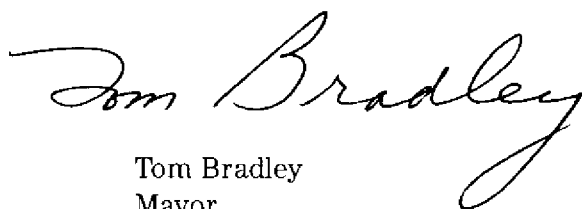


During the ten years since its inception, the Emergency Operations Organization (EOO) has evolved into a cohesive multi-agency team capable of dealing with the full disaster cycle. The EOO participates in implementing disaster-preparedness programs such as nonstructural hazard mitigation, community response training, and emergency preparedness planning within the private sector

With the development of the Emergency Operations Master Plan and Procedures and the Earthquake Prediction Response Plan, the EOO is capable of responding to any type of disaster within the City. These plans are evaluated and refined as new lessons are learned from actual emergency events and disaster simulations

The government of our City is prepared to protect people's lives and their livelihoods. I am proud to say that Los Angeles is now ahead of virtually every city in the country in planning for post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction, the final element of the disaster cycle

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Bradley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Bradley" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Bradley  
Mayor

# **WHEN DISASTER STRIKES**

## **Will you be prepared?**



Disasters are a fact of life. Throughout the United States various forms of disaster including earthquakes, fires, chemical/gas spills and explosions, floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes have brought devastation into the lives of our nation's population.

When a major earthquake or other disaster occurs in Los Angeles, it is anticipated that the impact will be enormous. Police, fire, public utilities, and medical services may be overwhelmed. Neighboring cities which would normally help each other in an emergency may be too fully committed dealing with their own problems to provide mutual aid. It may take days or even weeks in many areas to restore electricity, gas, water or telephone service.

## **What Is Local Government Doing To Prepare?**

The Emergency Operations Organization (EOO) was established by the City of Los Angeles to be responsible

for the development and efficient operation of the City's emergency response and recovery resources. This responsibility is the result of the authorities and powers established by the City Council in the City's Emergency Operations Ordinance.

## **Who Participates in the Emergency Operations Organization (EOO)?**

The Mayor is the Director of the EOO and is supported by the Emergency Operations Board (EOB), comprised of general managers of City departments and chaired by the Chief of Police. The City Administrative Officer is Vice Chairman of the EOB and is responsible for coordinating all EOO activities.



An Emergency Management Committee forms the working arm or staff of the EOB. Two dozen City departments and other governmental and private agencies participate in the activities of the committee, which serves as a vehicle for the development of plans, programs and training exercises to promote integrated disaster response efforts.

The City's EOO is composed of 13 divisions with responsibilities established through Ordinance. City operating departments utilize their resources to fulfill

the responsibilities assigned to their division by City Ordinance.

## **How Does The EOO Prepare for Disaster?**

The City's Emergency Operations Organization regularly assesses its hazard mitigation and emergency response capabilities. The Organization continually strives to develop, establish and enhance comprehensive, integrated programs to provide maximum potential in its ability to protect citizens and property.

To develop the best possible plans, programs and training, the Organization relies on a proven multi-agency team approach to planning, preparedness, and response activities. Multi-agency functional working groups, varying in composition, have been established to address particular problems or needs as they are identified. Committee developed proposals and programs are submitted to the Board, the Mayor and the City Council for consideration.

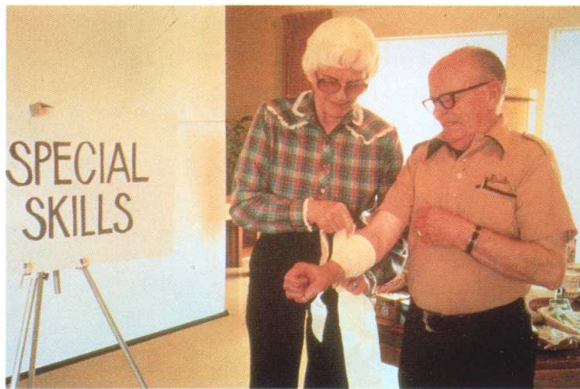
The development of policies which form the basis for plans and implementation programs is accomplished through the personal involvement of over 120 Emergency Operations Organization members including the general managers of many City departments in meetings, workshops and conferences.

