

Peninsula Clergy Network  
Master Plan for Incorporation of Congregations in  
San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services  
Natural Disaster and Community Crisis  
Preparedness and Response  
Summary

- I. The Need - To achieve a widespread increase in resources to enhance disaster preparation and response.
  - To increase the number of households with disaster plans and supplies.
  - To provide a structure for individuals between the time of a disaster and the availability of broad community resources.
  
- II. The Opportunity - The emergence of a unique resource in comprehensive community strategic planning. The Peninsula Clergy Network (PCN), is the nation's first formal, inclusive, geographically based association of clergy.
  - The PCN has assembled an array of tools including a countywide database of the 350 clergy, mapping of congregations on a city-by-city basis and an infrastructure of communication among clergy and with civic leaders.
  - These tools are available to enlist the clergy and the congregations they represent in a planned process to increase the number of prepared households and to provide response centers at the time of a disaster.
  - The structure of the PCN has been developed with the intent of providing a model and components of the model as applied to specific projects, which can be duplicated in other counties.
  
- III. The Framework - The incorporation of congregations as a neighborhood resource providing sites, people and coordination. Congregations will become the "neighborhood institution" to foster greater preparation, support of response in the initial days of a disaster and coordination of assistance to at-risk individuals and in unexpected circumstances.
  - Geographic division into cluster areas and designation of all congregations as a *Core Congregation, Support Congregation or Remote Congregations*.
  - Selection of a Team, anchored at the cluster congregations to include representatives from each congregation, law enforcement, fire, the Office of Emergency Services, the Red Cross, non-profits and business.
  - A Team designed process to increase the number of prepared congregants and prepared homes in the cluster neighborhoods through the effort of multi-congregational groups working in the neighborhoods.
  - Adaptation of corporate response models to clusters in which the congregations provide the focus for the pre-assigned personnel and visible and publicized centers for response.
  
- IV. Goal – A transformation in the structure of preparation and response within a designated neighborhood configuration.
  - To increase the number of prepared individuals prior to a disaster.
  - To give individuals seamless support in the initial phase of the incident and continued support as local/regional/state and national government and emergency response agencies phase in services to cluster areas.