

FAQ – Hangar Damage 12/2025

Updated: August 25, 2026

What happened in December 2025?

A storm event on December 16, 2025 ripped open an approximate 200' x 30' part of the hangar on the southeast corner. The damage is around 170' from the ground and pushed part of the roof out to the exterior, where it hangs, still attached.

What is the status of the damage?

The storm-damaged portion of roofing remains attached to Hangar B and continues to present a safety issue. The Port has been preparing to safely remove the large hanging section of roofing. Preparatory work has taken place around the work area, and the start of the roofing removal has been delayed due to equipment issues. The Tillamook Air Museum remains closed while recovery efforts continue.

Were there any injuries?

No injuries occurred.

Timeline

December 16, 2025: Storm damage; contractor arrives on site to assess for safety; debris cleanup by Port staff.

December 17, 2025: Regular Port Business Meeting – The Board was informed of the damage, with additional discussion planned for an upcoming special meeting; area closed to all traffic.

December 22, 2025: Special Meeting – Hangar B. The Board declared an emergency regarding the storm damage.

January 5, 2026: Special Meeting – Hangar B. Safety updates were presented; asbestos was discovered in debris.

January 21, 2026: Regular Board meeting. The Board continued receiving new information as it became available.

February 18, 2026: At the regular Board meeting, updated information based on similar Navy hangars was presented. A LiDAR survey funded by Friends of the Tillamook Air Museum was discussed, security fencing had been installed, and communications with elected officials continued.

April 2026: FEMA Disaster Declaration 4907 included Oregon and Tillamook County, making Hangar B funding possible.

May 20, 2026: Regular Board meeting. The Board decided not to commit additional Port funds toward the Hangar B repair project and directed staff to continue pursuing other options.

June 18, 2026: Port Board President Jack Mulder emphasized that the Port had not walked away from Hangar B or its future. Discussions with potential partners continued, and the Port remained supportive of efforts to preserve the hangar while exploring options related to FEMA requirements and long-term preservation.

July 2026: The Port announced it was preparing to begin work to safely remove the large section of storm-damaged roofing still hanging from Hangar B. Work was anticipated to begin in early August.

August 2026: Preparatory work took place around the work area, including de-energizing and removing electrical lines and poles. The start of the roofing removal was delayed due to equipment issues.

August 19, 2026: At its regular Board meeting, the Port of Tillamook Bay Board of Commissioners approved a term sheet for the land lease and future sale of the WWII-era Hangar B to Vintage Aviation Museum.

Will it be covered by FEMA?

FEMA Disaster Declaration 4907 includes Oregon and Tillamook County. The Port continues working with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) and FEMA on projects related to the December 2025 storm damage, including work associated with the storm-damaged roof opening, emergency safety work, and removal of the large section of roofing that remains attached to the building.

Doesn't the Port have insurance?

The Port has liability insurance, but not property insurance for the hangar. The Port has previously stated that it worked with a broker to seek alternative property insurance coverage, but available coverage was not considered financially practical and would not have covered existing damage.

Why can't the Port just let the part drop?

Testing of debris found asbestos in roofing materials. As work moves forward, asbestos-containing material must be handled and abated appropriately by qualified contractors.

Pricing Estimates (Presented 2/18/26 Board Meeting)

Emergency repair and safety

- Phase 1, emergency repair of damaged area – \$2–\$4 million
- Phase 2, structural assessment
 - Procurement of hazardous material survey, mechanical engineering, architect, roofing consultant, and abatement contractor

High level for building refurbish – approximately \$300 million and ~7 years

High level for building demolition – \$50–\$70 million and ~3 years

What happens next?

The immediate focus remains on safely addressing the storm-damaged roofing and related recovery work. The August 19, 2026 approval of a term sheet for the land lease and future sale of Hangar B to Vintage Aviation Museum represents a significant step regarding the hangar's future. Additional updates will be provided as work and the transition move forward.