



Western States Seismic Policy Council
2016 Lifetime Achievement Award in Earthquake Risk Reduction
Dr. Lucile Jones



Dr. Lucile Jones is recognized nationally and globally as an authority on natural hazards and disaster risk reduction. Since joining the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in 1983, Dr. Jones has made outstanding research contributions and provided significant scientific leadership. Her research into earthquake occurrence probability and the short-term probability of foreshock and aftershock sequences is now the source of earthquake advisories issued by the State of California. Her skill in communicating with reporters and connecting with the public has made her one of the most recognizable employees of the USGS.

As the USGS Science Advisor for Risk Reduction (SAFRR), Dr. Jones broadly represents the USGS on matters of disaster risk reduction. Dr. Jones led the development of the USGS's first-ever natural hazards science strategy, engaging scientists and stakeholders to craft a visionary document.

Dr. Jones created and implemented a new systematic approach to risk assessment research through scenario development. She built strong partnerships with engineers, social scientists, geographers, biologists, public health doctors, emergency managers, and public officials, integrating their expertise into state-of-the-art investigations to develop a comprehensive depiction of the probable consequences of catastrophic natural disasters – a southern San Andreas Fault earthquake (ShakeOut), a California statewide winter storm (ARkStorm), and an Alaskan tsunami. These depictions of potential disasters are being used at all levels of government and the private sector to reduce risk.

The ShakeOut scenario changed the culture of preparedness and the way decision makers use scientific data about earthquake risk. Based on her work, several southern California utilities are moving forward with risk reduction projects and FEMA used the scenario as the basis for their catastrophe modeling for the region. In addition, Dr. Jones developed a public education campaign and earthquake drill in conjunction with the scenario. Started in California in 2008, the ShakeOut drill has grown to over 21.2 million participants in 50 states, 5 territories, and the District of Columbia in 2015.

In 2014 Dr. Jones served as the Science Advisor for Seismic Safety to Mayor Eric Garcetti and the City of Los Angeles. Her consensus approach involved assembling task forces to develop solutions informed by the best available science and engineering and convening stakeholders in the State's utilities to address vulnerabilities. Results included a comprehensive program to strengthen the water infrastructure in the City. Mayor Garcetti released his report, *Resilience by Design*, in December 2014 in which he expressed his deepest gratitude to “renowned seismologist” Jones for “studying our vulnerabilities, convening stakeholders and experts from academia, industry, business, government and our communities, and developing this action plan.”

Dr. Jones has served on multiple committees of the National Academy of Sciences addressing hazard issues. She has chaired the California Seismic Safety Commission and served for 12 years on the California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (CEPEC). She has served on blue-ribbon commissions impaneled by state and local governments to address major infrastructure projects and other high-profile endeavors. Her work has been recognized with the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal, Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award, the Alquist Award from the California Earthquake Safety Foundation, the Award of Merit from the Los Angeles County Emergency Preparedness Commission, and the Shoemaker Award for Lifetime Achievements in Science Communication from the USGS.