

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Registration Now Open for Caltrans Response & Recovery Conference Series**

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – Registration is now open for three workshops in March of 2008 covering the essentials of emergency response and recovery. The workshops are hosted by The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and designed specifically for small-urban and rural transit operators, emergency managers, first responders and Caltrans district staff. To register visit [www.DisasterPrep.info/Caltrans](http://www.DisasterPrep.info/Caltrans).

Each two-day workshop will feature presentations delivered by safety, security and emergency response experts who have been at the center of recent emergencies; roundtable discussions with the speakers; and a daylong tabletop exercise using possible California disaster scenarios.

The free workshops will be held in San Diego March 3-4, Monterey March 6-7 and in Sacramento March 10-11.

“Natural disasters, criminal activity and the possibility of terrorist attacks are critical issues for all communities,” said James Ogbonna, senior transportation planner for Caltrans. “These workshops bring together emergency responders and transit staff to discuss and resolve the issues that could make all the difference the next time disaster strikes.”

Following the workshop series the consultant will develop a final report, based on input from workshop participants, outlining new emergency plan guidelines specific to rural transit in California.

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***Transportation Emergency Preparedness Workshop  
& Emergency Planning Guidebook***

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Caltrans hosted the inaugural Response and Recovery Conference Series in October, 2006 for large urban transit systems, and in October 2007 released new Emergency Planning Guidance. ([www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/Safety-Security.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/Safety-Security.html)). The upcoming conference series focus on small-urban and rural transit concerns.

The conference series is being co-sponsored by a variety of Caltrans partner agencies including the California Transit Association, the California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalACT), the California Office of Emergency Services (OES), the California Office of Homeland Security, the California Emergency Utility Association, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG).

Attendance will be limited to 100 participants per event, so transit managers, emergency managers and first responders are urged to register today. For more information and to register for one of the three free conferences, visit [www.DisasterPrep.info/Caltrans](http://www.DisasterPrep.info/Caltrans).

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