



Seascape CERT Community Emergency Response Team Disaster Response Plan Draft 7

Seascape CERT Team
Aptos, CA 95003
U.S.A.

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U.S.A.

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About This Disaster Plan

This Seascape CERT Disaster plan describes what the Seascape CERT Team members will do during a disaster.

Seascape CERT Neighborhood Response Kit

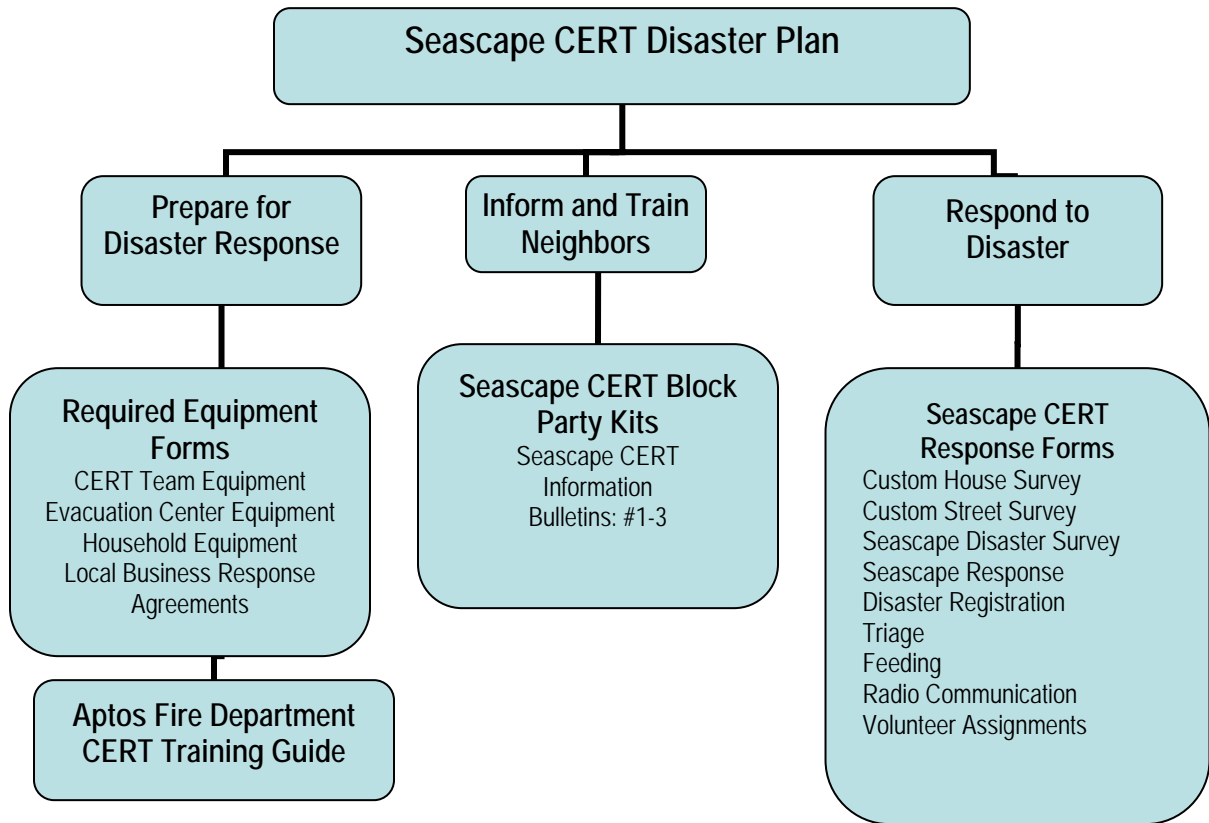
This Disaster Plan document is one of several documents in the Seascape CERT Neighborhood Response Kit Documentation set. These documents are available in printed and PDF file format. The complete set includes:

DOCUMENT	DESCRIPTION
<i>Seascape CERT Neighbor Bulletin #1</i> WHAT IS THE SEASCAPE CERT TEAM?	Describes the Seascape CERT Team, the Seascape CERT training, and training contact information
<i>Seascape CERT Neighbor Bulletin #2</i> EMERGENCY SUPPLIES FOR YOUR HOME	Describes supplies that all Seascape neighbors should have to be prepared for a disaster
<i>Seascape CERT Neighbor Bulletin #3</i> WHAT TO DO ON THE DAY OF A DISASTER	Describes what to do on the day of a disaster for Seascape neighbors
<i>Seascape CERT Disaster Plan</i>	This Seascape CERT Disaster plan describes the plan for the entire Seascape area including what the Seascape CERT Team members and neighbors will do during a disaster.
<i>Seascape CERT Disaster Street Surveys (One per street)</i>	Pre-prepared Disaster street surveys that lists the residents of each house and contact information with prompts for volunteers to describe the condition of each resident and house during a disaster.
<i>Seascape CERT Disaster House Surveys (one per house)</i>	Pre-prepared Disaster house surveys that list the residents of each house and contact information with prompts for residents to describe the condition of each Seascape house and resident during a disaster.

