

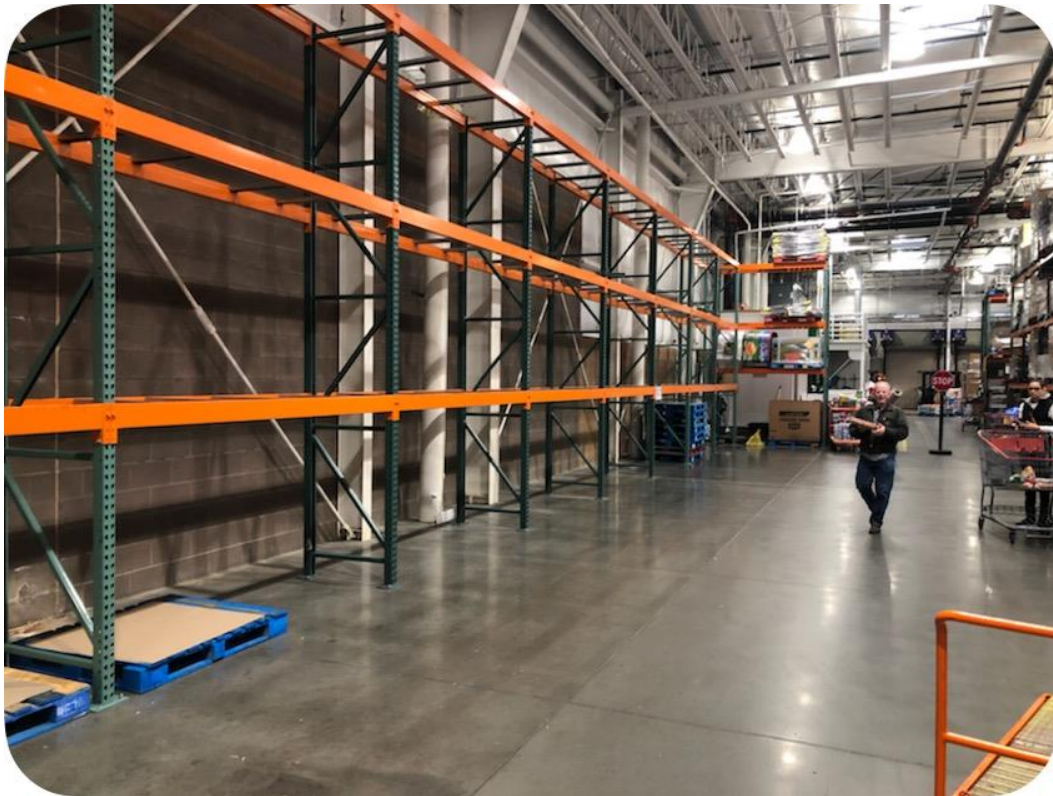
To members of Lake Forest Estates Homeowners' Association,

Upfront I want to say that this is certainly not a cheerful article, but there's no hiding from the truth that we are subject to a 9.0 level earthquake event happening sooner or later here and now is the time to get prepared.

I used to be a Geophysical Analyst for Chevron's Geophysics research division doing all sorts of computer modeling of the earth. I have studied the PNW earthquake risk data and it scares the hell out of me, so I try to help raise others awareness of this risk.

Here are some Covid-19's lessons learned in regards to earthquake emergency preparedness that I think are worth reviewing.

When you were used to seeing massive amounts of products available at Costco, like paper towels, toilet paper and water, then one day you see this, it's a little shocking.



This picture was taken by me on 3/2/2020 and is of the Costco Covington's area where they normally store paper towels, TP and waters. All sold out!

This was caused by panic buying after the Covid-19 virus hit us. I was there yesterday (7/15/20) and they still did not have any toilet paper for sale. When this virus hit us, I had 4 packs each of Costco TP and paper towels in our garage. Why you ask? Well, because I am VERY concerned about the likelihood of a 9.0 level earthquake in this

area. So, I stock up on essentials so hopefully my family is not going to go without if and when this earthquake hits.

My Costco example here for TP, paper towels and waters, is but a **small** glimpse of what the availability of all products would be like after a 9.0 level earthquake. Besides panic buying sell-outs of products and food in all stores that are able to be open, there are other issues that will come into play;

- (1) For Costco stores, the big difference would be that they all would almost certainly immediately close and not be available for shopping because their large overhead storage of product is going to fall into the isles. They are going to have to switch to rescue operations of trapped customers.
- (2) There are over 7000 bridges of various sizes and shapes in the PNW larger area. Out of the Cascadia Rising study done in 2016, they are all predicted to sustain serious damage in a 9.0 level quake. What this means to us as consumers is that the stores ARE NOT going to get resupplied for a long time.

If you happen to be at Costco and in an isle and the earth moves violently, I recommend you immediately dive for cover into the racks themselves, if there is room, because that overhead stock is going to be coming down quickly. It may take a while before you are rescued, but at least you'd be alive.

In terms of household products and food, what is likely to become everyone's reality after a major PNW earthquake, is that **you will have to survive on what you have in your homes already** – for up to several months.

The scientific predicted time cycle for that level of quake for our area is on the order of 300 to 500 years. The last large quake of that magnitude was January 26, 1700. It has been over 320 years and we are now into the estimated repeat cycle.

Simple stated, the Pacific plate can be modeled as a zero sum situation mathematically in regards to all of the plate tectonic stresses. Other quakes happening all around the Pacific plate, contribute to a large PNW quake happening sooner rather than later.

For further information on this, please see my last Fall's HOA's presentation located on our HOA website ([lakeforestestateshoa.com](http://lakeforestestateshoa.com)) in the "Current Resident" area in a new Emergency Preparedness section I've added. My prior article on retrofitting your home so it is better able to withstand a large earthquake is also there. I won't repeat any more of that here now, but I do **HIGHLY** encourage all home owners to read that article if you haven't, and start to retrofit your homes. If it falls off of its foundation during an earthquake, it is very likely that it will be a tear down. My wife and I spent about \$2k to retrofit our home to the levels in that article and I can tell you it is money well spent.

Hopefully the lessons learned presented here help you all to see the necessity to start preparing now for an eventual large PNW earthquake happening!

Sincerely,  
Giles Nelson, LFEHOA vice-president.