



FEMA

# Briefly

Region V Newsletter

## Disasters Declared For Indiana And Ohio

Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary Michael D. Brown announced that President Bush has declared major disasters in Indiana and Ohio, opening the way for the use of federal disaster funds to help meet the recovery needs of families and businesses ravaged by tornadoes floods and severe storms. Brown met with local officials and viewed damage in both states. *Story continued on page 2*

FEMA Photo By Gene Romano



DHS Under Secretary Mike Brown talks to an Indianapolis woman after a press conference June 4 where he announced a Federal Disaster Declaration for seven Indiana counties. Federal Coordinating Officer Justo "Tito" Hernandez (Background Left) was assigned by Brown to lead the FEMA recovery team.

## Disaster Declarations from page 1

After the declaration, Brown designated the requested counties of Crawford, Clark, Marion, Miami and Washington eligible for federal assistance to stricken residents that includes Individual Assistance (IA), and Mitigation. Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for 20 counties began June 9 for Public Assistance (PA), which was not part of the initial declaration.

Justo “Tito” Hernandez of FEMA was named by Brown to coordinate the federal relief effort. Plans are being formulated to open Disaster Recovery Centers in several counties.

In the Ohio declaration Brown designated the counties of Athens, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina, Noble, Perry, and Summit eligible for federal aid to help meet the recovery needs of affected residents and business owners. The declaration also includes IA and Mitigation.

Brad Gair of FEMA was named by Brown to coordinate federal recovery operations in Ohio.

Recovery operations in Indiana and Ohio will be staffed by Region X and Region IX respectively, with Region V providing support as needed.

## Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin Request Damage Assessments

Teams from the Region were in Illinois Michigan and Wisconsin during the past two weeks at the request of state officials to assess storm and flood damage. Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) for Michigan and Illinois were completed June 5.

The PDA teams consisted of IA and PA program staff, Mitigation, and representatives from the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Wisconsin Emergency Management Agency requested a PDA for severe storms and heavy rain in seven counties. The requested counties include Kenosha and Jefferson for IA, and Columbia, Crawford, Fond du Lac, Grant, Kenosha, Ozaukee and Vernon counties for PA. Region teams began the assessment process June 9, and expect to be completed in a few days.



(ABOVE) Gurnee Illinois residents and business owners stacked sandbags to contain flooding following several days of rainstorms that pummeled the Midwest.



(ABOVE) flooding created lakes like this one near Gurnee, Illinois. (BELOW) Sand bags could not stop the water from damaging this home in Lake County, IL.



FEMA Photo by Doug Welty

## EMAP Standards and Assessment Committees Meet

The Region hosted a regular meeting of the Assessment Committee and the Standards Committee, respectively, of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

EMAP is a voluntary accreditation process for the state and local programs responsible for coordinating preparedness for and response to disasters, whether natural or human-caused.

The EMAP Commission is the nine-member governing and decision making body of the program. Its members are appointed (three each) by FEMA, International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), in accordance with the EMAP Accreditation Process Guide.

The commission functions independently from those organizations. Regional Director Ed Buikema is a former member of the EMAP Commission. Jim Opoka has served on the Standards Committee for the past two years. Accreditation is based on compliance with collaborative national standards for emergency preparedness, the *EMAP Standard*, demonstrated through self-assessment, documentation, and on-site assessment by an independent team of assessors.

The *EMAP Standard* is based on the NFPA 1600 Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs. Accreditation is open to state, territorial, and local government emergency management programs. The Assessment Committee reviewed assessor training issues, fine-tuned assessment process procedures, identified areas for development, and planned on-going initiatives. The Standards Committee conducted a detailed review of the 2004 version of the NFPA 1600 Standards on Emergency Management and prepared recommendations for updating the *EMAP Standard*. Recommendations will now be forwarded to the full commission for consideration.

For further information see <http://www.emaponline.org/index.cfm>



Regional Director Ed Buikema (CENTER) talks to members of the EMAC Commission during a break at the Region offices.



## Employee Awareness Training Held

On May 25-27, Region staff attended Employee Awareness training sessions conducted at the regional offices by FEMA Headquarters Human Resources. Beth Myers and Alison Hargrove led the training. The session included information on promotions, employee performance, rewards and recognition, attendance and leave, and other related topics. HR staff also discussed retirement and pension, equal employment opportunity, and the union grievance process. Employees were able to ask questions and voice opinions and concerns, which were recorded by the HR staff for follow-up actions, if needed. In addition, HR staff explained how the overall personnel process works and helped employees gain insight into the current personnel structure. The HR team conducted similar sessions during the week for senior managers from the Region.

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FEMA Photo by Vince Davis



Members of the FEMA/State PDA team inspect homes and businesses in Berrien County, Michigan. A large tree did extensive damage to this building in St. Joseph. The teams completed their work on June 4. Michigan EMA is reviewing the data and will make recommendations to Governor Granholm who will decide whether or not to request a Federal Disaster Declaration.

FEMA Photo by Vince Davis



## Region Hosts State Directors/Homeland Security Advisors Meeting

Emergency Management and Homeland Security officials from all six region states participated in two days of meetings June 8-10 at the Regional offices designed to continue our dialogue with the states regarding homeland security matters.

The meeting included briefings from the states and an overview of the information analysis mission from Patrick M. Hughes, DHS Assistant Secretary, Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection. Marco Bourne, Acting Director National Incident Management System (NIMS) discussed NIMS Integration. Briefings by Randall Bibby, Acting Principal Director of the Homeland Security Operations Center, and Christopher Doyle, Deputy Director Emergency Preparedness & Response Research & Development highlighted the closing session. Rear Admiral Robert Papp, Commander 9th District U.S. Coast Guard briefed on the Coast Guard's activities in the region.

Region V Division Directors David Skarosi, Response and Recovery, Stuart Rifkind, National Preparedness Division and Norbert Schwartz, Federal Insurance and Mitigation provided briefings their current activities and initiatives.



Patrick M. Hughes, DHS Assistant Secretary for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection, addresses the State Directors and Homeland Security Advisors Meeting at the Regional offices.