

REGION 2 BI-WEEKLY

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NEW JERSEY'S 'RITE OF SPRING' *PDA Teams Return With Daffodils; River Basin Environs Assessed for IA, PA*



Last Sunday, the clocks were set forward by one hour. By Wednesday, Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) teams were on the ground in four New Jersey counties surveying flood damage. Both events are harbingers of spring.

Twelve teams — seven focusing on Individual Assistance (IA) and five assigned to Public Assistance (PA) — toured Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic counties, lead by county and municipal emergency officials and the NJ State Police. Small Business Administration (SBA) field specialists supplemented the IA teams. By Thursday, two additional counties — Warren and Mercer — were added. The Region II IMAT team provided communications and coordination for these damage assessment efforts.

Since 2005, New Jerseyans have lived through eight Presidentially declared disasters, including the four declared in 2010. All but two have been in the Spring, but only four turned on IA.

This week, the PDA teams reported that much of the flooding occurred in areas that have flooded in the past, including last year's DR-1897. Flood insurance coverage in these areas is very high — almost 95% — and very few affected areas have a preponderance of low income residents.

However, based on the numbers so far, the SBA reports that a SBA Disaster Declaration is likely. Region II awaits the final numbers, and a request from NJ Gov. Chris Christie.

A LETTER FROM REP



Region II's Radiological Emergency Response team with members of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, who visited Region II in June 2009. From left to right: Chris Cammarata, Brian Hasemann, Kuniaki Endo, Fumitaka Watanabe, Branch Chief Rebecca Thomson, Sara Gelves, Miriam Weston, Korky Dulgerian. Not show, REP Supervisory Technical Hazards Program Specialist Bill Cullen, Laura Forrest, Pat Mason, Kevin Reed and Mabel Santiago.

Editor's Note: *The nuclear disaster in Japan has heightened interest in REP's work. Branch Chief Rebecca Thomson provides a timely overview.*

The emergency preparedness program for the US domestic nuclear-powered generation of electricity is subject to the most rigorous oversight of all emergency management programs. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) oversees and regulates onsite operations. FEMA does the same for offsite safety and preparedness precautions, including emergency planning, notification, evacuation and response.

States must develop detailed radiological emergency response plans and procedures for protecting the population within a 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the nuclear power plants.

There are five nuclear power plants (NPPs) in Region II. In New Jersey there are two sites, including the one-unit Oyster Creek Plant in Ocean County and the three unit Salem/Hope Creek Plant located in Salem County. A portion of the 10-mile EPZ for the Salem/Hope Creek site is in adjoining Cumberland County.

In New York State there are three NPPs: Indian Point Energy Center with two operating units located in Westchester County, with portions of the EPZ in Orange, Rockland, and Putnam Counties; Nine Mile Point/J.A. FitzPatrick, with three units, is located in Oswego County on Lake Ontario; and the Ginna Plant in Wayne County has one unit. A por-

tion of its EPZ is in Monroe County, also located on Lake Ontario.

FEMA's job is to provide "reasonable assurance that the public can be protected in the event of an incident at the NPP" in the areas surrounding the plants. This assurance is the key component of the NRC-granted license to operate a nuclear power plant.

FEMA ensures that state and local governments have adequate offsite emergency plans in place by a detailed review of the emergency plans for each jurisdiction within an EPZ. It ensures that these plans can be implemented by a full scale exercise at each site every two years. Exercises are then evaluated, and only 100% compliance of all REP-related Offsite Response Organizations constitutes a "passing grade." Any areas requiring corrective action must demonstrate 100% compliance within 120 days.

FEMA also evaluates jurisdiction's Emergency Communications, Public Education and Information, Emergency Equipment and Facilities, Radiological Emergency Response Training, Review and Revisions of Response Plans, Distribution of Potassium Iodide, Review of Memorandum of Understanding, and Reliability of the Prompt Alert System. Out-of-sequence drills and demonstrations, including schools, bus companies, Reception Centers, Congregate Care Centers, and hospitals are also tested to ensure our "assurance" is reasonable.

PREP PREPS LOCALS *First of Sustainable Initiatives In Catastrophic Preparedness*

Region II's Preparedness and National Protection (PNP) division is walking the walk in the USVI.

Led by Technical Hazard Specialist Warren DeTemple, Community Preparedness Officer David Fortino and the CAD's National Preparedness Specialist Jesus Frau, two, new Wide Area Search courses were conducted in St. Thomas and St. Croix earlier this month. The courses are designed to provide practical search methods and skills that will systematize searches over large areas. Each class concluded with a table top exercise.

