

R2 –WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume 1, Issue 10

March 20, 2009

FIRE GRANTS BRIEFING TOUR



Congressman Leonard Lance (NJ-7) addressing attendees at an AFG Workshop at Raritan Community College

David Gronsbell has been on the road ...a lot.

Since February 9, he has logged more than 2,400 miles, crisscrossing New York and New Jersey, conducting 20 Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) workshops. As the Region's new Fire Program Specialist, Dave has introduced the 2009 AFG program to over 800 potential applicants, including workshops in 16 Congressional districts.

Dave brings over 30 years of law enforcement, hazmat, and volunteer firefighting experience to the job. He is a New Jersey State Certified Fire Instructor, teaches at Middlesex County Fire Academy, and does recertification courses for the N.J. Department of Community Affairs/Division of Fire Safety in cooperation with Kean University.

MICROSOFT OfficeSuite \$20?

Yes, FEMA has a deal with Microsoft for a Home Use Program. To check it out, go to <https://hup.microsoft.com>. Use Program Code # 9BC98633D9.

There is also a separate Employee Purchase Plan for other Microsoft software. Go to <https://epp.microsoft.com>. Enter Program Code # CE11D4C063. Think of it as a fringe benefit of FEMA service.

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REGION II SETS PACE

For the seventh year in a row, Region II reached its goal for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).



Anna Fusco, the Region's CFC Coordinator, (center) accepts the CFC Pacesetter Award on behalf of FEMA, Region II at the 2008/09 New York City CFC Awards Ceremony Friday. The award was presented by Chairperson Patricia Amberg-Blyskal, right, and Vice Chairperson and In-Coming Chair Bernie Bowles, left, of the NYC CFC Local Federal Coordinating Committee.

The pacesetter award is presented to the Federal Agency in each CFC Division that performs the best overall in its Division, setting both an example and the pace for other Agencies in the Division. Criteria considered in making the award includes the rate of participation, per-capita gift, average gift, overall increase from the previous Campaign, and overall performance over goal.

At the ceremony, organizers extended a special thank you to Region II staff for its consistent generosity, noting that their payroll contributions were especially important in these tough economic times.

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MITIGATION SOFTWARE

Cost-Benefit Training in PR



With funds earmarked by Puerto Rico's disaster—(DR-1798-PR)— Region II's Hazard Mitigation Branch, together with the Hazard Mitigation Staff of the Governor's Authorized Representative's (GAR), trained Public Assistance applicants on Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) software last month in Guayama, Puerto Rico.

About 60 people attended the workshop, including GAR staff, representatives of the 26 municipalities declared disaster areas this past October; and representatives of nonprofit organizations, including the University of Puerto Rico. FEMA staff also participated.

All Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs, as well as other non-disaster-related mitigation funding, require that applicants perform cost-benefit analysis for their proposed projects to demonstrate if the projects are cost beneficial, and if whether it will avoid potential damage in the future.

The training topics were: BCA Tool Course Introduction and Review; Costs and Benefits of Mitigation Actions; FEMA BCA Overview Tool; Hurricane Wind Module BCA; Flood BCA Module, and Damage Assessment Frequency BCA Module.

EYES AND EARS OF R-II

Region II's Watch Operations is now on a 12/7 schedule, making it one of only two FEMA regions with that coverage. (Region III's Watch is 24/7.)

Since November 2007, the Region II Watch staff has gone from one full time employee to four. Watch Operations provides situational awareness for the Region.

THE ROLE OF TRUST



Michael Moriarty, Acting Regional Administrator

It runs throughout FEMA. It increases notably during a disaster. It empowers teamwork and makes sacrifice ordinary. We don't often talk about it; in fact, it often dissolves into irrelevance in speech. No, speaking of it doesn't bring it forth; it must demonstrate itself.

I'm talking about a truly essential ingredient in our work: trustworthiness. Reliability and dependability are sought by everyone with whom we work – by disaster victims and by Region II colleagues across divisions. We seek it from all levels and arms of government, just as they seek it from us.

And there is a special two-way demand for trust between managers and staff. An untrustworthy manager can't lead, just as a staffer who can't be relied upon will not be asked to play key roles.

Think about it: a trustworthy individual is a true Regional asset. Being reliable and dependable cannot really be encouraged; rather, it starts with individuals, and you either are, or you're not. If you are, you're tremendously valuable to others and you're likely to be emulated in turn by those who know you can be counted upon. In other words, reliability can spread of its own accord, as can teamwork, as can Regional effectiveness.

Each of us is aware how it feels to be regarded as dependable and reliable, just as we know how highly we regard those upon whom we can depend. I'm suggesting that we consider how trustworthiness can be contagious, elevating our effectiveness, in the office and in the field.

