

The monthly FEMA *Children & Disasters Newsletter* is a resource for youth preparedness practitioners, educators, parents, children, and teens. It shares timely research, examples of successful youth preparedness programs, safety tips, and resources related to youth preparedness. To subscribe to the *Children & Disasters Newsletter*, please visit [www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness](http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness).

## CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



FEMA



### APRIL 2014 - ISSUE 4

Welcome to the April issue of the *Children and Disasters Newsletter*! April 30 is the spring America's PrepareAthon! (AP!) National Day of Action, and we hope you will participate! April is also National 9-1-1 Education Month, so we have included resources that can help you promote 9-1-1 awareness. We highlight a program in Chinatown, San Francisco in which youth make a big difference in their community's preparedness, and the Youth Preparedness Council members share their thoughts and impressions about earthquakes. Also, remember that FEMA is still accepting submissions for the upcoming youth preparedness activity booklet!

---

### AMERICA'S PREPAREATHON! IS TODAY

April is a very exciting month at FEMA! April 30 is the spring National Day of Action for America's PrepareAthon! (AP!). It's not too late to get involved!

AP! aims to motivate people to practice a preparedness action for a hazard that is likely to impact their community. By taking simple actions, people help build their preparedness 'muscle memory' and are more likely to act quickly during an actual emergency. Resources are available for a variety of audiences, including K-12 schools and institutions of higher education.

There are four hazards for Spring 2014: flood, tornado, hurricane, and wildfire. Examples of National Day of Action events include:

- **Flood:** Discuss the components of an emergency kit during an after-school club meeting. If possible, have all youth assemble a kit during the event.
- **Tornado:** Conduct a tornado drill at school.
- **Hurricane:** Have children in a youth group identify evacuation routes in the community.

- **Wildfire:** Have parents and children work together to make a family communications plan.

To learn more about America's PrepareAthon! and to see how you can participate, visit the [America's PrepareAthon! website](#) or read the [AP! Frequently Asked Questions](#). You can also follow all the action on [PrepareAthon's Twitter feed](#).

---

## **APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN FOR 2014 FEMA INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS AWARDS**

Each year, FEMA recognizes innovative individuals and organizations that are making a difference in their communities' abilities to prepare for or recover from an emergency or disaster. Applications for the Individual and Community Preparedness Awards are being accepted through May 30, 2014, and the winners will be announced in the fall.

There is a category dedicated to "Outstanding Youth Preparedness Initiatives," and we encourage you to apply or to nominate a program that is making a difference! You can see previous winners on the [Awards website](#). In fact, the Chinatown Community Development Center (profiled below) was a winner in 2012!

Additional information and application materials are available on the [Awards website](#), and applications/nominations must be submitted to [citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov) by May 30, 2014 at 11:59 PM EDT.

We wish you the best of luck!

---

## **WEBINAR MAY 27: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FEMA YOUTH PREPAREDNESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER**

Throughout the country, parents, teachers, program leaders, youth advocates, and many others are taking steps to teach the youth of our nation how to be prepared for disasters and emergencies. Preparedness skills can make a huge difference in the ability of youth to keep themselves and others safe in the event of an emergency; furthermore, youth may share the preparedness information they learn with their families, thus increasing the overall resilience of our society.

Youth preparedness education can take place in classrooms, after-school groups, youth groups, or any other venue. Wherever the program might be taught, FEMA supports all youth preparedness programs and has, to that end, developed a Technical Assistance Center for people leading this important work.

Please join us on **Tuesday, May 27, 2014 from 2:00-3:00 PM EDT** for a free webinar to learn about the tools and resources that are available through the Youth Preparedness Technical Assistance Center. You will also learn how to request individualized support by directly contacting our Technical Assistance providers.

To register for the webinar, please visit:

<https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/yptech1/event/registration.html>

**We hope to see you there!**

---

## NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH

Teaching children the proper use of the 9-1-1 system is one of the most basic preparedness steps that a parent, educator, or other youth advocate can take. When to call 9-1-1, what to expect, and what information to have ready are fundamental pieces of information that can help a child better react in an emergency situation.

April is National 9-1-1 Education Month, and a great time to introduce or reinforce 9-1-1 awareness. The [NG9-1-1 Institute](#) provides information about [National 9-1-1 Education Month](#) as well as [suggestions for recognizing the month in local communities](#). [Know911.org](#) provides materials and [messaging to support the 9-1-1: The Number to Know campaign](#), and the messaging can also serve as a set of key points for individuals discussing proper 9-1-1 use.

Of particular note for individuals who work with youth, [9-1-1 for Kids®](#) has a variety of resources to teach children about proper use of the 9-1-1 system.

---

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: CHINATOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CDC) YOUTH TEACH DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Chinatown, San Francisco is one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the country. Many seniors and children live in 8' x 10' rooms in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Hotels. Many are unprepared for an earthquake, and that motivated the youth members of Chinatown CDC to embark on a teaching project to prepare their senior neighbors, many of whom do not speak English. The youth go directly into SRO buildings and emphasize the importance of preparedness, handing out flashlights and emergency starter kits.

Youth are a great "power source" for this disaster preparedness work because when residents see youth at the door, the families and seniors welcome them, unlike adult strangers at the door. The "Youth for SROs" (YSRO) project has upgraded the community's understanding of preparedness, and YSRO was honored last year as the FEMA Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness Award winner and a White House [Champion of Change!](#)

For more information about Chinatown CDC, please visit [www.chinatowncdc.org](http://www.chinatowncdc.org).

