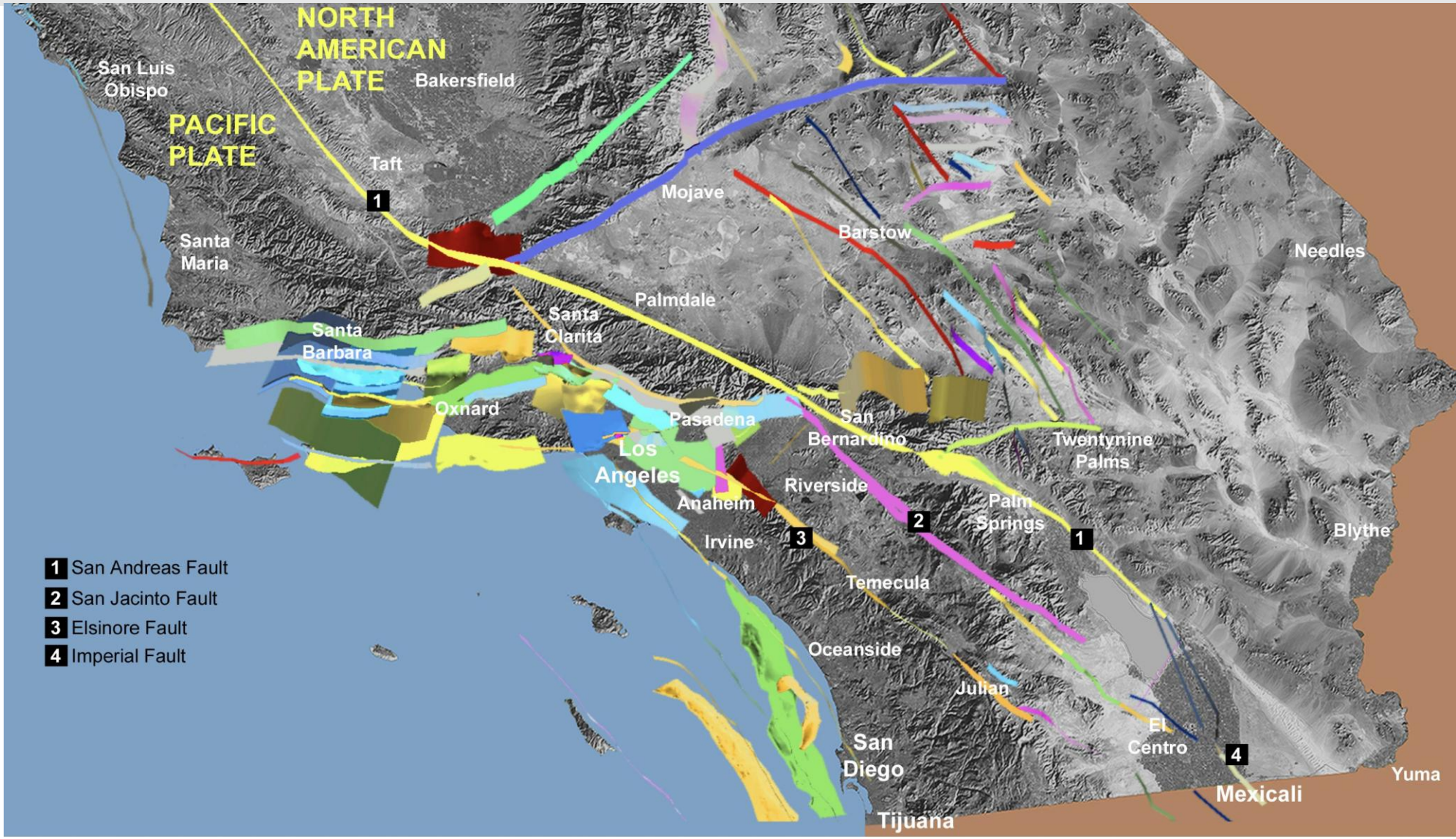
Ensuring Earthquake Emergency Readiness in Los Angeles County

