



# Earthquakes

The land that our cities and towns are built on is alive and actively moving. This movement, caused by earth's tectonic plates stretching and colliding, created and contributes to the growth of our mountain ranges and volcanoes today. Offshore, the oceanic

plate is slowly being pulled under the North American plate (where we live) at the same rate as your fingernails grow. As tectonic plates move and readjust earthquakes happen and some can be felt throughout the region.

## What's My Risk?

If you live in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, or Washington - you are vulnerable to earthquakes! Follow the links below to find out where your home, school, or work are in proximity to earthquake prone areas.

- [Alaska Earthquake Center](#)
- [Idaho Emergency Management](#)
- [Oregon DOGAMI Hazard Viewer](#)
- [Washington DNR Hazard Viewer](#)

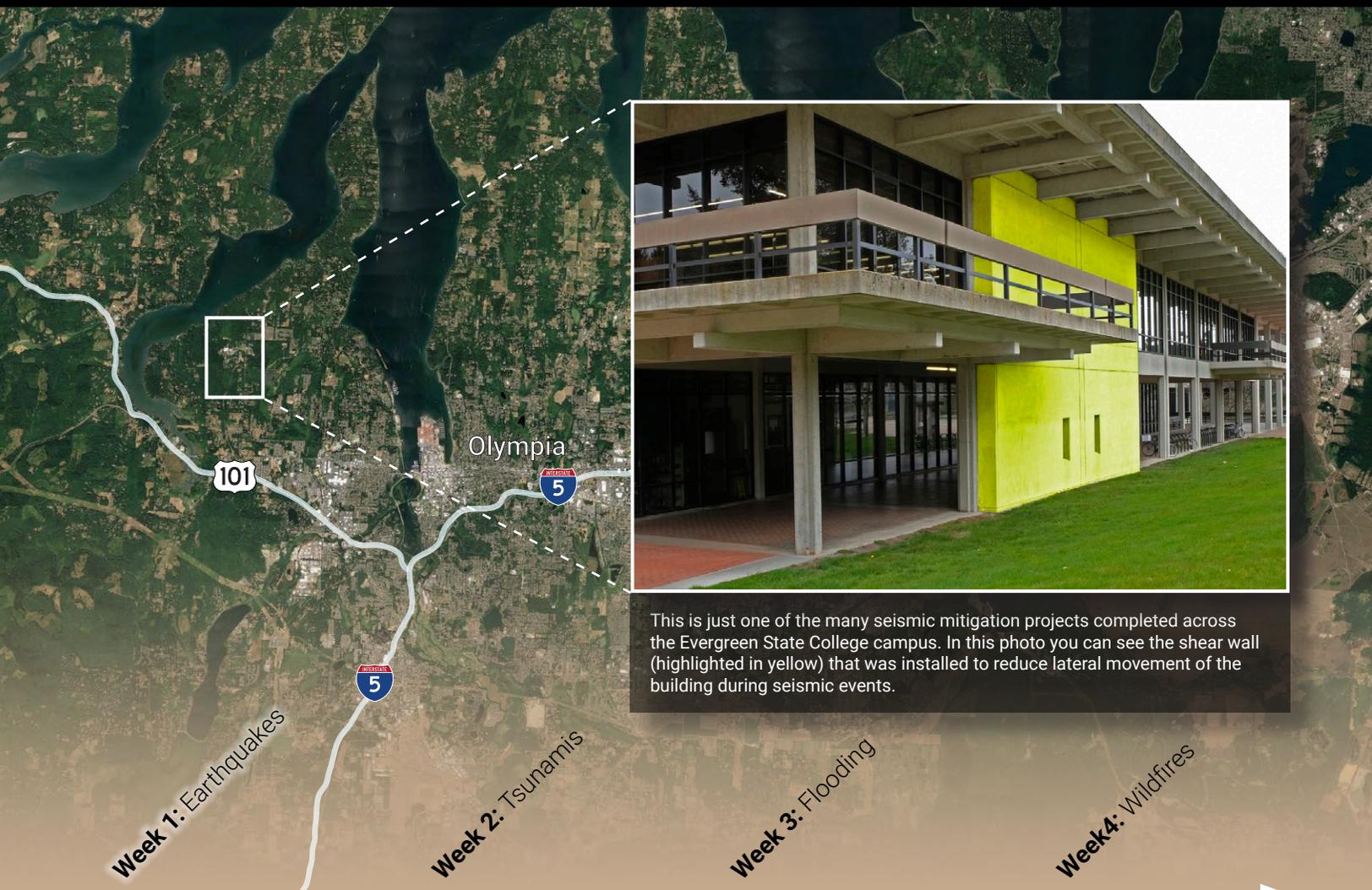
## What Can I Do?

After every large earthquake we learn more about constructing safer and stronger buildings. If your home is more than 25 years old, ask your building official whether your home needs to be retrofitted due to these advances. Every household should conduct a **Hazard Hunt** to find and prevent heavy and fragile items from falling and breaking.

[Home Hazard Hunt](#)

## Case Study

After Washington's 2001 Nisqually earthquake the Evergreen State College suffered extensive damage. The College committed to making its campus resilient, knowing it was only a matter of time before the next earthquake. The College spent the last twenty years working with the State of Washington and FEMA retrofitting buildings, making the campus and its community safer, one building at a time.



This is just one of the many seismic mitigation projects completed across the Evergreen State College campus. In this photo you can see the shear wall (highlighted in yellow) that was installed to reduce lateral movement of the building during seismic events.

MITIGATION MARCH



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