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Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:29 PM
Subject: FEMA Region II Individual and Community Preparedness Bulletin

Individual and Community Preparedness Bulletin
Volume 3, Issue 3 January 31, 2018
In this issue:
- Meet the FEMA R2 RA (Page 1)
- Then and Now in R2 (Page 2)
- Coming Soon in R2 (Pages 2-3)
- Important Deadlines (Page 4)
- FEMA News (Pages 4-5)
- Other News (Page 5)
- Emergency Preparedness Tips (Page 6)
- Trainings (Page 7)
- Webinars (Page 8)
- Must Reads (Pages 9-10)
Meet the FEMA RII Regional Administrator - Tom Von Essen

Q - How did your previous career as FDNY Commissioner of the City of New York prepare you for your current position as FEMA Region II Regional Administrator?
A – Having spent 32 years working with, and later honored to lead people who care about helping others. People who believe in hard work and sacrifice and who really want to make a difference has prepared me to lead the emergency responders of FEMA Region II.

Q - What person, historical or personal, had the greatest influence on your decision to become a firefighter?
A – There really isn’t anyone who influenced my decision to become a firefighter. I was coming out of the Navy with two kids and was looking for a job that would allow me to finish college. I found out that I really enjoyed the physical challenges of the job and the camaraderie of the men which led me to stay after I finished college.

Q - Define what a great leader is, and the traits they possess.
A - I believe a great leader is someone who never asks someone else to do something he isn’t prepared to do himself. A great leader has respect for those he leads, is empathetic and isn’t afraid to make decisions based on the best information available at that time.

Q - What advice can you offer someone interested in starting a career in Emergency Management?
A - You will never get rich doing it. Do it because you like helping people, there is a very real opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives. Do it because you care.

Q - How would you compare the disasters in PR and USVI to a similar disaster you experienced in NYC while FDNY Commissioner?
A – Every disaster is different. While I was commissioner there were fires, building collapses and power outages. Each event is unique. During 9/11 many people died including 343 of my firefighters. The loss of life is so emotional. During Irma and Maria there were lives lost across the islands and hundreds of thousands of people were impacted by the loss of jobs, homes and personal possessions, much of which can never be replaced.
Q - Tell us something about yourself that we wouldn’t find out about you anywhere else?
A - On January 21, 2018 I celebrated my 50th wedding anniversary and I love spending time with my nine grandchildren!

Q - If you could spend the day with 2 people from the past, present, or future, who would you spend the day with and why?
A – The first person I would like to spend the day with is Pope Francis because he is the kind of Pope we need to lead the church. The second person would be Robert Gates because he has found a way to work with politicians of both parties at the highest level, the malfeasance of Congress, and he has done it without showing how painful it must have been dealing with the dishonesty on a daily basis. I have lots of respect for him.

Q - If you could offer our readers ONE preparedness tip, what would it be?
A - The best advice I can offer is to always think about how would I get out of here if there was a fire or other incident, whether you are in the subway or movie theater or night club. Know where the exits are located at school, at work and the places you visit. It can save your life.

Q - Last words and final thoughts?
A – I am so honored to be working with folks whose mission is pure. I am proud to be a part of FEMA Region II.

Then and Now

On January 25, 2018, FEMA Region II sponsored a Long-Term Power Outage Continuity of Operations Workshop. The intent of this workshop was to promote preparedness among public and private entities when faced with a long-term power outage caused by a cyberattack.

With about 140 persons in attendance, the workshop began with a presentation from Dan Taft of Con Edison in which he showcased the power grid of New York City and its significance. Concerned about the possibility of a cyberattack, Taft appreciated the proactive discussions on the topic.

Through exercises on potential scenarios of a long-term power outage, individuals conversed about how their company or organization would act during each situation. Many stated that the exercises were insightful and helped them think of what could be done if such an incident should occur. FEMA Region II will develop and distribute an after action report (AAR) once all five workshops are completed. The next workshop is scheduled in Region I (Boston) in Spring 2018.
Mayors and community leaders across New Jersey have taken up the challenge of addressing climate change and implementing sustainability practices at a local level. Please join them to discuss what we must achieve locally, and understand the specific steps we can take today to succeed. It is vital for our mayors and communities to take a leading role in preserving the environment and protecting the public health of our citizens. The day will consist of three panels of experts, resource organizations, and local leaders discussing a pathway forward to enable New Jersey to succeed in meeting the challenges presented by climate change. This event is hosted by Mayor Phil Kramer of Franklin Township, Mayor Bruce A. Harris of Chatham Borough, and brought to you by NJ League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy, and Sustainable Jersey.

