



crashed onto the front steps of the school. Fortunately, the school was closed for spring break so there were no injuries. But the damage was so severe that the building was condemned and demolished.

1995 seismic improvements: Portland, Oregon

In 1995, Portland voters supported a bond measure that funded seismic improvements for many schools. Those improvements included strengthening brick facades and parapets that were similar to those that fell in the Scotts Mill and Puget Sound earthquakes.

2001 Nisqually Earthquake

February 28, 2001 6.8 magnitude

What's next for the Northwest?

Scientists believe that the Pacific Northwest is due for another earthquake, a different type that also will be much larger than those of 1949 and 1993. Shifting of the "plates" that make up the earth's crust now is understood to produce "subduction zone" earthquakes. The Cascadia Subduction Zone stretches along the Pacific Coast from British Columbia to Northern California; it produced an earthquake on January 26, 1700, with an estimated magnitude of approximately 9.

Geologic evidence shows that these earthquakes occur periodically over periods of hundreds of years.

Planning for the inevitable

Oregon building codes were revised in 1995 to reflect the potential for large earthquakes in our region. But many public and private buildings- including schools- were built earlier and would need substantial structural improvements in order to meet current standards.

Looking forward in PPS

Portland Public Schools is working to revise its Long-Range Facilities Plan, with discussion to include the need for seismic improvements to schools. Learn more about the process