

Selected Recommendations From Urban Shield/UASI Task Force {Alameda County}

- * Exclude SWAT teams as such from UASI-funded training exercises, recognizing that non-SWAT law enforcement frequently encounter and must be prepared for emergencies; that SWAT is disproportionately deployed to households of color; and that SWAT have had disproportionate participation in UASI-funded exercises over 12 years.
- * Require that evaluations of law enforcement include assessment of participants' compliance with their jurisdictions' policies and laws for use of force.
- * Require that the number of scenarios and amount of in time each scenario for non-law enforcement disciplines should be as much if not more than those for law enforcement.
- * Assign positive value to survival of all persons in scenarios, including suspects, in addition to value to survival of those who may be under threat by suspects.
- * Fire, EMS, CERT, and Public Health, including those who work directly with populations most at risk in disasters, will participate in designing, leading, and evaluating the overall exercise as well as scenarios.
- * Conduct exercises that prepare agency personnel who are likely to have to respond to disasters, but who may not be dedicated disaster response personnel
- * Require that at least one half of scenarios assess teams' capacity for de-escalation of risk of violence.
- * Eliminate the competition aspect of UASI funded exercises.
- * Stop using UASI-funded exercises to assess the utility of equipment of private vendors.
- * Eliminate the vendor show from the UASI-funded exercise.
- * Empower and support county agencies and other groups to help bring in the hundreds of nonprofit agencies and faith organizations who support the community, including vulnerable populations and provide resources. These organizations are vital to the response but have no access to resources to support preparedness and response efforts.
- * Require that community volunteers be assigned active and responder lead roles in disaster scenarios and not solely those of victims acting helpless or being harmed.
- * Develop and implement a clear, accessible process for community and press observation of all parts of the UASI-funded exercises.
- * Ensure that there is no information gathering or retention of information by law enforcement agencies.
- * UASI-funded exercises should target resources toward prevention and recovery from critical emergencies as much or more than toward immediate response to emergencies.
- * Appoint representatives to the group setting priorities for UASI-training and exercises from public health, social service, and housing agencies, as well as CBOs that work directly with populations most at-risk in disasters, including homeless, older, undocumented, physically disabled, and mentally ill persons, within the BAUASI area.