



U.S. Department of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness & Response Directorate

Secretary Ridge unveils new DHS seal at Michigan ceremony

On June 19, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge unveiled the new department seal while speaking to 200 DHS employees at a ceremony in Selfridge, Michigan. The seal is symbolic of the department’s mission - to prevent attacks and protect Americans - on the land, in the sea and in the air.

In the center of the seal, a graphically styled white American eagle appears in a circular blue field. The eagle’s outstretched wings break through an inner red ring into an outer white ring that contains the words “U.S. DEPARTMENT OF” in the top half and “HOMELAND SECURITY” in the bottom half in a circular placement. The eagle’s wings break through the inner circle into the outer ring to suggest that the Department of Homeland Security will break through traditional bureaucracy and perform government functions differently. In the tradition of the Great Seal of the United States, the eagle’s talon on the left holds an olive branch with 13 leaves and 13 seeds while the eagle’s talon on the right grasps 13 arrows.

**DHS
Official Seal**



Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge unveils the new seal in Michigan.

Centered on the eagle’s breast is a shield divided into three sections containing elements that represent the American homeland - air, land, and sea. The top element, a dark blue sky, contains 22 stars representing the original 22 entities that have come together to form the department. The left shield element contains white mountains behind a green plain underneath a light blue sky. The right shield element contains four wave shapes representing the oceans alternating light and dark blue separated by white lines.

All 180,000 DHS employees will soon receive a DHS lapel pin and a personalized DHS certificate. The personalized certificate signifies that the employee was part of the Department of Homeland Security at its inception. The seal will ultimately be used on department materials, signage, credentials, badges, vehicles, sea vessels and aircraft.

Illinois and Region mitigators spawn mass library outreach plan

Ron Davis, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), initiated the idea of implementing a statewide mass-mailing of information related to windstorm mitigation techniques to the **700** library branches in Illinois. Since 1996, IEMA has partnered with communities and businesses to create four instructional products. Two technical windstorm mitigation manuals and two videos containing the same type of wind-resistant construction information have been developed within the State using FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds. The recent tornado activity in Illinois (DR-1469-IL) served as a catalyst to devise a system to ease accessibility of these various educational materials to all citizens. Ron Davis asked region Mitigation Specialist Rusty Rickart to assist with the distribution of copies of the manuals. Mitigation staff at the Disaster Field Office (DFO) expanded on the idea of adding several relevant FEMA publications including the latest Department of Homeland Security (DHS) **Are You Ready?** guide to citizen preparedness. They also came up with the idea of putting State specific materials on a Compact Disc.

A visit to the Illinois State Library (ISL) administration offices followed to discuss what is now known as the **Mitigation Outreach – Library Campaign** project. Mitigators and IEMA met with Mike Ragen (Chief Deputy Director, ISL) who was thrilled at the prospect of the State libraries having access to this type of information. Mr. Ragen also set aside our concerns as to whether library patrons would be able to use the CDs by indicating that all ISL system branches have computer capability. Buoyed by Mr. Ragen’s enthusiastic response, region mitigation staff began the process of making and duplicating a complete CD stockpile . Each CD contains 7 electronic files totaling 516 Megabytes (MB) in size.

Contents of Library Packet:

- 1- **Are You Ready? A Citizens Guide to Preparedness (FEMA / DHS)**
- 2- **Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room (FEMA)**
- 3- **Safe Room & Community Shelter Resource CD (FEMA)**
- 4- **Windstorm Mitigation Manual for Light Frame Construction**
- 5- **Companion Manual to Windstorm Mitigation Manual (architectural and construction drawings included)**
- 6- **Inland Wind Resistant Construction VHS Video**
- 7- **Winds of Change? The Urbana Project VHS Video**
- 8- **“Disaster Mitigation” CD (electronic files of the 2 Wind Manuals and 3 Videos)**

Region and IEMA staff agreed to coordinate with ISL to deliver 700 packets, each containing the information we want to distribute (containing 6 of the 8 items listed above) to their Springfield office. ISL will use their distribution system to get the books to all 700 library branches throughout Illinois at no cost to IEMA / FEMA. Mike Ragen estimates it will take approximately 4 weeks from the time he receives the materials to get the information on library shelves. “We certainly didn’t anticipate the ease of distribution and initially feared expensive mailing costs might squash the idea,” said Rusty Rickert.

