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# MEDIA ADVISORY

**May 9, 2016**

This week local agencies, including Canyon County, Central District Health Department, Southwest District Health, American Red Cross, and Medical Reserve Corp volunteers, will join together in a full-scale exercise with a coordinated response to a “mock” catastrophic earthquake and tsunami on the West Coast. Participating agencies will integrate resources and personnel to set-up and exercise a medical shelter operation at O’Connor Field House in Caldwell.

Experts have predicted that a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami is overdue and when it occurs, it will drive evacuees eastward to our area. This hypothetical emergency scenario will help these organizations exercise their current plans and streamline their operational readiness, response capabilities, and use of resources in emergency-related incidents. This exercise will enhance each agency’s preparation by providing the opportunity to work together and coordinate resources to strengthen daily operations, as well as ensuring the agencies are prepared to respond if the need arises.

Students from Job Corps and the Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School will act as evacuees for the exercise.

The purpose of this media advisory is to:

- Ask media to notify the public about the increased activity around O’Connor Field House and ensure them there is no need for concern. In turn, the public is asked not to impede or disrupt the exercise in any way. Excessive automobile traffic is not expected, as many participants will be bused to the event.
- **Members of the media are invited to attend the exercise between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2016.** This will be the most active timeframe of the exercise to provide visual opportunities for media coverage. Any media attending this exercise will be required to check-in at the front of the building and will be escorted through the facility.
- Media will be given specific instructions to follow when observing the exercise. The PIO’s will make every effort to accommodate media access and assist with interviews without interfering with the exercise.

All media questions and requests will be coordinated through Christine Myron at 208.871.1712; Joe Decker at 208.965.4463; or Laurie Boston at 208.899.1268.