

SAN FRANCISCO Disaster official resigns for new role

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Laura Phillips, the highest-ranking disaster preparedness official in San Francisco, will soon resign after a little more than a year and a half on the job, Mayor Gavin Newsom's office confirmed Monday.



Newsom spokesman Nathan Ballard said Phillips' departure as director of the Department of Emergency Management was "mutually agreed upon," and that Phillips had accepted a new role within her department. In the spring, she will become the general manager of a partnership between Bay Area agencies who together apply for and spend federal homeland security grants, replacing the retiring Rich Shortall.

Ballard said the move is not related to Phillips' performance, which the mayor has been pleased with.

Phillips could not be reached for comment. Her spokeswoman, Laura Adleman, said she could not comment on a "personnel matter."

Phillips' interim replacement will be Vicki Hennessy, who is currently an acting deputy director in the same department. Hennessy declined to comment Monday.

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San Francisco Chronicle Sections Go