**Saturday, February 3, 2018, 8:30am - 1:30pm EST**

Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy
33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
**REGISTER** - Early Bird: $10 before January 29

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**Exercise Design Course**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region II will be conducting training for emergency exercise design and evaluation (a combination of FEMA Courses I-120 and L-146). The course is a 4 day program which focuses on the design phase of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

**Course details:**
Emergency managers, emergency services personnel, and other individuals who are part of the emergency preparedness and response or continuity of operations need to be able to use the fundamentals of exercise simulation and design as an integrated system of resources and capabilities. Skills learned during this program will enable jurisdictions to conduct NIMS required exercises.

The course will develop emergency response and continuity exercise skills in the following areas:
- Exercise programs
- Exercise process
- Exercise design steps
- Tabletop, functional and full-scale exercises
- Exercise evaluation
- Exercise enhancements
- Designing a functional exercise

The course will conclude with students conducting and evaluating actual tabletop and functional exercises in a group/team environment.
Target Audience:
The target audience is any official having direct responsibility for developing and conducting emergency response or continuity exercises.

Dates/Location/Registration

| March 5-8, 2018 | Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center  
53 Academy Dr, Westampton, NJ 08060 | Contact Charles Coleman to register, Charles.coleman@njcourts.gov |

Important Deadlines

Register Today for 2018 National CERT Conference!

Registration is now open for the 2018 National CERT Conference being held in Naples, FL on August 23-25, 2018. Register for the conference and reserve your hotel room today! Need additional info on the conference? Visit www.flacertassociation.org to learn more.

FEMA Announces Notice of Funding Opportunity for Assistance to Firefighter Grants

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Jan. 8 announced that the annual funding opportunity for the Fiscal Year 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) is now open, and the application period will close on Fiscal Year 2017 AFG program will the public and firefighters against FEMA has awarded $7.1 billion in toward purchasing personal operational equipment. Applicant the FEMA website, The Get Ready applicants. For fire departments/applicants requiring assistance please visit www.fema.gov/grants, or contact the AFG Help Desk at firegrants@fema.gov or 1-866-274-0960.

FEMA News

Individual and Community Preparedness Division: Free Preparedness Resources

Renew your preparedness program for the New Year with free preparedness materials. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individual and Community Preparedness Division offers print
materials at no cost. These include Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Manuals, Youth Preparedness Curriculum, and other preparedness resources. Here are a few tips to help you with your order:

- Use the Individual and Community Preparedness Print Publications form to make orders by email, mail, phone or fax.
- Some publications have order limits. If you are interested in ordering more than the limit, provide a brief description as to your need for the publication.
- CERT publications that specify ‘All Orders Require Approval’ mean that you must have a registered CERT team to receive these publications.

Other News

NFPA 3000 Standard for Preparedness and Response to Active Shooter Events Available for Public Comment

The National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) Standards Council, which recently voted to develop a standard for emergency preparedness and response to active shooter events, is seeking public comments by February 23, 2018. The provisional standard is designated as NFPA 3000, Standard for Preparedness and Response to Active Shooter and/or Hostile Events. The fact sheet and NFPA 3000 decision can be accessed from the NFPA 3000 web page. To review the preliminary standard and submit online comments, click on “Submit Public Input Online.”

CDC Investigation Announcement Regarding a Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Infections Linked to Raw Sprouts

CDC has announced along with officials in several states announced and the FDA that they are investigating an outbreak of Salmonella infections linked to raw sprouts throughout multiple states. Eight people have been reported sick from Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. No deaths or hospitalizations have been reported. The most recent illness began on January 3, 2018. Ill people reported eating raw sprouts at Jimmy John’s restaurants in Illinois and Wisconsin, so the CDC recommends that people do NOT eat raw sprouts served at Jimmy John’s restaurants in those two states.

Emergency Services Sector Profile

The Department of Homeland Security, as the Emergency Services Sector-Specific Agency (ES SSA), has compiled the Emergency Services Sector Profile to present a picture of the Emergency Services Sector (ESS) as a whole and open an avenue to greater federal and sector partner coordination regarding emergency services discipline definitions; national census and data collection methods; and community awareness of capabilities, dependencies, and interdependencies. The Emergency Services Sector Profile can be found here.
Emergency Preparedness Tips

FEMA REGION II
FLU PREPAREDNESS TIP

- Take time to get a flu vaccine every year.
- Use injectable vaccines during 2017-2018 and avoid the nasal spray.
- Wash your hands often or use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect objects that could carry germs.
- While sick, stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone.