September 29, 2026

Earthquake Hazard – Dr. Jones

Too many faults to worry about just one

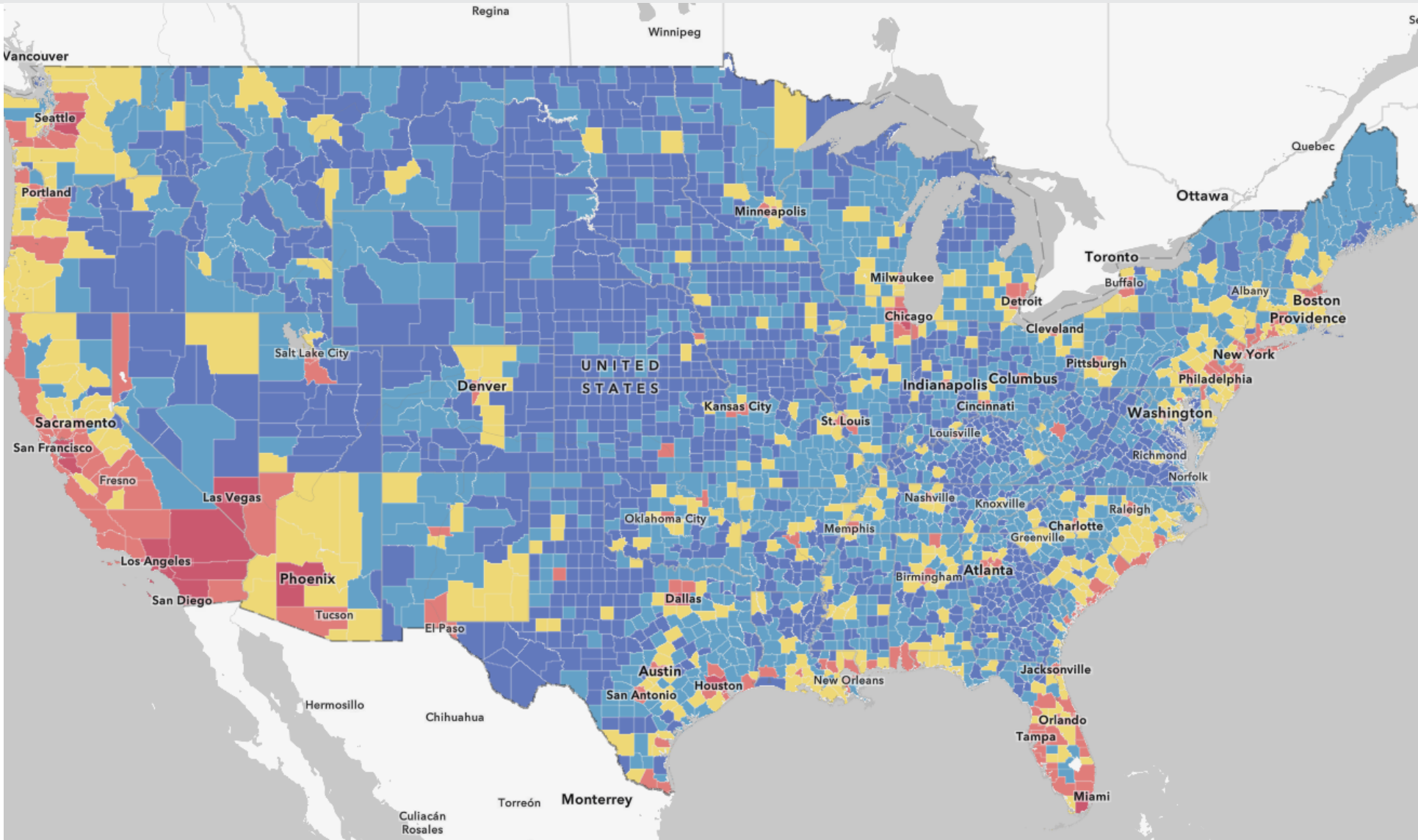


All Hazards – Dr. Jones

Los Angeles County has the highest risk index (100) in the country.

