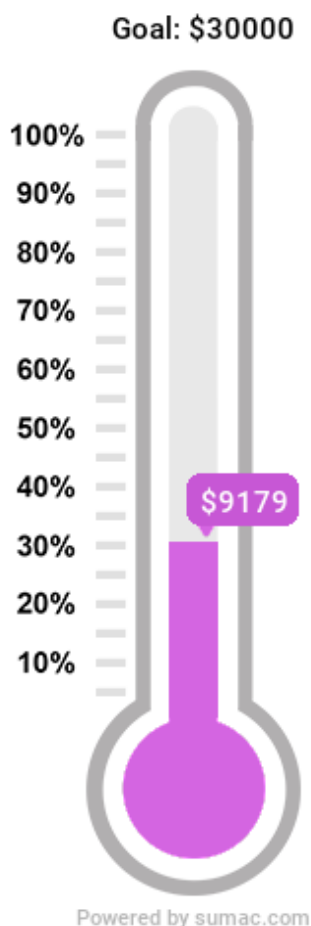
We continue to honor the memory of Jamye Wisecup through the Jamye Wisecup Memorial Scholarship. Jamye was the Program Coordinator/Trainer at Clallam County Sheriff's Office and an Advisory Board member for the Center. Those around in her community continue to support Jamye's long devotion to emergency and disaster preparedness.

Her efforts to provide her community and others with the knowledge, skills, and abilities in areas of all-hazards emergency management resulted in seven (7) Community and Technical Colleges around the state offering the Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) Certificate and Associate's Degree Program through the Collaborating College model. She also participated in the Bachelor of Applied Science – HSEM workgroup, one of the first HSEM Bachelor Degree Programs in Washington. In 2014, The Center of Excellence – Homeland Security Emergency Management welcomed Jamye Wisecup to its Advisory Board. As a Board member, Jamye supported and assisted in strengthening the Center's presence, both online and in person.



Jamye was the heart and soul of emergency management in her community and impacted many peoples' lives. In addition to her work with emergency management, Jamye served on numerous local non-profit boards and was very active in many community activities. She was very dedicated to helping spread awareness and involvement in emergency management and disaster preparedness. Her dedication to promoting emergency preparedness and her genuine unconditional caring for everyone made her an exceptional woman.

Our goal is to reach \$30,000.00 for an endowment, which would help support students in the all-hazards emergency management career pathway programs. A donation of \$5.00, \$10.00, \$15.00, or \$25.00 would help us reach our goal and continue to honor Jamye's memory.



To give online, visit:

<https://pencol.edu/foundation/give/online>.

Select "Other" in the Fund dropdown box and enter "Wisecup Fund" in the "Additional Comments" section at the bottom of the form.

You can also send a direct contribution by check made payable to:

*Peninsula College Foundation
Wisecup Fund
1502 E Lauridsen Blvd.
Port Angeles, WA 98362*

Diversity in Leadership Panel

Job Searching Strategies Workshop



JUNE 8, 2021
6:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

OBJECTIVES

- Identify your job goals—and share them with your network.
- Learn how to organize your job search.
- Discuss strategies and methods for finding and applying for the jobs you want.

Job searching can be a stressful process. It can be intimidating. Our workshop will provide participants with strategies on how to approach job searching.

The workshop will also discuss the importance of networking and making connections in your field of interest.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For More Information: Contact Kellie Hale at khale@pierce.ctc.edu

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH - RESOURCES BY PIERCE COLLEGE



Established in 1949, Mental Health Month has been recognized each May with the goal to raise awareness and reduce stigma surrounding mental health struggles. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), 1 in 5 people will experience mental illness over the course of their lifetimes, and each of us face challenges that can and will impact our mental health.

