

ECA Bay Area Regional Workshop Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 29th

Berkeley Public Safety Building, Multi-Purpose Room

2100 Martin Luther King Junior Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

- I. Welcome and updates by ECA Chairs Bob Beecher and Jennifer Lazo
 - A. Introduction from Berkeley Interim Fire Chief Dave Brannigan welcoming participants to the meeting.
 - B. Bob Beecher and Jennifer Lazo reminded all in attendance about open positions on the Coordinating Committee. For more information, please contact sandow@usc.edu.
 - C. Introductions from the group: All in attendance introduced themselves and their organizations, and shared what gift they'd give to colleagues and neighbors to survive a disaster. (corkscrews, chocolate bars, food, solar chargers, enthusiasm about preparedness, battery powered radios, flashlights, blankets if cold, water, batteries.)
- II. Introduction to Functional Assessment Service Teams and Response to Northern California Fires: Presented by Kathy Gerk, Lisa Martin, Margaret Romiti, and Jill Dutchover.
 - a. FAST Teams go to emergency shelters and help people with disabilities and access/functional needs. Priority is to do a needs assessment, gap assessment, and fill the gaps with resources for those in need. Kathy responded to City of Vallejo shelter, and shared stories of access/functional need issues from that shelter. The City did a great job of creating a children's area. Other shelters included City shelters, County shelters, and a Kaiser Permanente shelter. Lessons learned: need to inform FAST members what to expect when arriving to the shelter – what are the roads like and what is the shelter itself like. Great partnerships with CERT and with the other organizations at the shelter.
 - b. Lisa Martin responded to the Sonoma shelter which was complete chaos and eventually ended up being evacuated. There was a lack of ICS skills/training. Lessons learned: can be helpful with employees and staff in helping those who are disabled and those who are not. Important to try to be part of the solution and part of bringing calm to a chaotic situation.
 - c. Jill Dutchover served at the Alameda County shelter and shared a story of an elderly couple who needed hospital resources, and also discovered that the husband was a Veteran and therefore able to take him to a Veteran Center. Lesson learned: Making connections for people is as important if not more important than simply providing physical resources.
 - d. Margaret Romiti reported on the challenges of dealing with donations management. Lesson learned: think of everything you may need when you deploy and bring it along with you. Also, take pictures before a fire of everything important in your home so you can more easily remember it and report to insurance afterward.

- e. Dena Gunning from Oakland shared unusual stories of things that people took or didn't take with them, and encouraged everyone to make sure you have enough coverage to replace items that can be replaced; take with you things that are irreplaceable.
Collectibles – get a separate underwritten policy – know what is covered and what isn't like a separate policy for sports memorabilia. Go to: Uphelp.org – United Policyholders has a checklist and an app.
- III. Wine Country Shelter – Shifts in Disaster Sheltering Seen in North Bay Fires: Presented by Jennifer Lazo, City of Berkeley
- a. Served as a sheltering expert and traveled to each shelter to see what works and what doesn't work. She estimates 4,000 – 5,000 people sheltered approximately, which changed on a daily basis. At one point there were unofficially 24 shelters that were open.
 - b. Pets in shelters – moving towards allowing pets in shelters as a national model. People are happier with their pets next to them, and often won't evacuate without them.
 - c. Medical needs in shelters – many nursing homes were evacuated so there were people with a variety of medical needs in normal shelters not equipped to deal with medical needs. There are no “medical shelters” available in evacuation situations when people aren't prepared for medical needs. For some people, this formed a sense of community that some people, especially AFN, did not have before where people didn't want to leave the shelter because they formed bonds with people there.
 - d. There's a value in encouraging people to help their neighbors by volunteering in shelters. It creates a sense of empowerment and a sense of doing something in an otherwise helpless situation.
 - e. Earthquake implications - shelters will be opened whether they have been inspected for stability or not. It is important to consider how quickly inspectors can get to shelters to evaluate their safety, because people will open those shelters whether inspected or not. Other implications include transportation infrastructure challenges, family reunification, many will want to help but will also need help. Creativity from government and communities will be the key.
 - f. Lessons learned: Be self-sufficient as a shelter volunteer. Don't expect hotels and food to be provided for you. People are exhausted, and a little kindness/patience goes a long way.
- IV. HayWired – Cascading Scenarios: Presented by Anne Wein, USGS
- a. Fire following earthquake – modeled by Charlie Scawthorn, analyzes the burn area and dollar value related to damages including number of ignitions of fire following earthquake. Review of cascading failures like dam releases, levee breaks, power outages, hazmat spills, and telecomm outages.
 - b. Analysis of FFE workshop included identification of water shortages that may reduce fire suppression capabilities; the number of fires that could occur following an earthquake; water service mitigation opportunities. Insurance models fire following earthquake, but their numbers are much lower. Focus groups were conducted with access and function needs as a focus as well as single parents. People reported having fire extinguishers but

not knowing how to use them, or being able to use them. Some felt more prepared at work than at home.

