

R2 -WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume 1, Issue 14

April 24, 2009

REGION II 'ALL HANDS' MEETING



'ALL HANDS ON DECK'; CAD WAS ON THE PHONE

ALL STAFF GATHER FOR UPDATES

Attendance was high and the crowd was enthusiastic at Region II's first "All Hands" meeting of the year.

In addition to presenting "Government Service" awards to Joe Galinis (25 years), Russell Fox (15 years) and Adie Koby (10 years), Acting Regional Administrator Mike Moriarty spelt out his expectations for staff during hurricane season.

"As much as we tell our state partners to prepare, we need to prepare too. Make arrangements for pets, let your spouse and children know you may be away for a couple of weeks if you are deployed," Mike advised the crowd.

"No matter what your job title is, you are an emergency manager, and you have to be prepared to go if you are needed," Mike said.

Mike also fielded questions, some of which — ironically — from PFTs who felt their time in the field was too circumscribed. "Regional assets may be needed at the start of a disaster, but it's the DAEs job to man the JFOs," he said.

Throughout his presentation, Mike emphasized the importance of aligning Region II not only with HQ's vision and priorities but also those of an administration that has put transparency and efficient government service at the top of its agenda. In fact, he emphasized this many times.

DAE Paul Tashjian, lauded the event, saying it was necessary right now, with so many things happening in the Region. "With 'The Book' coming out, and all the new faces in the Region, it was good to get everyone together, to get everyone the same page," Paul said.

REP's Brian Hasemann concurred and said, "We need to do these types of things more often." In fact, quarterly 'All-Hands' meetings are planned.



TRANSPARENCY: BUZZ WORD OR POSITIVE BUZZ?

By Ken Curtin

"Transparency," the President said the day after his inauguration, "promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their government is doing." He also called for greater collaboration between government agencies to "actively engage Americans in the work of their government."

This came to mind as I listened to RA Mike Moriarty's "transparency" mantra at the All Hands meeting this week. Nurturing the public's trust requires transparency and is, simply, essential to our being effective. If we fail to communicate clearly and fully with the public or actively engage our colleagues and partners, we also increase our own workloads.

There's a lot riding on being transparent — our credibility, for instance. If we're unclear or ambiguous, we don't provide answers. This breeds distrust. When we are distrusted by the people we serve, providing assistance is an uphill battle, and more, unnecessary work. And — something none of us needs — our reputation becomes an issue.

Often, our collaboration with other divisions is essential to providing *complete* answers to our many audiences, whether it's NJOEM, SEMO, a constituent, or the Russian OEM team Mike addressed several weeks ago.

Transparency and genuine collaboration between divisions: these are undeniable goods. The challenge is to turn them from goals to guidelines. When that happens, we'll all have that positive buzz.

'BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK' DAY AT R-2



From left, Theo Joseph with grandson Elijah; Kevin Malone with daughter Sheila; Craig Caggiano with wife and daughter Destiny.

Se habla Español

Working with HQ's External Affairs-Multilingual group, a team from Region II's Caribbean Area Division (CAD) is updating and revamping FEMA's Spanish language website.

The goal is to have the new site mirror FEMA's English language site, offering the same features and services to our Spanish speaking customers.

CAD Public Affairs Supervisor Ana Morales is leading the review of the PA program section. Translations are being done by the CAD's External Affairs staff.

Muy Buenas Noticias!

