The South Napa Earthquake in August 2014 was the first major earthquake to hit the Bay Area since Loma Prieta, nearly 25 years prior. While much of the Bay Area was spared from significant damage, its impacts to Napa and Vallejo have been stark reminders that even the latest developments in engineering and technology do not yield complete immunity from disaster.

Emergencies can strike at any time and successful response relies on both personal and community preparedness.

In the next 20 minutes we’re going to review how to boost our personal preparedness so that we’ll be ready to support San Francisco as Disaster Service Workers.
If a major earthquake were to occur right now, what would you do?
Immediate response to an earthquake:

**FIRST** drop, cover, and hold on!

*Drop*  
Get low to the ground to avoid falling

*Cover*  
Ideally your whole body under a sturdy table  
But if there isn’t anything nearby you can duck under, prioritize protecting your head and neck with your arms and hands

*Hold on*  
To your shelter until the shaking stops

Other methods like standing in a doorway or immediate evacuation are **dangerous** and are **not** recommended.

Once it is safe to do so, check for damage  
Wear protective clothing / equipment while you do this – like gloves and sturdy shoes.  
Earthquake victims often get many cuts from walking on glass in their bare feet.

**Anticipate potential aftershocks**  
Just because the initial shaking has stopped doesn’t mean there won’t be more! There were **more than 80 aftershocks in the three days following the recent quake in Napa County – one of which was a 3.9 magnitude.**
Where will you turn for more information?
San Francisco’s Alert & Warning System includes:

**AlertSF**: text-based public notification system for SF residents and visitors. Subscription are organized by zip code: opt-in to receive alerts specific to your neighborhood, additional areas such as for the area of your child’s school, or the whole city. Registration is free but message charges may apply according to your wireless provider.

**Outdoor Public Warning System (OPWS)**: Emergency announcements can be broadcast over one or more of the 109 sirens located on poles and atop buildings throughout San Francisco. The system is tested each Tuesday at noon. To find your closest siren(s): [http://sfdem.org/index.aspx?page=55](http://sfdem.org/index.aspx?page=55)

**Wireless Emergency Alerts** *(formerly CMAS: Commercial Mobile Alert System)*
Government system that can issue emergency messages to wireless devices within proximity of one or more selected cell towers. Most frequently used for AMBER Alerts – this same technology could be utilized to issue alerts involving safety threats in a major emergency.

**Emergency Alert System**: Public warning system that requires broadcasters, cable TV, radio, and satellite providers to deliver emergency information.
Social Media

**Twitter:** follow SF_emergency (and SF72 for non-emergency messages with preparedness tips, etc.)

**Facebook**

**Nextdoor:** neighborhood social networking tool
SF72.org
San Francisco’s new preparedness website

Click on the “In an Emergency” tab on the far right to get to the real-time information hub page that includes updates from Twitter and a Google Crisis Map indicating areas to avoid and resources such as shelter locations.

This is also a good place to check for more information about city impacts during big planned events such as street closures during Bay to Breakers and the Pride Parade.
Once we become aware of a major emergency, many of us will immediately turn to finding out if our loved ones are ok. We recognize that it will be difficult for you to effectively support the response until you have this assurance.

Make a plan now so that you and your family have the same expectations for check-in – and then you’ll be able to assume your response role sooner.
Make an emergency plan with your inner circle of friends, relatives, or immediate family

*Include:*

- A **meeting spot** in case your home is inaccessible
- An **out of area contact** you can call to check in with in case local phone lines are overwhelmed
Download the SF72 plan template (available in 5 languages) here: http://www.sf72.org/plan
Do you have a supply kit at home, work and in your car?
Assemble a supply kit that will sustain you for about 3 days or 72 hours. Just as you have a kit at home, you should also have supplies with you in case you are not able to go home or need to work later than usual during a response. **Include:**

- Personal hygiene items
- Prescriptions
- An extra set of clothes
Are you familiar with alternate transportation modes and routes between work and home?
Imagine how a major emergency would impact your daily routine and the services you rely on.

If you can’t take the ferry, which bus routes also go to your destination?
If you can’t pick up your children from school, who else could?
Real emergencies look more like people coming together than cities falling apart.
How does the City come together to coordinate a response?
**Department of Emergency Management (DEM) organizes**

The **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**: a central point for multi-agency emergency management coordination.

**EOC sections include:**
- **Joint Information** (e.g., notifications and working with the media),
- **Operations Support** (working with responding agencies),
- **Planning** (gathering information and anticipating future operations / needs),
- **Logistics** (coordinating resource requests and allocations),
- **Finance & Administration** (managing documentation, purchasing, and preparing for cost recovery)

**In addition, 17 operational departments in the City maintain**

**Department Operation Centers (DOCs):** where departments maintain internal operations and contribute to the citywide response in coordination with the EOC
As a City and County employee, you are required to perform duties as a Disaster Service Worker when the Mayor declares a citywide emergency.

Your DSW assignment may align with your usual duties or be another support as needed.

Personnel will not be placed in response roles that require specialized training such as firefighting or law enforcement.
Disaster Service Workers – DSWs

When a citywide emergency is declared while you are at:

1  **Work**: Report immediately to your department supervisor or a department designated staging area.

2  **Home or Away from Work**: first ensure the safety of your family and then follow your department’s emergency plan and/or DSW reporting instructions.

For more information about your duties or further training, please speak with your supervisor and visit [www.sfdhr.org](http://www.sfdhr.org).
Presenter Note: If you have any questions about the content covered in this presentation, please contact SF Dept. of Emergency Management staff Kathy Harris (kathy.j.harris@sfgov.org) or Nubia Mendoza (nubia.mendoza@sfgov.org).