



Partners in Prevention

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QuakeSmart Helps Puerto Rico Businesses Prepare Just Weeks Ahead of Outbreak

Prior to the devastating earthquakes that began striking Puerto Rico on December 28, nearly 75 business representatives gathered in Dorado, Puerto Rico to expand their knowledge, share resources, and collaborate during the FEMA [*Ready Business - QuakeSmart Workshop*](#). The workshop showcased *QuakeSmart* protocols that help save lives, reduce financial losses, mitigate damage, and help communities recover more quickly following seismic disasters.

The workshop was co-hosted by FLASH and Legacy Partner FEMA. Workshop partners included, FLASH Legacy Partner Simpson-Strong Tie, Administration De Desastres Puerto Rico, Burger King, Colegio De Ingenieros Y Agrimensores De Puerto Rico, Disaster Resistant Business Toolkit, EcoExploratorio, ISP, Red Sismica De Puerto Rico, and U.S. Small Business Administration.

“Develop a plan, communicate, practice, review, and make any necessary updates,” said Carlos Morrel, President – Burger King/Caribbean Restaurants LLC. “Having a plan equals success. We were able to open 100 restaurants three days after Hurricane Maria, and a week later we had 130 open.”

“Mitigation and building codes can save your house and life, whether it be for earthquakes or other hazards,” said Ada Monzon, Chief Meteorologist – WIPR-TV and President – EcoExploratorio. “How and where we build matters.”

For more information on *QuakeSmart* or to host a workshop in your community, please contact Sarah Chason at sarah@flash.org.