

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Are you ready?

Pets at Large

When preparing for a disaster most folks have figured out plans for themselves, their children and some even prepare for their neighbors. What some fail to consider is man's best friend. An unspoken rule is that if we take on the responsibility of a pet, then they are just that; a responsibility. We are charged with feeding, sheltering and providing medical care, in sickness and in health. In good times and bad. Sounds like marriage vows. The reality is some folks have the attitude that if everything melts down, they can simply abandon their pets, grab the kids and run for the hills.

The reality is in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina thousands of animals were rescued and brought to animal shelters. Boat captains and helicopter pilots refused to load pets in order to hold more people. As a result, many refused to evacuate without their pets. Some field hospitals allowed pets to enter with their patients while those who evacuated from the Superdome were not allowed to take their pets with them.

One source reports the animals that didn't die in Katrina

were left to fend for themselves. In the end, over 600,000 animals were either killed or stranded in the aftermath. Several years later, much of the city looks as though it has not been touched since the hurricane and the abandoned sections of New Orleans have been taken over by weeds, blight and wild dogs.

One of the often overlooked hazards following a disaster is that of packs of wild dogs roving the streets at will. Often unvaccinated, diseased and starving, they pose a danger to children, the elderly or anyone not expecting to see a wild dog.

As a young Air Policeman in Vietnam, we were faced with the same issue at Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon. Our unit assigned one person to "control" the problem. The acceptable solution for the time was a nicotine-laced dart gun. Similar to a tranquilizer gun, the nicotine poison provided an immediate solution. But then wartime solutions are rarely acceptable during peacetime. (No hate mail please.)

In the case of Katrina, private foundations set up shelters all around the area in an attempt

to provide care for abandoned pets. Unfortunately the problem was larger than the ability to house the animals and many unneutered, hungry feral animals still prowl the streets and vacant lots of the city.

Here are some suggestions offered by petmd.com to prepare your pet for a disaster. Get your dog "chipped" with current contact information. Be sure to have extra dog food (or cat food) on hand. Learn where your pet likes to hide when frightened. Make sure you have a pet carrier for transportation. Carry a picture of your pet in the event you are separated. Another good resource is www.redcross.org.

As always, please send your questions and comments to disasterprep.dave@gmail.com. Previous columns can be found on my blog at www.disasterprep.dave.blogspot.com. Dave Robinson is the Postmaster at Bandon, Oregon, and the author of "Disaster Prep For The Rest Of Us." Available online at Barnesandnoble.com and other online booksellers.

How Earthquakes Affect Businesses

In general, many businesses have invested in emergency management and continuity of operations planning. However, most businesses have not conducted earthquake mitigation measures to protect their assets, staff and business operations. During an earthquake, buildings—or their components or contents—can be collapsed, toppled, broken apart, tossed around, or rendered inoperable or unusable. The same can happen to lifeline infrastructure systems and their components, including those related to transportation, such as roads, bridges, railways, ports, and airports, and those related to utilities, such as distribution lines for water, wastewater, electric power, telecommunications, natural gas, and liquid fuels. Damage incurred from these hazards, such as broken gas or water pipes, can itself be hazardous, generating further

damage by igniting residential or commercial buildings.

Hazards such as structure failure, falling, collapsing or airborne objects, earthquake-induced residential or commercial, and others can also cause serious casualties. In addition to casualties, individuals can incur direct economic losses, either personal or business-related, resulting from damage to existing property. Businesses can temporarily lose the ability to generate income, due to other business and employment interruptions or terminations brought about by damage to private property or public infrastructure.

What Businesses Can Do

Many businesses understand the concept of emergency management and continuity planning. But these could be complex issues depending on their particular industry, size and scope as well as their level of

risks from natural and man-made hazards. All businesses must account for all of their exposed, relevant hazards in order to reasonably stay in business. Guidance to all-hazards, business preparedness, and continuity exist via Ready.gov, [Open for Business.com](http://OpenforBusiness.com), and [Disaster Resistant Business \(DRB\)](http://DisasterResistantBusiness.com).

As part of addressing all-hazards, it is critical for businesses to also incorporate actionable earthquake mitigation solutions into their planning and business decisions. By doing so, businesses protect the organization's assets (people, property, operations); sustain the capability to provide goods and/or services to customers and/or its supply chain; maintain cash flow; preserve competitive advantage and reputation; and provide the ability to meet legal, regulatory, financial and contractual obligations.

How QuakeSmart Can Help

Congress established the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) in 1977, which brings together four agencies: FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) in order to coordinate their earthquake-related activities. Under the program, it is FEMA's responsibility to implement earthquake awareness and outreach programs that ultimately reduce seismic risks and improve community resilience from earthquake events. Over the years, FEMA has accomplished numerous initiatives particularly in disaster resilient building codes, training, guidance development, planning support, and others. To further advance this partnership with the private sector, FEMA NEHRP introduced QuakeSmart in 2008 to collaborate with businesses on earthquake awareness and mitigation implementation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mitigating your earthquake risk mean getting back to business and resuming your operations faster after an earthquake, which allows you to:

Lower the risk of employee and customer injury;

Gain a competitive advantage;

Protect your inventory; Potentially reduce insurance premiums;

Reap the goodwill of your customers, suppliers, employees, and grateful community.

How QuakeSmart Can Help
What is Earthquake Mitiga-

tion?

