

Xtracycle presents

Disaster Relief Trials

San Francisco

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco observes 25th anniversary of Loma Prieta quake with cargo bike relief drill on Sunday, October 19.

Press release

San Francisco, California, 10/03/2014 — Bay Area cyclists are called to test their load-hauling mettle in a disaster drill designed to explore the relevance of cargo bikes to disaster relief. Four days after disaster strikes, when neighbors need supplies, roads are broken, fuel is unavailable, and professional first responders are tapped out, a citizen or in some cases a professional-led cargo bike response might be the ticket to relief. [Disaster Relief Trials San Francisco](#) (DRT SF) makes a visual display of the possibilities using a disaster recovery-themed scavenger hunt format, leaving the particulars of equipment and technique to the competitors. DRT SF is a cargo bike competition involving navigation, load hauling, and riding or portaging through simulated disaster obstacles. [The DRT idea started in Portland in 2012](#) and has since spread to a few other Northwest cities. This year, [Xtracycle](#) is bringing DRT to the Bay Area. Xtracycle is an Oakland, California cargo bike company that has [fueled the American cargo bike movement](#).

The event is designed to test disaster-authentic skills and capabilities. DRT SF riders and spectators will meet in the [Presidio of San Francisco](#) on the morning of Sunday, October 19. Riders will pick up their laminated handlebar maps at 11:00am, allowing one hour of strategizing prior to a noon start. Maps will indicate the location of 5 checkpoints and the order in which they must be visited. Checkpoints are relief cargo pick-up sites or disaster obstacles or sometimes both. Riders use self-chosen routes and any traffic law-compliant means to collect checkpoint signatures and 110

pounds of relief cargo. The fastest riders will be returning to the Presidio in about 3 hours, at which point they will unload their relief cargo for inspection and a final signature.

During the competition, checkpoint-stationed amateur radio operators (“ham” radio operators), provided by [The 2 Meter Critical Mass Amateur Radio Practice](#), will relay real-time competition information back to a pedal powered large screen digital leaderboard, designed and managed by [Open Air Cinema](#). The digital leaderboard will connect finish line spectators to the action throughout the competition, but will also serve as an experiment in passing and disseminating strategic information with grid independence.

The finish line P.A. system will be powered by bike, using [Rock the Bike's](#) new portable pedal generator system, the RollUp. The RollUp is designed to generate electricity while a bike is stationary, lending itself to the powering of cell phones, radios, and flashlights as seen during Hurricane Sandy.

Sunday, October 19 will mark 25 years and two days since the [Loma Prieta quake](#) rocked the Bay Area. In 25 years, cargo bikes have been reborn and refined in the United States. In 25 years, the [community resilience](#) concept has grown and flowered as a vital approach to disaster preparedness. It is said that a resilient community is a self-reliant and grid-independent community. Cargo bikes are arguably one of the best tools for resilience in this way. Disaster Relief Trials is a spirited scavenger hunt that tests the ability of cargo bikes and people to deliver relief in a new era.

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