

R2 –WEEKLY BULLETIN

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TIP of the Week

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IT Services Branch

The Ironkeys Are Coming, The Ironkeys Are Coming...

Soon many of you will be receiving your Ironkey USB flash drives, which will be the FEMA standard for portable data storage. The devices will provide data encryption and security that is compliant with government IT security standards. Use of any other USB storage devices will not be authorized.

The Ironkey is an enterprise managed device that will help minimize loss of sensitive government data and prevent malicious software from entering the FEMA network. The unit features robust data encryption and strong password protection in a shockproof and waterproof container.

All users need to be aware that the devices will self destruct after 10 consecutive incorrect password entries and the device will not be recoverable. The device is managed by Mount Weather and there will be a log of where and when the devices have been used.



TURN AROUND IS FAIR PLAY

Since so much of this week's newsletter concerns getting the Region in line with Headquarters' priorities, it seems only fair to note Region II is leading the way in a new training model that may be adopted nationally.

Based on an External Affairs exercise of ESF-15 capabilities that was held in Puerto Rico in January, the concept is being reviewed by EMI, with an eye toward replication. Check it out:

<http://www.floodmaps.net/eftp/default.asp?op=get&FName=ESF15%5Ffinal%2Ewmv>

Checking the Alignment, Part II



By Michael Moriarty, Acting Regional Administrator

As promised, here is an overview of HQ's vision and Regional priorities going forward.

Public Assistance-

- HQ is drafting a Comprehensive Disaster Close-Out Procedures SOP.
- The new credentialing plan will start with PA DAEs
- RII will engage in a Quality Assurance Initiative to help build QA/QC metrics for comparing Regional effectiveness, focusing on a QA/QC processes for transitioning disasters back to Region.

Mitigation –

- Deputy Regional Environmental Officer positions are in development.
- There is a strong desire to integrate Mitigation Planning with other planning.

Human Capital –

- IMAT is “ready for Ops.” While there are still four or five IMAT slots vacant, they will be filled by personnel from other Divisions on an interim basis.
- Region-wide we have about two dozen positions for which interviews are underway or selections have already been made, pending security reviews. An additional dozen openings will soon be announced.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, II

Editor's Note: Last week's article explained what the Public Assistance is and what type of activities and facilities it covers (broken down in categories A through G). This week, what happens after a project is approved.



Public Assistance projects that fall below a certain threshold are considered "small projects." This threshold is adjusted for inflation annually. For fiscal year 2009, the threshold is \$64,200. For small Public Assistance projects, payment of the federal share of the estimate is made upon approval of the project, and notification is required upon completion of the project.

For large projects, payment is made on the basis of actual costs determined after the project is completed, although interim payments may be made as necessary. Once FEMA obligates funds to the state, further management of the assistance – including disbursement to sub-grantees – is the responsibility of the state. FEMA monitors the recovery progress to ensure the timely delivery of eligible assistance and compliance with the law and regulations.

Private non profits (PNP) that are eligible for Public Assistance include educational, utility, irrigation, emergency, medical, rehabilitation and temporary or permanent custodial care facilities (including those for the aged and disabled), and other PNP facilities that provide essential services of a governmental nature to the general public. PNPs that provide "critical services" (power, water - including water provided by an irrigation organization or facility, sewer, wastewater treatment, communications and emergency medical care) may apply directly to FEMA for a disaster grant. All other PNPs must apply to the Small Business Administration for a disaster loan **first**. If the PNP is declined for a SBA loan, or the loan does not cover all eligible damages, the applicant may reapply for FEMA assistance.



CHECKING THE ALIGNMENT, II continued.....

- FEMA does engage in security clearance reciprocity with other federal agencies and DOD

Facilities/Work Space – This topic was one of the primary areas where HQ-Regional alignment was needed.

The good news is that there is a lot of support to make improvements in our workspace. The less-than-good news is that requests for the requisite funding has to be included in future budget cycles, and will be contingent upon a long term plan that can gain the concurrence of HQ.

We have a timely opportunity to include RII's Plan in the FY11 budget process if we can submit it by the end of March. We will work hard to accomplish this over the next six weeks. I think our plan has to meet a few simple goals:

- the new space be suitable to house the entire RII team to facilitate effective collaboration;
- We have sufficient additional space and meeting facilities so we can serve as an integrator for our states and other federal agencies.

Operations -

- Expect RRCCs to transition to "secure mode" over the next 18-24 months.
- Emergency Management Information Management System (EMIMS) roll out and training will include a push to the State EOCs.

Regional Organizational Structure – Two new Divisions to be added to Regions

- Grants Division – additional grant programs will be transitioned from GPD to Regions. Additional staff will be added over time as current staff grows to a Division.
- Logistics will become a Division at the Regional level. Two employees are in place at each Region. They will be joined by additional staff over the next two years for final end strength of 11.



