

Handout 15.1: Role Playing Skit

Scenario:

A major earthquake (Magnitude 7.2) strikes an urban area in the western U.S. during early morning hours (3:00 AM).

Review of Major Disaster Phases and Activities:

- 1. Mitigation** (before or between events) – Reduce impacts, zoning/building codes, baseline data, modeling, improvements.
- 2. Preparedness** – Development of community training and public awareness, logistical support and communications, basic supply needs, early warning, and monitoring.
- 3. Response** (time-critical) – Damage, equipment, human resources, funds, communication, and baseline maps surveys.
- 4. Recovery** – Outside data collection, rebuilding, claims, feedback.

Some Involved Parties:

- 1.** Scientists/Forecasters/Researchers (NWS, NOAA, university).
- 2.** Federal Government (FEMA, National Guard, Army COE, USGS).
- 3.** State government (Governor, State Police).
- 4.** Local/municipal/regional government agencies (water distribution, wastewater treatment, transportation, clearing trees, garbage disposal, emergency planners).
- 5.** Local emergency agencies (Police, Fire, EMTs, medical personnel, hospital).
- 6.** Aid agencies (Red Cross, church organizations).
- 7.** Insurance companies.
- 8.** Utility companies (electricity, natural gas, telephone).
- 9.** Business owners (hardware/lumber stores, groceries).

10. Insurance and Mortgage Lending.
11. Homeowners (i.e., engineering expertise from top-flight firms not available for individual homeowners).
12. Building code developers.
13. Mapping agencies and other science groups.
14. Land-use policy developers.
15. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
16. FEMA.
17. Military.
18. Veterans Administration.
19. Intergovernmental and public administration issues/tensions.
20. Engineers/planners (mitigation, damage assessment, recovery).
21. News media.

Instructions:

Your instructor will assign a role for you as one of the involved parties listed above. Some parties will consist of teams of two or three students, while some may be individuals. You are encouraged to perform some research on your own to better prepare for this exercise. For instance, if you are assigned the role of a homeowner, you might research some specific issues associated with homeowners in past events.

Given your role assignment, **come to class prepared** to perform the following:

1. Describe your job/role to the rest of the class.
2. With regard to an earthquake disaster in general, explain your primary concerns.
3. In your assigned role, describe as vividly as possible your actions and concerns at the following times relative to an earthquake striking your earthquake-prone community.

TIMES:
10 years prior
1 year prior
2 hours after
2 days after
2 weeks after
1 month after
6 months after
1 year after
10 years after

4. Which phases of disaster management are associated with each time frame?
5. What do you need to depend upon to get what you most need? What services are most vital for you?
6. How would your role change if this disaster were in the eastern U.S. as opposed to the western U.S.? Repeat/discuss the questions and scenarios above.