Mental and physical health are equally important components of overall health. Mental health, especially depression, increases the risk of many types of physical health problems, particularly long-lasting conditions like stroke, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease. The presence of chronic conditions can also increase the risk for mental illness.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the mental health of people of all ages. It is natural to feel stress, anxiety, grief and worry during the pandemic, and learning strategies to cope with stress in a healthy way is more important than ever. Below are a few healthy ways to cope with stress and improve your mental health:

- Take a break from watching, reading or listening to news stories, including those on social media
- Use your vacation time to take a break from work, when you are able
- Take care of your body: eat healthy, exercise regularly, avoid excessive alcohol, tobacco and substance abuse
- Continue with routine preventive measures, such as vaccinations and cancer screenings as recommended by your healthcare provider

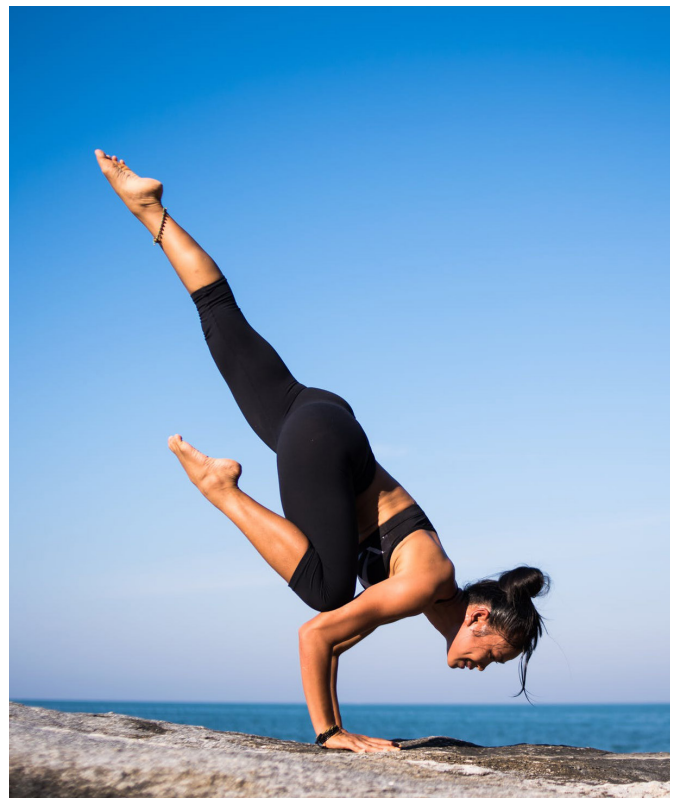


Mental health conditions do not discriminate based on social identities. Although anyone can have their mental health impacted, there are unique struggles that people of color face in the United States. In an effort to better address these challenges, mental health advocate [Bebe Moore Campbell](#) was instrumental in the establishment of [BIPOC Mental Health Month](#), recognized each July since 2008.

For anyone facing mental health issues, it is important to remember that recovery is possible, and [help is available](#). Pierce College employees also have access to the [Washington State Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) counseling services. This free, confidential program is designed to promote the health, safety and well-being of public employees.

Pierce College also offers a variety of mental health and counseling resources for students. Our counselors are just a [click or call away](#), offering telehealth sessions to students by phone or secure video chat. [Specific counseling resources](#) are available for students of color, members of the LGBTQ community, veterans and more.

[Find more information about mental health resources for students here.](#)



Are you ready for the next earthquake?

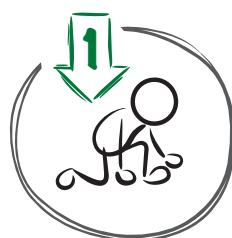
In an earthquake, you could have precious seconds of warning to **DROP-COVER-HOLD ON** or take other protective actions, depending on your situation and environment.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) ShakeAlert® Earthquake Early Warning system detects significant earthquakes quickly, so alerts can be delivered to trigger automated actions, such as slowing a train, opening fire station doors, or telling people to take protective action before shaking begins.

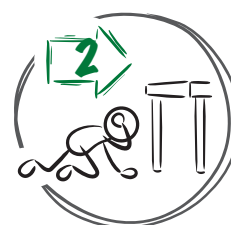
The USGS issues ShakeAlert Messages that are used by public and private partners to deliver alerts to people, including through the internet, radio, television, and mobile devices. If weak or greater shaking is expected at your location, you may get a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) on your cell phone, just like a severe weather or AMBER alert, or you may get an alert as a public announcement. You can also download apps to get alerts; check with your state or local emergency management agency for apps that cover your area. It is important to get alerts by as many means as possible.



If you **FEEL SHAKING** or **GET AN ALERT...**



DROP!



COVER!



HOLD ON!

