

SFCARD Disaster Food Conference

October 30th, 2003

Scenario Planning by Function: Congregate Meal Site

It's Tuesday morning at 11:49. There is a 7.3 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault with the epicenter in Daly City. The power is out in many areas of San Francisco. Many of the roads are blocked. 9-1-1 is overwhelmed and cell phones are not working. BART is closed and the 280/380 interchange is down. There is debris everywhere, particularly from falling glass and un-reinforced masonry.

You are a faith-based community organization. You prepare hot lunches every day and serve them from an on-site cafeteria to 70 seniors, run in large part by volunteers. You begin serving meals at 11:30 in the morning until 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

The earthquake hits as people are eating their lunch. You instruct people to take cover and hold on. After the earthquake, you assess the situation and decide to stay open. Your clients are frightened, some are injured and others may be in shock. The kitchen and cafeteria areas are upside down but there does not appear to be structural damage.

- a. How will you organize clean up?
- b. How are you going to continue to serve lunch?
- c. Some of your staff and volunteers have left or want to leave to check on their families. You do not know when or even if they will be back. You are very short handed. Where can you get help? If you recruit more volunteers, what tasks will they be assigned?

1.5 hours later... there is a strong aftershock

- a. Your clients and other members of your congregation have begun to turn up. Either they do not want to be alone or they have no place else to go. They need food and shelter. What will you offer? What do you need to take into consideration?
- b. You heard on the radio that the water pumping station was impacted by the power outage, and that water may be contaminated. How does this affect food preparation? Clean up? What are other options?
- c. Neighbors bring food from their homes to help you – including special home cooked meals. What will you tell them? What will you do?