

# Briefly Speaking

Region V Newsletter

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# FEMA

## Disaster Field Operations Completed For Indiana

Disaster recovery operations from tornadoes, severe storms and flooding in portions of Indiana were officially closed in October. Operations from DR-1476 declared July 11 and DR-1487 declared September 5, were recapped at a transition briefing held at the Region on October 30. Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) Tom Costello conducted the transition briefings for both disasters, outlining the status of Disaster Field Office (DFO) operations, accomplishments and post-DFO outstanding actions.

DR-1476 affected north and central areas of Indiana from which four deaths resulted. A total of 43 counties received Individual Assistance, while 24 counties were eligible for Public Assistance. More than \$13 million dollars was allocated for Individuals and Households Program (IHP) assistance for over 4,000 applicants. Small Business Administration Loans (SBA) totaled more than \$24 million dollars. Public Assistance for roads, bridges and other facilities resulted in 342 Public Worksheets obligated, with additional processing yet to be completed. DR-1487, which affected a 21 county area, resulted in Individual Assistance of more than \$7 million dollars, and SBA loans of \$4.7 million dollars approved. More than 100 SBA loans are still pending. FCO Tom Costello was pleased with the effort by Region staff on the recovery. "Everyone involved worked tirelessly to assist the State and the people of Indiana with recovery from these tragic events," Costello said.



**FCO Tom Costello makes a point during Indiana Post-disaster Transition Briefing.**

## Ohio Flood-Power Outage Recoveries Near Close

In late July, severe storms, flooding and tornadoes resulted in a disaster declaration DR-1484. Individual Assistance (IA) for 15 counties and Public Assistance (PA) for 12 counties was approved. The Registration period for this disaster closed October 7th. The August 14 power outage, which left 51 million residents of several states without power, also affected northern Ohio, resulting in an Emergency (EM-3187) for Public Assistance to cover emergency measures costs for 13 counties. Both DR-1484 and EM-3187 operations were transitioned at a briefing held in the Region office October 31. FCO Ron Sherman and Deputy FCO Mike Karl conducted the transition. In total, DR-1484 resulted in over 73,000 registrations and more than \$68 million in IHP. Public Assistance Project Worksheets of more than \$2 million dollars were obligated. For EM-3187, which included Public Assistance only, all Project Worksheets are expected to be completed by the middle of November.

# Course Seeks To Help Employees Find Balance

As part of the ongoing effort to provide employees with meaningful development courses, the Region held a session entitled “Finding Balance: Blending who you are with what you do.” Frank Bucaro, a well-known speaker on promoting ethics and values in the workplace, taught the half-day session, held October 27. Mr. Bucaro’s training has been provided to Fortune 1000 companies throughout the U.S. He emphasizes understanding where one fits in the workplace and in personal life, in order to maintain a healthy, positive outlook.

Mr. Bucaro, who worked in private industry for 18 years, also once studied for the priesthood. His lecture included humorous anecdotes about childhood, parenting, and family. He discussed how ethics issues have brought about changes in the American workplace. Mr. Bucaro also discussed Adler’s theory of how birth order affects self-esteem and personality traits. He also identified the qualities of leaders vs. managers and outlined “rules” for successfully resolving conflict in the workplace and at home. The session was well attended by region staff, most of who responded positively to the training. “This was very worthwhile,” commented one region staff member. “I feel I learned some tangible things that will help me be a better employee and a better person in the future.”



**Frank Bucaro makes a point during “Finding Balance” training course at the Region.**

Mr. Bucaro concluded his lecture by reading the Prayer of Tecumseh, who was a political leader and War Chief of the Native American Shawnee Tribe.

## Prayer of Tecumseh

So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart.

Trouble no one about his religion; respect your own.

Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life.

Seek to make your life long and of service to your people.

Prepare a noble death song for when you go over the Great Divide.

Always give a word or sign or salute when meeting or passing a friend, or even a stranger

If in a lonely place.

Show respect to all people, but grovel to none.

When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life and strength.

Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living.

If you see no reason for giving thanks, then the fault lies in yourself. Touch not the poisonous firewater that makes wise ones to fools and robs the Spirit of its Vision.

When your time comes to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of Death,

so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way.

Live your life, so that when you sing your death song, you will die like a hero who is going home with no shame to meet the Creator and your family.

## Polish Students Visited Region To Study U.S. Emergency Management

In October two students from Poland visited Region V to get a firsthand look at how Emergency Management is structured in the United States. Katarzyna Kaczmarek and Tomasz Hasior spent two weeks in this country, studying and working with Region V staff. The goal of their visit was to familiarize themselves with FEMA's mission and programs. Ms. Kaczmarek and Mr. Hasior studied the organizational structure of FEMA and the regional office through a series of scheduled visits with Region staff and state and local partners. During their visit, the students learned how FEMA interacts with other agencies during emergency operations.

Among the highlights of their visit was a tour of a Disaster Field Office in Indiana, where they witnessed flood recovery operations. They also visited the City of Chicago Emergency Operations and 911 center and the Chicago Fire Department Training Academy.

## RISC Meeting Focused On NRP Initiatives

The Quarterly Regional Interagency Steering Committee Meeting was held October 21-22. Regional Director Ed Buikema began the meeting with a review of the current status of the National Response Plan (NRP) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). He described the objectives of the NRP as a single comprehensive national approach that includes prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

The NRP is designed to ensure all levels of government work together by adopting a common incident management system (NIMS) with horizontal and vertical integration and it integrates crisis and consequence management into a unified component.

A large portion of the RISC Meeting was devoted to catastrophic planning brainstorming sessions on long-term housing and long-term economic recovery. Michael Carano of the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank led the session on economic recovery and Jim Duncan, Region V led the session on long-term housing. During the brief out FCO Ron Sherman indicated the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware listed publications on various long-term recovery issues.

