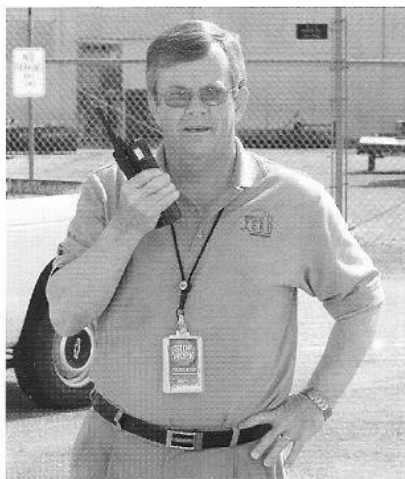


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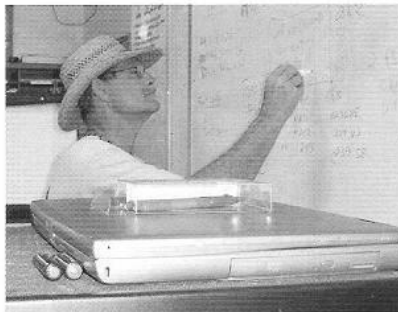
Earthquake drill sharpens skills

Seismologists insist that it's simply a matter of time before another devastating earthquake strikes the San Francisco Bay Area. With that possibility in mind, IAP's NASA Ames Facilities Maintenance team provided critical support to the Center's Great Worden Quake exercise, named for Ames Center Director S. Pete Worden. During the mid-May drill, the entire Center and its more than 2,300 employees stood down to simulate the aftermath of a major tremor hitting the Mountain View campus, located midway between San Francisco and San Jose alongside the paths of the San Andreas and Hayward faults. The simulated quake offered a dynamic opportunity for IAP managers, field technicians, and support staff to practice their integrated roles in the event of a major disaster. IAP's goal would be to swiftly provide the most effective disaster response possible, minimizing the impact upon this key NASA facility and its workforce.

"This is the first time in memory where we have practiced a disaster



IAP Project Manager Stan Nalley marshals our team's response during the Great Worden Quake exercise at our NASA Ames Project.



A white board and pen become disaster response planning tools in the hands of Lead HAZMAT Specialist Carman Morey, who also heads up the Damage and Utility Control Team known as DUCT.

scenario with the entire Ames Center," said Stan Nalley, IAP Project Manager. "The flow of calls into our command center was fast and furious, and I was extremely pleased with the way our team members applied safety, communication, and responsiveness to each scenario."

After sounding early morning alarms, every Ames building was evacuated per established emergency procedures. In addition to immediately tending to scores of volunteer "casualties," Center officials designated specific structures with varying degrees of damage, as well as identified projected gas and water main breaks and downed power lines. This created unique scenarios for IAP's Damage and Utility Control Team (DUCT), a select group of 23 facilities technicians and HAZMAT personnel specially skilled in disaster response, including rescue and damage control.

"The Worden Quake allowed us to prove that DUCT is an effective, cohesively trained team," said Carman Morey, Lead HAZMAT Specialist and leader of the DUCT team. "After years of scheduled drills and training, I was very proud of how we reacted in an unknown, spur-of-the-moment situation."

The morning of the exercise, DUCT was thrown unanticipated curve balls. In one instance, team members were called to the scene of an imaginary gas leak, only to find an injured person lying in the gas line vault who required immediate attention. Isolating the gas leak suddenly became a simultaneous rescue operation.

Stan later conducted an extensive debriefing with DUCT members and other IAP employees to assess the team's performance. The meeting identified an array of logistics issues, which could only be encountered during a live simulation. Findings were tabulated and presented to the customer, highlighting areas IAP can improve upon before a real earthquake hits the Bay area.

"Much of what we learned that day will be incorporated into our future training," added Morey. "And because other technicians who aren't on the DUCT team were exposed to the kind of things we do, many have asked about joining us. The end result is that DUCT will be even stronger when we're eventually called upon in a quake situation." ■



After being evacuated from their offices as part of the mock earthquake drill, the IAP team assembles at a pre-designated location to plan the massive response. Pictured from L-R: Stan Nalley, Project Manager; Steve Clarkson, Maintenance Analyst; Carman Morey, Lead HAZMAT Specialist; and Petra Swift, Production Control Clerk.