

LAFD

Quake Drill 2010

Fire Dept. holds annual earthquake drill.



A staged rescue during the recent LAFD earthquake drill.

Photo by Juan Guerra

Los Angeles firefighters held their annual Earthquake drill April 19, simulating a magnitude-8 earthquake in hopes of honing their ability to respond to such a disaster.

The last time an earthquake near that strong struck in Los Angeles was in 1857, when the city was still a sparsely populated outpost.

"Our time is coming, and we must be ready to respond," Chief Millage Peaks was quoted as saying.

The 3.5-hour exercise was held at Fire Station 88 in Sherman Oaks, where a "disaster village" was set up, including an upside down Metrolink train, broken masonry from a collapsed freeway and debris piles.

The LAFD's Earthquake Emergency Plan, its Area Command and Tactical Area Command structures, the Department Operations Center Procedures and its specialized teams, including hazardous materials and Urban Search and Rescue, were all tested. Heavy equipment, rescue dogs and other emergency resources were all used as part of the exercise.

HARBOR

Plugging in the Future, Now

Port debuts its new small fleet of all-electric trucks, the first at any port.

On March 31, the Port introduced first production models of its demonstration fleet of all-electric cargo trucks. The electric trucks are the first at any port in the world.

The trucks originated as a demonstration project co-funded by the Port and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). A small fleet of these all-electric trucks are now

ready to be deployed to marine terminals for further testing. The heavy-duty electric short-haul trucks can pull a 60,000-pound cargo container at a top speed of more than 40 mph.

The trucks demonstrated in March were the first to roll off an assembly line in nearby Harbor City as a result of the Port's fleet order with manufacturer Balqon Corp.



Electric trucks are ready to haul cargo at the Port.

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