Some other high risk counties:
Riverside 99.90
Maricopa, AZ 99.87
San Bernardino: 99.84
Orange 99.81
Santa Clara 99.75
Miami-Dade 99.62

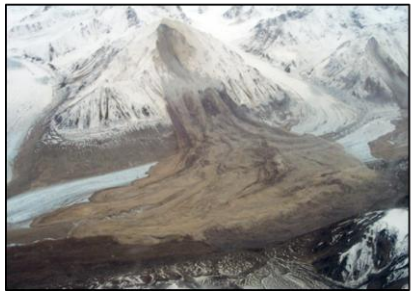
All southern California counties are given a very low resilience score



Earthquake Hazard – Dr. Jones

Risk = Hazard × Exposure × Fragility ÷ Response ÷ Recovery

Hazard = what the earth does to us: faulting, volcanoes…



Exposure: Extent & density of built environment

Fragility: Structural weaknesses

Response

Will to recover

County of Los Angeles
Office of Emergency Management

OEM Preparedness Efforts

Earthquake readiness is a countywide operational priority

01

Science-Based Planning

Integrating current seismic science and expert input from USGS, CGS, County Public Works, Academia and the Seismic Safety Commission to establish planning needs and assumptions. This includes base planning and hazard specific operational planning.

02

Operational Readiness

Establishing and sustaining critical capabilities and capacity for response and recovery operations, such as responder systems, EOC and DOC operations, resource management, communication systems and logistics.

03

Infrastructure Resilience

Establishing critical facilities resilience and coordinating with partner organizations that must ensure critical lifelines, such as utilities, and key transportation arteries are hardened.

04

Public Preparedness

Establishing a “know your risk” portal, deploying and sustaining of multilingual outreach with critical preparedness information, deploying community-based training programs and partnerships with NGO, CBO and Faithbased groups.

05

Current Gaps

Addressing challenges at scale, including planning assumptions, community-based readiness, local government readiness, interface and support with State and federal partners and efforts to support life sustaining operations at the neighborhood and community level.

Public Works Preparedness Efforts

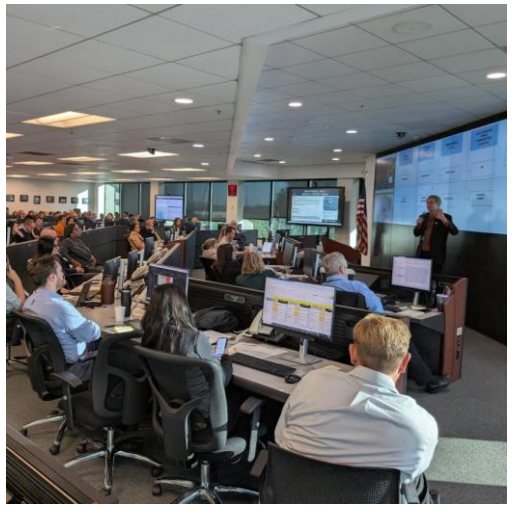
Operational Readiness

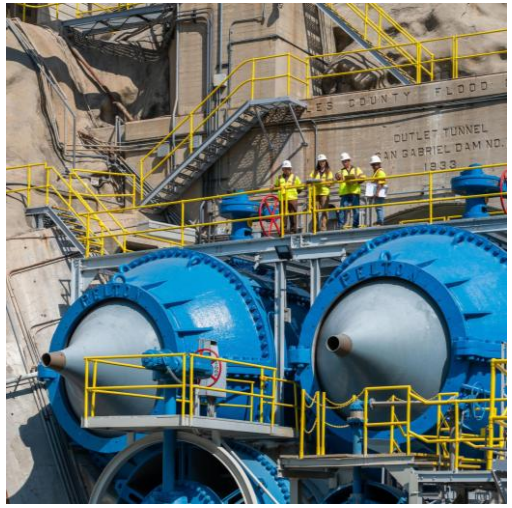
Resilient Infrastructure

Safer Buildings

Prepared Communities

Remaining Risks and Challenges





Fire Preparedness Efforts

PREPARATION AND RESPONSE

- Year-Round Response Training
- Facility and Equipment Preparation
- Post-Earthquake Actions:
  - Site and Personnel Status
  - Jurisdictional Survey (SARCOP)
  - Alternative Dispatch and Command Modes
  - Incident Response