Seascape CERT Response Kit Components

The Seascape CERT organization is dedicated to making sure that Seascape is ready to respond to a Disaster through disaster preparation, information dissemination, and on-going fun and informative recruitment and training.

To support this effort, Jean Anderson developed the Seascape CERT Response Kit that contains the following documents on CD. You can customize these documents to match your neighborhood's requirements.



Additional Resources

For more information see: <http://www.aptosfire.com>

Chapter 1 Introduction

This plan describes what the Seascope CERT team and Seascope neighbors will do to respond to a disaster in Seascope.

On any day, a serious disaster could strike the Seascope neighborhood without warning; especially an earthquake. With all that is around us in our daily activities, it makes sense to invest NOW in getting ready for, a day we normally would not expect, the day the disaster strikes at home.

Seascope CERT Disaster Preparation and Response Goals

These are the disaster preparation and response goals for Seascope CERT:

- Introduce neighbors to each other on every street using block parties
- Develop of list of every neighbor on every street and identify people with special needs
- Develop a list of required response equipment and supplies and purchase it
- Build a storage area at Seascope Park and store supplies there
- Develop a disaster plan and disaster preparation bulletins for Seascope
- Develop a house survey to record disaster status after a disaster and distribute them in Seascope
- Develop a street survey to record disaster status after a disaster and distribute them in Seascope
- Train neighbors to survive and respond individually
- Train neighbors in the neighborhood as CERT team members
- Develop leaders and backup leaders in each functional area of Disaster Response
- Prepare households with supplies and what to do on the day of a disaster
- Respond when disaster strikes

Why Prepare for Disaster Response?

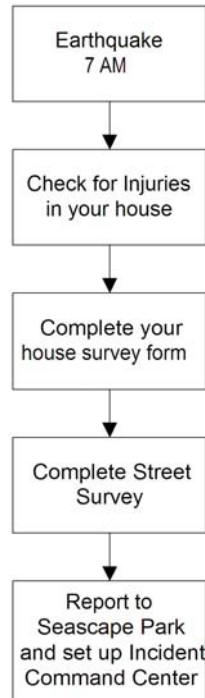
- It is important to organize the Seascope neighborhood to respond in a disaster because county emergency services like police, fire, ambulances, and public works will be very busy after the initial disaster strikes in and there are only two ways in and out that could be blocked.
- It may be days before emergency services can give the Seascope neighborhood all the help we need. The standard wait time may be 72 hours or longer after a significant disaster occurs.
- When a disaster strikes, we could be relying on ourselves and our neighbors for first aid, firefighting, hazard control, search and rescue, information, and general support.
- Neighborhood teams prepared to do those things may make the difference between life and death for many individuals and families.
- Neighbors and professionals all over Santa Cruz County helped each other through many past disasters; the floods of 1982, the Lexington fires, the Parajo River floods, and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.
- But because most of the people were not acquainted with each other before the disasters, everyone agrees that there was wasted efforts as people attempted to get to know one-another on their own streets and figure out what to do next.
- As a result, many Santa Cruz neighborhoods have now formed Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) to prepare for and respond to a disaster in their neighborhoods.
- Here in Seascope, we are trained by the Aptos/LaSelva Fire Department. The goal is for each Seascope street to have a trained street captain and backup and several trained CERT volunteers.
- Effective neighborhood disaster response is based upon a realistic plan that organizes and directs resident actions during emergency situations. This plan describes what the Seascope CERT team and Seascope Neighbors will do on the first days of the disaster.

What is the Incident Command System?

The Incident Command System (ICS) resource management system which provides effective incident management through the identification of specific roles and responsibilities and chain of command. The Incident Command System utilizes functional groupings of tasks, management by objectives, and a defined command structure.

In Seascope, there will be a CERT Incident Command team that reports to the Aptos Fire Department Incident Command CERT liaison, Mike Conrad or Carol Wallace.

This is how CERT volunteers respond on the day of a sample earthquake disaster:

