



Partners in Prevention

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Southern California: QuakeSmart is Coming this Spring

Scientists estimate there is a 75 percent chance of a magnitude 7 or higher earthquake striking Southern California in the next 30 years. FLASH and partners are offering three QuakeSmart Preparedness Workshops to help businesses and nonprofit organizations address this risk.

The first session will be April 18 in Rancho Mirage. It will feature Dr. Dennis Mileti, professor emeritus at the University of Colorado, where he served as director of the Natural Hazards Center. The Center is the United States' clearinghouse for social and behavioral science research related to hazards and disasters.

Other QuakeSmart Preparedness Workshops will take place on May 16 in Long Beach, and May 18 in Los Angeles. The two Los Angeles area workshops will feature Deputy Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration Ben Raju and Los Angeles Chief Resiliency Officer Marisa Aho. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti also has been invited to welcome attendees.

Partners for these workshops include FEMA, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), America's Small Business Development Center-California, Business & Industry Council for Emergency Planning & Preparedness (BICEPP), Cal Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), California Resiliency Alliance, CalTech, city of Rancho Mirage, City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department, Degenkolb Engineering, DRB Toolkit Workgroup, Earthquake Country Alliance, Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, Los Angeles County Consumer and Business Affairs, Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation, Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce, SAFE-T-PROOF, ShakeOut, FLASH Legacy Partner Simpson Strong-Tie, Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC), USGS, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

FLASH has held 13 QuakeSmart Preparedness Workshops across the country from California to South Carolina to the Central U.S. Jeff Pitman of Pitman Glass, a Memphis, Tenn., attendee, remarked, "I had the privilege of attending an earthquake preparedness seminar today at the University of Memphis. I learned many things about earthquakes, and their causes, [but] my biggest takeaway was this. On top of all the destruction, a major earthquake would create is the unbelievable amount of business interruption that such an event will produce. Some numbers that were given to today are staggering for what we will experience when a major seismic event occurs."

Registration information, workshop agendas, and invitations for each workshop are available at quakesmartcommunity.org. Contact [Barbara Harrison](#) for more information.