

MAJOR EARTHQUAKE

(No. 49 February 2005)

8575

CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PLAN

(No. 49 February 2005)

8575.1

The California Earthquake Response Plan contains a Hazardous/Toxic Materials Annex, which sets forth the means to prepare for and manage incidents following a catastrophic earthquake. The annex identified areas of increased risk and recommends possible response mechanisms. Risks considered include the following:

- Gas main ruptures.
- Warehouse fire and spills.
- Pipeline and storage tank ruptures.
- Vehicle and railroad accidents.
- Plant upsets and breakdown.
- Pressurized gas container failures.

The California earthquake response plan is a part of the State Emergency Plan.

The earthquake plan was prepared in compliance with the California Emergency Plan which identifies earthquakes as one of the peacetime emergencies for which contingency plans are required.

The plan provides public officials with information about the magnitude and nature of the problems they might confront and the type of response needed following a major earthquake. It contains specialized operational concepts and emergency actions, with specific application to the unique aspects of a large and devastating earthquake.

For planning, OES has established three levels of disaster:

Level I

An event where local resources are available and adequate. A Local Emergency may or may not be declared.

Level II

Requires Mutual Aid on a regional (multi-county) or statewide basis. A State of Emergency may be proclaimed and a Presidential Disaster Declaration may be requested.

Level III

An Event for which massive amounts of resources from all levels of government and the private sector will be required.

Although a particular earthquake might be a level III disaster when discussed on a regional basis, conditions will vary greatly from one specific location to another. Even within a jurisdiction, the extent of disaster will vary from one function to another. For example, a destroyed hospital may put a city in Level III medically, while still having adequate law enforcement personnel to maintain Level I. It is important for emergency response personnel to keep in mind this potential for varying levels by functional area during relief operations.

CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE ADVISORY PLAN

8575.1.1

(No. 35 September 1994)

The Earthquake Advisory Plan is part of the State of California's comprehensive earthquake preparedness program. It is designed to be used as a stand-alone document, or as an Appendix to the California Earthquake Response Plan.

In California, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) is the designated recipient of earthquake assessments from the scientific community. Earthquake advisories are statements by OES regarding scientific assessments that, within a specified period (usually 3-5 days), there is an enhanced likelihood for damaging earthquakes to occur in areas designated by the advisory.

Advisories are not formal predictions as defined in the California Earthquake Response Plan. Formal advisories include specific identification of expected magnitude, location, time and likelihood of occurrence (i.e., probability) that have been rigorously reviewed and confirmed by the California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (CEPEC). Advisories are issued following earthquakes in which there is concern about subsequent damaging earthquakes. OES will issue a formal Cancellation of Advisory at the end of the period defined in the initial advisory.

OES will notify state agencies, local agencies and designated Federal agencies of all validated earthquake advisories by issuing a Notice of Earthquake Advisory. All state agencies, including CDF have a responsibility to ensure that their personnel, facilities, vehicles, equipment and vital records are properly safeguarded. See [Sample Mitigation and Preparedness Action Checklist in Appendix B](#).

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PLAN

(No. 49 February 2005)

8575.2.2

This plan describes the state response system in the event of a major earthquake in Southern California and describes how the efforts of state departments will be coordinated to meet local jurisdictional needs. The plan assigns CDF supporting roles in the communications annex; emergency public information annex; fire, rescue, and toxic hazards annex; and procurement annex.

PARKFIELD EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION RESPONSE PLAN

(No. 35 September 1994)

8575.2.3

The Parkfield Earthquake Prediction Response Plan provides direction and guidance to State agencies for response to a US Geological (USGS)-issued Geologic Hazards Warning (Level A Alert) for the Parkfield area.

LONG VALLEY VOLCANIC HAZARDS RESPONSE PLAN

(No. 35 September 1994)

8575.2.4

"Plan Caldera" is a contingency plan prepared as an extension of the State of California Emergency Plan. The purpose is to provide the basis for protecting public health and safety in the event of a volcanic eruption in the Long Valley area. It provides planning assumptions and guidelines for the development of detailed operations plans and specific procedures to respond to the volcanic threat.

CDF EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

(September 2004)

8575.3

Each Unit and Area office will prepare an earthquake response plan. The plan must consider the requirements of a response system wherein timely, effective, and coordinated emergency actions will be taken. Such a system, developed to meet local need, may be based upon the following:

Employee Preparedness, Safety, and Basic Survival Needs

- Develop employee preparedness programs.
- Maintain emergency supplies and equipment.
- Assist individuals who are disabled or injured.

- Designate temporary emergency shelters, sanitary facilities.
- Attend to family needs.
- Store emergency food, potable water.

Liaison with Outside Agencies

- Network with city, county, state, federal agencies and other emergency services organizations.

Emergency Operating Procedures

- Prearrange emergency assignments and security and recovery procedures.
- Establish travel restrictions to station or assignment and damage assessment procedures.
- Establish contacts with supervisors, assistance to walk-ins, and procedures for mutual aid.
- Prepare for aftershocks.
- Establish independent operations and incident command.
- Implement special staffing patterns.

Emergency Financial Procedures

- Evaluate available funds and manage cash flow and cash reserve.

Data Processing

- Establish procedures for system shutdown and recovery.
- Designate backup facilities and equipment.

Vital Records

- Identify and protect records vital to resume business.
- Establish emergency procedures for securing and retrieving records.

Communications

- Plan for an emergency operations center and backup systems, an emergency generator, and damage assessment capabilities.
- Procedures for communicating within the organization and with employees and family members outside.
- Coordinate with local OES, region, and other agencies.
- Establish dispatch capabilities at another level if necessary.
- Provide resource status keeping.
- Pre-arrange assistance from telephone company and other related services.
- Secure facilities and equipment, such as mobile radios and batteries.

Transportation

- Pre-arrange for evacuation of equipment to safe location.
- Provide for alternative fuel sources, such as an emergency generator and alternate uses of equipment.
- Provide for external requests for CDF equipment and equipment repair.

Ongoing Training, and Maintenance

- Use manuals, personnel education, pamphlets, and drills.
- Participate with other agencies.

TARGET HAZARDS

(No. 49 February 2005)

8575.4

CDF employees shall consider the preservation of life as a priority over other values. As in the CDF fire mission, situation size-up will determine appropriate action. There could be circumstances where attention should be given to secondary situations which if left unchecked, could pose a threat to life. For example, an engine company may find itself shutting off a gas leak in spite of the victim's need of first aid if the likelihood of a gas explosion would surely result in even more victims.

In earthquake preparedness planning, a great deal of flexibility must be incorporated in target selection. The plan must, for instance, consider the single engine company which suddenly finds itself operating as an independent entity, perhaps some distance from home.

The normal response area, for either wildland or structural companies could become drastically altered following an earthquake. Local agency contingency plans can further define response criteria, and field units are encouraged to participate in local government planning efforts.

Targeted occupancies can be included in unit preparedness planning through use of the format suggested in CDF Handbook [Section 4321](#), Structure Fire.

[\(see next section\)](#)

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)