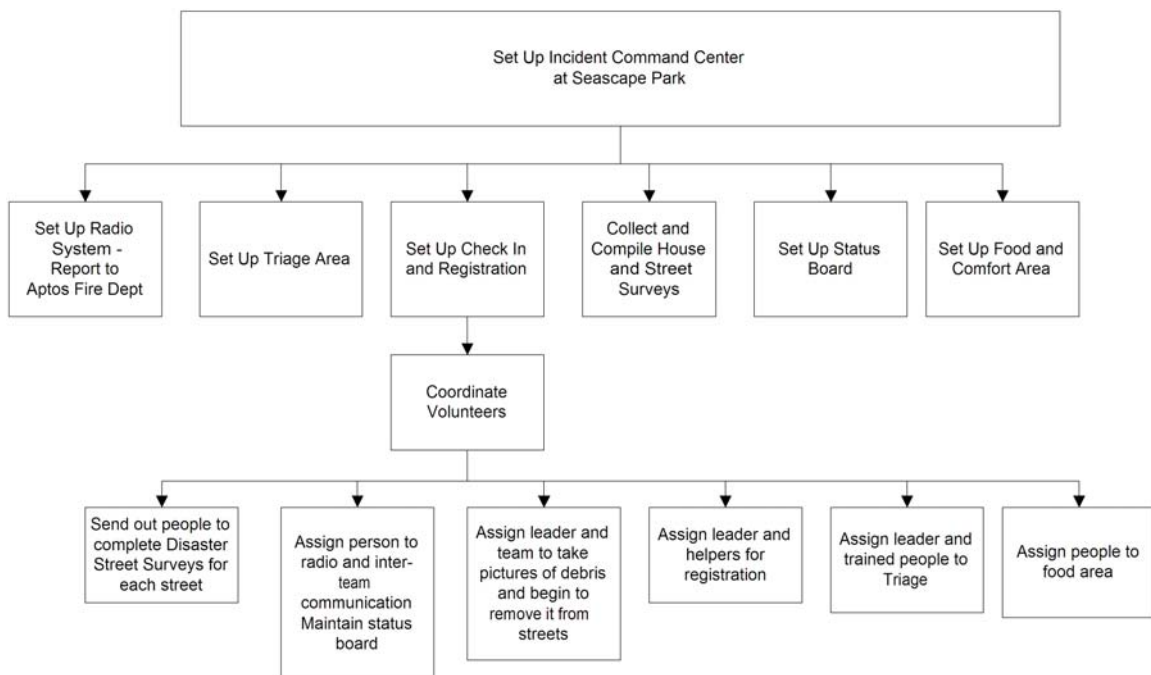


The Incident Command system is coordinating these responses on the day of a major disaster like an earthquake

- **Commander**
This person sets up and coordinates the following response activities, sometimes doing them until others arrive.
- **Rescue**
Get injured people to triage at Seascope Park
Tell all households to fill out the Seascope CERT Disaster House Survey for each house and tack it on their front door
Tell all households to bring the copy of their Seascope CERT Disaster House Survey to Seascope Park and to register
- **Disaster House and Street Surveys**
Collect a Seascope CERT Disaster House Survey from each house on each street if possible
Fill out the Seascope CERT Disaster Street Survey for each street.
Compile the Seascope CERT Disaster Street Surveys into the Seascope CERT Disaster Survey at Seascope Park
Report status to radio person to report status Mike Conrad at Aptos Fire Department

- **Registration**
Check in all residents and note their condition and the state of their dwelling using the Seascape Disaster Registration form.
Refer check-ins to volunteer coordinator after check-in and getting house survey.
- **Radio Communications**
Get a station set up to communicate with the emergency services - fire dept., etc.
Communicate with Aptos fire as directed by Incident Commander.
Communicate with street teams and write down messages on CERT Message Form.
- **Food and Comfort Area**
Make a place for neighbors to rest (cots), get help, regroup, establish communication with the outside, and share a warm nourishing meal, water, calming teas.
Activate mutual aid agreements with local restaurants and stores.
- **Debris Removal**
Get the roads cleared so emergency services can get in and out and we can too.
- **Referral**
Refer people to local resources for the next step of help

On the day of the disaster, this is how the Incident Command System works.



Each of these areas is described in more detail in the following sections.

Chapter 2 Search, Rescue, and Damage Assessment

This chapter describes the search, rescue, and damage assessment response in the Seascope Neighborhood. Each house should complete a Disaster House Survey like the sample shown on page 29.

Each Seascope street will have a trained street captain and several trained CERT volunteers.

On the day of the disaster, the street captain and several trained CERT volunteers will perform a systematic check on all homes on their street and log it on before reporting to the Incident Command Center in Seascope Park.

They are responsible for light search and rescue, utility shutdown, fire suppression, and later, pet location.

Using the custom *Seascope CERT Disaster Street Survey* for their street, like the sample shown on page 31, the CERT team works its way down the street checking each house and marking the status of each house and its occupants as they go.

Each occupied household will be following this evaluation process in their house if they are able. If you do not see a white or green marker on the door, check the following:

