

T O R R A N C E

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CITY OF TORRANCE PARTICIPATES IN STATEWIDE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

Torrance, Calif., November 13, 2008 – The City of Torrance joined millions of southern Californians in the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history! The "*Golden Guardian Statewide Exercise Series*", is the nation's largest state-sponsored emergency preparedness exercise endeavor. The basis for this exercise is a hypothetical 7.8 magnitude earthquake along the southern San Andreas fault. Without further preparedness or mitigation, the USGS (United States Geological Survey) estimates this hypothetical earthquake would result in approximately 2,000 deaths, 50,000 injuries, \$200 billion in damage, and severe, long-lasting disruption.

Consistent with the City's commitment towards emergency and disaster preparedness, the City used this opportunity to better prepare its employees for responding to a disaster through evacuation drills and a Level Three EOC (Emergency Operations Center) activation.

The question is not *if* but *when* southern California will be hit by a major earthquake – one so damaging that it will permanently change lives and livelihoods in the region. How severe the changes will be for the City and citizens of Torrance depends on the actions we take to get ready.

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