- c. Discussion: Who or what agency is primarily responsible for gas shut offs for refineries and other large-scale sources? Ryan Arba reported there are many regulatory agencies – both state and federal. These refineries have preventative plans in place but may or may not share these with the community.
 - d. HayWired timeline release: April 2017 collaboration began. April 18th will be the public roll-out with the beginning of 6 month period of communicating it up to the 2018 ShakeOut.
- V. Power of Social Cohesion: Presented by Daniel Homsey, City and County of San Francisco
- a. Described community resilience as the space between when an event happens and when the professionals arrive to help. Creating community empowerment to help each other during that time when the first needs occur. Infrastructure and transportation challenges will create problems to get professional emergency responders back to the City to help after an incident will take a while, so there is a benefit in creating hubs in San Francisco comprised of community-serving organizations, public and private organizations, and others who will help serve the community. Structures need to be set up to help succeed – and work with extended social networks like congregations and faith based institutions to help people succeed and save themselves. Capacity, connection, and resources.
 - b. Neighborhood block party concept introduced. There were 8 in 2015, 11 in 2016, 35 in 2017. Celebration of your community instead of an assignment. Everybody deserves to live in a happy, healthy, thriving connected community. Different institutions work as anchors in different communities, depending upon the unique character of the neighborhood.
- VI. ECA Resources, Roles, and Activities: Presented by Mark Benthien, SCEC/ECA
- a. Overview of the work of ECA, including Regional Workshops on a quarterly basis in the Bay Area, ShakeOut and Tsunami preparedness activities, and the Mini Award program which begins in March. Mark presented information related to the Earthquake Safety video series, including Regional Workshops in the Bay Area, ShakeOut and Tsunami preparedness week, Mini Awards, participation in partner conferences. Earthquake country.org/disability – what to do if disabled – video series. Please join our committees – businesses, K-12 schools, seniors/people with disabilities, health care, public sector, higher education, nonprofit and faith based, fire advisory, multi cultural.
- VII. Sharing of Earthquake Education, Preparedness, and Resiliency Activities
- a. Dena Gunning, Oakland: Launched an E-Platform to share ShakeOut information with City staff members which included the workplace video link and website links, and then sent an email reminder to staff 10 minutes before ShakeOut reminding them to participate. Weekly tips sent to all on distribution list, approximately 7000 people.
 - b. Janet Ruiz, iii: Reported on ShakeOut day event at Googleplex. At 10:19am, the event was held in the cafeteria. Google employees were engaged and involved. Day started at 4am with media coverage with many outlets in attendance including national NBC, and

many stayed for hours, talking to those who staffed the booths because of the importance of preparedness especially in light of the wildfires.

- c. Kevin Miller, CalOES: Livecode communications test in the North Coast area was postponed due to the wildfires.
- d. Mark Kwasny, CEA: At the California Earthquake Authority headquarters, they did the ShakeOut “creatively” at 10:19am. Other members of the team including Sarah Sol and Chris Nance were at the ShakeOut media event in Los Angeles.
- e. Jennifer Lazo, City of Berkeley: City encourages everyone to do it individually – more people should monitor social media during ShakeOut because it is a great opportunity to see how people are doing it and encourage the proper way to do DCHO in the moment it is happening.
- f. Daniel Homsey, City and County of San Francisco: Attended the ShakeOut media day event at the Googleplex and was impressed how many employees were interested and interacting. He saw many people buying preparedness kits and backpacks.
- g. Sheryl Rabinovici: discussed the West Contra Costa Unified School District and their efforts to become more prepared and difficulties with coordinating preparedness efforts. Kathy Gerk offered assistance, and Jennifer Lazo will share a link to a ShakeOut song to use at the schools.