- **Is anyone in the house injured?**
If YES, if possible, bring the person to Seascope Park and tell a CERT team member about the injury. If you can't bring the person, go to Seascope Park and tell a CERT team member about the injury.
- **Is there a fire in your house?** If YES and it is small (like a campfire), put it out.
If YES and it is a large fire, evacuate the house, fight the fire after evacuation, and notify CERT people at Seascope Park about the fire.
- **Do you smell gas in your house?**
If YES, do not use matches, candles, electrical switches, plugs, flashlights or other spark producers. Go outside and turn off the gas at the meter, turn off the electricity from outside, only if you smell gas. If NO, do not turn off the gas at the meter. Go to Seascope Park and tell a CERT person about gas.
- **Is there water leaking anywhere in your house?** If YES, shut off the water at the main.
Before you shut off the water, fill your tubs and sinks, you may need that water!
- **Is everything OK and you will be staying in your home?**
If YES, hang a white flag outside your house so CERT team members know everything is OK.
Go to Seascope Park to check in and see if you can help someone else.
- **Is everything OK and you will be leaving your home?**
If YES, hang a green flag outside your house so CERT team members know everything is OK but that you have left the house.
Turn off the electricity at the meter before you leave because when power is restored, forgotten or fallen electrical appliances start the majority of fires in evacuated homes.
POST a note on your front door telling CERT members how to contact you.
Go to Seascope Park and leave another contact note with a CERT team member.

If required, the CERT team identifies injured people trapped in a house, tries to free people trapped in damaged buildings, checks on utilities and shuts them off if necessary, watches for fire and puts out incipient blazes, and identifies the location of dangerous hazardous materials spills.

The CERT team reports severe injuries, fires, or other emergency problems to the Incident Command Center by walkie talkie on their way over to Seascape Park.

Each street captain submits the updated street *Seascape CERT Street Disaster Survey like the sample on page 31* to the Incident Commander as they arrive at Seascape Park.

Chapter 3 Incident Command Center

This section describes how the Incident Command will be set up at Seascape Park and what will happen there.

Who's in Charge?

The first trained CERT team member to arrive at Seascape Park is the Incident Commander. This person directs communication and directs activity as described below at Seascape Park. This person can be relieved when a trained replacement arrives.

Unpack Supplies

The Incident Commander together with other volunteers who report to Seascape Park, unpack the supplies located in the shed adjacent to the bathrooms.

Set up and Manage Disaster Reporting and Rescue

Refer all people to the registration area for check-in, and note any reports for required rescues.

Set up Evacuation Area

The commander and volunteers set up the evacuation area as soon as possible and post the signs around the tent for Food, Registration, Volunteers, Triage, and Radio Communications.

SET UP AND MAINTAIN TRIAGE AREA

The commander and volunteers set up the triage area for injured neighbors or resort guests. Assign a person to maintain the Triage report. See the Triage section for specific details.

Set up and Maintain Security

The commander and volunteers instruct the Seascape Resort volunteers (First Alert?) to unlock the chain across the driveway into Seascape Park and post security at the entrance. Only Seascape neighbors or Seascape Resort guests are allowed into the tent area.

Set up and Maintain Registration and Volunteer Assignments

Set up a Registration table and have each Seascape Neighbor person check off their name, personal status, and household status on the CERT Street Surveys. Identifies people who need a place to stay and any special needs requirements. Refers non-injured people to volunteer coordinator for assignment.

Set up and Maintain Radio Communications

The ham radio operator reports to the Incident Command leader. The ham radio operator checks in with Aptos La Selva Fire Department. See the Communications section for specific information.

SET UP AND MAINTAIN NEIGHBORHOOD STATUS BULLETIN BOARD

Inside the tent, the Seascape Neighborhood bulletin board is set up with pens and papers for neighbors to write notes to each other or to report that they are OK but leaving their home.

SEASCAPE NEIGHBORHOOD STATUS REPORT

As street captains report in, the Incident Command collects their street *Seascape CERT Street Neighbors Response List* reports, prioritizes and assigns resources as required, transfers the data to one *Seascape Neighborhood Disaster Report*, and requests required assistance from the Fire Department through the ham radio operator. When the incident is complete, the Incident Commander returns the Incident Status report to the Aptos La Selva Fire department.

Chapter 4 Triage at the Command Center

The triage center is the neighborhood first aid station and identifies people who need skilled medical care.

Upon arrival at Seascape Park, rope off the Triage Center into the following color coded areas:

- Red = Immediate
- Yellow = Delayed
- Green = Minor
- Black = DEAD areas.

Triage Victims

- If possible, all injured neighbors will be brought to Seascape Park for triage and treatment.
- Register each person brought to the treatment area using the *Seascape Neighbor List* and place a tag on them.
- If the victim cannot give their name, write a brief description i.e. sex, approximate age, hair color, race, etc.
- Tag colors: Red = immediate, Yellow = delayed, Green = minor, Black = DEAD.
- Treat minor injuries at the Triage center.
- Tag everyone you assist and update the *Triage Report Form* like the sample on page 36 with what was wrong, what you did, any change in their condition, any medication administered
- Notify the Incident Commander of Immediate and Delayed people so that the Incident Commander can have the ham radio person alert the Aptos La Selva Fire Department.
- Provide encouragement and support to those injured and those traumatized by the event.
- Establish safe sanitary conditions.

Remember to enter each treated person on the Triage Report Form like the sample on page 36.

