

We consider emergency planning a year-round priority. Here's some of our most recent progress.

Increasing our readiness for a regional disaster

Co-founded and led by Qualcomm, the Sorrento Valley Consortium is a group of 15 plus companies located near Qualcomm headquarters that meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss emergency scenarios, share emergency plans and resources and determine how they can improve partnerships with city and county governments during a regional disaster. In 2015, one of the Consortium's significant accomplishments was to participate in a full scale exercise to test our plans to assist the San Diego County Emergency Medical Services in the event of a bioterrorist attack or a pandemic.

Qualcomm intends to dispense medications or vaccines as necessary to employees within 48 hours—up to 1,000 doses per hour. The Close Point of Dispensing (POD) was setup in a Qualcomm parking lot and volunteers drove through to receive the proper dosages and medication information. It was a very successful demonstration of the collaboration and planning between private and public entities.

Building our Emergency Response Team

Qualcomm Emergency Response Team (QCERT) program trains employees in how to assist emergency personnel and personally respond to a large-scale disaster. Trainings have been conducted in San Diego and Raleigh for seven years; several employees in Santa Clara have taken the training as well. QCERT members are trained in search and rescue, fire suppression, first aid/triage and on the Incident Command System. QCERT members are also invited to participate in CPR/First Aid and AED training and other disaster exercises.

Qualcomm's QCERT team has a total of 158 trained employees, with 125 in San Diego, 30 in Raleigh and 3 in Santa Clara. In 2015, the San Diego QCERT members participated in the POD exercise, assisting with setup, distribution, traffic control and breakdown.

Recognizing National Preparedness Month

In a salute to National Preparedness Month in September 2015, the Emergency Operations Team (EOT) held a Speaker Series. The speakers included a local expert in emergency preparedness, a renowned San Diego geologist with expertise in earthquakes, and several authors who shared their stories on surviving and recovering from disaster events. The Emergency Operations Team also staged the Annual Safety and Preparedness Fair to promote safety and emergency preparedness to our employees. Over 20 vendors participated with fun activities and giveaways for the 500 employees in attendance.

Emergency trainings for our employees

The EOT increases preparedness among employees and their families around the world by conducting a variety of trainings. "Creating a Family Survival Plan" covers communications plans, evacuation plans and disaster survival kits. More than 900 employees have completed the training since 2007. Another training on responding to workplace violence emphasizes the need for advance planning and personal assessment to survive a sudden incident of violence. As of 2015, we have a total of 595 first aid, CPR and defibrillator trained employees throughout our worldwide offices.