

# Building Trades Disaster Response Project

## History of the Project

- Before 9/11 concerned and intelligent citizens from Emergency Management and the Building Trades started working on a program to train construction tradeworkers to safely volunteer and work on disaster sites.
- Lee Newgent, now at the King County Building Trades council, went to The Federal Building/ Oklahoma and to ground zero after 9/11. He then helped pioneer a training program that is now the national flagship program. F.I.R.S.T. A joint training of City of Seattle Firefighters, Operators, Ironworkers and Laborers.
- The City of Seattle's F.I.R.S.T. Fire Incident Response & Skilled Trades program was used to inspire and build other joint training programs. Though there are Less than a dozen of them across the US.
- OSHA took the training outline to build the OSHA Construction Worker Disaster Training. OSHA 7600, a 16 hour course.
- And to start the "Program Card" project. Giving a Federal Card showing the training to those that had taken OSHA 10, HAZWOPER 40 and the OSHA 7600.
- Nov. 2001 CPWR began on- site training 1,800 workers. As of 2008 they had trained 5,300 Outreach Trainers and developed an interactive CD to help with training.
- In 2007 Hillary Clinton Proposed The Skilled Trades Second Responders Act of 2007 (S. 2515). It would provide \$35 million to train, certify, register and integrate skilled construction workers into disaster preparedness and response activities. The act also would establish a database that federal, state and local governments can use to identify and mobilize this workforce for disaster response activities. This bill was again proposed in 2008 and 2009.

## Building Trades Disaster Response Training for Washington

Sisters in the Building Trades, using it's unique ability to reach out across trade, and political lines and barriers, is

- offering OSHA 7600 Training, OSHA 10, HAZWOPER 40 and First Aid/CPR.
- Reaching out to All Building Trade Crafts, and their Apprenticeship Instructors as well as Contractors and their Safety Personnel
- Coordinating an effort to build a local database of trained volunteers
- Coordinating an effort for shared training of First Aid/CPR, OSHA 10 and HAZWOPPER 40
- Is working on connecting and coordinating training with
  - Search and Rescue
  - FEMA
  - Red Cross
  - CERT Community Emergency Response Training
- Is working to connect this training and its skilled workers and volunteers with
  - City Emergency Management
  - County Emergency Management
  - State Emergency Management
  - Federal Emergency Management
  - Washington State Labor & Industries/DOSH/WISHA

## **Response to this Effort**

- ▶ We are please to announce that the response from all of the aforementioned agencies and all trades that have been approached.....runs from Very Positive to More than Very Positive.
- ▶ The November 2009 Cross Trades Training event, was the first time Washington State Emergency Management or King County Emergency Management had been fully introduced to the F.I.R.S.T. program, the OSHA program cards or the Building Trades Disaster Response Training Project.
- ▶ The March 2010 Training Event, was the first time FEMA had been introduced to either program.

## **Why Us? Why now?**

- ▶ As Seattle Washington has the flag ship program in the US for the F.I.R.S.T. Program
- ▶ As Washington State's Emergency management is more connected and trained than ever before in history due to the Howard Hanson Dam, new technology and the last decade of disasters.
- ▶ We hope to use this opportunity to keep Washington as a leader in solutions, training, and community outreach, by making it work across Washington State, helping pass the Bill and coordinate the efforts at the Federal Level

## **What went wrong?**

- ▶ When Katrina happened the volunteers showing up with their program cards were set aside, and their card and skills not immediately recognized, as FEMA and local emergency Management, didn't know what they were.
- ▶ Those that had taken the training waited for a call, asking them to volunteer.....it never came.
- ▶ Funding was never approved to create a database
- ▶ If a data base were funded and created. It would need to reside at each States Representative of OSHA. In Washington that is DOSH formerly known as WISHA. A Division of Labor & Industries.
- ▶ No one ever had the volunteers sign permission to share their information.
- ▶ Existing Emergency Management and Response programs were not included.

## **We encourage you to join in this effort**

**to post the free training at your locals and websites**

**to send your instructors to learn to teach the class**

**to have a volunteer at your local or regional be in charge of your volunteers, collecting and updating certification and training data**

**We ask for any help and support you can offer.... From your Training Centers, Locals, Regional's, Associations, Organizations, Members, Contractors, Vendors, and your Self**

The Building Trades Disaster Response Project is an effort of the Sisters in the Building Trades, a non profit, to Train Construction Workers of All Trades, to help upright the world when "the Shit hits the Fan".

**[www.SistersintheBuildngTrades.org](http://www.SistersintheBuildngTrades.org)**

**Webpage**

**[http://www.sistersinthebuildingtrades.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=298&Itemid=95](http://www.sistersinthebuildingtrades.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=298&Itemid=95)**

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