Chapter 5 Communications at the Command Center

The Communications team reports neighborhood status to the Aptos La Selva Fire Department. The ham radio person gets information from the outside which is conveyed to the Incident Commander who reports updates to the Bulletin Board, the CERT teams, and neighbors gathered at Seascape Park.

Set Up Radio Communication with Aptos/LaSelva Fire Department

The ham radio person sets up the CB radio base station at the Incident Command Center in Seascape Park.

Under the guidance of the Incident Commander, this person communicates to the Aptos La Selva Fire department using the CB radio. Tracks all messages using the Seascape CERT Message form like the sample on page 34.

This person communicates with the walkie talkies issues to CERT volunteers. Tracks all request for services messages using the Seascape CERT Message form like the sample on page 33. Reports all requests for services to the Incident Commander.

Set Up Walkie Talkie Communication

Each Seascape CERT team member has a walkie talkie assigned to them. The CERT team communicates with each other and with the central communications person using the walkie talkies.

Track all request for services messages using the Seascape CERT Message form like the sample shown on page 34.

Chapter 6 Register Neighbors at Seascape Park

This section describes how to register neighbors at Seascape Park.

Disaster Registration

Set up the Registration table and the Seascape CERT laptop.

Get out the packet of Disaster House Survey and Disaster Street Survey forms.

You must register every person who comes into Seascape Park.

- If they don't have a completed House Disaster Survey form, give them one and have them complete it and come back to register.
- Collect the completed Seascape CERT Disaster House Surveys for each house.
- Collect the completed Seascape CERT Disaster Street Surveys for each street.
- ***Report major problems like injuries, trapped people, dead people, and fires to the Incident Commander.***
- Enter the supplied Seascape CERT Disaster Street and House Survey forms into the Seascape CERT Disaster Street Survey master forms for each street in the Seascape CERT folder on the laptop.
- Update masters as required.
- Once people complete check-in, refer non-injured to Volunteer coordinator.

Chapter 7 Volunteer Coordinator - Assign CERT Team and Volunteers

This section describes how to assign and track the CERT team and neighbor volunteers.

Using the *Seascape CERT Street Disaster Surveys* and the *Seascape Disaster Status Board*, the Incident Commander assigns teams to respond to Seascape households .

The CERT team reports to you using walkie talkies to the Incident Command ham radio operator.

Each team is given an assignment and each team is logged in before they depart.

Assign people as required to the following:

- Radio
- Survey and Rescue
- Triage Site
- Registration
- Volunteer Coordination
- Debris Removal from Streets
- Food and Comfort Area

Keep track of all assignments on the Volunteer Assignments Form on page 35.

Chapter 8 Track Equipment

This section describes how to assign and track equipment.

When the Incident Commander refers a person to you, provide the requested equipment from the CERT shed and track each piece.

When sending out equipment, fill out the Seascape CERT Equipment Resources tracking sheet on page 33.

Chapter 9 Feeding at the Seascape Park

This section describes how to set up feeding for the local Seascape neighbors.

The Incident Commander will coordinate with the local Seascape Village restaurants and the Seascape Resort to provide food, coffee, hot water for tea, and spring water, to neighbors and resort guests gathered at Seascape Park on the first day of the disaster for three meals: breakfast, 8-9 AM, Lunch 12 – 1 PM, and Dinner 5 – 7 PM, with two snacks at 10 and 3 PM.

This requires mutual aid agreements with the local restaurants.

Volunteers will assist with preparation, set up, maintenance during meal, and clean up.

Track the number of people fed at each meal and snack by providing meal tickets for each meal.

Track each restaurant who provided food and how many were fed with the provided food.

Appendix A Disaster Response Forms

This section contains all of the approved Seascape CERT Disaster response forms. These forms must be used during a drill and a disaster:

- Seascape CERT Disaster House Surveys for each house
- Seascape CERT Disaster Street Surveys for each street
- Equipment Resources
- Incident Briefing
- Message Form
- Personnel Resources
- Post-Incident Status
- Victim Treatment Record
- Disaster Registration

Seascope CERT Disaster House Survey

DATE:		PERSON REPORTING:											
TIME:		SEASCOPE CERT TEAM											
FILL IN THE NAMES OF EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE, YOUR ADDRESS AND PHONE, AND A CONTACT NAME AND PHONE WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED BELOW.	BURNING	IS IT OUT?	GAS LEAK	H2O LEAK	ELECTRIC	CHEMICAL	DAMAGED	COLLAPSED	INJURED	TRAPPED	DEAD	ACCESS	NO ACCESS
	NAME / ADDRESS / PHONE AND CONTACT NAME / PHONE	FIRE	HAZARDS			HOUSE		PEOPLE			ROAD		

Tear Here-----Tear Here

DATE:		PERSON REPORTING:											
TIME:		SEASCOPE CERT TEAM											
FILL IN THE NAMES OF EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE, YOUR ADDRESS AND PHONE, AND A CONTACT NAME AND PHONE WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED.	BURNING	OUT	GAS LEAK	H2O LEAK	ELECTRIC	CHEMICAL	DAMAGED*	COLLAPSED	INJURED	TRAPPED	DEAD	ACCESS	NO ACCESS
	NAME / ADDRESS / PHONE AND CONTACT NAME/PHONE	FIRE	HAZARDS			HOUSE		PEOPLE			ROAD		

Important: Fill in the same information on the top and bottom of the other side of this sheet.

