



NEWS

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IT'S SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL AT MTA'S EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS FAIR APRIL 24 AT UNION STATION; AWARENESS MONTH CONTINUES

The MTA Board has joined the State of California in proclaiming April Earthquake Preparedness Month and on Thursday, April 24, will host an Earthquake Preparedness Fair in the East Portal of Union Station from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The fair will feature the MTA's traveling emergency communications center and representatives from the American Red Cross, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Edison, Cal Tech, and other organizations, on hand to educate the public on seismic safety. In addition, the MTA has been distributing free copies of its earthquake preparedness brochures, "Ready To Ride It Out" and "Facts About Tunnel Safety" to all Metro system passengers.

"The fair is an excellent opportunity for families to learn about the various ways to protect themselves from the dangers of natural disasters," said Interim MTA CEO Linda Bohlinger.

The Metro Red Line subway is the safest place to be during an earthquake, noted Bohlinger, and that is more than a boast. Japanese engineers, in response to the 1996 Kobe Earthquake, are in the process of revising their subway seismic design to reflect that of Los Angeles, she pointed out.

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"In the major earthquakes in San Francisco, Mexico City and Northridge, there was no disruption of subway service," Bohlinger said. "The Northridge Earthquake caused no damage to the Metro Red Line whatsoever."

An engineer with the group that designed the Metro Red Line is not surprised the subway more than withstood the powerful jolt.

"Our basic assumptions about the Metro Red Line were validated following the 6.7 magnitude Northridge Earthquake," said K.N. Murthy, the program director at Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., and Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall (PB DMJM), two of six consultants that makes up Engineering Management Consultant Group (EMC). "We've been on the right track since day one on how underground structures should be designed."

A highlight of the fair will be a special ceremony at 11 a.m. to recognize the students of John Muir and Benjamin O. Davis middle schools who will display the emergency preparedness posters they drew.

"The Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the L.A. County Emergency Response Commission have lauded the MTA for being one of the first agencies to distribute these brochures on such a massive scale," said MTA Emergency Planner Pam Engelke.

To request a brochure, call 1-(800)-464-2111.