

# The Region III Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III Information Source

Philadelphia, PA, November 13, 2002

## Reflections on the Year Past

As I come to the end of my tenure as Regional Director, I reflect on the accomplishments made during this challenging time. It has been a year of intense activity within the Regional Office and in the field.

Under President Bush's leadership, we have begun to confront new questions and responsibilities for homeland security. As I write these words, Region III is holding our first Homeland Security Summit. We are working with state and local officials to implement the President's bold new Citizen Corps initiative.

We have brought new emphasis to the job of keeping our staff and partners informed. We began bi-weekly publication of *The Region III Report*, sent to more than 1,000 federal, state and local partners, to help keep everyone informed of developments. We have just issued our year-end report, detailing our efforts and those of our federal, state and local partners.

We briefed more than 1,700 fire-department representatives on developing applications to the new Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. So far, 309 fire departments have received grants totaling more than \$20 million.

Our National Preparedness function became a separate division, and its staff of two has expanded to more than 20 professionals strengthening our ability to enhance state and local capability to respond to all hazards and specifically weapons of mass-destruction incidents.

All these new and special initiatives have come on top of our continuing efforts to help disaster victims recover and to reduce future risk. We managed four major disaster declarations, each with its own set of problems and, in many cases, creative solutions. Some of our achievements were remarkable, such as in Dante, Va., where efforts of the Public Assistance staff made it possible to rebuild the town's water distribution in six weeks – half the time local officials expected. In West Virginia, Human Services put together an ambitious mobile-home program for families displaced by the state's third flood in about a year.

This has been an exciting time for me. I am grateful to the President and Director Allbaugh for giving me this opportunity. I will remember this time even as I turn my attention to becoming a parent. I thank all of you for your efforts and support. Whatever your role in the emergency management system, your contributions are essential and appreciated. Thank you and good luck to you all.



*Regional Director  
Charlotte Herbert Mears*



### HOMELAND SECURITY SUMMIT

State, county and local emergency managers from the five Region III states and the District of Columbia convened in Philadelphia for a Senior Leaders Homeland Security Summit, sponsored by FEMA, RIII, Nov. 12 through 14 in Philadelphia. Discussions focused on threats from biological, agricultural and radiological and radiological hazards, working with the press, Citizen Corps Councils and Community Emergency Response Teams.

- **Under the Citizen Corps Umbrella:** Three communities in Region III have received Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) grants from the Department of Health and Human Services/Surgeon General's Office. Under the program, community-based organizations are to begin building local MRC units to help communities prepare for public-health emergencies. Grants were awarded to Delaware Health and Social Services in Dover, DE, \$47,240; Western Maryland Area Health Education Center in Cumberland, MD, \$50,000; and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster, PA, \$50,000. *For further information, go to [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov).*
- **Floyd Revisited in Franklin, VA:** Region III Mitigation Planner Stephanie Nixon participated in a panel discussion on Hurricane Floyd's impact on the city of Franklin in southeast Virginia. The Emergency Educational Network (EENET) will broadcast a videotape of the discussion at 2 p.m. on Dec 4. It highlights the consequences of the hurricane and addresses Hazard Mitigation (322) Plans, the importance of flood insurance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program buyouts and the city's recovery. Other panelists were Dan Sullivan and Cecilia Rosenberg, from the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration at FEMA headquarters, and Michelle Pope, from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. The program also includes a tape produced in 2000, that shows how the community of Franklin rebounded after catastrophic flooding. *For EENET schedules and satellite information, go to: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/eenet.htm>.*
- **Flood Maps Online:** If you need to view a flood map for a particular parcel, you can find it on the Internet if you know the property's street address. Start at the FEMA Internet homepage (<http://www.fema.gov/>) and select the "FEMA Flood Map Store" choice from the pictographic links on the left side of the screen. You need to log in only if you plan to buy paper maps or other physical matter. Choose "Map Search" in the "Three Ways to Get Maps" section on the right side of that page. Select Public Flood Map (Online) from the (1) Product menu, then type in the address particulars, and press the "go" button. Another window with information about that panel will open. If you click the "View" choice on the right, the map will appear. *For more information, call Michael Craghan at 215-931-5650.*
- **Fire Grants, Round 8:** More than \$3.3 million will be going to 54 fire departments in Region III states from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. FEMA and the U.S. Fire Administration announced grants to two departments in Maryland, 34 in Pennsylvania, 11 in Virginia and seven in West Virginia. The grant for Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety was \$200,754 to the Upper Leacock Fire Company in Leola, PA. Grants for vehicles were announced for the Saltville (VA) Volunteer Fire Department, \$261,000, and the Nutter Fort (WV) Volunteer Fire Department, \$135,000. To date, Region III states have received 309 grants totaling more than \$20.1 million. *For more information, call Phil Clark at 215-931-5716.*
- **Lessons to Learn:** Emergency preparedness and response lessons learned in one community may also work elsewhere, and FEMA has launched an initiative to gather and share the information. "Smart Practices" will be e-mailed to state and local partners in a weekly *Spotlight on Smart Practices* bulletin. The information also will be available on the FEMA Website [www.fema.gov/onp](http://www.fema.gov/onp). One example is the city of Pittsburgh. After the Sept. 11, 2001, crash of UAL Flight 93, Mayor Tom Murphy initiated a group, headed by the Pittsburgh Building Owners and Managers Association to study all hazards and prepare a new building ordinance that, among other things, mandates evacuation drills for building seven stories and higher. To submit an idea or subscribe to the publication, send an e-mail to [smartpractices@fema.gov](mailto:smartpractices@fema.gov). *For more information, call Debbie Garret Wing, 202-646-4600.*
- **Fiscal Year 2002 in Review:** *Accomplishments and Innovations*, FEMA Region III's annual report, has been published. The report documents the efforts of the Regional staff as well as some of the achievements of our federal, state and local partners in emergency management. It also lists the goals for the coming year. The report has been posted on the intranet, and a limited number of hard copies is available. *For more information, call Phil Clark at 215-931-5716.*

**More circulation:** *The Region III Report* is a vehicle for FEMA to share information with our federal, state and local partners and our full-time staff and reservists. Thank you for your comments and suggestions in our previous issues. Please send any additional email addresses or changes to [susan.greatorex@fema.gov](mailto:susan.greatorex@fema.gov). Send suggestions and story ideas to Bob Gunter or Phil Clark at [r3report@fema.gov](mailto:r3report@fema.gov).