



**FEMA**

# Briefly

**Region V Newsletter**

## **PRESIDENT BUSH VISITS CHICAGO AREA TO RECOGNIZE FIRST RESPONDERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

The President came to Glenview, IL on July 22, to visit the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA) and to pay tribute to those who are the first to respond in emergencies. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge accompanied him and introduced him to the crowd of more than 700 people, including numerous state and local firefighters, law enforcement personnel and government officials. About a dozen regional staff attended this event, along with employees from a number of other DHS entities in the Chicago area. Before speaking to the crowd, Bush watched a short demonstration that simulated a SWAT team storming a bus that had been commandeered by terrorists after it hit a tanker truck.

During his address the President noted that his administration has provided more than \$13 billion to equip and train America's state and local first responders since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Bush also recognized a Glenview resident, Nicole Meier, a volunteer with the Maine Township Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), who was selected by DHS to greet the President when he landed at O'Hare Airport. In touting Citizen Corps, Bush acknowledged the Meier family's contributions to the response after the Utica tornado (DR-1513) in April. A consortium of 17 north and northwest suburban Chicago municipalities and fire districts is building the NIPSTA, which is about 20% complete. The planned 20-acre campus is designed to provide instruction to police, fire, EMS, rescue, public works, hazardous materials and disaster response personnel.



# WISCONSIN DISASTER DECLARATION FOLLOWED BY TORNADOES

On June 19, President George W. Bush declared a major disaster for Wisconsin, opening the way for the use of federal funds to help people and communities recover from the effects of a series of severe storms that began last month. Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, said the President took the action following a review of FEMA's analysis of the state's request for federal relief. The declaration authorizes Individual Assistance (IA) Public Assistance (PA) and Mitigation programs as a result of severe storms and flooding on May 19.

Just days after the declaration, more severe storms and tornadoes hit the southern half of the state. The storms struck many of the counties already designated for IA, PA or both. State and FEMA officials began surveying the latest damage to determine the impact on the recovery effort. There was one confirmed death and a number of injured reported from the latest storms. At the Disaster Field Office (DFO), located in Madison, the Continuity Of Operations Plan (COOP) was activated for about 5 hours during the latest storms.

One tornado reportedly touched down less than a mile from the DFO. Federal Coordinating Office Ron Sherman was appointed to lead the FEMA recovery effort. Teams of Public Affairs and Community Relations staff were in Madison within a day of the initial declaration to begin working with state officials.



**Ryan Durant, 8, left, and Kolbie Bethel, 10, pick up debris along Main Street in Waupun after a storm hit the city. Photo courtesy of Keith Vandervort, Fon du Lac Journal.**



**Vance Glewen looks away from what is left of his home in Alto as the debris pile burns in the background. The Glewens moved into their home just 10 days before it was destroyed the storm. Photo courtesy of Keith Vandervort, Fon duLac Journal.**



**FEMA Response and Recovery Director Dan Craig visited the Michigan Disaster Field Office (DFO) on July 15. Nineteen counties in Michigan were declared for Individual Assistance on July 2 as a result of severe storms and flooding. (ABOVE) Director Craig (second from left) shares a lighter moment with FCO Marianne Jackson (left) Regional Director Ed Buikema and Michigan State Police Inspector Kriste Etue (far right) of the Emergency Management Division. During the visit, DFO staff briefed Directors Craig and Buikema on the progress of the recovery operation. Following the briefing an all-hands meeting was held to allow staff the opportunity to ask questions on a variety of topics.**

## Lifesaving Training

Region staff attended a CPR First Aid Training class in July at the Region office. Larry Bannister from FEMA Safety conducted the class, which included instruction in the use of CPR Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) equipment and first aid training. Participants will receive a certificate of completion and will be qualified to administer CPR in an emergency.

Christine Stack (right) waits direction from the instructor as one of the participants in CPR Training.



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)

## Message From The Regional Director

Last week (July 26-29, 2004) the Democratic National Convention (DNC) was conducted in Boston, Massachusetts. The DNC was designated a National Security Special Event (NSSE) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) enabling the implementation of a comprehensive security plan to protect the convention delegates. In these events, the U.S. Secret Service is given the lead role in coordinating the development of the overall security plans because of their experience and expertise in providing protection and security. With the implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive #5, the Secretary of DHS Security is designated as the Principal Federal Official (PFO) for Homeland Security in the United States. For NSSE's, the Secretary designates an official within DHS to fulfill that role on his behalf. For the DNC (as well as for the G8 Summit and the upcoming Republican National Convention) the Special Agent of the local Secret Service Field Office was designated as the PFO. DHS also decided to designate a Deputy PFO from FEMA for each of the aforementioned events. As such, I was designated by DHS as the Deputy PFO for the DNC and worked in Boston from July 21-30, 2004. A PFO support cell was developed by the DHS HQ Integration Staff that consisted of representatives from nearly every directorate and office within DHS.



Edward G. Buikema

Included on this staff were multiple representatives from the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) Directorate, Science and Technology Directorate, the Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC), Public Affairs, Office of State and Local Government Coordination, and the Dept. of Health and Human Services. In addition, a Chief of Staff was assigned as well as Operations and Protocol officers. An operations order was developed and implemented that guided the actions of the PFO support cell during the convention.

Members of the PFO support cell were embedded in the various operations centers in the Boston area sufficient to provide 24- hour coverage for the duration of the convention. Security for the event was impressive as designed by the Secret Service in partnership with a variety of local and state agencies. A number of federal agencies were present at the event including many of our DHS partners such as the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Protective Service, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and of course, the Secret Service. In addition, the FEMA Region 1 Regional Operations Center (ROC) was operational for the entire DNC. Consistent with our role as backup to Region I, Dan Brown of Region V was assigned to work in the Region I ROC for the entire week.

An Executive Steering Committee was established at the onset of the NSSE designation that provided strategic guidance and direction to the many agencies and organizations participating in the security effort. A number of subcommittees were established that met periodically throughout the past year to plan for specific elements of the overall security effort. All of that hard work and preparation paid off as the Boston Police Department made only six DNC related arrests during the week.

The PFO is now an important component in NSSE events. The PFO for the DNC, Steve Ricciardi, met with appropriate agency and political leaders in the Boston area well in advance of the DNC to familiarize them with the concept and to ensure everyone understood PFO roles and responsibilities. In that regard, the PFO and PFO support cell played an important role in helping to facilitate coordination activities at the DNC while acting as a direct point of contact for Secretary Ridge. As such, it was my privilege to serve as Deputy PFO and to interact with many outstanding public safety professionals.