## Wisconsin Fire Safety Group Receives Grant



**Regional Director Ed Buikema (left) presents grant check to Mary and Dan Gengler of WAFS.**

Regional Director Edward G. Buikema visited Milwaukee on Friday, October 10 to announce a Department of Homeland Security grant awarded to the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety (WAFS) to support fire prevention and Wisconsin Burn Camp activities. Director Buikema presented a check for \$109,690 to Dan Gengler, Chairperson of WAFS during a press conference at the City of Milwaukee Fire Department Headquarters.

The grant funds will be used to complete development of fire prevention videos aimed at children in grades three through six and to support the Wisconsin Summer Camp for Burn Injured Youth.



# Biannual State Hazard Mitigation Conference Held

**(Above) Region V Mitigation staff and representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin participated in the three day conference.**

In an effort to enrich the partnerships between the Region and its States, the Community Mitigation Program Branch hosted a conference for Hazard Mitigation Officers at the Region V office on September 8-11. One of the main goals of the meeting was to provide training for all State Mitigation staff members on e-Grants; Benefit Cost Analysis and Environmental processes in preparation for their application submissions to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDM-C) Program. They were also afforded the opportunity to log on to the e-Grants on-line system and input their project/plan information. The latter part of the conference was used to provide a forum for open discussion of hot topics and common issues. The discussion and brainstorming sessions provided valuable input about ways to improve the mitigation process.



**State Mitigation staff log on to the e-Grants system while John Fell (standing) assists with IT issues.**

# Region Participates In Boy Scout Disaster Drill

Nearly 300 Boy Scouts from the Tall Grass District of Illinois, 100 adult volunteers and 70 emergency first responders participated in an emergency preparedness drill on Saturday, October 25. Local, state and federal agencies conducted hands-on training to help the scouts work toward the newly established Emergency Preparedness BSA Award. The event was established in response to the Department of Homeland Security challenge to the Boy Scouts to build upon the foundation of the “Get Ready” campaign and to help citizens across the country prepare for all types of emergencies.

The drill was held in a mock disaster area at the Edward Hines Jr., VA Hospital in the western suburbs of Chicago. It began at 8:00 A.M. with a flag raising ceremony attended by volunteers, scouts and Hines Hospital officials. Following the ceremony, scouts were split into groups of 15 and sent through several testing stations which included simulations of a demolished building; searching for injured victims and setting up a control perimeter.

Firefighters from several area departments ignited a flash fire using a room simulator to demonstrate how quickly fire and toxic smoke can spread. The Boy Scouts were also drilled on communications, command, fire control and search techniques. The day long event included a landing demonstration by the Lifestar Rescue Helicopter from Loyola University Medical Center.



## Region NPD Program Coordination Branch Chief Jim Duncan answers questions from Boy Scouts at the Emergency Preparedness Drill

Personnel from the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Illinois National Guard Civil Support Team and Department of Energy (Argonne National Labs) demonstrated equipment and answered questions. Region V conducted briefings for the scouts on citizens preparedness, explained FEMA’s disaster mission and provided pamphlets, brochures and copies of the “Get Ready” book for each of the participating scouts. Jim Opoka of Region V’s National Preparedness Division was one of the key organizers of the event along with Downers Grove Fire Chief Phil Ruscetti. Other Region V participants included Jim Duncan and Jay Kinsley.



## Boy Scouts prepare to learn procedures for assisting victims of a mock building collapse.

Briefly Speaking is published by DHS/FEMA Region V External Affairs, 536 S. Clark St. Chicago, IL 60605. Comments or suggestions may be sent to [vincent.davis@dhs.gov](mailto:vincent.davis@dhs.gov)

## Did You Know?



Is a monthly feature highlighting the activities of Region V employees



**Boss' Day Breakfast.....**At least one division celebrated on October 16th in a big way with a complete breakfast that included sausage, eggs, doughnuts, juice, fruit and more! Managers and supervisors were treated to the tasty delights compliments of Federal Insurance and Mitigation staff.

**REMINDER....**Understanding Cultural Differences training will be held Thursday, November 6 in Conference Room C. The schedule is as follows: 9:00-11:45 A.M. - NP and R&R  
1:00-3:45 P.M. ARP, FI&M and ORD

■ Gary Stokes recently accepted a position as an attorney with the Chicago Regional Office of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA). Gary's last day at FEMA Region V will be Friday, November 14. The Region V family wishes Gary much success in his new position.

■ Region V is pleased to announce that Vince Parisi has been selected for the position of Senior Mitigation Specialist in the Community Mitigation Programs Branch of the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division.

## FEMA Announces New Children's Board Game

On October 15, FEMA unveiled a new, interactive web-based board game for children as part of the agency's ongoing commitment to educate young people about disaster preparedness and risk reduction. The board game, called Disaster Discovery, is located on the agency's FEMA for Kids web site.

"The more prepared and knowledgeable children are about disasters, the safer they are and it's easier for them and their families to recover," said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response. "Our FEMA for Kids web site is a novel approach to disaster information and the new game will help keep children's interest and enhance the likelihood they'll retain what they've learned."

The game can be played on-line on a school or library computer or downloaded and played at home. It can also be printed out and played in hard copy. Macromedia's Flash player is required to play the on-line version of the game. The free software can be downloaded through the site. Children can access Disaster Discovery game at [www.fema.gov/kids/games/board](http://www.fema.gov/kids/games/board).



**American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) National President John Gage (left) and District 7 Vice-President Dorothy James (center), greet Local AFGE Secretary Clint Crackel during a recent visit to Chicago.**