

In Response

san francisco

card

A Publication of San Francisco Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disaster
made possible by support from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the United Way

In Response is SFCARD's monthly newsletter for current information
on disaster preparedness in the San Francisco community.

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Issue 24, May 2004

The Three-Minute CARD Update

Three Important PERSONAL Preparedness Tips

1. Get a Battery Powered Radio & Lots of Batteries
You can hear the latest news and disaster information even if your power is out.
2. Choose an Out-of-State Emergency Contact
After a disaster when local circuits are overloaded, it is easier to call long distance; your contact can then relay important information to other family members.
3. Learn How to Shut-off Your Home Utilities
Leaking gas, damaged water pipes, or an electrical fire all require the same response – shut off the utility at the main valve or switch box.



Three Important AGENCY Preparedness Tips

1. Identify a Relocation or Alternate Work Site
In the event your facility is damaged, can you share space with another agency?
2. Take Photographs of Your Agency
Take photographs to document the interior and exterior of your facility to help later in recovering costs due to facility damage or equipment loss.
3. Perform an Agency Hazard Hunt
Mitigate any obvious problems (e.g., move heavy items from top to lower shelves and secure items that might topple in an earthquake).

* See page 2 for where to go to get more information



Upcoming CARD Information Meetings

1. June 3 -- The Basics of Personal Preparedness. Learn the most practical steps to take to increase preparedness for yourself and the people you serve.
2. July 3 -- Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness. Learn how joining the SFFD's model NERT program can strengthen your agency's preparedness.
3. August 5 -- Managing Your Response to Disasters. Learn how to implement SEMS (the Standardized Emergency Management System).

For more information see SF CARD's 2004 Information Exchange Calendar at:
<http://www.sfc card.org/InformationExchange0409.pdf>

Disaster Preparedness Classes in English, Spanish, or Cantonese

Host a FREE 1-hour customized course on personal disaster preparedness for your agency staff or clients! Learn how to make a family disaster plan, build a disaster supplies kit, and keep safe during disasters. Courses available in English, Spanish, and Cantonese. Minimum of 20 participants, please. Contact the American Red Cross Bay Area, Prep. Services at 510-595-4459.

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Recap of April 1 Information Exchange on Developing Effective Agreements for Disaster Response

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) are important to develop prior to a disaster to ensure access to resources you may need to continue agency services post disaster. The following are elements of MOU's.

- Purpose – State the purpose of the MOU – (1) to establish provisions of mutual aid between organizations, or (2) to define terms of cooperation in providing disaster services or supplying resources.
- Activation -- Describe when the agreement (mutual aid) is activated – such as (1) when the requesting agency's facility is not functional, or (2) when the emergency exceeds the effective response capability of the impacted organization.
- Points of Contact – Such as: (1) agency director, (2) program coordinator, (3) office manager.
- Methods of Cooperation -- Provide some detail on exactly what the providing agency will do and any responsibilities of the requesting agency (e.g., training, delivery, usage, reimbursement, etc.).
- Finances -- Specify any financial arrangements or terms of reimbursement.



City Wide Spring Disaster Drill Saturday June 26 at the Marina Middle School

The SF Fire Dept. provides NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Response Teams) disaster training to people who live or work in SF. The training is done by Fire Department first responders. Call (415) 970-2022 for training information or go to http://sfgov.org/site/sfnert_index.asp?id=3139 for information.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES – Where to go for more information

For Agency Disaster Planning: <http://www.sfcard.org/AgencyEmergencyPlan0309.pdf>

For Family Disaster Planning: <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/familyplan.html>

For Disaster Supplies: <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/supplies.html>

For Emergency Food & Water: <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/foodwtr.html>

For Preparedness Checklist: <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/foreignmat/epceng.pdf>