Fire

1. Check your house for fire.
2. Write **YES** if there is a fire and **NO** if there isn't a fire.
3. If there is a fire, write the location of the fire.
4. If you put the fire out, write **YES** next to "Is it Out?"
If it is still burning, write **NO** next to "Is it Out?"

Gas

1. Check your house for gas.
2. Write **YES** if there is a gas leak and **NO** if there isn't a gas leak.
3. Write the location of the gas leak. (Turn off the gas in your house if there is a leak).

Water (H₂O)

1. Check your house for water leaks.
2. Write **YES** if there is a water leak and **NO** if there isn't a water leak.
3. Write the location of the water leak. (Turn off the water in your house if there is a leak).

Electric

1. Check your house for electrical problems.
2. Write **YES** if there is an electrical problem and **NO** if there isn't an electrical problem.
3. Write the location of the electrical problem. (Turn off all electrical devices in your house).

Chemical

1. Check your house for chemical spills.
2. Write **YES** if there is a chemical spill and **NO** if there isn't a chemical spill.
3. Write the type and location of the chemical spill. (Clean up simple spills).

Damaged/Collapsed

1. Check your house for damage.
2. Write **YES** if the house is damaged and write where it is damaged. Write **NO** if it isn't.
3. Write **YES** next to Collapsed if your house is collapsed and **NO** if it isn't.

Injured

1. Check everyone in the house and determine how many people are injured.
2. Write **YES** if there are injured and write "life threatening" if the injuries are life threatening.
3. Write **NO** if no one is injured.

Trapped

1. Check everyone in the house to see if they are trapped.
2. Write **YES** if people are trapped, the location, and write "life threatening" if the situation is life threatening. Write **NO** if no one is trapped.

Dead

1. Check everyone in the house.
2. Write **YES** if anyone is dead, the location, and how many. Write **NO** if no one is dead.

Access/No Access

1. Write **YES** if there is access. Write **NO** if there is not access and list the obstacle.

Seascope CERT Disaster Street Survey

Seascope CERT Disaster Street Survey

Each Seascope street has a prepared Disaster Street Survey that lists each house # with the current resident contact information. Below is a sample blank form. The instructions below the form are printed on the back of each House Disaster Survey form.

DATE:			PERSON REPORTING:									PAGE#				
TIME RECEIVED:			CERT TEAM NAME: SEASCOPE													
			BURNING	OUT	GAS LEAK	H2O LEAK	ELECTRIC	CHEMICAL	DAMAGED*	COLLAPSED	INJURED	TRAPPED	DEAD	ACCESS	NO ACCESS	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETED
TIME	ADDRESS/ LOCATION, NAME	FIRE	HAZARDS				HOUSE		PEOPLE			ROAD		/ X		
	RIGHT SIDE OF STREET (ODD NUMBERS)															

These instructions are printed on the back of each House Disaster Survey form.

Important: Fill in the same information on the top and bottom of the other side of this sheet.

Fire

1. Check your house for fire.
2. Write **YES** if there is a fire and **NO** if there isn't a fire.
3. If there is a fire, write the location of the fire.
4. If you put the fire out, write **YES** next to "Is it Out?"
If it is still burning, write **NO** next to "Is it Out?"

Gas

1. Check your house for gas.
2. Write **YES** if there is a gas leak and **NO** if there isn't a gas leak.
3. Write the location of the gas leak. (Turn off the gas in your house if there is a leak).

Water (H2O)

1. Check your house for water leaks.
2. Write **YES** if there is a water leak and **NO** if there isn't a water leak.
3. Write the location of the water leak. (Turn off the water in your house if there is a leak).

Electric

1. Check your house for electrical problems.
2. Write **YES** if there is an electrical problem and **NO** if there isn't an electrical problem.
3. Write the location of the electrical problem. (Turn off all electrical devices in your house).

Chemical

1. Check your house for chemical spills.
2. Write **YES** if there is a chemical spill and **NO** if there isn't a chemical spill.
3. Write the type and location of the chemical spill. (Clean up simple spills).

Damaged/Collapsed

1. Check your house for damage.
2. Write **YES** if the house is damaged and write where it is damaged. Write **NO** if it isn't.
3. Write **YES** next to Collapsed if your house is collapsed and **NO** if it isn't.

Injured

1. Check everyone in the house and determine how many people are injured.
2. Write **YES** if there are injured and write "life threatening" if the injuries are life threatening.
3. Write **NO** if no one is injured.

