



CDM

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 2003 - EVENT TODAY

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NEWS CONFERENCE IN SAN JOSE, 11 A.M., TODAY

KICKOFF EVENT FOR STATE CONFERENCE WHERE EXPERTS FOCUS ON EARTHQUAKES, FIRES, FLOODS AND TERRORISM

WHAT: The Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in partnership with the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation based at San Jose State University, will kickoff the third annual Disaster Resistant California Conference with a news conference offering the purpose of the conference and highlights.

WHO:

Dallas Jones, Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Paul Jacks, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Disaster Assistance Division
Dr. Guna Selvaduray, Executive Director, Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation
Dr. Frances Edwards-Winslow, Director, City of San Jose Office of Emergency Services

WHEN: Monday, April 21 at 11 a.m.

WHERE: Fairmont Hotel in San Jose

MONDAY CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

11 a.m. News Conference
12 p.m. Outdoor displays open to the general public including NASA decontamination unit, Geocell flood wall.
3 p.m. Presentation - Colima Earthquake in Mexico, Lessons Learned
3:30 p.m. Presentations
George Vinson, Director, California Office of Homeland Security
Dick Andrews, Chair, Senior Advisory Committee to the President, Homeland Security Advisory Council

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PARTNERS



Disaster Resistant California

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BACKGROUND:

Disaster experts locally and from around the world are offering their insights and expertise this Monday at the third annual Disaster Resistant California conference, being held April 21, 22, and 23 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose.

More than 400 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 State has strengthened its resolve against the threat of terrorism, and what lessons are being learned from earthquakes beyond our borders.

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

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.

Conference partners include the California Earthquake Authority and the California Seismic Safety Commission. The conference is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and private sponsorships. For a complete schedule or to register, visit www.oes.ca.gov, and click DRC in the right column.

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.

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.