

san francisco

c a r d

**community
agencies
responding to
disaster**

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**Earthquake Crossword Puzzle-
Answers**

Across:

Southern California Wildfires

I deployed to the Southern California Wildfires in November through the American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter (ARCBA). I was there to deploy the CAN (Coordinated Assistance Network) database which was requested by the response groups in the area. The CAN database is a powerful tool to help organize and share client and resource information in a recovery. The National American Red Cross is one of the founding members of CAN, and is such a believer in sharing recovery information that they include CAN in their Partner Services Division. I and the three other CAN deployment staff members headquartered out of the American Red Cross DHQ (Disaster Headquarters) in San Diego as we traveled throughout the Southern California region helping community organizations, faith-based groups and nonprofits implement CAN. I can't thank ARCBA and their Southern California counterparts enough for their unconditional support of our efforts in the deployment.

Additionally, The Salvation Army and National VOAD are two founding members of CAN. SoCal VOAD's chair, a San Diego Salvation Army executive, took an essential leadership position in helping organize the recovery efforts and endorsed the use of CAN as the best tool for information sharing for the long term recovery. To learn more about CAN and see who the other national members are, go to www.can.org.

Following are my Observations while in San Diego:

The scope of the wildfire event is what strikes me most. The affected areas

1 - HOMES
 6 - TIE
 7 - TABLE
 8 - WIND
 13 - SHOES
 16 - FAULTS
 17 - LIGHT
 18 - TWO
 19 - RED
 20 - NAILS
 21 - RADIO
 22 - BOLT
 26 - PREP
 28 - SLIP
 30 - SAN ANDREAS
 32 - TREMBLE
 34 - SBA
 35 - QUAKE
 36 - READY
 37 - SHAKING
 39 - UNDER
 41 - SLIDES
 44 - OES
 46 - NORTHRIDGE
 47 - DROP
 48 - TENT

Down:

2 - SAND
 3 - FIRST
 4 - CALAVERAS
 5 - FEMA
 8 - WATER HEATER
 9 - BE
 10 - ROOFS
 11 - PLYWOOD
 12 - AGE
 14 - OPEN
 15 - STRIKE
 16 - FOOD
 23 - TREES
 24 - GAS
 25 - HAYWARD
 27 - PARKING
 29 - IDEA
 31 - QUAKES
 32 - THRUST
 33 - BLAME
 38 - HAZARD
 40 - ROADS
 42 - DENT
 43 - SORT
 45 - STEM

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Bust the Myth

Over the past few weeks, we have continually heard this myth from people who are attending our preparedness trainings; so we think it is important to re-bust this myth!

cover hundreds of miles and swept into tiny communities that even some residents aren't familiar with. It's often difficult to see the disaster. There is still a trace of smoke in the air, and we passed one fire camp at a local school in our travels, but it sometimes seems as if the disaster is hiding.

Yet, there is a feeling of things being not quite normal even as people go about their business: the postings on the counters at fast food restaurants requesting \$1.00 donations for fire survivors; fire strike teams cruising the roads and highways along with resident's concerned looks when they hear sirens; local TV commercials acknowledging first responders and volunteers; banners stretched across high school fences and freeway overpasses thanking fire fighters; convoys of American Red Cross & Salvation Army supply trucks going down the freeways, fund drives at Qualcomm Stadium sponsored by local radio stations.

The disaster is most evident in the people, both with responders and fire survivors. In many community meetings there is an edge of frustration-people and groups not sure what to do, how best to coordinate the massive response, and how best to connect with each other. With the survivors, emotions are raw. Guilt, depression, a sense of loss and futility, confusion over how to begin and what to do first. They are thankful for surviving and the opportunity to rebuild, but they are also devastated at their personal losses.



This house was saved while all the homes around it were burned to the ground.

Laslo and Violetta sat at one of the picnic tables at the feeding tent set up adjacent to a church in the hills of Ramona. The brightly colored tents seem carnival like in the distance, but as you approach there is no doubt as to their purpose. This camp is owned by Christ In Action, a response team specializing in mass feeding and distribution that deployed from Manassas, Virginia. They feed hot meals on site and distribute clothes, tents, cots, food- whatever is needed.

Laslo sweeps his hand over his face to keep the flies off but he isn't disturbed by the nuisance. He and Violetta seem grateful for the calm, even as the air

MYTH -The doorframe is the safest place to be during an earthquake.