ShakeAlert does not predict when or where an earthquake will occur or how long it will last, and depending on your location, you may not get an alert before shaking begins. As soon as you feel shaking or get an alert, take protective action! **DROP-COVER-HOLD ON, because seconds matter.**

For more information, visit ShakeAlert.org and follow USGS on Twitter [@USGS_ShakeAlert](https://twitter.com/USGS_ShakeAlert).



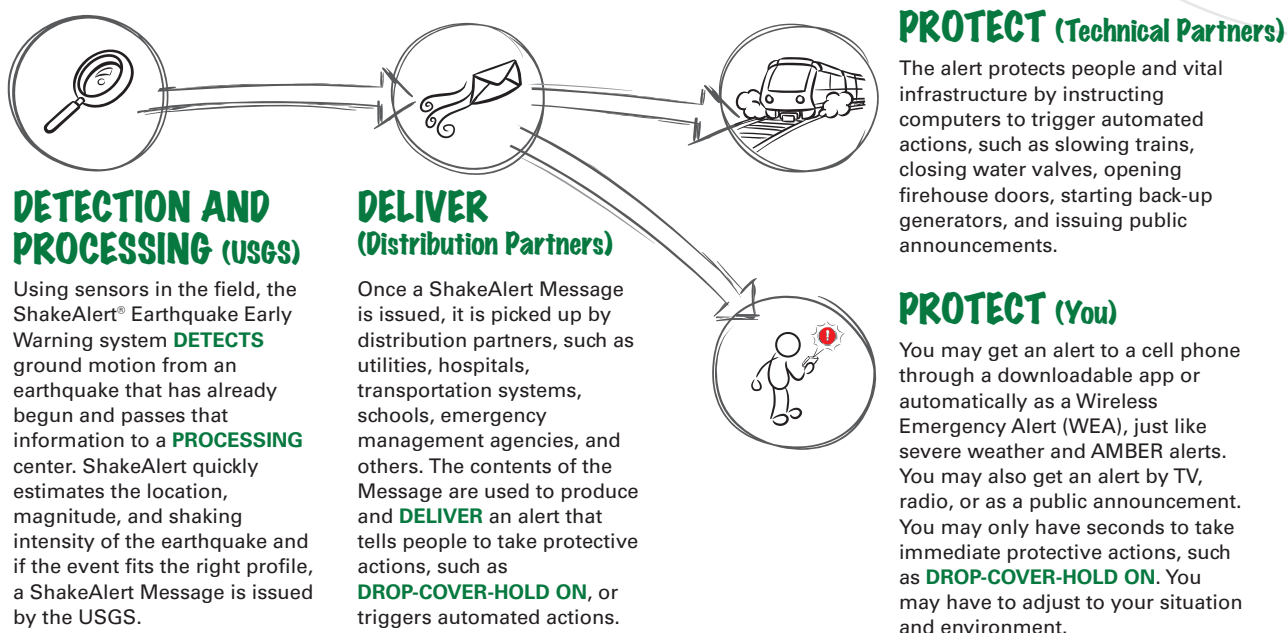
Contact Valcom at earthquake@valcom.com



Frequently Asked Questions

• What is ShakeAlert®?

ShakeAlert is an Earthquake Early Warning system developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and its partners that detects significant earthquakes quickly, so alerts can tell people to take protective action when weak or greater shaking is expected at their location. ShakeAlert also delivers alerts that trigger automated actions, such as slowing a train and opening fire station doors.

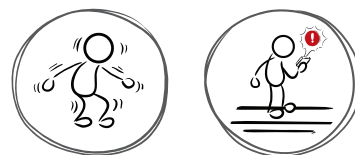


**If you feel shaking or get an alert, immediately DROP-COVER-HOLD ON.
Do not wait, because seconds matter!**

• How should you protect yourself when you get an alert?

When you get an alert, immediately **DROP-COVER-HOLD ON**. *Do not wait to feel shaking!*

- **DROP** where you are onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter, if it is nearby.
- **COVER** your head and neck with both arms and hands. If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter. If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows, hanging objects, and tall furniture).
- **HOLD ON** to your shelter until shaking stops. Be prepared to move with your shelter if it shifts.



If you FEEL SHAKING or GET AN ALERT...



Contact Valcom at earthquake@valcom.com