



News Release

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Forum on Catastrophe Preparedness in the Workplace to be Held April 7

OAKLAND -- The California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC) and the Division of Safety & Health (Cal/OSHA), along with the RAND Corporation will hold a conference titled "Forum on Catastrophe Preparedness: Partnering to Protect Workplaces" on April 7 in South San Francisco.

Timed to coincide with the centennial anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the Forum will provide current, relevant information on disaster and catastrophe preparedness to educate employers, workers and safety personnel.

The Forum will offer an opportunity for health and safety workers, those in the workers' compensation communities, and others to:

- Identify and review the roles of federal, state, and local government agencies and organizations in the case of natural disasters and terrorist attacks.
- Discuss and share ideas for safety in responding to natural disasters and terrorist attacks.
- Present the latest research on safety and health of emergency responders in natural disasters and terrorist attacks.
- Examine how employers and workers can be better prepared in case of natural disasters and terrorist attacks.
- Consider areas where improvements need to be made.

One hundred years after the catastrophic earthquake of 1906, earthquake risk and the risk of other catastrophes, including terrorism, continue to loom large for Californians and the nation. As demonstrated in the September 11 attacks, the risk of a catastrophe while people are at work and the risks to the workers who respond require the urgent attention of employers, workers and policymakers.

Online registration is available at http://www.rand.org/events/catastrophe_prep.html.

More information about the Forum, its invited speakers, and the Forum partners may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/chswc/safetyconference2006.html>. Information may also be obtained by calling (510) 622-3959 or by email at chswc@dir.ca.gov.

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