



Western States Seismic Policy Council - An Earthquake Consortium that Delivers Results

INTRODUCTION

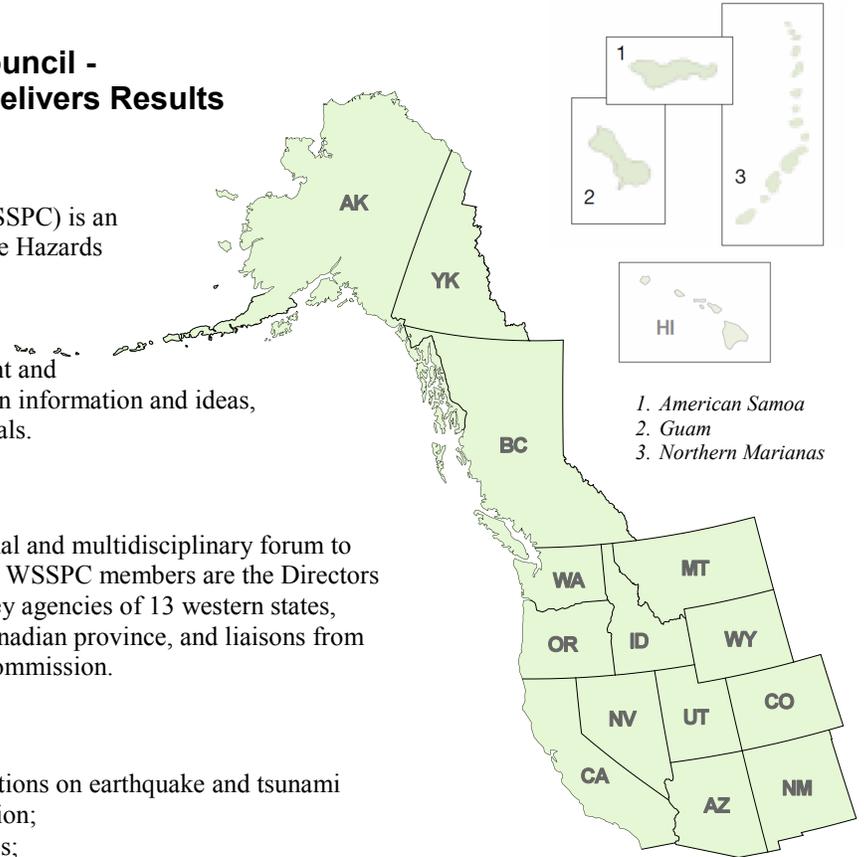
The Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) is an important component of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). This program gains from WSSPC's credibility and WSSPC's communication with state and local agencies and organizations. WSSPC serves as an efficient and effective clearinghouse for earthquake mitigation information and ideas, thus complementing and supporting NEHRP goals.

BACKGROUND

WSSPC was formed in 1979 to provide a regional and multidisciplinary forum to support and enhance seismic hazard mitigation. WSSPC members are the Directors of emergency management and geological survey agencies of 13 western states, 3 U.S. territories, a Canadian territory, and a Canadian province, and liaisons from each state that has a seismic board, council or commission.

WSSPC ACTIVITIES

- Develops and adopts policy recommendations on earthquake and tsunami issues, and encourages their implementation;
- Convenes annual meetings and workshops;
- Organizes a National Earthquake Conference every four years;
- Presents awards for exemplary efforts towards earthquake hazard reduction in the areas of mitigation, preparedness, and response;
- Recognizes leaders in earthquake hazard reduction;
- Publishes a newsletter addressing earthquake hazards policy, research, and WSSPC activities;
- Maintains a web site (www.wsspc.org) to facilitate communication and the dissemination of information about earthquake and tsunami issues;
- Partners with government agencies, private-sector organizations, and other earthquake consortia.



1. American Samoa
2. Guam
3. Northern Marianas



Policy Activities

The policy recommendations that WSSPC develops and adopts address a range of regional seismic risk, earthquake monitoring, hazard mitigation, and response issues. These policies provide substantial credible support for earthquake mitigation program improvements at the federal, state, and local levels. The participation of WSSPC member organizations in developing these policies, and rigorous review of these recommendations by stakeholders throughout the region, provide a sense of assurance that the recommendations are appropriate and relevant to the particular jurisdiction.

Linda Kozlowski of the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay, Oregon, accepts Award in Excellence from WSSPC Chair John Parrish of the California Geological Survey.

Outreach

All of WSSPC's member states and organizations have recognized the value of earthquake hazards awareness and mitigation. WSSPC contributes to this awareness through its conferences, awards program, newsletter, and information exchange opportunities.



"WSSPC's inspiration, guidance, and leadership in policy development were instrumental in building the support for this legislation [Nevada Assembly Bill 57]."

- Jonathan Price, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (Retired)

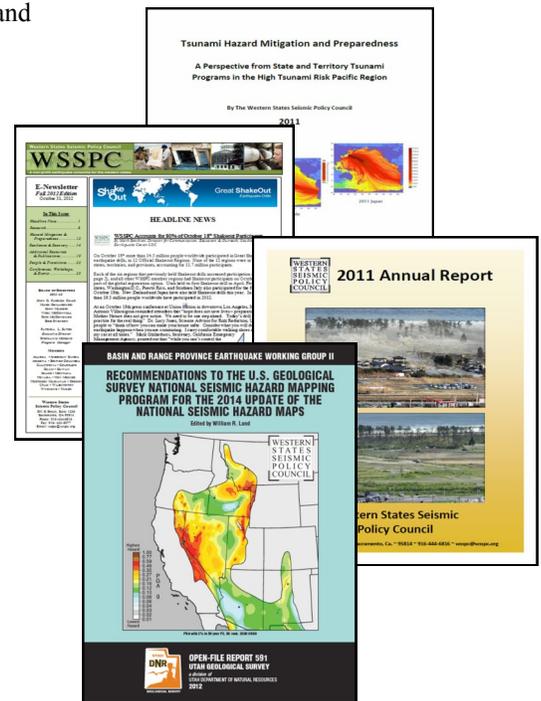
PURPOSE

Promote regional cooperation and the interaction of State Emergency Management, State Geological Surveys, and State seismic boards, councils and commissions in the formation of seismic policy recommendations.

Improve the overall awareness of earthquake hazards and methods to mitigate the associated risks; develop strategies to enhance earthquake preparedness; and support earthquake studies and earthquake preparedness activities that will reduce or eliminate deaths, injuries and property damage.

Serve as a resource for earthquake-related materials, information, training programs and workshops, in coordination with other regional and national earthquake organizations.

Advocate adoption and implementation of seismic mitigation policies at all levels of government.



SUMMARY

The efforts of WSSPC significantly decrease the time needed for the state and local earthquake mitigation programs to learn of important improvements and new ideas from other jurisdictions. WSSPC has a substantial track record of success performing this clearinghouse function efficiently and effectively at a very low cost to the federal program. We look forward to FEMA, USGS, our many partners, and our direct and indirect constituents continuing to benefit from a fully supported and engaged WSSPC.