

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

The Earthquake and Tsunami Branch of the Office of Emergency Services (OES) works with other OES branches, state agencies and scientific organizations to promote the safety of California residents through a statewide program of planning and technical assistance, public education, and information and technology transfer to public and private sector organizations. The goals of the Branch are 1) to promote the utilization of new technologies for recording, evaluating and assessing earthquakes and tsunamis and their impacts to improve warning, response and recovery; 2) maintain an active liaison with elected officials, emergency managers, professional associations, the news media and other targeted groups for the purpose of knowledge and technology transfer; 3) draw on lessons learned from damaging earthquakes and tsunamis in the state and around the world to raise awareness of the earthquake and tsunami risk in California and promote preparedness and mitigation planning; and finally 4) to monitor research in all relevant fields to assure that information and technologies transferred are state-of-the-art.

Highlights:

- Held tsunami planning workshops in several counties including San Diego, Humboldt, Del Norte, Monterey, Marin, Mendocino, San Francisco and Los Angeles. In conjunction with the Humboldt, Del Norte and Mendocino workshops, tabletop exercises were held.
- Convened the California Tsunami Steering Committee on June 26, 2007. OES chairs this committee which is made up of representatives of 15 California Coastal Counties, representatives of Caltrans, the California Geological Survey, the California Seismic Safety Commission and the National Weather Service Forecast Offices in Eureka, Monterey, Oxnard and San Diego.
- Represented California at National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program meetings in Silver Spring, Maryland in October 2006 and in Seattle, Washington in March 2007.
- Initiated planning for California's first end-to-end tsunami communications test to be held in Humboldt County in March 2008.
- Worked with the University of Southern California Tsunami Research Center to develop a second generation of tsunami inundation projections and, in collaboration with the OES GIS Unit, will provide maps useful for tsunami evacuation planning for all California coastal counties.
- In cooperation with the National Weather Service, developed a public-private partnership that will help support tsunami public education in California.
- Provided legislative analysis for AB 319 (Nava) a bill that would have established the Tsunami Hazard Preparedness and Mitigation Act of 2007.
- Supported California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) by providing a lecture entitled "Using Science and Technology in Managing Earthquake Emergencies" in all offerings of the Earthquake Course at the San Luis Obispo campus.
- Promoted the use of ShakeMap and the CISN Display, a real-time earthquake notification system, at numerous meetings of emergency managers in California.
- Supported local government earthquake exercises by providing detailed scenarios that employed both the ShakeMap and HAZUS® loss estimation technologies.

- Represented OES on the Steering Committee of the California Integrated Seismic Network (CISN) and chaired the CISN Outreach Working Group.
- Represented California and the OES Director on the Board of Directors of the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC).
- Served on the Board of Directors of the Cascadia Regional Earthquake Working Group and, in that capacity as well as that of WSSPC, contributed to planning for the 2008 National Earthquake Conference to be held in Seattle, Washington in April 2008.
- Participated in a multi-agency effort to promote earthquake preparedness in southern California through a coalition entitled the Earthquake Country Alliance. This coalition is responsible for development of a detailed planning scenario for a M7.8 earthquake on the southern San Andreas fault which will drive the 2008 Golden Guardian Exercise as well as a number of associated events in 2008 designed to highlight the need for earthquake preparedness and hazard mitigation at all levels of the community.
- In cooperation with the OES Hazard Mitigation Branch, developed an interactive web portal that allows users to enter an address and identify mapped hazards such as earthquake, hazardous materials storage sites, inundation zones for tsunami and flood and other hazards.
- Provided staff support for the California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (CEPEC) which reviews earthquake predictions for California and provides scientific commentary on seismic potential following the occurrence of California earthquakes that might be precursors to larger damaging events.
- Represented California at the National Earthquake Program Managers meeting in April 2007
- Continued to actively participate in California Post-Earthquake Clearinghouse activities

Submitted by Jim Goltz, Earthquake and Tsunami Program Manager, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services