The City's established plans and goals address restoration of City services, short and long term financial and economic recovery, revision of land use, reconstruction standards, hazard mitigation, and organizational authorities and processes during the recovery period after a disaster.

Plans that are in place today as a result of EOO efforts are the EOO Master Plan and Procedures, the Earthquake

Prediction Response Plan, and the Recovery and Reconstruction Plan. These plans are periodically reviewed and updated.

The Emergency Operations Organization is also involved in efforts to enhance training activities for community self-help and to develop community response teams, implement nonstructural hazard mitigation programs, proposed new code provisions for greater seismic and fire safety, and enhance interagency emergency response coordination systems.



## **Lessons Learned/Reconnaissance Teams**

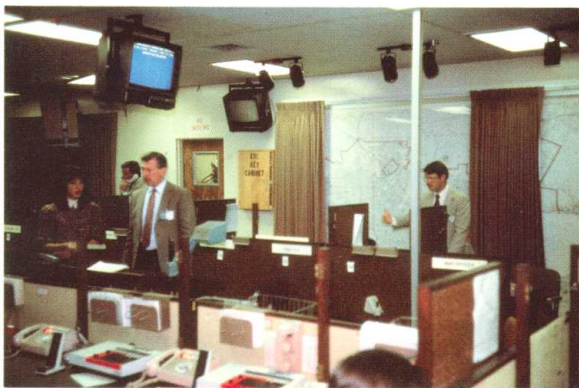




Visits to disaster sites by EOO reconnaissance teams gain first-hand information to assist the Emergency Operations Organization in addressing response and recovery issues or existing deficiencies. These visits provide for an in-depth examination of actual emergency management activities and provide a basis for development of recommendations to improve emergency management efforts in planning, response and recovery for the City of Los Angeles.

## **In Times of Disaster How Does The EOO Operate?**

A disaster which has a wide ranging impact on the City will result in the activation of the City's primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Located four floors underground, the EOC is equipped with vital communications, backup power, food, and other supplies necessary to handle the needs of the EOO staff for approximately two weeks.



If the primary EOC is not accessible the mobile EOC will be activated to help the City respond to and recover from the effects of a major disaster.



City officials, in accordance with the EOO Master Plan, compile and analyze damage assessment information and coordinate the allocation of various resources to the City's total response effort. Response resources are drawn from City departments through the 13 EOO divisions and other governmental and private sector entities.

Close coordination is accomplished with other agencies providing emergency services, especially law enforcement and emergency medical services, as well as agencies providing logistical support for obtaining the use of both government and private sector resources.

In responding to a disastrous event, City departments will follow their emergency plans developed at the Mayor's direction. Individual emergency plans provide each City department a basis for the rapid resumption of City business and services consistent with its EOO obligations as outlined within the EOO Master Plan. City departments will also:

- alert and mobilize personnel and resources;
- determine the extent of damage to, and the operational capability of City facilities and field units;
- survey the disaster area and collect damage assessment data to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the nature and the extent of the disaster;
- provide trained staff to support EOO operations;
- provide representation at activated EOCs when requested; and
- provide disaster related cost data for the State certification of expenditures.



City departments must also carry out the responsibilities assigned to their divisions by City Ordinance as follows:

1. Police Division
  - Maintain peace and order
  - Enforce all state and local laws
  - Preserve life and property
2. Fire Suppression and Rescue Division
  - Direct and control all fire suppression, rescue operations, emergency medical services, and radiological defense