

## Speaker Biographies

### **Rakesh Bharania, Network Consulting Engineer, Cisco Systems Tactical Operations**

Ms. Bharania is responsible for the design and implementation of emergency networks to support first responders, government, and critical infrastructure restoration. He has over nineteen years of field experience responding to disasters throughout the world, and acts as a Cisco representative to several industry and international forums on disaster relief and resiliency including the FEMA National Emergency Technology Guard (NETGUARD) program, the United Nations Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (UN WGET) and the US State Department ACICIP International Disaster Response Sub-Committee.

### **Robert Braga, Branch Chief - Maintenance Services/Emergency Management: Planning & Training, Caltrans District 4**

Mr. Braga has thirty-two years of Caltrans experience. Twenty-seven in the design, construction and maintenance of state highway facilities such as the I-580 John T. Knox (Richmond Corridor), I-80 Berkeley Corridor and I-880 Cyprus Reconstruction projects. Over 5 years in emergency management and response activities. He is currently managing implementation of the Department's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management policies and procedures for Caltrans District 4. Developed the May, 2006, "District 4 Emergency Operations Plan" and completed establishment of a permanent Emergency Operations Center (EOC) facility in May, 2006.

Mr. Braga is the District lead exercise planner and director for all emergency management and response exercises. Since 2005, he has annually developed, delivered and provided evaluation for District 4 participation in the CalEMA Golden Guardian Regional Exercise series. He also served as the Caltrans planner on exercise development teams for MTC and county sponsored emergency management and response exercises such as the MTC TRP-2007 and 2010 Functional Exercise and Alameda County OES Earthquake Exercise of November, 2007. Mr. Braga is the Caltrans District lead liaison with CalEMA, MTC and local agencies, as pertaining to emergency management and response activities and the Caltrans Liaison to the CalEMA Coastal REOC in the Transportation Branch. Caltrans representative on the development teams for the current Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP) and the RECP Transportation Subsidiary Plan.

### **Steve Dennis, Health and Safety Supervisor/Security Manager/Emergency Response Coordinator, Alameda County Water District**

Steve Dennis is the Health and Safety / Emergency Services Supervisor for the Alameda County Water District (ACWD) located in the San Francisco Bay Area. He also serves as the Security Manager for ACWD. He has worked for ACWD for thirty-two years and during this time, he has served ACWD in several areas including Distribution System Maintenance, Groundwater Management, Water Quality, Disaster Preparedness/Emergency Response, Environmental Compliance, and Utility Security. He possesses a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. As a representative of ACWD, he is very active in community disaster preparedness and serves on several local and statewide committees aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness partnerships between the Alameda County Water District, local City governments, and other lifeline utilities. Steve currently serves in the position of Section Chair for the California/Nevada section of the American Water Works Association and also actively participates on

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several CA-NV AWWA Committees. He also currently participates on several national American Water Works Association advisory groups for projects relating to water utility disaster response planning and water system security.

### **Ken Fattlar, Director of Network Operations, Verizon Wireless**

Ken Fattlar is the Director of Network Operations for Verizon Wireless. His geographic area or responsibility includes coastal counties from Santa Barbara to Mendocino including the San Francisco Bay Area. He is responsible for ensuring that the Verizon Wireless network is the most reliable and best performing network possible. Emergency preparedness and response including at least annual drills as well as cooperation with local, state and federal agencies is also included in those responsibilities. Ken has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Northwestern University as well as Masters Degrees in Business Administration (University of Texas at Austin) and Strategic Planning of Critical Infrastructures (University of Washington).

### **Jonathan Frisch, Manager, Business Continuity & Emergency Planning, Risk and Audit, Corporate Security, Pacific Gas and Electric Company**

Jon Frisch manages the Business Continuity and Emergency Planning program for PG&E. He has served PG&E for almost 13 years in various risk management and health and safety roles, including managing their Enterprise Risk Management program. Jon's background in emergency preparedness started with the American Red Cross, where he was a shelter and feeding specialist and trainer on a variety of disasters, including the Loma Prieta and Northridge earthquakes, various floods and fires, and one urban uprising. Previously, Jon was the manager of Health Research for the American Petroleum Institute in Washington DC, and the manager of epidemiology and regulatory health programs at the Unocal Corporation in Los Angeles. He holds a Bachelors degree in Biophysics and Medical Physics, a Masters in Public Health, and a PhD in Epidemiology, all from the University of California at Berkeley.

### **Jim Hennessy, National Acct. Mgr.- Public Safety, Verizon Wireless**

Jim Hennessy has been with Verizon Wireless for 16 years, currently the National Acct. Mgr.- Public Safety based in Walnut Creek CA. He is the Gov't contact for Verizon's Crisis Response Team. VCRT offers assistance to Government Agencies (Federal/State/Local) and Humanitarian Organizations with Network, Device and Service support. Services can include Network support for wireless coverage (COWs, COLTs, etc.), Wireless devices for emergency responders and WECCs (Wireless Emergency Calling Centers) providing free calls, phone charging, Internet access, tech support, etc.

Jim currently serves on the City & County of San Francisco's Lifelines Council, is active in the CA Police Chiefs and CA Sheriffs Associations and works with Cities and Counties on BC/DR planning. He has a Bachelor's degree from California Polytechnic State University- San Luis Obispo. Verizon is an active member of the California Utilities Emergency Association.