“The innovative thinking and cooperation needed to bring this project about is a win win for everyone,” said Regional Director Ed Buikema. “I want to thank all those involved in the project, especially IEMA Director Bill Burke and the ISL people for their assistance and cooperation.”

Because the library did not have a surplus of VHS Video Tapes (6 & 7 above) in inventory it was decided to not make them a part of the initial **Mitigation Outreach – Library Campaign** effort. The team decided to insert a sticker in the front cover of the books (1-5 above) explaining how to access the manuals and tapes on the web as well as a contact name and phone number.

Region staff prepared mitigation packets for distribution to 700 Illinois public libraries. The project was initiated by Illinois Emergency Mgt. Agency (IEMA) and FEMA executed the plan



State Environmental Info Profiles Completed

An **Environmental Information Notebook** has been compiled for each state in FEMA Region V. Organized by Environmental DAE, Susan Cosier, the notebooks will assist staff in putting together 'Greenbooks' (pamphlets of environmental conditions particular to each State), in making accurate contacts and outlining state and federal regulations. Included in the binders are contacts for state agencies, regional contacts for federal agencies, tribal contacts, lists of endangered species by county, FEMA forms to be used at the DFO, maps, wild and scenic rivers, archaeological guidelines, the latest 'Greenbook', a community guide to disaster relief, and references as to where the reader can get the most up to date information.

It is anticipated the books will be used both at Disaster Field Offices (DFO) and within the regional office. The availability of the notebooks will also serve to assist other regions in turnkey operations and will shorten the timeframe needed to organize environmental response operations. Some of this information has also been put on readily transportable disks. For additional information, please contact Jeanne Millin, Regional Environmental Officer at 312-408-5540.

Regional Director's Message



Edward G. Buikema

The recent TOPOFF-2 exercise was a unique opportunity to see how top officials at the local, county, state and federal levels would work together during a major terrorism incident. The purpose of TOPOFF-2 was to measure our ability to communicate effectively, exercise proper command and control of diverse agencies, and do so under an ever changing scenario.

Recently, region staff and I, along with more than 150 others, participated in an after action conference at DHS headquarters to discuss things we learned in TOPOFF-2. The discussions were productive and frank. Findings will be publicized by the Office of Domestic Preparedness later this year. As for the region's role in TOPOFF-2, I want to again thank those who participated for your focus, dedication, and hard work before and during the exercise.

As we move forward, the things we learned in TOPOFF-2 should inspire us to continue the preparedness efforts we need to sustain at every level. The experience gained in TOPOFF-2 will serve us well in planning and training for future events.

Illinois Firefighters get first of 2003 Grant awards



Left to right are Village President Rae Rupp-Srch, Lt. Lou Vicelli, Firefighter Jamie Bickley, Chief Robert Wilson and FEMA Regional Director Ed Buikema.

Firefighters from the Village of Villa Park, Illinois received some good news that is sure to help them breathe easier, literally, thanks to the Department of Homeland Security. The village was among the first to receive a grant to upgrade their 37 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units. FEMA Regional Director Ed Buikema held a press conference on June 12 to announce the award of \$160,000 to Villa Park as part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, under which fire departments receive direct funding to purchase and upgrade equipment or provide training and fire prevention programs.

“Providing these funds to local fire departments puts the resources and tools into the hands of the community’s first responder men and women,” said Regional Director Buikema. Village President Rae Rupp-Srch began the press conference by thanking FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security for the badly needed funds.

“We are thrilled and excited to receive the award to provide equipment that our small community with limited resources and a tight budget could not otherwise afford,” said Village President Rupp-Srch.

Villa Park is a community of 22,000 people, located twenty miles west of downtown Chicago. The department has 24 full-time firefighters, and the village has a combination of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings.



