

**A STUDY ON PROCESSES AND ROLES OF NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION OF REBUILDING AFTER DISASTER**

— After 21 years of Oakland-Berkeley Fire —

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[SYNOPSIS]

This study focuses on local government and people's recovery and reconstruction efforts after the devastation of 1991 fire, and present in 2013. The study field is the Eastbay hills fire that broke out in the wildfire interface of Oakland and Berkeley hills in October 20th 1991.

The Eastbay hills fire set an unreachable record of 25 life lost, 150 people injured, 3,354 single-family homes, 456 apartment units were destroyed and 1,500 acres of burnt areas. And the property loss estimates were placed in the 1.5 billion dollar that was one of the worst wildfires in U.S. history.

Several factors were pointed out to flare-up the fire and spread over the hills to cause such a devastating situation. For example, weather condition, geographical conditions, vegetation, roads and traffic, buildings, the fire departments and related institutions, administration and cooperation, the incident command system, etc.

After the disaster, many improvements have been made by the federal and local government. Moreover, many neighborhood association and community-based organizations have been established, and they not only shared information and connected survivors at the time of reconstruction stage, but also had a power to influence the decisions of regional to local governments. The disaster prevention program (CORE) for neighboring residents has been conducted continuously together with the fire department and local residents. These organizations are performing their activities continuously even now, by newly adopting activities according to the present condition and needs of people. These prove that the role and importance of neighborhood associations and community-based organization have been shared among many others after the disaster.

On the other hand, the study result shows that about 60 percent of disaster victims have already moved out from the area. Only joint efforts by local government and residents can increase the awareness of people to be better prepared for the future disaster.