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Stories of...

Safer

Stronger

Communities

ICP Awards

Outstanding Individual and Community Preparedness

Response Team Initiatives

Orange County, CA

Community Emergency Response Team

Mutual Aid Program

Brenda Emrick: So the Orange County area—Orange County, California—received the community preparedness award for CERT initiatives, the Community Emergency Response Team initiative 2015 award.

We have everything from California earthquakes, floods, wildfires, severe weather, power outages, so we run the gamut when it comes to an all-hazard community or an all-hazard area in the county of Orange.

As coordinators we built our program out by basically talking to one another and saying, “Hey, what are you doing for training; hey, how are you using your instructors?”

We designed our own train-the-trainer program originally and then got it approved by the State of California to be able to deliver our own train-the-trainer program under the FEMA guidelines. And that was another important tool in keeping the standardization of our program.

You know, we truly believe preparedness starts at that individual level. And, you know, I like to talk preparedness to our team and basically state, “Hey, you know what, prepare for the people that you love. Those are the people who are counting on you.”

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FEMA