Partners in Prevention

Oklahoma Hosts its First *Ready Business QuakeSmart Workshop*

On October 11, more than 70 participants attended the *Ready Business/QuakeSmart Preparedness Workshop* presented by the City of Oklahoma City, CUSEC, Intertribal Emergency Management Coalition, FLASH, FEMA, FEMA Region VI, the Oklahoma Office of Emergency Management, Oklahoma County, Rose State College, Simpson Strong-Tie, Worksafe Technologies, and the United Way.
Jake Walter of the Oklahoma Geological Survey opened the day with a terrific, in-depth explanation of induced seismicity that provided everyone in the room with an understanding of why Oklahoma now exceeds California in earthquake activity.

Frank Barnes of the Oklahoma City Office of Emergency Management delivered an excellent overview of response considerations. He made the point that first responders might not be able to reach businesses in need directly following an event. That helped attendees understand the urgent need to prepare for at least 72 hours of self-sufficiency. He compared disasters such as earthquakes and tornadoes, which was effective as most of the local businesses had tornado experience.

Jackie Right of Rose State College quoted former president Dwight D. Eisenhower when she stated, "Planning Is Everything. The Plan Is Nothing." Right stressed the necessity to be prepared. He shared an eye-opening statistic that there are approximately 1.3 million people in metro Oklahoma City, a population size that is likely out of balance with the amount of government resources that are available immediately after a disaster.

The group was dynamic, actively engaged and participated in the discussion. They focused on single properties and infrastructure. Attendees commented at the end of the day, (I am) "definitely going to read through my organization's continuity of operations plan again to ensure all of these angles (presented today) are addressed."

Click here to learn more about *QuakeSmart* and all the *Ready Business* assets.