



News Release

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Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Partners Announce the Fifth Annual Disaster Resistant California Conference

SACRAMENTO – Protecting food supplies from terrorism, strengthening hospitals for mass casualties and learning from disasters across the nation and the globe will be the topics of discussion next week when emergency managers from government and private-sector organizations throughout California and the world gather at the Hyatt Regency Hotel for the Disaster Resistant California Conference.

Sponsored by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Collaboration for Disaster Mitigation (CDM), the conference features plenary sessions on the Sumatra tsunami, community partnerships on disaster related issues facing hospitals and the healthcare industry, as well as breakout sessions on the science behind landslides; public-private partnerships; the use of technology in crisis communications and emergency preparedness in schools.

Keynote addresses offered during the three-day conference include remarks on agro terrorism, the fire and emergency medical response to the Columbine shootings, the use of the incident command system during the response to the Oklahoma City bombing and planning for the 2005 Super Bowl.

"Since the Field Act was adopted after the Long Beach earthquake in 1933, California has been a leader in mitigating the effects of earthquakes, fires, flooding and other disasters," said OES Director Henry Renteria. "This year's conference will provide emergency managers the opportunity to learn first-hand from colleagues involved in several recent disasters throughout the world."

In addition to plenary and breakout sessions, the conference offers the more than 400 participants an opportunity to sharpen their disaster management skills through professional development courses and workshops featuring experts in damage assessment, hazard mitigation, preparedness for vulnerable populations and other disciplines.

The conference is partially funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and sponsorships.

For more a complete schedule and list of sponsors, 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 Sheryl Tankersley of OES at (916) 845-8458.

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