Illinois Disaster Field Office closes after tornado recovery effort

The Springfield, Illinois Disaster Field Office (DFO) opened in May for DR-1469 was closed Friday, June 20. The DFO was opened to assist the state with recovery operations following severe thunderstorms and tornadoes affecting 15 counties in the central and southern portions of the state.

Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) Ron Sherman was pleased with the smooth recovery effort for DR-1469. “The state provided excellent leadership and support of FEMA, and their cooperation is greatly appreciated,” said Sherman. The disaster resulted in nearly 1,000 teleregistrations, and 575 resident visits to the Disaster Recovery Centers. In all, 1.3 million dollars was disbursed for Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance, and over 8.5 million dollars in SBA loans were approved. A total of 26 travel trailers were provided to temporarily house some residents until their homes can be repaired.

Community Relations officer Jim Mason (left) talks with a resident outside the Disaster Recovery Center in Lima, Illinois. Community Relations field teams distributed over 11,000 fliers in fifteen counties following the tornado disaster.



RISC Subcommittee focuses on flood issues

On June 19, the Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) Mitigation Subcommittee held its second meeting. Represented on the Subcommittee were the American Red Cross (ARC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the Minnesota Division of Emergency Management (MDEM).

Jack Arnold of the EDA set the tone for the meeting by discussing the interagency coordination that took place during the “Great Midwestern Flood of 1993” and the “1997 Red River of the North Flood.” Members of the subcommittee discussed their respective agency’s capabilities for facilitating coordination on mitigation activities.

The group conducted a conference call regarding the closed-basin flooding at Shell Lake, Wisconsin, with the Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management (WDEM), to discuss any assistance the agencies could provide to resolve issues facing the community and WDEM. Ron Connor of the USACE Institute of Water Resources proposed the agencies work together, with FEMA and USACE as the leads, to arrange a workshop on Presenting One Federal Face to local communities.

The agencies all thought the workshop was a good idea and should be pursued. Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division Director Norbert Schwartz closed the meeting by reviewing a list of follow up items to be pursued by the Sub-Committee in the future. The next meeting will be held on September 18, 2003.

Mega-Cities conference promotes urban Citizen Corps efforts

FEMA Headquarters hosted a Citizen Corps “Mega-Cities” conference in New York City on June 17-18, 2003

The Conference focused on large metropolitan areas and addressed the unique issues these cities encounter in efforts to implement Citizen Corps and preparedness planning. Some of the issues are: high-density residential areas, critical infrastructure, high-density business areas, mixed-use space, school system and private sector participation, special needs populations, and language barriers. Discussions also focused on setting up Citizen Corps Councils for an entire urban area to include multiple Councils within a County or City.

Seventeen cities were represented at the conference including: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York City, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, San Juan, Seattle, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C. Representatives from the states where the cities are located as well as FEMA Regional Citizen Corps Program Coordinators from each of the 10 regions also attended. Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R), addressed the participants. R. David Paulison, Preparedness Director in EP&R also attended. Ron Christi attended on behalf of The White House and USA Freedom Corps.



Experts from the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program and Neighborhood Watch, sponsored by the Department of Justice; the Medical Reserve Corps, sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Service; and FEMA’s Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training program also shared lessons learned in implementing the programs in a large urban environment.

Interagency COOP meeting emphasizes effective planning

Members of several federal and local agencies attended a Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan Seminar held June 17 in Chicago. The purpose of the seminar was to highlight essential elements for developing a plan to notify and alert employees of an emergency and possible actions they need to take.

Region Public Affairs Officer Linda Sacia spoke at the seminar during the session entitled Planning for Inter-Agency Emergency Communication. “In a disaster, people will follow instructions if they’ve grown to trust the source and the instructions are clear and well formulated”, Sacia told the 35 attendees.

The planning session of the seminar addressed the need for federal and local agencies to communicate to their employees during and after an emergency, coordinate response actions, alert others of potential risks and obtain assistance and support.

Participants in the COOP Seminar included the Federal Executive Board (FEB) of Chicago, U.S. Postal Service, City of Chicago, and the General Services Administration (GSA) who hosted the seminar. The COOP Seminar was designed for Federal personnel tasked with emergency preparedness responsibilities for their organizations.

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