



Public-Private Partnerships

Can Help Reduce Disaster Losses and

Create Sustainable, Disaster-Resilient Communities.



Rising losses from tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters demand that governments, private businesses, and nonprofit agencies work together to create safer communities. Now public and private partners are banding together to find innovative ways to fight disasters. This fact sheet highlights some grassroots partners who are working together to curb disaster losses. They are creating towns and neighborhoods that are safe, sustainable, and livable places to work, play, and rear families.



McReady Every April is *McReady* month throughout Oklahoma. While thousands of customers pick up their McDonald's hamburgers, they also get free storm safety tips on tray liners, carry-out bags, and lively displays in hundreds of McDonald's stores throughout the state. This high-impact, low-cost project is possible every year through a partnership that includes Oklahoma Emergency Management, emergency managers, National Weather Service, and private businesses including McDonald's owners. For more information, see www.McReady.org.

SafeRooms

When tornadoes ripped through the nation's heartland this spring, volunteers drew together partnerships to educate consumers about SafeRooms and how to rebuild in storm-savvy ways. SafeRooms are specially anchored and armored rooms that can provide shelter during even the most severe killer tornadoes. One such partnership includes the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association, FLASH, and the National Storm Shelter Association. NHMA.info, FLASH.org, and NSSA.org.



Charleston Project Impact Volunteers are installing fencing to create sand dunes at Folly Beach, SC, as part of numerous disaster-resilience projects by the Charleston (SC) Project Impact program. Charleston works through public-private partnerships to strengthen defenses against hurricanes and other hazards. charlestoncounty.org/departments



Seattle earthquake retrofits Since 1998, volunteers have been teaching homeowners how to retrofit their homes to withstand earthquakes. Thousands have taken free classes in home retrofits held in libraries throughout the region. The value of the retrofits was shown in the 2001 Nisqually earthquake that shook the area. Not only was damage prevented, but lives were saved as a direct result of the work, volunteers say. The Seattle home retrofit program started in the FEMA-sponsored Project Impact initiative and has been continued by volunteers. seattle.gov/emergency/prepare/personal/home.htm



TULSA PARTNERS, INC.

Created in December 2000, Tulsa Partners, Inc. (TPI) is a nonprofit organization which uses public, private and nonprofit sector partnerships to create a disaster-resistant and sustainable community.

PROGRAMS



Disaster Resistant Business Council

Tulsa's home-grown team of volunteers helping small businesses plan to survive fire, flood, wind, power loss, or other troubles that can sink even the most determined entrepreneurs. We want to help businesses and nonprofit social service agencies strengthen their protection and planning before disaster strikes, whether in the form of natural disasters or even everyday emergencies such as a power failure.



Language & Culture Bank

The Language & Culture Bank (LCB) connects bilingual and multi-culturally savvy volunteers with community agencies (like homeland security, disaster response, emergency preparedness, crisis management, public health and public safety) as they work with people in the Tulsa Metro area whose ability to receive and interpret life saving information is presently compromised by culture, ethnic or religious traditions, or language.



Millennium Center for Green and Safe Living

The Millennium Center is a collaborative venture between Tulsa Partners, the Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa, State Farm Insurance, PSO, Sustainable Tulsa and other entities to help people live safely and in harmony with nature. Supporting this goal, a Green Building Resource Library has been created at Tulsa Partners office and website to promote disaster resistant and sustainable building and remodeling. The eventual goal is to create a permanent exhibit about disaster-resistant and sustainable living.

WORKSHOPS

Tulsa Partners hosts workshops meant to train our community on disaster resistance and sustainability. We offer the **Resilient and Ready** children's disaster preparedness workshops developed by Save The Children®. We offer annual **Disaster Management for Long Term Care Facilities Workshops** around Oklahoma and have offered **A Day Without Hospitals** workshop for hospital administrators. Our Disaster Resistant Business Council offers workshops for small businesses and nonprofit agencies such as **A Day Without Business** and the **Open for Business**® program developed by the Institute for Business and Home Safety® (IBHS). The Millennium Center's Green Building Resource Library offers a **Green Bag Lunch** series.

A SAMPLING OF OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Tulsa Partners was the initial creator, with the City of Tulsa and McDonald's Owners and Operators, of the McReady program, now available statewide in April through Oklahoma Emergency Management.
- Tulsa Partners administered an initial grant for the Medical Reserve Corps, now a statewide program administered by the Oklahoma Department of Health.
- Tulsa Partners developed with Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency, Save The Children® and other entities a Children's Annex to Tulsa's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), a national first; a draft community recovery plan, also a national first; and Tulsa's first neighborhood EOP (Kendall Whittier).
- Tulsa Partners has worked with Flanagan & Associates on hazard mitigation planning, including a historic properties and cultural resource annex to Tulsa's Hazard Mitigation Plan, another national first.
- Tulsa Partners offered three pilot IBHS Open for Business® classroom trainings to Tulsa Area United Way agencies and small businesses from 2009 to 2011.
- Tulsa Partners assisted Tulsa Public Schools on emergency preparedness planning through their U.S. Department of Education Readiness in Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) grant.

For more information on Tulsa Partners, call 918-632-0044 or check out our website at www.tulsapartners.org