Participants from the Virgin Islands RESCUE Team, an all volunteer technical rescue team, the U.S. Transportation Security Authority (TSA) and the Puerto Rico Fire Department Urban Search Team (PR TF-1) attended the training, the first in a sustainable technical assistance program in catastrophic preparedness that the Region is fostering.

As a result of this training, a new steering committee was created, made up of senior leadership from the Virgin Islands Fire Department, chiefs of the RESCUE Team, and other members of the Virgin Islands Emergency Services community, who will meet monthly to discuss cross collaboration training, mission support functions, and other preparedness and response tasks.

The initiative is being managed by the Virgin Islands Office of Emergency Management (VITEMA). Region II's Preparedness and Protection Division is providing technical assistance, best practices, and training to the members of the new steering committee.

IT TIP FOR TRAVELERS:

Your FEMA Outlook mailbox account is limited to 100MB. It locks up once you have exceeded this amount. In the office, you can solve this by deleting your DELETED folder.

On the road, you need to follow the steps below to be able to send and receive emails:

1. Go to your emails.
2. Press the "Menu" button to the left of your trackpad. (The button with the multiple dots.)
3. *A menu will open up.* Scroll down and select "Options".
4. Scroll down and select "Email Reconciliation"
5. Press the "Menu" button again to the left of your trackpad. *A menu will open up.*
6. Scroll down and select **Purge Deleted**

THE (FCO) SITUATION IN NEW JERSEY

For disasters in New Jersey, Bill Vogel is *The Man*.

Currently, Bill is the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) for DR-1954, the 15-county, Public Assistance disaster prompted by the snow storm of December 26-27th, which stranded residents in their homes, motorists on the roads, shuttered business and overwhelmed towns and counties with cleanup costs.

But this is just the latest in a string of Garden State postings. Starting with DR-1653, the storms that swept through four New Jersey counties in 2006, Bill has been the FCO on each of the eight federal disasters declared in New Jersey since then. His regular deployment has solidified his great partnership with New Jersey Emergency Managers, a relationship initially forged during the five years he worked with NJOEM before joining the FCO Cadre. At NJOEM, Bill was part of their Public Assistance Unit, working closely with FEMA on five major disasters, including Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina.



Bill Vogel, right, confers with the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) Major Dennis McNulty, left.

In between Jersey gigs, Bill was the FCO overseeing recovery from California wildfires, floods in Missouri, the enormous storms and flooding in Iowa in 2008, and continuing recovery from Katrina at New Orleans TRO.

Before "retiring" to emergency management, Bill spent 30 years with U.S. Army, flying helicopters, commanding soldiers and supporting FEMA as a Defense Coordinating Officer. A New Jersey native, Bill has leveraged his knowledge of the state and his expertise in emergency management for the benefit of residents.

FQS GOES INTO EFFECT SEPT. 30

ALL DAEs, COREs and PFTs AFFECTED *Qualification Boards Start Reviews in June*

FEMA's Assistant Administrator for Response Robert Fenton, below, was in Region II this week, briefing "All Hands" on FQS, FEMA's new, much anticipated Qualification System that will affect every member of the agency's disaster workforce: PFTs, COREs and DAEs.

The agency's foray into credentialing was mandated by the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006

(PKEMRA), which also required each state to establish a credentialing system for emergency personnel. To ensure consistency, and fair qualification requirements for *all* workforce positions regardless of employment status, FEMA developed FQS, linking experience, training and demonstrated performance to standardize and streamline the certification process. FQS is Incident Command System (ICS) compliant, bringing FEMA's qualification system into alignment with DHS.



Each of these 320 Position Task Books has a Position Qualification Sheet, which details the training and/or experience required for that specific position. In addition, each job title has its own Qualification Progression Flowchart, which lays out the training and/or experience necessary to progress to the next level. Training will be provided as it is currently, either online, at EMI or at the JFO.

Under FQS there will be only two categories of employee: "Trainee" or "Qualified." That determination will be made by a Qualification Review Board, which will be set up in each Region by June, Fenton said. The Regional Administrator will be the Certifying Official. Currently FQS status will not affect salary, although it 'may' in the future, Fenton said.



Region II staff at Tuesday's "All Hands meeting."

Building on earlier credentialing initiatives, FQS identified three pillars for a qualified workforce: experience, training and demonstrated performance. To codify this matrix, FQS developed 320 Position Task Books that lay out the specific performance requirements for every job title or position within the incident management structure.

Agency-wide there are about 4,500 PFTs, approximately 700 COREs and less than 10,000 DAEs. Because FQS is ICS-consistent and aligns with DHS, its use will deepen FEMA's "bench." "We've already identified more than 3,500 trained DHS employees we could call up if me had to," Fenton said.