



Partners in Prevention

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FEMA and FLASH Host Ready Business QuakeSmart Workshops

The business, nonprofit, and emergency communities came together once again as FEMA, FLASH, and partners hosted workshops in Southern California to share how following the *QuakeSmart* protocols can reduce damage costs, save lives, and help communities recover more quickly following seismic disasters. More than 325 participants attended the workshops in Rancho Mirage, Long Beach, and Los Angeles, and the turnout set new attendance records for the *QuakeSmart* and *Ready Business Workshop* series.

"A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) report issued in September 2000 estimated that southern California accounts for 50 percent of the Nation's earthquake risk and that Los Angeles County alone represents 25 percent of the total risk, so raising awareness is imperative," said FLASH President and CEO Leslie Chapman-Henderson.

QuakeSmart Advisory Committee Member Kate Long from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) made the case for the gathering in stressing that while we don't know exactly *when* the next big California earthquake is coming, it *is* inevitable.

Dr. Ken Hudnut, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Science Application for Risk Reduction, echoed Dr. Tom Jordan's statement at the National Earthquake Conference that the southern San Andreas Fault is locked, loaded, and ready to roll.

Other featured presenters at the workshops included Dr. Dennis S. Mileti, 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.

Presentation slides from the workshops can be [viewed here](#).

Additional *Ready Business QuakeSmart* Workshops will take place in King County, WA; San Juan and Mayaguez, PR; and Oklahoma City, OK as well as an Inland Flooding/Power Outage Workshop in Binghamton, NY and a Severe Weather/Power Outage Workshop in Benton Harbor, MI this year. If you are interested in participating, visit www.flash.org/readybusiness.