

*EARTH, WIND & FIRE!*  
**PREPARING CLIENTS FOR DISASTERS**



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3/9/2020

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**DISASTERS & EMERGENCIES**

- NATURE CAUSED
- PANDEMICS
- TERRORISM
- WARS, UNREST
- FAULTY CONSTRUCTION
- PERSONAL TRAGEDIES



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**Profession's Origin, Growth  
And Our Future**

- Est. 1917 during WWI & TB epidemics
- Disasters' impetus in stages of OT's growth
- Personal crisis and adaptation key focus with our clients
- Technology as our partner
- OTs unique wholistic expertise with disasters, crises
- Valuable team role we must pursue with families, facilities, first responders, agencies, communities (local, state, national, global).

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## Phases of Disasters/Crises

Affecting persons, families, communities, organizations, states, regions, nations.



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## Preparation through Planning



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## *First Things First*

- Design **YOUR** personal **plan** for preparedness/response for you and your loved ones.
- Explore **which plans exist** in your places of work and in your immediate community.
- Tell tragedies from “failure to plan”: relate arresting examples of how **a plan in place reduces tragic outcomes**.
- List **emotional health benefits** of a plan.

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## DISASTER HITS HOME

San Diego, north of Evert's backyard, October 2007



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## SEEK OUT LOCAL RESOURCES

San Diego Union Sunday insert July 8, 2018



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## Useful Disaster Prep Lists



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## Know your area's dangers!



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## Plan for escape options!



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## Check Lists for Clients and YOU!!



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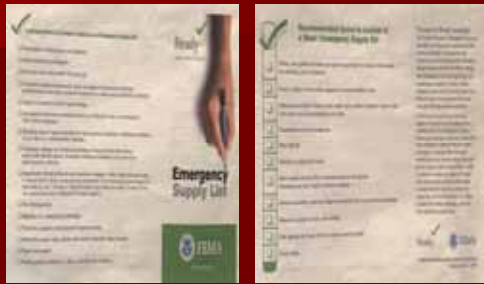
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## 2 FEMA Brochures



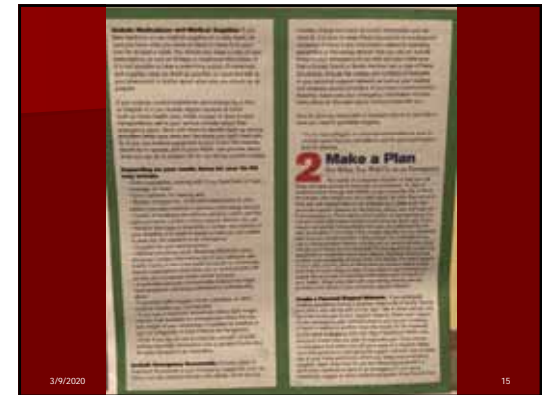
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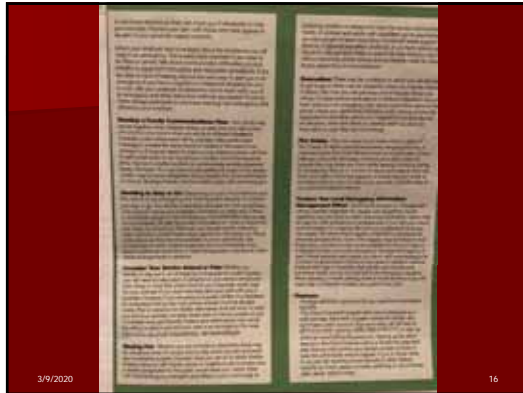
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## Vigilance and Knowledge

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## What OTs can do in the West?

- Develop necessary **advocacy and intervention skills**. We do make a difference in people's lives!
- Educate **OTs and other team members for their roles** in crisis/disaster response and recovery---  
**Distribute evidence of efficacy of OT's value.**
- Make emergency and disaster preparedness a **routine** part of our **OT interactions** with patients and families. **You will aid to their safety & sanity** in life endangering situations.
- Be personally and professionally prepared to **respond** effectively locally with your unique skills.

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## OUR COMMITMENT TO ACT NOW!

- What will I do this week for my family?
- What will I do now for my place of work?
- What will I do now for my clients/families?
- What will I do within my OT profession?
- What can I do to clarify this OT mandate in our **Standards of Practice** in my state's Licensure Act, AOTA, ACOTE, NBCOT?

**EACH OF US CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!**

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## Our Vision for the Profession

Occupational therapy teams will actively assist in assuring the best pre and post crisis/emergency/disaster response outcomes for our citizens, clients, communities and families.



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