



IAEM 2008 AWARDS PROGRAM

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Person Submitting Entry:

Bob Spears

IAEM Member

Non-Member (An entry fee of \$75 is required for each entry by a non-member.)

Title: Director of Emergency Service, Los Angeles unified School District, Los Angeles, California

Relationship to the entry submitted: User and Benefactor
(such as self, colleague, subordinate, supervisor)

Name of Organization:

USGS United States Geological Service

Mailing Address of Organization:

Dale Cox, USGS Publishing Network

Modoc Hall, 4003E

3020 State University Drive East

City/State/Province/Country:

Sacramento, CA

Zip/Postal Code:

95819

Phone: (include country code & city code)

916-278-3033

Fax: (include country code and city code)

916-997-4209

E-Mail Address:

dacox@usgs.gov

Web Site:

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/shakemap/>

CHOOSE THE AWARD CATEGORY FOR THIS ENTRY:

Career Excellence Award

Academic Recognition Award

Public Awareness Award

Check Division:

Local Emergency Management Agency (government)

State/Regional/National International Government, International,
or Non-Profit Organization (such as colleges/universities or associations)

Commercial or Other For-Profit Organization

X Technology & Innovation Award

Check Division:

Local Emergency Management Agency (government)

X State/Regional/National International Government, International,
or Non-Profit Organization (such as colleges/universities or associations)

Commercial or Other For-Profit Organization

Partners in Preparedness Award

Interagency Disaster Preparedness Award

Business and Industry Award

Name of the Program/Activity: (or name of the person if you are entering someone for the Career Excellence Award or Academic Recognition Award)

United States Geological Survey's Shakecast Program

Brief Summary of the Program/Activity: (Maximum 100 words)

After any disaster strikes, the first question every emergency manager asks is: "Where is the damage?". The process of identifying and prioritizing the damage locations is one of the most challenging tasks in any EOC. The LAUD has over 1000 schools and after an earthquake we need to identify the ones that have been hit the hardest. ShakeCast has allowed us to do that job in minutes.

ShakeCast is a **free**, post-earthquake situational awareness application that automatically retrieves earthquake shaking data from the USGS ShakeMap, compares intensity measures against the GIS locations of our facilities and generates potential damage assessment notifications, facility damage maps and other Web-based products.

Details of the Program/Activity: (Answer each section.)

1. Tell us why this program/activity was/is important, or explain why the individual deserves the award for which this entry was submitted. (maximum 200 words)

The Los Angeles Unified School District has over 1,000 schools and almost 14,000 buildings. In response to any earthquake, students will “Drop, Cover and Hold” and then evacuate the building. They will hold in the safe assembly area until the school buildings are inspected and cleared for occupancy. For major earthquakes, the Red Cross will be looking for school buildings that can be used as shelters.

ShakeCast helps us manage our response by producing a list of all the schools in the District ranked by how severely they were shaken. Using the ShakeCast output we can send senior building inspectors to specific sites based on real data. Using ShakeCast categories, schools can be quickly cleared for occupancy by students or used as shelters.

The USGS scientists worked with our school district for months to make sure the program worked for our schools. Minutes after the Chino Hills Earthquake on July 29, 2008 the District had a list of all of our schools showing the ground motion at each site; the list ranked 320 schools to be inspected for “possible damage”. By comparison, after the Northridge Earthquake in 1994, that process took over two weeks and kept many schools closed.

2. Number of staff, volunteers, and community members involved in program/activity. (maximum 200 words)

The Los Angeles Unified School District serves 700,000 K-12 students and has 85,000 employees. They all are at schools and facilities that are listed in ShakeCast. Almost ten percent of the 10 million people in County of Los Angeles are served by this system. Shakecast allows the District to vector support to the most impacted schools before they even ask.

In addition, the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Red Cross uses LA City schools as shelters during emergencies for the millions of people in the City of Los Angeles. The District will not release a school to be used as a shelter after an earthquake until it has been inspected for damage. Shakecast allows us to choose school sites that were not badly impacted, outside of the damage area to be used as shelters.

3. Tell us how staff, volunteers and community members were involved. (maximum 200 words)

When the USGS approached the District with the free software, we immediately saw its value. Our Facilities Section provided the GIS location for all of our school sites. With the help of our IT team we set up the server and protocol to “poll” the USGS ShakeMap computer. We then set up the notification system that alerted the District’s EOC, Facilities and Inspection branch employees. Next year we will include the LA City EOC in our notification process.

We have conducted EOC drills with the software because it has sample scenarios as part of its database. We use these scenarios as the basis for our EOC tabletop exercises.

4. Tell us how the tactical plans and budget were developed. (maximum 200 words)

Because the software was free, the initial investment was easy. Once everyone saw the power of the program and its immense value to the District, it was easy to budget time to the project. The USGS provided a great deal of support and guidance every step of the way. They put almost as much time in as we did; they were always committed to our

Financial Resources for the Program/Activity:

To help judges evaluate both your efforts and the results, including the impact of your project, please estimate cash, grants and in-kind contributions that supported your program/activity. For consistency and comparison purposes, calculate values in U.S. dollars (go to www.xe.com to use free on-line currency converter).

- | | |
|--|--------|
| a. Cash (actual financial contributions, donations, grants etc.) | \$0 |
| b. In-Kind (value of materials, labor, etc., contributed to project) | \$5000 |
| c. Total value of cash, grants, donations and in-kind resources (add a & b). | \$5000 |

Number of people affected by your program/activity: Three million

Is your program/activity ongoing? Yes No

Tell us how the project has had an impact on your constituency or community.

(maximum 200 words)

The Los Angeles Unified School District serves the City of Los Angeles and 23 adjoining cities. The 700,000 students and their parents, as well as the 85,000 District employees rely on their schools to protect and shelter them in an emergency. We tell our parents that the school is the safest place in the community. Because of ShakeCast we can fulfill that promise. We can identify schools that may need assistance and the ones that can provide shelter for the community. Damage assessment is no longer a guessing game. We now have the ability to identify the most heavily impacted schools and send assistance and assessment teams out immediately. ShakeCast allows us to keep our promise to parents that we will protect their children.

Complete and return this form and up to two attachments with supporting documents no later than **Aug. 15, 2008** via e-mail to info@iaem.com.

There is no entry fee for current IAEM members who submit entries. If a non-member wishes to submit an entry, there is a \$75 entry fee per entry. Non-member entry fees must be remitted with the official entry form to: IAEM, 201 Park Washington Court, Falls Church, VA 22046-4527.