

the PS7 REVIEW

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Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII

Private Sector

All-Hazards Planners Strengthen Tribal Partnerships

FEMA Region VII response planners, Patrick Lindner and Adrian Walker, strengthened ongoing partnerships with federally recognized Tribes during meetings this month to discuss the core capabilities of all-hazards response planning. The meetings were part of the regional all-hazards planning process to integrate Federal, Tribal, and State operations across the Region to better respond to disasters.

While all-hazards planning concepts are not new, this new initiative is designed to address the core capabilities of disaster response -- one of the key mission areas identified in Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 8 which takes aim at strengthening disaster resiliency across the whole community.

The Regional All-Hazards Plan will also establish Federal, Tribal, and State responsibilities and identify resources and personnel to execute response objectives. Tribal communities often have capabilities that can

Plan focuses primarily on the first 72 hours of a response, and may now include a new Tribal annex. It also attempts to identify transition points to long-term recovery and the mitigation of future hazards.

“The meetings with all nine of the Region VII federally recognized Tribes were professionally facilitated by our senior planners,” said FEMA Region VII Tribal Liaison Scott Weinberg. “Meeting with our tribal partners like this helps FEMA to be better prepared, no matter what crisis we may face together down the line.”

During the meetings, a considerable amount of information was obtained from each Tribe on its core response capabilities -- such as Communications, search and rescue operations and Public Health resources -- as well as demographic information regarding housing, population and employment. Each Tribe was given ample opportunity to express concerns, provide suggestions and ask many questions. The number one concern from the Tribes was the status of the amendment to the Stafford Act which would allow Tribes to request directly a disaster declaration by the President, instead of through a State.

As of this writing, as part of the Hurricane Sandy aid package, the tribal amendment has been sent by Congress to the President for his signature. Region VII will keep Tribes apprised of regulations and procedures associated with the amendment.



FEMA Region VII Senior Planner Patrick Lindner (right) and Kickapoo Chairman Steve Cadue strengthen partnership for all-hazards planning. FEMA photo.

New Law Opens Doors for Women-owned Small Businesses

Women-owned small businesses will have greater access to federal contracting opportunities as a result of changes included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013 (NDAA) to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program.

"This new law is a prime example of how the Obama Administration is embracing a more inclusive view of entrepreneurship, helping small businesses and America succeed," said SBA Administrator Karen Mills.

U.S. Small Business Administration



Your Small Business Resource

"Today, women own 30 percent of all small businesses up from just 5 percent 40 years ago," Mills added. "As one of the fastest growing sectors of small business owners in the country, opening the door for women to compete for more federal contracts is a win-win."

The NDAA removes the anticipated award price of the contract thresholds for women-owned small businesses (WOSB) and economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses (EDWOSB) to allow them greater access to federal contracting opportunities without limitations to the size of the contract.

Prior to the new law, the anticipated award price of the contract for women-owned and economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses could not exceed \$6.5 million for manufacturing contracts and \$4 million for all other contracts.

The Women's Federal Contract Program allows contracting officers to set aside specific contracts for certified WOSBs and EDWOSBs and will help federal agencies achieve the existing statutory goal of five percent of federal contracting dollars being awarded to WOSBs.

The law also requires the SBA to conduct another study to identify and report industries underrepresented by women-owned small businesses. As a result, more eligible women-owned businesses may be able to participate in SBA's Women's Federal Contract Program and compete for and win federal contracts.

The SBA is working with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy under the President's Office of Management and Budget on the implementation including changes to the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

Every firm that wishes to participate in the WOSB program must meet the eligibility requirements and either self-certify or obtain third party certification. There are four approved third-party certifiers that perform eligibility exams: El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, National Women Business Owners Corporation, U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the Women's Business Enterprise National Council. Additional information and links about approved third-party certifiers are available at www.sba.gov/wosb.

To qualify as a WOSB, a firm must be at least fifty-one percent owned and controlled by one or more women, and primarily managed by one or more women. The women must be U.S. citizens and the firm must be considered small according to SBA size standards. To be deemed "economically disadvantaged," a firm's owners must meet specific financial requirements set forth in the program regulations.

The WOSB Program identifies eighty-three four-digit North American Industry Classification Systems (NAICS) codes where WOSBs are underrepresented or substantially underrepresented. Contracting officers may set aside contracts in these industries if the contract can be awarded at a fair and reasonable price and the contracting officer has a reasonable expectation that two or more WOSBs or EDWOSBs will submit offers for the contract.

