



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2003 for Conference April 21 ,22, 23

MEDIA CONTACTS/RESERVATIONS:

OES Sheryl Tankersley (916) 845-8458
San Leandro Dan Lunsford (510) 577-3332
CARD Ana Marie Jones (510) 451-3140

STATE CONFERENCE TO SHOW DISASTER MITIGATION INNOVATIONS AND ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS CHALLENGES

SACRAMENTO – Disaster experts locally and from around the world will offer their insights and expertise at the upcoming third annual Disaster Resistant California conference, being held April 21, 22, and 23 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose.

The conference is sponsored by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in partnership with the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation based at San Jose State University. Conference partners include the California Earthquake Authority and the California Seismic Safety Commission.

More than 500 attendees from local, state, and federal government, local schools, the private sector and nonprofit organizations will learn how communities and businesses conduct terrorism risk assessments, how the threat of bioterrorism has changed the way hospitals operate and what lessons are being learned from earthquakes beyond our borders.

Attendees will also have a chance to participate in discussions with government officials who will examine the balance between freedom and security. Other topics include business continuity planning, neighborhood response training and methods of structural mitigation.

More than 20 exhibitors will be on display indoors and other demonstrations and displays will be available free to the general public outdoors.

The theme - Innovation, Implementation and Integration – underscores the conference's aim to highlight innovative best practices that can be implemented across geographic and occupational boundaries and integrated into existing structures. The conference brings together local, state, national and international experts in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

The conference is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and private

(more)



PARTNERS



DRC Conference

March 28, 2003

page 2

sponsorships. For more a complete schedule, visit www.oes.ca.gov, and click DRC in the right column. Registration forms are also available online. Media representatives, however, are asked to register by contacting the media contacts listed above.

Conference Highlights:

- Unveiling the new California Shake Map
- Presentation of canines used in disaster response
- Professional development courses in emergency management, public safety and business continuity
- Vendor displays
- Programs addressing terrorism risk assessment, community alerting and warning, special needs populations, hazard mitigation, business continuity and other topics
- International perspectives on disaster from Japan, Taiwan, Mexico and Turkey. Depending on events in the Middle East, a delegation from Israel is scheduled to present "The Israeli Experience."
- Videotaping of public service announcements

More than 30 presenters and 10 professional development courses are being offered, along with a special walking tour of downtown San Jose where participants will examine, first-hand, unreinforced masonry buildings that have been earthquake retrofitted.

OES coordinates state -level emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation for a wide range of natural and human-caused emergencies and disasters. As part of its responsibilities, OES coordinates the state's Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System. Through this "neighbor helping neighbor" system, fire-fighting resources from throughout the state can be called on to support local governments, and work with other state and federal fire agencies.

The Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation at San Jose State University, established in June 1999, is a collaborative effort among local governments, the private sector and academia. Its main focus is to limit loss of life, injury and property damage from natural disasters, and to accelerate economic recovery through implementation of mitigation measures.