

The Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance Invites You to a Public Briefing on
Disaster Preparedness: Lessons from the Great Southern California ShakeOut

Sponsored by the Geological Society of America, American Geophysical Union, Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology, and Seismological Society of America

In Cooperation with the Congressional Hazards Caucus and the Co-Chairs of the Caucus:

Senators Mary Landrieu, Lisa Murkowski, and Ben Nelson, and Representatives Dennis Moore, Jo Bonner, and Zoe Lofgren, Co-Chairs of the Caucus

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Capitol Visitors Center

SVC 215

2:30 – 3:30 PM

RSVP to cschiffries@geosociety.org

(RSVP is required for entry by non-Hill staff)

Refreshments Served

Agenda

Over 5 million people participated in the Great Southern California ShakeOut, the largest disaster preparedness drill in U.S. history. The briefing will feature the science behind the ShakeOut and changes that are taking place to strengthen infrastructure and improve emergency response.

Panelists:

Lucile Jones, Chief Scientist, Multi Hazards Project, U.S. Geological Survey

Gary Sturdivan, Emergency Manager, East Valley Water District, San Bernardino, California

Steven Sellers, Assistant Secretary for Prevention, Operations and Recovery, California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA)

Last November, over 5 million people participated in the Great Southern California ShakeOut, making it the largest disaster preparedness drill in U.S. history. This briefing will feature the science behind the ShakeOut and the implementation of the ShakeOut to strengthen infrastructure and improve emergency response. Speakers will share some of the keys to success including a broad-based outreach program, media engagement, and public advocacy by hundreds of partners. A comprehensive science-based earthquake scenario helped make the hazard real to people, and communication approaches that applied decades of social science research helped get them to be better prepared. Even more important than the event itself has been the changes that have been taking place to strengthen resilience before disaster strikes, with steps being taken by communities, critical infrastructure operators and emergency managers. A statewide ShakeOut exercise is planned for October 15, 2009, in what is hoped will become an annual exercise. And work is underway on a statewide scenario for a catastrophic winter storm, taking the lessons of ShakeOut to a new set of hazards.