

## **ASHSC Policy Recommendation 2011-5**

### **INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PLANS TO PREPARE FOR AND MITIGATE THE POSSIBLE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF A GREAT PACIFIC NORTHWEST EARTHQUAKE ON ALASKA**

*There is consensus amongst Federal and western state agencies and general agreement within the scientific community that the next great devastating earthquake in North American may likely occur in the Pacific Northwest region, along the Cascadia subduction zone or on a shallow Puget Sound fault. While such an earthquake would not likely cause any physical damage to Alaska's infrastructure or directly pose a safety hazard to Alaska's population, it could, however, would have a significant effect on Alaska's economy given the importance of the Pacific Northwest region to Alaska's commerce, shipping, oil exports, fishing and tourism industries, and communications. Therefore, the Commission recommends that the respective Alaska government agencies investigate potential impacts and develop contingency plans to prepare for and mitigate the possible detrimental effects of a great Pacific Northwest earthquake on Alaska. Additional information related to this policy recommendation is contained in Koehler and others (2012), Miscellaneous Publication 148, Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys <http://www.dggs.alaska.gov/pubs/id/24224>.*