CONTINUITY OF SERVICE

- 3-day Self-Sufficiency Supplies at all Fire Department Stations
- Unified Command with OEM, Sheriff, DPW, and Other Agencies
- Coordination with the EOC / JIC with Unified Messaging
- Request and Utilize Regional, State, and Federal Resources

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PREPARATION

- Expanded CERT Training
- Fire Safe Councils / Community Brigade
- Community & Residential Resources Webpage
- Annual Great ShakeOut Event

ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES

- Utility Disruption
- Community Conflagrations
- Communications Systems Failures
- Roadway/Bridge Damage
- Regional Resource Availability
- Mutual Aid Response Time
- EMS Supply and Hospital Demand

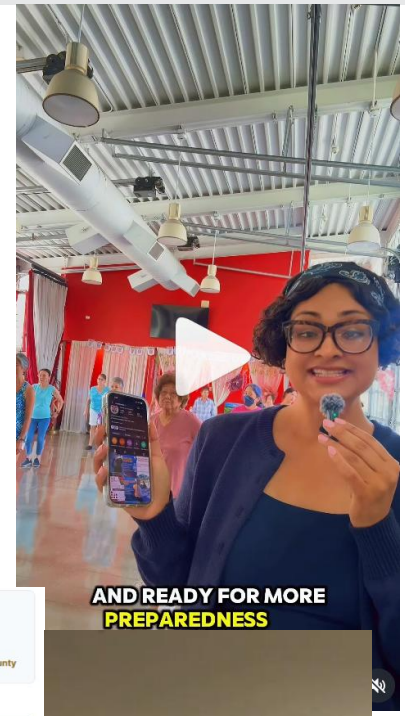
Sheriff Earthquake Preparedness Efforts

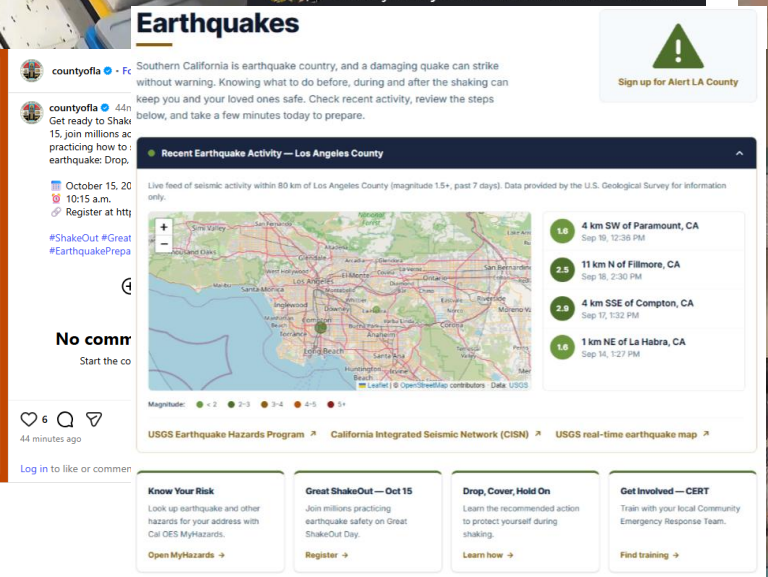
- Annual Station and Custody Facility Emergency Readiness Inspections
- Emergency Operations, Continuity of Operations, and Critical Facility Assessments
- Department Emergency Plans, Procedures, and Policies, Mobilization, and Specialized Resources
- Training, Exercises, and Incident Management Readiness
- Regional Mutual Aid and Interagency Coordination
- Public Information and Community Preparedness

Ready LA County

Communicating Emergency Preparedness

- **Know Your Risk** portal on LA County Earthquake webpage.
- **Emergency preparedness can feel inaccessible** due to cost or competing priorities for communities dependent on safety net.
- Working with OEM to connect with departments and community groups to promote **overall preparedness and Great Shake Out participation**.
- New animated earthquake preparedness PSA.





HAZARDWOOD
Welcome to
Hazard County
POPULATION 10 MILLION

Center for Disaster Resilience

Thank you. Questions?

Office of
Emergency
Management