FACT - According to the USGS, "In the early days of California, many homes were made of adobe bricks with wooden doorframes. After a powerful earthquake, doorframes were sometimes the only parts of these houses still standing. From this came the myth that a doorway is the safest place to be during an earthquake. Today, few people in the Bay Area live in old, unreinforced adobe houses. In modern houses, doorways may be no stronger than any other part of the house and do little to protect you from falling debris. You are safer under a table, so "DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON."

Please note: the picture and information was taken from USGS's Report, "Putting Down Roots" (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/2005/15/>).

chills under orange skies colored by the sun as it sinks over the mountains. Heat and wind are enemies here these days. The free dinner provided by the volunteer cooks and servers was baked chicken on white rice, steamed veggies, bread and butter. They sat quietly not wanting to bother anybody. But they looked like they needed to talk.

When I asked how they were holding up they seemed grateful for the distraction. They hadn't lost their home, but the heat was intense enough to melt their windows on one side of the house. The smoke and ash destroyed most of the interior, but they saved many of their mementoes. They talked for almost two hours; about their families, about Italy, about their 15 cats who all survived because the faith-based shelter allowed them to be there with their pets. Now they sleep in their pickup truck in front of their home waiting until it can be cleaned up. They aren't ready for a hotel or temporary rental. They are tied to the property and need to be there. It helps them heal. Denny and Sandy Nissley of Christ In Action gave them cots and an air mattress to sleep on.



Christ In Action feeding tent in Ramona, CA.

The meeting of disaster survivors in the Lakeside area convened at 6:30pm on Tuesday. The Rebuilders Group which began 4 years ago in the aftermath of the Cedar fires now call themselves the Firestorm Resource Group. The small room fills quickly with old veterans and many new faces. David begins the meeting by welcoming newcomers and immediately tells them the dangers and obstacles they'll soon be facing: disreputable contractors, low-balling insurance adjusters, scam artists, etc. He tells them this is a process that will take years. People in the audience are getting wide-eyed and Cathy interrupts her husband telling him he's scaring everybody and to go slow. There are stories from some of the survivors, tears all around, and mentors from the previous fire are assigned to the newcomers. We feel like we've gone ten rounds in intense therapy.



The Chavez family in Deer Valley looking for mementos to salvage.

Luis and Rosa are sifting through the ashes where their home used to stand in Deer Valley while San Diego electric crews replace the power-pole on their lot. The crews seem to be everywhere. Some homes are still standing; it's like the fires played a bizarre game of tag, skipping some homes and burning others for no apparent reason. The couple's daughter and grandchildren stand in ash and rubble in what used to be their bedroom when visiting. One of the children shrieks and holds a porcelain doll high above her head. Her mask falls off her small face as she shouts to her grandparents, excited over the find. Her mother is still digging, hoping to find something more.

Luis points out a glob of melted shiny metal. The magnesium wheels from his vintage Corvette. The car is already gone, hauled off by the junkers. A pot belly stove stands alone on a charred pad. A nativity stands untouched near what used to be the front of the house. A tree-house finished only a week ago sits half-burned and mangled on the ground against a burned out tree. I bend down to get a better look at a broken plate. It reads: 25th Anniversary. There is only ash and remnants of a family's life.



Chavez's 25th Anniversary Plate.

Luis commits to rebuild. He considers himself one of the lucky ones. There are so many without insurance; so many afraid to ask for help for fear of being deported; so many on reservations who are worse off. As he hands me a bottle of cold water he asks me why I can't make the process easier. You should do something about it. Is there anything you can do? I have no answer. We hug and I leave. Soon I will be back in San Francisco. I will try and tell my own neighbors how important it is to be prepared.

Alessa Adamo

Agency Emergency Plan - Step 4

Signage & Neighborhood Resources

Placing signage in the appropriate areas would seem like a no-brainer. We've all seen the emergency exit signs where we work. Evacuation signs, fire alarm and extinguisher signs, caution signs, etc. are all essential to a safe environment. Signage helps us locate emergency supplies-how many of us can correctly remember where the closest fire extinguisher is located? Keep in mind some of these tips:

- Not everybody can read English - Picture or multi-lingual signage may be more appropriate.
- Keep signage in clear view and unobstructed.
- Post signs that indicate where your safety tools are located.
- Post signs at your electrical and gas shutoffs. Make sure the signs also instruct how to shut off the utilities.

