



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GOVERNORS OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

SACRAMENTO – Disaster experts from California around the world will offer their insights and expertise at the upcoming fourth annual Disaster Resistant California conference, being held May 3-5 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento.

The conference is hosted by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in partnership with the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation. The conference brings together local, state, national and international experts in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. The theme – Realistic Strategies – underscores the conference's aim to highlight best practices that can be easily adopted elsewhere within existing structures.

More than 500 attendees from local, state, and federal government, the private sector and nonprofit organizations will learn how communities and businesses strengthen their resistance to human-caused and natural disasters. The conference will feature 25 presentations, including talks on:

- The latest alert and warning system technology,
- The strength of well-trained disaster volunteers,
- The media experience during crisis,
- Best mitigation practices in California adopted overseas,
- Emergency survival for businesses
- The psychological aspects of surviving disaster
- Lessons learned from Southern California Fires, and
- Many other presentations.

Also featured are 30 exhibitors, technology demonstrations, DRC Community awards and 10 training certification courses. There will also be an opportunity for participants to learn about and comment on the draft California State Hazard Mitigation Plan and hear from cities about their progress on local mitigation plans, due in November.

(more)



PARTNERS



DRC Conference

March 26, 2003

page 2

The conference is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and sponsorships. Conference partners include the California Earthquake Authority, the California Seismic Safety Commission, the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism, California Utilities Emergency Association, San Jose State University Foundation, State Farm Insurance, Nextel, Primedia, Prepared Response, Chalone Wine Group, Baker, Wood Rodgers Engineering, and ABS Consulting. Co-sponsors include the Business & Industry Council for Emergency Planning & Preparedness, California Emergency Services Association, nonprofit Collaborating Agencies in Responding to Disaster (CARD), Berkeley Lab, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the California Department of Conservation, the County of Sacramento, the cities of San Leandro, Berkeley and Redlands, and the private businesses of Dimensions Unlimited Inc. and the Crisis Environmental Policy Institute.

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 are asked to register by contacting the media contacts listed above.

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.