### **Tracy Johnson, Manager Seismic Engineering, BART**

Ms. Johnson is a licensed professional engineer and an Engineering Manager with the Bay Area Rapid Transit District. At BART, she has technical oversight responsibility of the District's \$1.3B Earthquake Safety Program (ESP) which is retrofitting the original BART system, constructed between 1964 and

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1972, to withstand the Maximum Credible Earthquake. Ms. Johnson has an M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering. She is responsible for the content of the BART Facility Standards Seismic Design Criteria and Technical Specifications and for advising BART executive management on emergency preparedness and response policies and practices. She is involved in BART's collaborations with the Association of Bay Area Governments to update the Regional Local Hazards Mitigation Plan and is also involved with BART's initial efforts to access the potential benefits of Earthquake Early Warning technology.

### **Brian Klosterman, President & CEO, Nexis Preparedness Systems and Workshop Sponsor**

Brian Klosterman, President & CEO, Nexis Preparedness Systems, a disaster and emergency preparedness supply management company that specializes in equipping large companies, school districts, hospitals, municipalities, etc. with everything needed to survive and recover from natural and/or man-made disasters--also provides personal emergency preparedness seminars.

### **LCDR Ken Kostecki, Planning and Force Readiness Department Head, U.S. Coast Guard San Francisco Sector**

Currently serving as Chief of Inspections Division at Coast Guard Sector San Francisco. Holds Merchant Marine 3rd Assistant Engineer License, Unlimited Horsepower Steam and Diesel. Previous assignments in Coast Guard Forces Command; Atlantic Area; Marine Safety Detachment American Samoa; Marine Safety Detachment Ketchikan, Alaska; Marine Safety Unit Galveston, Texas; and Marine Safety Office Tampa, Florida.

Pollution/disaster response experience: Served as the CG liaison to the EPA in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana assisting efforts to restore vital services and rebuilding of the levees protecting New Orleans. In 2004 was as the lead CG official working with FEMA after Cyclone Otto in American Samoa to rebuild infrastructure and restore services to the island. While in Ketchikan, was the Federal On-Scene Coordinator's representative on multiple federalized spill clean-ups and the local Federal Maritime Security Coordinator's representative post 9-11 port security cruise ship operations. From 1996-2000 was the forward operations subject matter expert and lead casualty investigator in response to multiple ship fires and vessel groundings in the Galveston area.

### **Edward Sullivan, Security and Emergency Preparedness, East Bay Municipal Utility District**

Mr. Sullivan is a member of the Security and Emergency Preparedness Section of the East Bay Municipal Utility District. His responsibilities involve writing the District's Emergency Operations Plan, training the Emergency Operations Team, and maintaining three Emergency Operations Centers. Mr. Sullivan is emergency certified by both the National Integration Center and California's Specialized Training Institute. Prior to joining East Bay Municipal Utility District Mr. Sullivan served as an Infantry officer in a variety of command and staff assignments throughout Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. Mr. Sullivan graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara, has a master's degree from the National War College in Washington DC, and was an adjunct professor at the Naval War College.

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### **Nancy Ward, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IX**

Nancy L. Ward was appointed Regional Administrator of Region IX for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in October 2006.

Ms. Ward had been the Administrator of FEMA's Response and Recovery Division in Region IX since 2000. In her new position, she is responsible for coordinating FEMA mitigation, preparedness and disaster response and recovery activities in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Ms. Ward was appointed FEMA's senior transition official for the presidential transition and served as Acting Administrator for FEMA from January 21, 2009 to May 16, 2009. She returned to her position as the Regional Administrator of the FEMA Region IX office when Craig Fugate was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the Administrator of FEMA.

She worked two details at FEMA headquarters as the Deputy Director of the Recovery Directorate during FEMA's response and recovery operations for the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. She also served in various senior management positions in more than 20 disasters, most recently during the March and April 2006 severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides in California, and the earthquake in Hawaii. Ms. Ward has received awards for special accomplishments at FEMA. Before joining FEMA, Ms. Ward was Chief of the Disaster Assistance Branch and Deputy State Coordinating Officer for the California Office of Emergency Services.

She administered the state's Natural Disaster Assistance Act program assistance provisions, which provide disaster assistance funding to local governments for state-level emergencies and disasters. She provided guidance and technical support to other state and local agencies in the planning, development and implementation of program policies and procedures for disaster recovery activities. She also was a Program Administrator for another California state agency.

### **Jim Wollbrinck, Security and Emergency Preparedness Specialist, San Jose Water Company**

Jim Wollbrinck is the Security and Emergency Preparedness Specialist (SEPS) for San Jose Water Company. Mr. Wollbrinck participates in many organizations in the security and emergency preparedness field. He is involved with BASIC, CESA, CUEA, CalWARN and CMU-DMI. He is a Board Member and Treasurer for the National Disaster Resiliency Center (NDRC) at Moffett Field and works with all these organizations in the area of adapting technology in the field of emergency management; and the policies and procedures used to effectively manage all forms of disaster and security related events. Jim has done extensive work in the area of exercise design, common operating picture technology and technology design in the area of user interface.

Mr. Wollbrinck is a graduate of USF with a B.S. in Applied Economics and holds a Grade 3 Water Treatment Operator Certification through the California Department of Public Health and is a Senior Member of the American Society for Quality.