But the best signage tip I've seen came from a safety manager at Forest Hill Church in San Francisco. All the emergency exit signs at all the exits are removable from the walls. And each one contains the important information relating to personnel emergency contact information, where the gas and

electrical shutoffs are located, where emergency tools are stored, where the primary and secondary evacuation sites are, neighborhood resources and other important information. These are located at each emergency exit throughout the facility. That is the best use of signage I've ever seen, and so easy to do. Way to go, Forest Hill Church!

Identify Neighborhood Resources

This will take a little more work, but pays off big in an emergency. Knowing your surrounding area is critical to emergency situations. Some items you'll want to know:

- Nearest pay phone
- Public health, community clinic and hospitals
- NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) staging area
- Police and fire stations
- Library & schools (resource, evacuation and shelter possibilities)
- Partner agencies/congregations - team up to combine resources
- Veterinary services
- Pharmacies
- Open space (for evacuation or reunification sites)
- Grocery stores, hardware stores, etc.

This partial list is more complete on page 8 of the Agency Emergency Plan. You may view it at www.sfcad.org. You will also find links to valuable sites for additional information. Remember that information is easier to gather ahead of time rather than in the midst of an emergency. As simple a procedure as it appears, it is one of the most important parts of being prepared.

Disaster Survival Recipe - Peanut Butter Balls

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/3 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup powdered milk (please note that protein powder can be added to the milk to give additional nutritional value)
- Can add 1/3 cup coconut, candy pieces, or protein powder if you like depending upon your taste buds

Materials needed:

- Human Hands
- Measuring cup

Directions:

Step 1: Measure out the ingredients and pour into a cup or bowl.

Step 2: Make desired amount of peanut butter mix into your hands and roll until the mixture forms into a tight ball.

Step 3: Eat

Please note: this recipe was borrowed from www.y2kkitchen.com and Sally Strackbein on November 27, 2007.

Upcoming Events, Trainings, & Services

If you have any upcoming disaster preparedness related events, please send us the information and we would be happy to promote your event.

SF CARD

December 11: Agency Emergency Plan Workshop.

How do you continue providing necessary services after a major disaster? Where do you turn for resources? How do you engage your staff and volunteers? You need an agency emergency plan for continuity of operations to clients after a major disaster.

It includes how to write a disaster mission statement, how to prepare staff to respond, how to work with volunteers, agency emergency supplies, facility preparation, neighborhood resources, communication, Incident Command System, and financial resources. Attend this workshop and walk away with a template for your own agency's emergency plan.

From 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM in San Francisco for a fee of \$15. For registration or more information, please go to <http://www.compasspoint.org/onevent/details.php?id=1779>.

NERT

December 15: NERT HAM Communications Team (HCT) Training, Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (with lunch break), SFFD Division of Training, 2310 Folsom @ 19th Street .

You got your FCC amateur radio license, now what? Learn about the rules of amateur radio communication, the types of equipment available, and how to conduct ham radio operations during a disaster as a NERT ham operator at this one-day training. NERT extends a special invitation to Neighborhood Coordinators and other team leaders, FCC-licensed or not, to attend the afternoon session of this class from 1-4 p.m. There you will learn more about how we communicate with the SFFD during disaster operations. It is essential that both ham and non-ham NERT members understand how and when we communicate with our Emergency District Coordination Centers (EDCCs). Come learn with us. For more information, and to RSVP, contact Bob Jacklevich, KF6PFV, at jacklevich@yahoo.com.

Department of Emergency Management

December 11: SF Ready Roundtable

Tuesday, December 11

Time: 12:00 pm- 1:30 pm

Location: Federal Reserve Bank, 101 Market St

Description: The December topic for SF Ready's free roundtable presentation is recovery planning and post-earthquake rebuilding in San Francisco. Hear from the experts! More information about SF Ready and the upcoming sessions is available at the SF Ready website or by calling 415-681-2920.

December 14: Disaster Council Meeting

Friday, December 14

Time: 12:00 pm- 1:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Room 201

Description: The City and County Disaster Council is made up of key department heads and City officials, members of the Board of Supervisors and representatives of private organizations appointed by the Mayor. Chaired by the Mayor, the Disaster Council is responsible for the development of emergency plans and mutual aid agreements. It also recommends appropriate legislation to the Board of Supervisors. The Council meets at the call of the Mayor, quarterly. For More Information: Jada Jackson 558-3815.

Red Cross Bay Area

For more information on the classes and which dates and locations there classes are offered please visit <http://www.redcrossbayarea.org/training/register.htm>.

