

Real Estate & Bus

PG&E Partners With Rebu Prepare Elderly and Disab

103 Year Old 1906 Earthquake Survivor among Dozens of Senior and Disabl

OAKLAND – Teaming up to keep vulnerable residents prepared in the event of a major disaster, PG&E and Rebuilding Together Oakland (RTO) are providing disaster kits and personal safety training for senior and disabled homeowners in Oakland this week as the 100th anniversary of the great 1906 earthquake approaches. The gulf coast hurricanes demonstrated how the elderly and disabled are particularly vulnerable in times of natural disaster, and East Bay seniors and disabled persons are especially at risk if a major earthquake strikes the Hayward Fault.

Each April, Rebuilding Together renovates dozens of low-income elderly and disabled homes and community centers throughout Oakland, with over 2,000 volunteers. Over the next two weeks, leading up to National Rebuilding Day on April 29th, RTO trained volunteers will visit twenty-six low-income elderly and disabled homeowners in Oakland like 103 year-old 1906 earthquake survivor, Annie Olivares. During their visit, volunteers will deliver emergency kits, provide training on how to survive natural disasters, conduct safety inspections of each home, and make simple repairs



Homeowner Annie Olivares, her two daughters, and House Captain Marcus Johnson for Holliday Development.

to mitigate certain hazards such as installing smoke detectors and securing heavy items.

“Our core mission is to help seniors live in their homes in safety, comfort, and independence,” said John Caner, Executive Director of RTO. “It only made sense after watching what happened to seniors with Katrina, to add disaster preparedness to our home rehabilitation program.”

PG&E made a \$25,000 contribution to RTO to fund the

emergency kits and disaster preparedness program, as well as help fund the renovation of the Rainbow Community Center in East Oakland.

“Disaster preparedness is a key part of PG&E’s mission in the communities we serve,” said Wil Hardee, East Bay Community Relations Director for PG&E. “We are delighted to extend our relationship with Rebuilding Together Oakland in supporting their program for these at-risk senior and dis-

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Building Together Oakland to Help Residents for Disaster

Helped Homeowners in Oakland to Receive Disaster Survival Kits and Training



Homeowner Annie Olivares and Volunteer Bobbie Bond (who is also on City of Oakland Commission on Aging) doing disaster training.

abled homeowners.”

Training under the program will include what to do in the event of a natural disaster or fire, a briefing on emergency kit contents, determining personal items for the emergency kit, and identification of gas and water shut-off valves. Moreover, a team of volunteers from Holliday Development will be renovating the home of Annie Olivares on National Rebuilding Day on April 29th, including minor repairs that will mitigate the likelihood of injury in the event of an earthquake.

As the 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthquake approaches, PG&E and Rebuilding Together Oakland want to remind all community members to be prepared for natural disasters by having a plan and an emergency kit ready. There are three components of the PG&E - RTO Disaster Preparedness Program:

1. Emergency backpacks to provide supplies in the event of

a disaster.

2. Emergency training to prepare homeowners and their families on what to do in the event of an earthquake, fire or other natural disaster.

3. Non-structural hazard mitigation by volunteer teams during National Rebuilding Day April 29th that includes strapping hot water heaters and securing heavy cabinets to walls.

Emergency Kit Backpacks contain the following supplies for seniors and disabled persons:

Provisions: water (five year shelf life), large food ration bar, whistle, mylar blanket, light sticks, large and small flashlights, batteries, AM/FM radio, plastic bags, emergency poncho, waterproof matches, pocketknife (w/ scissors & can opener), work gloves, pen and Post-It Note Pad, Wet Naps, dust mask, latex gloves.

First Aid Kit Contents: bandages, latex gloves, Acetaminophen, adhesive tape, gauze pads (4x4), butterfly closures, antiseptic towelettes, antibiotic ointment.

Personal Items: eye glasses, house key, emergency contact phone numbers, list of medications, pen and post-it note pad, copies of personal identification, copies of important documents, checking and credit card accounts, emergency cash.

For more information about Pacific Gas and Electric Company, please visit www.pge.com. For more information about Rebuilding Together Oakland, please visit www.rebuildingtogetheroakland.org.

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