

FEMA, FLASH Workshops Return to Puerto Rico

More than 180 members of the business, nonprofit, and emergency communities in Fajardo and Ponce came together when Legacy Partners FEMA, Simpson Strong-Tie, and FLASH returned to Puerto Rico to address the territory's continuous seismic activity. The [*Ready Business - QuakeSmart Workshops*](#) held on July 31 and August 2 followed the successful workshops in San Juan and Mayaguez last year.

Expert presenters and leaders including the Honorable María E. Meléndez Altieri, Mayor - Municipality of Ponce, [*2018 National Weatherperson of the Year*](#) Ada Monzón, President - EcoExploratorio, Wisbel Ayala, Executive Officer - Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency (PREMA), Inés Pearce, Chief Executive, Pearce Global Partners, Dr. Elizabeth Vanacore, Assistant Research Professor/Coordinator of Research and Development, Red Sísmica de Puerto Rico/UPR-Mayaguez, Glorymar Gomez, Coordinator of Education and Outreach, Red Sísmica de Puerto Rico/UPR-Mayaguez, and more shared how following the *QuakeSmart* protocols can reduce damage costs and save lives.

"Educating the citizens of Puerto Rico about earthquake risk and being prepared is paramount. I want to thank FEMA, FLASH, and the *QuakeSmart Workshop* partners for bringing these workshops to Fajardo and Ponce," said Ada Monzón, President - EcoExploratorio

Sonny Beauchamp, HMA Coordinator, FEMA Region II – CAD remarked, "It is important, whether you work in government, a non-profit, or a private company that you have a plan for your agency and your family. We must work as a team. The government needs partnerships with private organizations to be successful."

The *Ready Business QuakeSmart Workshops* provide tools to plan, take action, and become a prepared business with information and resources focused on Staff, Space, Systems, Structure, and Service.

Workshop partners included EcoExploratorio, FEMA, FLASH, Pearce Global Partners, Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency (PREMA), Puerto Rico Seismic Network, and Simpson Strong-Tie Co.

Upcoming workshops are scheduled for Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming. Email mike@flash.org or visit flash.org/readybusiness to learn more and register today.