Trapped

1. Check everyone in the house to see if they are trapped.
2. Write **YES** if people are trapped, the location, and write "life threatening" if the situation is life threatening. Write **NO** if no one is trapped.

Dead

1. Check everyone in the house.
2. Write **YES** if anyone is dead, the location, and how many. Write **NO** if no one is dead.

Access/No Access

1. Write **YES** if there is access. Write **NO** if there is not access and list the obstacle.

Seascope CERT Message Form

Seascope COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

TO:	Message Center Use Only Incident: Time: Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Incoming <input type="checkbox"/> Outgoing
FROM:	
TIME:	
MESSAGE TEXT:	
ACTION TAKEN:	

Appendix B Earthquake Preparation and Response

Thanks to the Los Angeles CERT web site for the following information.

What is an Earthquake?

An earthquake is a sudden slipping or movement of a portion of the Earth's crust or plates, caused by a sudden release of stresses. Earthquake epicenters are usually less than 25 miles below the Earth's surface and are accompanied and followed by a series of vibrations.

The reason that earthquakes are such a risk is because shaking ground can:

- Cause buildings to move off of their foundations or collapse.
- Damage utilities, structures, and roads.
- Cause fires and explosions.
- Cause structural instability, such as dam failures that can trigger flash floods.

Earthquakes can also trigger landslides and avalanches or tsunamis. After an earthquake, it is important to listen for emergency instructions.

Together, all of these types of damage threaten lives, property, and the environment.

One of the greatest likelihoods of a major earthquake is in the Western United States, particularly along the San Andreas Fault in California. California's 17 million people face the highest risk,

Hundreds of tremors are felt each year, particularly in California. Major earthquakes are rare, however. Five major earthquakes have occurred in the last century in the United States. They occurred in:

- San Francisco, 1906 (2,000 lives lost).
- Alaska, 1964 (131 lives lost).
- San Fernando, California, 1971 (65 lives lost).
- Loma Prieta (Northern California), 1989 (66 lives lost).
- Northridge (Southern California), 1994 (61 lives lost).

There is no seasonal or yearly cycle of earthquake occurrence; earthquakes can happen at any time. Major earthquakes appear to occur in cycles of between 50 and 275 years. It is likely that an earthquake will hit California and perhaps other parts of the United States in the next decade or two.

An earthquake may last for seconds or minutes, while aftershocks may occur for months after the main earthquake. Earthquakes are classified, based on the Richter Scale, as:

- Small: 5.0-5.9.
- Moderate: 6.0-6.9.
- Major: 7.0-7.9.
- Great: 8.0 or greater.

The Richter Scale has a logarithmic base, so each increment on the scale is multiplied by a factor of 10. For example, an earthquake of magnitude 8.6 would not be twice as violent as one of 4.3, but rather would be 10,000 times worse.

Prepare for an Earthquake

To prepare for an earthquake, it is recommended that you:

- Develop a home earthquake plan so that you know what to do during and after an earthquake.
- Conduct earthquake drills with your family or coworkers. Locate safe spots (e.g., under a sturdy table), and identify danger zones (e.g., near windows).
- Develop a plan for reuniting all family members after an earthquake occurs.
- Identify an out-of-state contact for family members to phone.
- Keep supplies on hand, including food and water for 3 days, a flashlight with extra batteries, a portable radio, a fire extinguisher, and tools.
- Store heavy and breakable objects on low shelves. Weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products should be stored on bottom shelves or in closed cabinets with latches. Chemicals will be less likely to create hazards if they are stored in lower, confined locations.
- Secure bookshelves, water heaters, and tall furniture to wall studs. Install latches on all cabinets, and anchor overhead lighting fixtures. Secure items that might fall, such as televisions.
- Have a licensed professional install flexible pipe to avoid gas or water leaks.
- Move beds away from windows.
- Move or secure hanging objects over beds, couches, and other places where people sit or lie.
- Keep shoes and a flashlight under the bed. Keeping shoes under the bed ensures quick access to prevent cutting feet on glass and reduces the risk that glass could fall into them.
- You should hire a structural engineer to evaluate your home. Ask questions about home repair and strengthening for exterior features, such as porches, decks, sliding doors, canopies, carports, and garage doors.

What to do for Yourself During an Earthquake

To stay safe during an earthquake, you should do the following

:

- Drop, cover, and hold. Move only as far as necessary to reach a safe place.
Most persons injured in earthquakes move more than five feet during the shaking.
- If indoors, stay there.
Many fatalities occur when people run outside, only to be killed by falling debris from collapsing walls. It is safer to stay indoors until the shaking stops and it is safe to exit.
When going outdoors, move quickly away from the building to prevent injury from falling debris.
- If outdoors, find a spot away from buildings, trees, streetlights and power lines, and overpasses.
Drop to the ground and stay there until the shaking stops. Injuries can occur from falling trees, street lights and power lines, or building debris.
- If in a vehicle, pull over at a clear location and stop.
- Stay in the vehicle with seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops.
- Provide the following tips based on the area in which you live:
- Check for and extinguish small fires.

