



A magnitude 1.5 earthquake was recorded Jan. 24 near the Nooksack River where Highway 542 meets State Route 9, according to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Numerous earthquakes strike the area each year, but most are too small to cause perceptible shaking. *(Hailey Hoffman/Cascadia Daily News)*

FAULTS > FROM A1

Subduction zones, such as the Cascadia zone, cause the largest, deepest quakes — above magnitude 8.0 — but shallow faults, though their ruptures are not as powerful, can be just as damaging because of their nearness to the surface.

Dozens of active faults crisscross Washington, earning the state the second-highest earthquake risk in the country. Whatcom and Skagit counties are home to numerous shallow, or crustal, faults, that could produce extensive local damage should they rupture.

The 31-mile long Devils Mountain fault in Skagit County stretches from Darrington to Mount Vernon. Devils Mountain could produce a magnitude 7.1 earthquake, according to a Department of Natural Resources model, that could injure more than 600 people and cause \$2.3 billion in economic losses across 15 counties.

The Boulder Creek fault, located in Whatcom County near Maple Falls, is capable of generating a magnitude 6.8 quake along its 11-mile length. A DNR model indicates that damages from an

earthquake of this magnitude could injure more than a dozen people and cause \$113.5 million in economic losses throughout Whatcom and Skagit counties.

Gargett said quakes at crustal faults or at the Cascadia zone, which lies about 70 miles off the coast, have the potential in the region to disrupt transportation, cut off power and water supplies and cause liquefaction — when solid land behaves as a liquid.

But earthquakes, by nature, are unpredictable, Gargett said. That’s why it’s important to be pre-

pared for any seismic event, whether it be a Cascadia zone rupture or a quake at a nearby fault, he said.

“We can debate over which earthquake is going to be the worst,” Gargett said. But “there is no solid and firm consensus on the effects of any particular earthquake whatsoever.”

As county, state and federal officials gear up for Cascadia Rising — a rehearsal of the region’s response to a theoretical magnitude 9.0 earthquake at the Cascadia Subduction Zone — in June, Gargett urged residents to make their own

disaster plans and educate themselves on hazards in their area.

“Self-preparedness is probably the single most important thing to do,” Gargett said.

Households should keep on hand enough food and water to sustain each family member for up to two weeks. Families with children in schools or loved ones in long-term care centers should contact those facilities to learn their earthquake plans.

In addition, Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center holds Commu-

nity Emergency Response Team classes that train residents on how to assist their community during a disaster.

“You can walk up to almost anybody in Japan and ask them on the street, ‘What are you going to do if there’s an earthquake,’ and they can tell you exactly how they’re going to respond, where they’re going to go, what their families are going to do, what their kids are going to do,” Gargett said. “That’s where we need to get here.”

TULIP > FROM A6

A video of the vote count, broadcast on Facebook Live, showed 93 workers in favor of forming a union — “an overwhelming majority” of Washington Bulb employees, according to a Familias Unidas press release.

Workers agreed to end the strike as a good-faith gesture while union representatives negotiated with management over workers’ demands.

Washington Bulb employees seek a guarantee of eight hours minimum of work per day, sick leave, raises on performance bonuses and training for supervisors “to treat workers with respect.”

The union is also asking management to eliminate workers’ exposure to harmful chemicals during pesticide applications and to provide waterproof clothing, gloves and boots.

Workers have been expected to provide their own gloves, said Edgar Franks, Familias Unidas political director. Some employees have developed lesions on their hands and face from the nectar the flowers secrete, Franks said.

Washington Bulb management reacted harshly to the strike, yelling at news media to leave company property on March 23 and ordering some workers back to the fields. The next day, management told strikers to leave a field or they would call the sheriff, one of the picketers said in a Facebook Live video.



Ramon Torres tells managers with Washington Bulb Company that workers have unionized, March 23 in Mount Vernon. More than 100 people joined a picket line over the poor treatment of farmworkers who pick and package daffodils and tulips. *(Hailey Hoffman/Cascadia Daily News)*

Negotiations started on March 25 and continued into Tuesday, when union officials were waiting for a “final document” from management responding to worker demands, Franks said.

Franks said he had the impression Washington Bulb was taking workers’

concerns seriously.

The union had been in discussions with Leo Roozen, a member of the family that owns Washington Bulb and Roozen-Gaarde, the retail side of the family business.

Franks said Roozen told the union, “We want to improve as a company and

hopefully still be communicating, not just for this season but for a long time.” Washington Bulb did not respond to a request for comment.

On March 23, Brent Roozen emailed Cascadia Daily News a statement responding to the strike, saying Washington Bulb be-

lieved “only a small number of employees are actively involved in protesting.”

“A number of our farm employees joined with labor activists in protesting against our farm,” the statement said. “Washington Bulb Company has a long history of positive working relationships with our val-

ued employees, and this action is upsetting to both our company and employees.”

The Tulip Festival opens with a gala kickoff event March 31.

The monthlong celebration involves three gardens: Tulip Town, Garden Rosalyn and RoozenGaarde.