



UCSF Disaster Drill Repeats 1906 Earthquake Scenario

In what has now become a regular fall event, teams from the campus and UCSF Medical Center recently participated in a statewide disaster exercise. Coordinated with the California Emergency Medical Services Authority and the state Homeland Security Golden Guardian program, the disaster drill this year replicated the 1906 San Francisco earthquake that measured 7.9 on the Richter scale.

The drill, which started at 5:12 a.m., the time that the 1906 event occurred, provided new opportunities to test the campus and medical center's emergency response. The start time allowed the University to activate its real-time staff notification procedures, monitor the length of time it takes leaders and front-line responders to arrive on site, and practice setting up the Emergency Operations Center. This early start time also offered the opportunity for key night shift staff to participate in a disaster drill and test a change of shift in the command center.

In addition to these shared goals of mobilizing from a cold start and testing emergency notification and communication systems, campus and medical center staff also had unique drill objectives specific to their own programs. For example, the medical center continued to test its capacity to care for a large influx of disaster victims by activating alternate care sites, deploying extra staff through its labor pool, assessing patients for evacuation, and identifying specialized resources and supplies needed to care for earthquake victims.

Staff from the campus at large developed their ability to conduct building damage assessments, coordinate search and rescue efforts, maintain public safety, manage utility disruptions, communicate and coordinate with medical center and other campus programs, and identify issues related to hazardous debris management.

What You Can Do

- Know your program's Emergency Action Plan
- Have a family emergency plan that includes:
 - Have enough food and drinking water, for each family member, for five days
 - When nearing expiration dates, rotate food and drinking water by donating them to food drives at the end of the year
 - Have a manual can opener
 - Include warm clothing, shoes, gloves and caps
 - Have a disaster kit in each car
 - Get in the habit of filling the gas tank while it is still half-full
 - Have cash set aside in a waterproof baggie

The University Store at each campus location sells disaster preparedness kits by Earth Shakes Inc. for both departmental and individual use. The University Store has several sample kits on display. A web-based purchasing option for both UC departmental purchases using [low value PO numbers](#) and for personal purchases [using credit cards](#) has been developed with Earth Shakes.