---

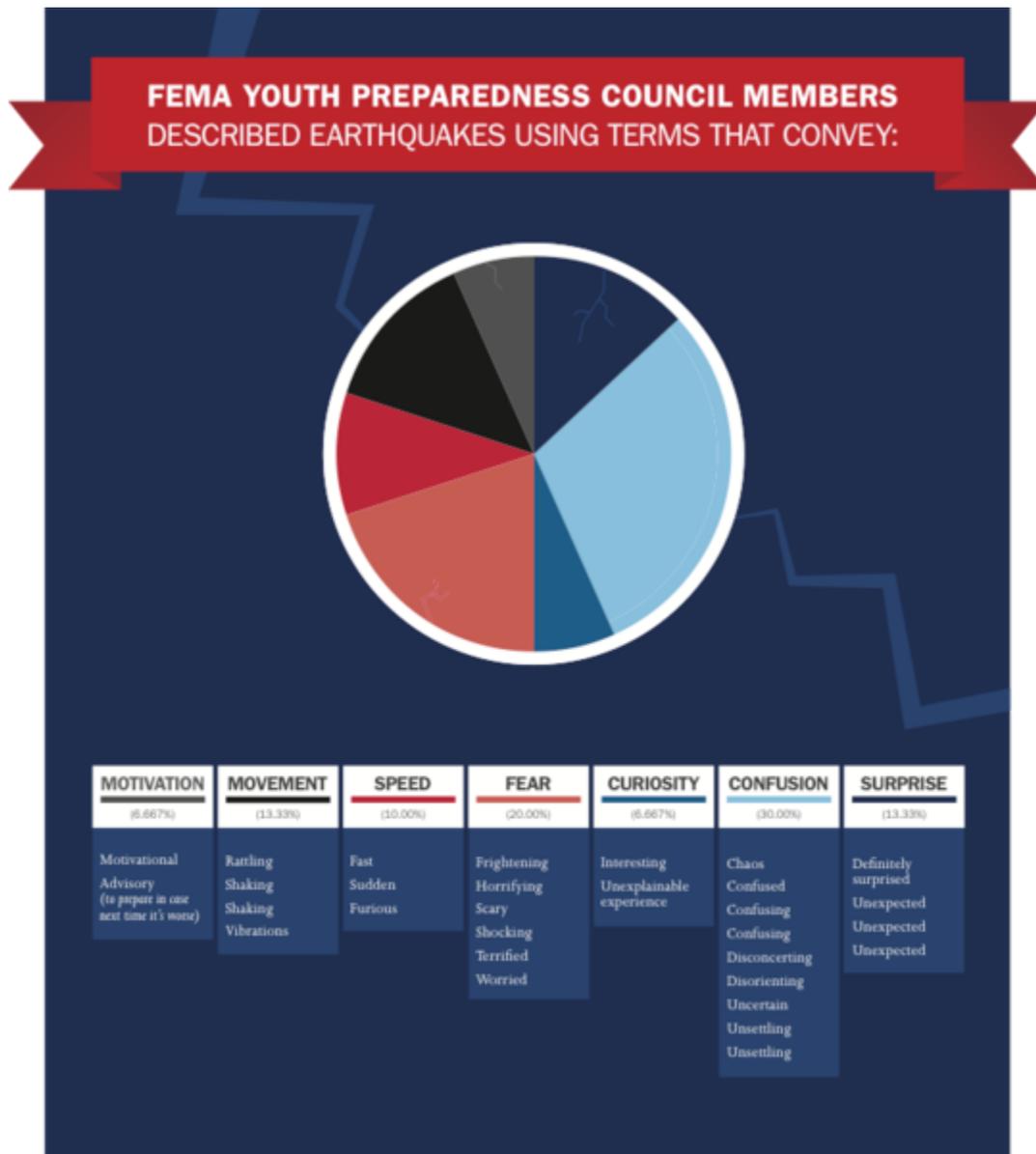
## IN THEIR OWN WORDS: FEMA YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL MEMBERS DESCRIBE AN EARTHQUAKE

Each month, the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council members submit status reports, and one component of the report is to answer a "Question of the Month." Recently, the Question of the Month was:

*"Have you ever experienced an earthquake? If yes, please give three words that describe the experience. If no, please give three words that describe what you think it would be like."*

The Council members provided the range of responses illustrated below. More than three quarters of the words describe the emotions associated with an earthquake, while just less than one quarter describe the physical event. The prevalence of different types of responses is depicted below, along with the specific words used.

Of particular note, two Council members described an earthquake as *motivational* and *advisory* (to prepare in case next time it's worse)—a great reminder for everyone to prepare now.



## REMINDER: CALL FOR RESOURCES FOR YOUTH PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITY BOOKLET

FEMA is still collecting resources (activities, games, worksheets, etc.) for the youth preparedness activity booklet. If you have any youth preparedness activities that are quick and easy to conduct and provide a powerful learning experience, we would love to include them in the booklet. For complete details about the booklet and the types of resources we are collecting, please see [the original bulletin](#). Please email all submissions to [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov), and please note that by sharing information about your activity, you are consenting for it to be included in the booklet.

We look forward to seeing the activities that are helping youth get prepared!

## CONTACT US

Email: [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov)

Online at <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov).

Disclaimer: [Privacy Policy](#) | GovDelivery is providing this information on behalf of U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and may not use the information for any other purposes