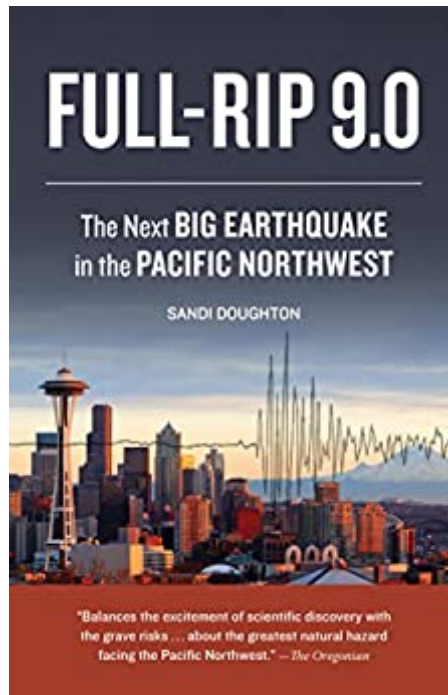




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# Full-Rip 9.0: The Next Big Earthquake In The Pacific Northwest



## Synopsis

Scientists have identified Seattle, Portland, and Vancouver as the urban centers of what will be the biggest earthquake—the Really Big One—in the continental United States. A quake will happen—in fact it's actually overdue. The Cascadia subduction zone is 750 miles long, running along the Pacific coast from Northern California up to southern British Columbia. In this fascinating book, The Seattle Times science reporter Sandi Doughton introduces readers to the scientists who are dedicated to understanding the way the earth moves and describes what patterns can be identified and how prepared (or not) people are. With a 100% chance of a mega-quake hitting the Pacific Northwest, this fascinating book reports on the scientists who are trying to understand when, where, and just how big THE BIG ONE will be. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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## Customer Reviews

The recent New Yorker article (<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/07/20/the-really-big-one>) about the Cascadia Subduction Zone had me dying to learn more, and a friend who lives in Seattle but hails from California pointed me to this book. It is excellent. It covers the history of how we came

to know about the subduction zone, as well as the people behind the discoveries -- geologists, seismologists, biologists, mud-studiers, oceanographers, and hundreds of residents of the Pacific Northwest who pitched in. The book also puts the possibilities of an eruption in context of recent events in India, Japan, and Chile, so that we understand based on our own historical contexts what the possibilities and probabilities are. Finally, the book does its best to prepare the residents of the region for what they will need to do, at the personal and community levels, to prepare for a disaster that may be imminent or may not occur for hundreds of years. I'm thousands of miles away on the East coast, and I still took action to update our emergency kits and fire extinguishers after reading this book. I suspect that for some, it will save lives. For others, it will be an entertaining and readable discovery of how earthquakes work, what we know (and don't know) and where the science may take us next.

The book covers the history of the discovery of the tectonic subduction zone(s) off of northern Calif., Oregon, Washington and B.C.. It also covers what various experts feel could happen if the earthquake on that area occurred today and mega destruction that will result. All of the areas are playing zoning/retrofit catch-up with the potential mega-event. Think of half to all of the major buildings in Seattle, Vancouver and Portland downtown collapsing on a 9.0 quake. Doesn't sound possible, does it? Southern Calif. has had the advantage of being exposed to many earthquakes and has had the time to weed out old failing buildings, improve its building codes, and improve its infrastructure (bridge improvements, locations of schools, hospitals, etc). Until very recently, Portland and Seattle did not know that they too are facing the earthquake/tsunami gun. The book is not a Fox News scare you piece - it is a well-written book that everyone in the NW of the US and Canada should read. It is a call for understanding what will happen and what you can do at the personal/town/state level. There are many problems in the NW that will need to be solved.

Full-Rip 9.0 is perhaps the best-written scientific piece I have come across; it's as comprehensible for the layman as it offers clearly defined information for seismicity and meteorology scholars alike. While most know in advance how the "Seattle Fault Line" ended, Sandi Doughton, the scientific writer for the Seattle Times, keeps you on the edge of your seat, you hoping against all hope that the story would turn before its catastrophic finale. Packed with historic and present-day data, both culminating in a dire diagnosis for the future, this book ought to be a must-read for every city planner, building developer, every university, meteorology lab, politician, in fact every household of the North West. Actually, it's a lecture that should waken attention across the continent.

Very well-written. This book is a page-turner for me. I enjoyed following the story of the research involved in working out the history of the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Predictions scary but needed. Do I want to move to PNW? Haven't decided but this book reinforces the need to look for the right place and right building. And how to improve things wherever I end up. Very helpful and intriguing.

I've been hearing about the big one for years now with no background information or any details to what it really means. This book is full of information. At times I had to remind myself that I've lived in Washington for most of my 42 years and that just because I was reading this book didn't mean that the big one is going to happen today. Mainly it gives you the opportunity to educate yourself and do whatever you can to be prepared. I think everybody in the PNW should read this book and then reach out to your political leaders to let them know you want funding to put an early warning system into motion and to make sure our schools have the funding they need to make sure the structures stand.

Anyone who was unaware of the great risk of megabytes in much of the Pacific Northwest needs to read this book. It is a beautiful area but one where there are great exposures to nature's catastrophes. The region is very much at risk and our understanding of when and how bad is very limited. I love this area but will be very ill at ease when visiting there. The risks are real and large.

As someone living in the heart of the Cascadia region in Seattle, this book is absolutely essential reading to understand the state of knowledge of our seismic environment, and what the future is likely be like. "Full Rip 9.0" is a far more accurate and informative work than the much-discussed recent article in the New Yorker, and its dubious claim that everything west of I-5 will be "toast". That claim is not unlike the bogus claim that everything in California west of the San Andreas fault will fall into the sea. "Full Rip 9.0" is highly recommended for lay people and scientists alike. A very entertaining read, and full of vital information.

Written in an eminently readable style, this book further informed me about the possibilities of a large earthquake in the Pacific northwest. Though I found it a bit light on the science a junkie like me needs, it was a well-written and informative piece, perhaps best suited to a first read on this topic, so the reader will know where to dig for more detail.

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