

In Response

san francisco

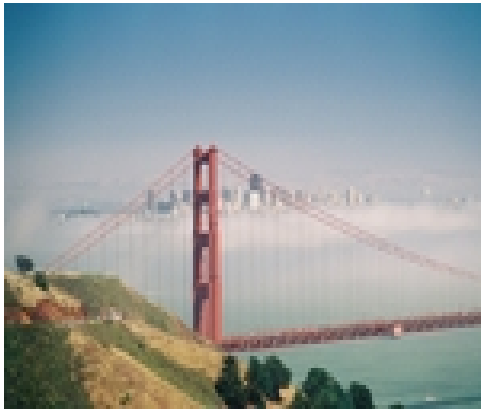
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Responding to Disaster –
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The Disaster Files: SF CARD's In Response Newsletter

BAY AREA NONPROFIT COMMUNITY IS NOT READY FOR THE NEXT DISASTER!



February 5, San Francisco

The United Way of the Bay Area released a report indicating that the nonprofit community in the Bay Area has critical gaps that could impede efforts to effectively respond to the next disaster. The following are the three key areas of preparedness that were identified:

- Once a written plan was completed, most of the agencies did not implement an institutionalized plan for continued learning and did not create a sustainable framework for preparedness.
- Most agencies rely on false assumptions that they will perform well during a large-scale disaster because of their efficient responses to previous disasters such as the Loma Prieta Earthquake.
- Bay Area nonprofits, the public, and private sector do not adequately share standards and protocols.

The report went on to discuss how the nonprofit community is deficient in nine categories. Some of the categories listed include; not having all the resources needed, the lack of a culture of learning, and vulnerable populations in San Francisco are still vulnerable to a large-scale disaster.

Lastly, the report gave seven recommendations to address the deficiencies. Some of the recommendations listed are; basic and advanced training and tools need to be provided, public policy should be developed and advocacy programs created, and formal communications and collaborative systems should be established.

To read the summary in full, please go to:

http://www.uwba.org/about/press/2007-2-2_Ready%20or%20Not_Executive%20Summary.pdf

BRIAN'S ARRIVAL



SF CARD recently welcomed Brian Whitlow as its newest member. Brian will fill the role of coordinator, which is the position previously held by Alessa. Alessa has been promoted to the position of Program Director. Brian comes to SF CARD with professional experience ranging from directing the grants program at Fremont-Rideout Health Group to consulting on market demand studies.

Currently, he is also working on logistics planning and public outreach at the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management (DEM). Brian is NERT certified and is pursuing a graduate degree in public administration at the University of San Francisco. If you have any questions and/or need assistance, Brian would love to hear from you. He can be contacted at: **415-982-8999 ext. 236 or via email at brian@sfcad.org.**

San Francisco Community Agencies Responding to Disaster
1675 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
Ph. 415-955-8946 E-mail: info@sfcad.org www.sfcad.org

Upcoming Events, Training, & Services

Disaster Preparedness for Small Business, Nonprofits & Faith-Based Organizations	Disaster Readiness Training
Thursday, March 29, 2007. 8:30am – 4:00pm	24 Hours a Day
<p>Free workshop provides the practical tools to create a disaster preparedness plan and to help ensure continuity of operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, March 29, 2007. 8:30am – 4:00pm (all day, with lunch sponsored by SF Department of Emergency Management). • Federal Reserve Bank, 101 Market Street at Spear • Registration required (space is limited) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RSVP by March 21 to: intern.sfoes@sfgov.org or 415-503-2073 <p>Sponsors: California Volunteers Office of the Governor, SF Citizen Corps Council, American Red Cross Bay Area, SF Department of Emergency Management, San Francisco CARD.</p>	<p>Free on-line classes. Self-study program to increase your knowledge on preparedness and response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Started: www.dhs-ngo-pilot.org • Download Instructions • Select 'San Francisco' • Self-register (free) <p>Questions: Betsy Madden 510-595-4470, MaddenB@usa.redcross.org Sponsors: American Red Cross and Department of Homeland Security</p>

Bust A Myth Section...

This is a new section of the newsletter. Each month we will take an opportunity to discuss a disaster-related myth and then we will provide the facts for that particular myth. Please let us know if you enjoy and/or are learning anything from this section. **Information was taken from the USGS website at:**

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/faq.php?categoryID=6&faqID=14>



MYTH – Animals can predict earthquakes.

FACT – According to the USGS, “Changes in animal behavior **can not** be used to predict earthquakes. Even though there have been documented cases of unusual animal behavior prior to earthquakes, a reproducible connection between a specific behavior and the occurrence of an earthquake has not been made. Animals change their behavior for many reasons and given that an earthquake can shake millions of people, it is likely that a few of their pets will, by chance, be acting strangely before an earthquake.”

ARE YOU A NERT?

The Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is a citizen disaster preparedness organization sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department. The program offers free, basic and advanced preparedness training to those who live and work in San Francisco. NERT also provides an organizing framework for neighborhood teams.

New for 2007 are NERT's free, two-hour Personal Preparedness Workshops, which cover what every individual should know to personally prepare for a disaster. Topics include: risk awareness, personal disaster planning, utilities overview, disaster supplies, & SF SAFE orientation.

For more information, please visit www.sfgov.org/sffdner or call (415) 970-2022.