

### If I Were Mayor, I Would...

If I were mayor, I would help prepare the citizens of Forest Grove for the Cascadia earthquake that may happen in the near future. Some people look at the likelihood of Cascadia happening and say, "I'll be fine, no need to worry.". However, if I were mayor I would make sure citizens were prepared for this earthquake that could strike at any time. To keep citizens prepared, I would make sure that every citizen knows the supplies that they should have in their house. I would also make sure that we have shelter for people in the city whose homes are destroyed. The last thing I would do is make sure that everyone knows the procedure of what to do when the earthquake strikes. It is important for the citizens of Forest Grove to be prepared for a possible 9.0 earthquake by having supplies in every home, shelter to hold people with homes that are no longer inhabitable, and training so people know what to do when this earthquake strikes.

Many people have 72 hour kits in their home in case of any emergencies. Even though these kits are good to have in your home, you need to have supplies to last for much longer than that. On [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov), it says, "Oregon's Office of Emergency Management encourages people to be prepared to be on their own for a minimum of two weeks.". Looking at this information, first, I would make sure that everyone has water filters. Water filters are one of the most important things to have after a natural disaster, because without clean water you can get sick. Secondly, I would make sure that citizens have good and safe food to eat. Canned food would be the best, since it can be stored for a longer time. On <http://ucfoodsafety.ucdavis.edu> it states, "Foods in glass bottles and jars may break during a disaster.". Finally, I believe that people should keep first aid supplies in their home in case of the earthquake. Citizens need first aid supplies in their homes because many people get hurt during earthquakes and you need a way to take care of wounds, without them getting infected. Clearly, the people of Forest Grove need to have the right supplies to make sure they are prepared for this earthquake.

The next thing I would do if I were mayor, is find land and purchase supplies to use for shelter, in case people's homes are destroyed. Firstly, I would organize a construction crew to build earthquake safe buildings in Forest Grove. If I were mayor, I would do this so when the earthquake strikes people would have a place to stay if their homes were destroyed. Secondly, I would get big tents that can hold people. We will need tents to protect everyone from the rain that is often none stop here in Oregon. The last thing I would do, is try and improve our emergency facilities, to be more earthquake safe. I would do this because after an earthquake you need to get help from emergency personnel, and you can't if their buildings are destroyed. Overall, it is important to make sure that everyone has shelter after this earthquake hits.

Another thing that I would do as mayor, in preparation for this earthquake, is make sure that everyone knows what to do when this earthquake strikes. The first thing I would do to help people know what to do, is hire training teachers. The teachers could come into schools and teach, as well as, have programs where everyone can come to learn. Additionally, I would create a neat and organized site that shows everyone who doesn't get trained what to do when the earthquake strikes. The information on the site would include the best ways to contact emergency personnel, as well as, how to take care of yourself during and after the earthquake. Finally, I would train emergency personal on the earthquake, regularly. This way they would know more about how to help the citizens after the earthquake. All in all, it is very important to train and teach everyone about what to do during and after this earthquake.

As I have discussed, this earthquake is something that everyone in Forest Grove needs to be ready for. If I were mayor I would strive to help the citizens of Forest Grove be prepared. I would do this by making sure everyone has the supplies they need. Additionally, I would work towards having shelter for those who need it after the earthquake. Finally, I would teach and train everyone to know what to do about this earthquake, so everyone will stay safe. In the end, I believe that it is important to make sure everyone in Forest Grove is prepared for this earthquake when it happens.