Earthquake Mitigation is any action taken to reduce damages or losses to your business, employees, building and its contents should an earthquake occur. In addition to basic preparedness activities such as creating and exercising disaster plans, preparing disaster supply kits, and knowing how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On, the private sector must complement these by implementing mitigation actions to reduce earthquake risks and further minimize disruptions, damages, and losses.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), earthquakes are one of the costliest natural hazards faced by the nation, posing a significant risk to 75 million Americans in 39 states. According to FEMA 366: HAZUS-MH Estimated Annualized Earthquake Losses for the United States, estimating the varying degree of earthquake risk throughout the United States is useful for informed decision-making on mitigation policies, priorities, strategies, and funding levels in the public and private sectors. For example, potential losses to new buildings may be reduced by applying seismic building codes and using specialized construction techniques. While there is a good understanding of earthquakes and what they can do in high risk areas such as Los Angeles, there is also growing recognition that while other regions may have a moderate earthquake hazard risk, they are still at high risk of significant damage and loss. This high-risk level re-

ffects the dense concentrations of buildings and infrastructure in these areas constructed without the benefit of modern seismic design provisions.

In addition to potential structural damages, non-structural components (such as contents, furnishings, architectural elements, etc.) significantly contribute to earthquake costs and damages and could impact safe evacuation, continued operations, and rapid recovery for many businesses. If businesses cannot operate immediately after an earthquake due to damages or employee loss, this greatly affects the community, its economy, and its ability to recover after an earthquake. When businesses mitigate their earthquake risks, communities can recover and rebuild faster and stronger.

Ultimately, mitigation is what would ensure that your staff, facility and contents could withstand the earthquake and enable you to continue operations or rapidly recover. If you want to stay in business and save your investment during an earthquake, mitigation is right for you. Working together with other local businesses to mitigate is also essential for a quick recovery for your business as well as the community.

Typically, 80 percent of a building's value lies in its non-structural elements, components and contents. Therefore, if you are a building owner, why not spend your mitigation resources on your biggest investment?

What is QuakeSmart?

QuakeSmart is a FEMA NEHRP initiative to help businesses in at-risk earthquake communities implement earthquake mitigation actions.

QuakeSmart is a 3-step mitigation process that businesses can easily integrate in their existing or future disaster plans and business decisions:

Step 1: Identify Your Risk

When identifying your risks, the initial step is to determine if your business is at risk for earthquakes. This includes identifying if your facility is in an earthquake hazard area. Then you identify your potential vulnerabilities: structure, non-structural components, and contents (hazard + vulnerability = risks).

Structural risks include collapse-prone structure types such as non-ductile (brittle) concrete buildings; unreinforced masonry (brick, block, or adobe); plan irregularity (non-rectangular buildings); and soft story configuration (weak first story). Non-structural risk sources include

unreinforced brick parapets, brick chimneys, and ornamental siding, suspended ceilings, light fixtures, and gas-fired equipment and the presence of hazardous materials. At-risk contents may include tall or heavy furniture, storage racks, other furnishings and equipment prone to fall over, and items that may fall or slide and block exits. Actions taken under this step will help you and your organization comprehensively identify and prioritize your overall level of earthquake risks.

Step 2: Make a Plan

Based on your earthquake risks, this step allows you to start planning your mitigation projects to address those risks. Making a mitigation project plan means defining a scope of work, budgeting funds to pay for it, and then scheduling the time to get it done. Depending on your earthquake risks and funding, sometimes the budget or schedule will prompt you to reduce or increase the scope. It

is part of the planning process to think about your options and make sure you're spending your resources effectively. Your plan doesn't have to be complicated. Its sole purpose is to help you go from thinking about your risk to mitigating it.

Step 3: Take Action

Finally, implement your mitigation project plan and solutions. Nonstructural solutions might be taking the simple step of anchoring a bookshelf or a cabinet to the wall, as well as adding removable straps to secure the shelf's contents, and a safety latch to prevent the cabinets from opening during shaking. Other solutions include securing ceiling fans with cable supports, storing heavy items on floors, installing flexible gas lines to space heaters or propane tanks, installing hook and loop straps to desk-mounted computers, and securing table lamps or fragile collectibles on shelves with museum wax or putty.

Cottage Grove Area



Habitat for Humanity®

RESTORE

WINTER HOURS:

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

10AM-4PM

For Drop-off appointments,
after hours, call the office

We need volunteers for the
ReStore ~ a few hours
each month! Will you help?

Habitat Office and Warehouse
2155 Getty Circle ~ Unit #1
in the Cottage Grove Industrial Park
South on Hwy 99 past the High School

**DONATIONS
ALWAYS
WELCOME!**

Call 541.767.0358
for more information
Email
info@habitatcg.org

PUT TOGETHER A PLAN

Make sure all the pieces are in place to render you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest weather information, and follow all evacuation directions and suggestions.
- Keep a stock of non-perishable food items as well as bottled water on hand inside your home.
- Keep a 72 Hour Kit on hand inside your home that is easy to get to in the event of a disaster.

For more information and tips on disaster response and preparedness, contact your local emergency services center.
South Lane Fire & Rescue • 233 Harrison Ave, Cottage Grove 541-942-4493 • 55 South 1st Street, Creswell 541-895-2506



Twitter: @southlanefire
Facebook: southlanecountyfireandrescue