

ESP FOCUS

Form Response Teams



WHY?

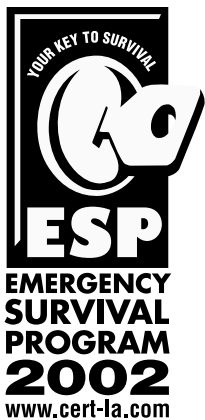
A damaging earthquake or another emergency might overwhelm local fire, police, medical and emergency response personnel. As a result, emergency response teams in your neighborhood, at your place of work and at your children's school might have to treat the injured, rescue those who are trapped and assess the damage to neighborhoods, businesses and schools. Included in this Focus Sheet are tips on how to organize a team.

If your neighborhood, office or school doesn't have an emergency response team, form one now. Your local office of emergency services can give you helpful information.

Good Leadership Is Key

Emergency response teams will operate best only if they are organized and have good leadership. The Planning Committee can help develop goals and objectives before the next emergency.

The committee should give a Block or Team Captain the authority to make decisions in the aftermath of an earthquake or another emergency. It's important, however, that the Block Captain work with other leaders and delegate assignments and responsibilities as appropriate. To maintain control, no one person should directly supervise more than 5-7 people.



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Organizational Structure

Your organization can have several teams that are responsible for a particular aspect of preparedness and response. Each team should have a leader who reports to the Block Captain.

The Block Captain is responsible for setting priorities and coordinating the overall response.

The table below describes the responsibilities of key response teams.

Team	Responsibilities
Training Team	Coordinates and tracks training of team members.
Supplies Team	Obtains, distributes and tracks tools and equipment.
Hazard Reduction Team	Identifies, reduces and eliminates hazards.
Search & Rescue Team	Locates and removes those who are trapped in buildings, vehicles, etc.
First Aid Team	Assesses and treats basic injuries until professional medical help is available.
Damage Assessment Team	Identifies structures with obvious structural damage.
Shelter Team	Pre-identifies housing and shelter of displaced neighbors, employees, etc.



This action sheet is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase emergency preparedness at home, in the community, at work and at school. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and representatives from Southern California cities and counties assist in the development of campaign materials and in coordination of the campaign.