

# The Oregonian

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BREAKING NEWS AT [OREGONLIVE.COM](http://OREGONLIVE.COM)

WINNER OF SEVEN PULITZER PRIZES

SUNRISE EDITION

Death toll | Likely tens of thousands    Aftershocks | 30 of 4.5 magnitude or higher    In need of aid | 3 million Haiti residents

## Haiti left with ruins, despair



JUAN BARRETO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Residents wander amid the ruins of Tuesday's earthquake in Haiti. With thousands missing, dazed survivors navigated the rubble as dozens of aftershocks rocked the capital of Port-au-Prince on Wednesday.

Reeling authorities say death toll still unknown, struggle to aid survivors

By JONATHAN M. KATZ  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers desperately searched collapsed buildings as fear rose that the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and rescue dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small — from shacks in shantytowns to President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds.

Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peace-keeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's multistory headquarters.

Police officers turned their pickups into ambulances. Wisnel Occilus, a 24-year-old student, was wedged between two other survivors in a truck bed headed to a police station. He was in an English class when the earth shook at 4:53 p.m. and the building collapsed.

"The professor is dead. Some of the students are dead, too," said Occilus, who suspected he had several broken bones. "Everything hurts."

Other survivors carried the injured to hospitals in wheelbarrows and on stretchers fashioned from doors.

In Petionville, next to the capital, people used sledgehammers and their bare hands to dig through a collapsed shopping center, tossing aside mattresses and office supplies. More than a dozen cars were entombed, including a U.N. truck.

Nearby, about 200 survivors, including many children, huddled in a theater parking lot using sheets to rig makeshift tents and shield themselves from

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## Supplies, funds and aid workers head to Haiti

Nations around the world marshal resources to help

By HELENE COOPER and LIZ ROBBINS  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, facing the first large-scale humanitarian crisis of his presidency, moved quickly to send help to Haiti, pledging Wednesday that the Haitians and their devastated island nation would have the "unwavering support" of the United States.

Within hours of Obama being informed of the quake in Haiti on Tuesday, U.S. officials were plotting a response that included ships, transport planes, helicopters and thousands of Marines. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton decided Wednesday night to cancel the rest of her Pacific trip and return to Washington.

Gen. Douglas Fraser, head of the U.S. Southern Command, said that one of the Navy's large amphibious ships would probably be sent to Haiti, with a Marine expeditionary unit aboard, and that other American military forces were on alert, including a brigade of 3,500 troops.

The Navy aircraft carrier Carl Vinson was deployed from Norfolk, Va.; military commanders said it should arrive in two days. In addition, White House officials said the military was looking into sending the Southern Command's hospital ship, the Comfort, in light of reports that most of Haiti's medical facilities were severely damaged if not destroyed. The Coast Guard also dispatched four cutters.

As the U.S. mobilized, other governments and aid agencies around the

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BENJAMIN BRINK/THE OREGONIAN

Judith Gelin, a Haitian refugee who, with her husband, Carlos, won political asylum in the United States in 2001, weeps over photos. She runs the Society for Haitian Arts and Culture in Portland. Since the Haiti earthquake struck, she has tried hourly to call family members in her homeland but hasn't gotten through.

## Portlanders cry, pray, wait for word

The horror and fear surrounding this week's earthquake in Haiti reaches to the Portland area. Here are four stories about local people and families with strong concerns about what's happening in the devastated Caribbean nation.

### "Try your call again later"

Elange Andre lays out dozens of photos showing her loved ones: A sister wearing a frog T-shirt, smiling at the camera; a brother who works for the U.S. Embassy; a friend who "always drives me wherever I want to go" when the Portland resident visits her native country.

She shows a photo of her husband as well, who was visiting family in Haiti when Tuesday's 7.0 earthquake struck.

She heard through one relative that her husband is OK but has been unable to get any more information. Instead, she dials relative after relative, only to get the same recording: "All circuits are busy now. Please try your call again later."

"I keep asking God for strength," she said, tearing up. "It is too much."

About 2,000 Haitians live in the Portland area, said Judith Gelin, who fled here with her husband, Carlos, eight years ago as political asylum refugees. The two are leaders in the Haitian community and run the Society for Haitian Arts and Culture. They, too, have been trying to reach family members in Haiti to no avail.

"It hurts a lot. My heart has broken," Judith Gelin said. "If I could go there ... I don't know I (could) face this."

Her family, including her two children, Jemima, 9, and Jeffrey, 6, visited Haiti in December 2008. They brought toys for children there as part of a fundraising effort to help victims of Hurricane Ike in 2008.

Other Haitians in Portland are calling the Gelins to see if anyone has heard news of relatives, Carlos Gelin said. They

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**Inside** | A4, A5

**Portland:** Mercy Corps will send a four-person team to Haiti.

**Disasters:** Haiti's mix of geography, poverty, social problems, slipshod building standards and bad luck makes it a site of frequent catastrophes.

**The scene:** The earthquake spared neither poor nor powerful: the president was homeless, the U.N. mission chief missing, the archbishop dead.

**United Nations:** 16 U.N. personnel were confirmed dead and 100 to 150 U.N. workers are unaccounted for.

**At Oregonlive.Com**

**Breaking news:** News updates from Port-au-Prince, where recovery begins, and from the Northwest, where relief crews prepare to depart.

**Videos:** Friends and families with ties to Haiti hang on every bit of news, awaiting word from survivors.

**Photos:** Images of destruction and personal torment flow from the Caribbean nation. See dozens in on-line slide shows.



### WEATHER



A little sun  
High: 46  
Low: 38

For complete weather, see **C10**

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### In Business | B7

**Homes:** The Portland median home price fell to \$242,200 in 2009.

**Taxes:** Oregon's high-tech leaders are split over proposed tax increases.

## Obama: More NW bull trout habitat

**Proposal:** | The policy would boost protected land fivefold from Bush-era rules

By MATTHEW PREUSCH  
THE OREGONIAN

In a sharp course change from current federal policy, the Obama administration said Wednesday that it wants far more of Oregon and four

other Western states set aside to protect a native, wide-ranging fish called the bull trout.

It would mean a more than fivefold increase in the miles of rivers and acres of lakes dedicated as critical habitat for the threatened species and could mean more restrictions on recreation and development on federal lands, which cover roughly half of Oregon.

Decades of development, dam-building, logging and grazing have pushed the fat and speckled fish, which needs cold, clean water to thrive, down to less than half of its historic range, government scientists say. After the species was listed in 1999 as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, the federal government was obligated to protect areas the

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