



FLASH Hosts Southern California QuakeSmart Workshops

The business, nonprofit, and emergency communities came together when FLASH and its partners hosted a series of workshops in Southern California to hear expert presenters with vested interests in public safety share how following the QuakeSmart protocols can reduce damage costs, save lives, and help communities recover quicker after disasters. More than 325 participants attended the workshops held in Rancho Mirage, Long Beach, and Los Angeles.

"Since more than two-thirds of all U.S. earthquake risk is in California, and more than 50 percent of that risk is in Southern California, educating the business and nonprofit community is imperative," said FLASH President and CEO Leslie Chapman-Henderson.

Kate Long from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services referred to the next big California earthquake as "Winter is coming," quoting from the popular books and TV series "Game of Thrones." The reference signifies that we don't know exactly when the next big California earthquake is coming, but it has been too long, and it is inevitable.

Dr. Ken Hudnut, USGS SAFFR, echoed Dr. Tom Jordan's statement at the National Earthquake Conference that the Southern California San Andreas fault is locked, loaded, and ready to roll.

Other featured presenters at the workshops included Dr. Dennis S. Milet, University of Colorado at Boulder Professor Emeritus and a member of the Rancho Mirage Emergency Preparedness Commission; Dr. Katherine Kendrick, USGS; Los Angeles County Emergency Management Director Jeff L. Reeb; City of Los Angeles Emergency Manager Aram Sahakian; Los Angeles Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas; and Long Beach Emergency Manager Reggie Harrison.

FLASH will also hold QuakeSmart Preparedness Workshops this year in Anchorage, AK; King County, WA; San Juan and Mayaguez, PR; and Oklahoma City, OK. Registration is free but required. Details are available at quakesmartcommunity.org, or contact Barbara Harrison at barbara@flash.org.