



# DSPN

Disaster  
Survival  
Planning  
Network

## Continuity IQ

### Fast Facts for our Valued Friends and Clients April 2008

Here are some bullets and brain teasers about current events from your friends at Disaster Survival Planning Network (DSPN). In this issue, we provide information about earthquakes. If you'd like to forward this message to your colleagues, just click the "Forward Email" link at the bottom of this page.

### Fast Facts about Earthquakes

#### Did you know...

- The month of April is observed as earthquake awareness month in California, Oregon and Washington, and as tsunami awareness month in Hawaii.
- The Richter scale is often misleading to someone who is trying to judge the destructiveness of a given event because the Richter scale measures the seismic energy released by an earthquake rather than its actual destructiveness. The energy released by an earthquake increases exponentially along the Richter scale. According to Wikipedia, at 4.0, an earthquake releases the energy equivalent to exploding 1000 tons of TNT; at 5.0, an earthquake releases the equivalent of 32,000 tons of TNT (equivalent to the Nagasaki atomic bomb). A 6.0 magnitude quake is equivalent to the explosion of 1,000,000 tons of TNT!
- To understand the destructiveness of a given earthquake, one must consider several factors, including the length of the fault, the depth of the movement under the earth's surface, the kinds of building construction in harm's way, and the time of day. On December 23, 2003, a 6.5 magnitude earthquake was recorded near San Simeon, California. It killed 2 people in Paso Robles. Three days later, a 6.6 magnitude earthquake was recorded near Bam, Iran. It killed more than 26,000 people.
- During an earthquake, soil failure can occur on a slope, or in a flat area due to liquefaction of water-saturated sand and/or mud. The likelihood of soil failure depends upon seasonal factors, as the soil may be more stable at the beginning of a wet season than at the beginning of the dry season.
- According to the Arkansas Center for Earthquake Education and Technology Transfer, the [New Madrid Seismic zone](#) lies within the central Mississippi Valley, extending from northeast Arkansas, through southeast Missouri, western Tennessee, western Kentucky to southern Illinois. Historically, this area has been the site of some of the largest earthquakes in North America. Between 1811 and 1812, 4 catastrophic earthquakes, with magnitude estimates greater than 7.0, occurred during a 3-month period. Hundreds of aftershocks followed over a period of several years.
- [ShakeMap sites](#) provide near-real-time maps of ground motion and shaking intensity following significant earthquakes. These maps are used by federal, state, and local organizations, both public and private, for post-earthquake response and recovery, public and scientific information, as well as for preparedness exercises and disaster planning.
- The American Red Cross of Orange County maintains a web page that includes lots of personal [earthquake safety tips](#).
- The 2008 [National Earthquake Conference](#) will be held this month in Seattle. Cascadia Region Earthquake Group (CREW) maintains a web page that includes information about [earthquake mitigation for businesses](#).

## Brain Teasers

### True or False

1. The Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 reduced chances of a severe earthquake in the region in the near future.
2. Experts do not recommend building evacuations during an earthquake.
3. A 7.3 earthquake in Los Angeles would likely destroy 700,000 homes and cause approximately \$700 billion in damages.
4. Major earthquakes along the Hayward Fault in Northern California occur about every 140 years.
5. When the next major earthquake occurs on the Hayward Fault, it is forecasted to cause more than \$1.5 trillion in economic losses.

### Check your answers here...

#### Answers to the above questions:

1. *False.* According to the U.S. Geological Survey, there is a 62 percent probability of a least one magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake striking the San Francisco Bay region before 2030.
2. *True.* During an earthquake, people should be concerned about falling objects. This risk of being hit by a falling object during an earthquake is greater while outdoors, and especially while exiting a building. Organizations who have earthquake risks should practice shelter-in-place drills in preparation for an earthquake.
3. *True.* This is among the findings released in the 2007 report, "A Call to Action," by the Financial Services Roundtable Blue Ribbon Commission on Mega-Catastrophes. The report identifies many disaster preparedness needs and offers 25 recommendations to better prepare the nation for future catastrophes.
4. *True.* Records and geologic trenching show that five major quakes struck along the Hayward Fault between 1315 and 1868 - an average of one every 140 years. The 140th anniversary of the last big one falls on October 21, 2008.
5. *True.* This new analysis comes from the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, from Risk Management Solutions, a scientific and engineering firm in Newark, and from the Association of Bay Area Governments.

## Readiness Check

### Hard-to-remember details:

1. Have you scheduled at least one shelter-in-place drill for 2008?
2. If a severe emergency strikes in your region during working hours, do you have food and water available for those who cannot leave?
3. Do you have a procedure to regularly replace perishable items in your emergency supplies?
4. If you are leasing your work space, have you discussed damage assessment responsibilities with your landlord?
5. Do your teams regularly inspect work areas to spot unsecured heavy items that might fall should an earthquake occur?

## New from DSPN

### Check these out on our website:

- Attending the Continuity Insights Conference in New Orleans this year? DSPN is staging a post-conference workshop at the conference hotel on May 8. [Click here for more details.](#)
- DSPN can provide a [customized tabletop exercise](#) at your site that will be very engaging for your executive team.
- Get your free [Shelter-in-Place Plan for Offices.](#)

## Comments and Contributions

### Tell us what you think...



Thanks to all of you have sent us comments about this mailing.

In responding to recent incidents, did you discover an interesting detail that you would like to share with our readers? If so, send it along and we'll consider it for a  
If you want us to print a comment or submission about your company, be sure to give us permission when you write.

[Paul Klier](#)

### Popular Services from DSPN

- [Benchmark Your Program Using NFPA 1600](#) is a one-day workshop we are staging in New Orleans in conjunction with the Continuity Insights Conference. Sign up now!
- In addition to our public workshops, DSPN offers [on-site workshops](#) that are customized for your priorities.