For more information on the Women-Owned Small Business Program or to access the instructions, applications or database, please visit www.sba.gov/wosb. *To learn more about doing business with FEMA, log on to <http://www.fema.gov/grants>.*

(Source: SBA Press Release Jan. 17. 2013)

Rutgers Report Says NJ Economic Recovery Possible But Only if Resources Offset Expenditures

A new report by economists from Rutgers University, titled “The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey,” suggests that economic recovery in the state depends on resources to offset recovery and reconstruction costs. The researchers used a Rutgers economic model called R/ECON which has been used to forecast the New Jersey economy since 1992. The model consists of more than 250 quarterly time-series equations and 30 employment sectors. The analysis takes into account both the economic losses resulting from the hurricane *and* the offsetting positive economic impacts associated with recovery and reconstruction spending in the months and years following the storm.

The analysis finds that, following heavy losses in state GDP, employment, and income in the fourth quarter of 2012, the state economy will rebound significantly, with economic activity exceeding the baseline forecast for 2013–2015. This finding is based on estimated initial economic losses of approximately \$11.7 billion in state gross domestic product (state GDP) and total recovery and reconstruction expenditures of approximately \$25.1 billion through 2015. This does not include damages to physical structures. Estimated *net* impacts (i.e., those that take the full recovery expenditures into account) include:

- State GDP losses of \$7.1 billion in the final quarter of 2012, followed by annual gains of \$2.5 billion (2013), \$1.7 billion (2014), and \$0.7 billion (2015) relative to baseline;
- Employment losses of 4,200 jobs in Q4 2012, followed by employment levels of 2,000, 5,600, and 4,900 above baseline in 2013, 2014, and 2015;
- Personal income \$1 billion below baseline in Q4 2012, followed by levels \$300 million or more above baseline in 2013–2015;
- A loss of approximately \$82 million in state tax revenue in Q4 2012, followed by modest gains above baseline in 2013–2015.

These estimates, while showing modest *net* positive impacts on the macroeconomic performance of the state’s economy in the years following the storm, are in no way meant to imply that New Jersey has benefited, or will benefit, from the storm. The damages, both human and economic, are enormous and real. What is not yet real and accomplished is the spending of the necessary resources to fully repair and rebuild. *Only if the state obtains the resources* needed to fund the offsetting recovery and reconstruction expenditures will the substantial negative economic and fiscal impacts of the storm be neutralized over time. The full report is available at:

<http://policy.rutgers.edu/reports/rrr/RRR34jan13.pdf>.

CONGRESS APPROVES \$51 BILLION IN AID FOR HURRICANE SANDY RECOVERY

Congress gave final approval January 28 to an emergency aid package of nearly \$51 billion to help Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts. The aid package comes on top of nearly \$10 billion that Congress approved earlier in January to support the recovery efforts in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and other states that were battered by the hurricane in late October.

The money will provide aid to people whose homes were damaged or destroyed. It will also pay for replenishing shorelines, repairing subway and commuter rail systems, fixing bridges and tunnels, and reimbursing local governments for emergency spending.

Leaders from storm-damaged states welcomed the vote in the Senate, though the aid package does not cover the entire \$82 billion in damage that the governors of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut identified in aid requests to Washington.

(Sources: New York Times and other sources.)

Mark Your Calendars: February Means Earthquake Preparedness

It's been 201 years since a series of major earthquakes caused widespread damage in the Central U.S. and experts believe there is a high likelihood the New Madrid Seismic Zone will create another major earthquake during the next 35 years. For this reason, on February 7, 2013, thousands of individuals, including many from Missouri schools, child care centers, businesses, federal and state agencies, tribes, and other organizations, will participate in the third annual Great Central U.S. Shakeout earthquake drill.

Get involved! Register your family or organization for the Shakeout today, at <http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>. Then, for about five minutes, starting at 10:15 a.m. CDT, join more than 372,000 Missourians and 2.2 million people from other participating states, as they "Drop Cover and Hold On" to rehearse what they would in the event of another major earthquake.

February is also Earthquake Preparedness Month in Missouri. Visit their website, at <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/>.

You may be interested in registering for the *Earthquakes: Mean Business* conference in St. Louis on Friday, February 1, 2013. Get information at <http://www.event.com/events/earthquakes-mean-business-2013/agenda-7ae1996d03d447ac8be62f65ade33384.aspx>.

Learn about the New Madrid Seismic Zone, visit http://sema.dps.mo.gov/earthquake_preparedness/. Then make an earthquake preparedness plan with info on Ready.gov/earthquakes.



Images above on the New Madrid Earthquake of 1811-1812.



In the past ten years, earthquakes have claimed more than 500,000 human lives worldwide.

EARTHQUAKES: MEAN BUSINESS

20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ST. LOUIS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2013

8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, LOG ON TO:

<http://www.event.com/events/earthquakes-mean-business-2013/agenda-7ae1996d03d447ac8be62f65ade33384.aspx>