What To Do After an Earthquake in Seascope

On the Day of a Disaster in Seascope please check the following first at your house, fill out your *Seascope CERT Disaster House Survey*, and tack one survey to your front door and bring the other with you to the Seascope CERT Disaster Meeting Place at Seascope Park (On Summer). To complete the Seascope CERT Disaster House Survey, you will answer the questions below.

- Is anyone in the house injured?
If YES, if possible, bring the person to Seascope Park and tell a CERT team member about the injury.
If you can't bring the person, go to Seascope Park and tell a CERT team member about the injury.
- Is there a fire in your house?
If YES and it is small (like a campfire), put it out with your fire extinguisher.
If YES and it is a large fire, evacuate the house, fight the fire after evacuation, and notify CERT people at Seascope Park about the fire ASAP.
- Do you smell gas in your house?
If YES, do not use matches, candles, electrical switches, plugs, flashlights or other spark producers.
Go outside and turn off the gas at the meter, turn off the electricity from outside, only if you smell gas.
If NO, do not turn off the gas at the meter. Go to Seascope Park and tell a CERT person ASAP.
- Is there water leaking anywhere in your house? If YES, shut off the water at the main.
- Before you shut off the water, fill your tubs and sinks, you may need that water!
Is everything OK and you will be staying in your home?
If YES, hang a white flag outside your house so CERT team members know everything is OK.
- If you are going to stay in your house,
IMPORTANT: Tack your completed *Seascope CERT Disaster House Survey* to your front door.
If you are able, go to Seascope Park to check in and see if you can help someone else.
Clean up spills.
By cleaning up medicines, bleaches, flammables, and other spills, it is possible to prevent many small but potentially dangerous hazardous-materials emergencies.
Inspect the home for damage.
Aftershocks can cause additional damage to unstable buildings. If there are major cracks in the chimney or foundation or if the home or utilities have been moved by the earthquake, get everyone out of the home.
Take photographs of the home and its contents to document insurance claims.
Tune to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for emergency information and instructions.
- Is everything OK and you will be leaving your home?
IMPORTANT: Tack your completed *Seascope CERT Disaster House Survey* to your front door.
Do all of the above plus turn off the electricity at the meter before you leave because when power is restored, forgotten or fallen electrical appliances start the majority of fires in evacuated homes.
Go to Seascope Park and leave another completed *Seascope CERT Disaster House Survey* with a CERT team member.

Expect aftershocks.

Aftershocks often occur minutes, days, or weeks following an earthquake.

When aftershocks occur, drop, cover, and hold.

Earthquake Myths and Facts

Myth: Use a doorway for protection during an earthquake.

Fact: While doorways can provide adequate protection during small earthquakes, doorways should not be used for protection in a large earthquake because:

- Not all doorways are built into the physical structure of a building.
- Many doorways are too large for children or shorter adults to use correctly for protection.
- Even if they are part of the building's structure, doorways can provide protection for only one person.
- Earthquakes with moderate to extreme ground motion can cause a person using a doorway to fall out of the doorway or become injured when attempting to get to the doorway.

Myth: Animals can sense earthquakes and give advance warning.

Fact: Animals may be able to sense the first low-frequency waves of an earthquake that occur deep within the Earth, but the damage-causing primary and secondary waves follow just seconds behind. Animals do not make good earthquake warning devices.

Myth: Big earthquakes always happen in the early morning.

Fact: Although several recent earthquakes have occurred in the early morning, others, including the 1990 Upland earthquake and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, occurred in the afternoon. It's easy to remember earthquakes that fit the morning pattern and forget those that don't.

Myth: In a huge earthquake, will there be new Pacific Ocean Beachfront property in Arizona?

Fact: The motion of the plates is horizontal, not vertical. California will not drop into the ocean, even following a great earthquake.

Myth: Good building codes mean safe buildings.

Fact: The tragedy of Kobe, Japan, is a good reminder that the best building codes in the world do nothing for buildings that were built before the codes were enacted. Fixing problems in older buildings is the responsibility of the building's owner.

Version Control

June 2005 – Basic First Draft

September 2005 –

Added Incident Command System Description to Introduction

Updated What to Do on the Day of a Disaster in Seascape

Updated name of Seascape CERT Disaster Street Survey

Added Seascape CERT Disaster Street Survey to list of documents in front matter.

September 21, 2005

Added Seascape CERT Disaster House Survey to list of documents in front matter.

Updated all doc names in front matter.

Updated forms at end of document.

Updated names of forms throughout disaster plan

September 26, 2005

Added goals

Added in Aptos/ La Selva Fire Department CERT forms and added them to the TOC

November 2005

Added Response kit description and flow chart of documents

June 2006

Added response flowcharts, references to forms, added new house and street survey forms, added new text throughout.

July 2006

Prepared document to be added to seascapecert.org.