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/consumer/prevention.htm

FEMA Region II
Snow Shoveling Tips

- Follow your doctor’s advice about whether you should be shoveling snow.
- Push the snow, do not lift it.
- Dress warmly and work slowly.
- Stay dry.
- Persistent shivering is a signal to return indoors.
- Keep your steps and walkways free of ice by using rock salt or similar.
Emergency Management Institute Emmitsburg, MD

**Fiscal Year 2019 Community-Specific**
Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) Application Process

**Purpose:** To provide an overview of the Community-Specific Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) Application Process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. The deadline for applying to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) for a community-specific IEMC in FY2019 is February 1, 2018. Applications must be submitted to your respective FEMA Region by this date. Read more in Training Bulletin 1368.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Disaster Technical Assistance Center

**Taking Care of Our Own: First Responder Self-Care**
Free online course offered by the SAMHSA DTAC.

**Purpose:** To provide law enforcement officers with a foundational behavioral health skill set to better understand and address the stressors that are unique to law enforcement. Viewers will learn to recognize signs and symptoms of stress, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and suicidal thoughts and actions. This course will suggest ways to develop and build resiliency and offer tips on where and how to seek help, if it is needed. Read more here.

**Creating Safe Scenes Training Course**
Free online course offered by the SAMHSA DTAC.

**Purpose:** To help police, fire, and emergency medical services personnel respond to calls involving someone experiencing a mental health and/or substance use (behavioral health) crisis. Creating Safe Scenes presents information about mental illnesses, substance use disorders, and trauma; offers guidance on de-escalating scenes with an individual in crisis; provides tips for connecting people with resources in their community; and identifies resources for learning more about these topics.

**Save the Date – 43rd Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop**

Please mark your calendars for the 43rd Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, which will be held July 8-11, 2018 in Broomfield, Colorado.

As the many recent disasters have illustrated so vividly, there is still much work to be done to mitigate risk, improve response, and ensure that recovery is done in a just and equitable way. We hope that you will be a part of this conversation.
Additionally, researchers and those interested in learning about the latest research findings will want to note that the Natural Hazards Center is co-convening a researcher add-on meeting on July 11-12.

**Webinars**

**Safer Internet Day**  
February 6, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. CST

Safer Internet Day 2018. This year's theme is "Create, connect and share respect: A better Internet starts with you." Students and industry leaders will collaborate to find answers to some of today's toughest questions about technology, social media, and our everyday connected life. Safer Internet Day will be livestreamed from Austin, TX at the following link: http://saferinternetday.us/livestream/.

**Agility Recovery: 2017 Year in Review**  
February 7, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. EST

Natural disasters dominated headlines in 2017. While enduring fires and floods, as well as other isolated yet equally devastating business interruptions, business leaders faced dire consequences if they failed to resume critical processes. How did these businesses stay afloat? Join the Agility Recovery webinar to hear about their customers’ survival stories—and the lessons they learned in the process—to gain the tools necessary to prepare your business for whatever 2018 throws your way. Save your spot for this free webinar.

**FEMA Emergency Management Institute - Weekly EMI e-Forums Wednesdays in February from 3:00–4:00 pm EDT**

EMI e-Forums are 1-hour, moderated, webinar discussion forums that provide an opportunity for EMI and the emergency management community to discuss matters of interest on national preparedness training and exercise. EMI e-Forums facilitate a discussion of whole community-presented best practices. The panel members are whole community, with topics relevant to whole community. These exchanges of ideas are free of charge and available to anyone who wishes to participate.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td><em>Training and Exercise Planning Workshop: Best Practices for Preparation</em></td>
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February 21       Healthcare Facility Emergency Management. Is it really a different animal?  
Best Practices in the Healthcare Community  
February 28       X, Y, Z Learning: Bridging the Gap in Multigenerational Classrooms

**Login link:** https://fema.connectsolutions.com/emieforums  
**Conference call-in:** 800-320-4330, PIN 107622

### ADA National Network/FEMA: Review of Emergency Preparedness Litigation

February 8, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. EST

In this session, Barry Taylor will discuss how the courts have interpreted the application of the ADA and other civil rights laws to the issue of emergency preparedness. He will also review the implementation of various emergency preparedness settlements across the country.

**Learning objectives:**  
- Understand how the courts have viewed emergency preparedness cases with regard to the ADA.  
- Learn about the implementation of various emergency preparedness settlements across the country.

Register here before February 7th, 2018 at midnight.

### Sharing Inclusive Practices and Approaches to Prepare Communities for Disasters: Core Advisory Group Webinar

February 12, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. EST

FEMA Region II and FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division invites you to this webinar, which will feature a discussion about best practices, lessons learned, and challenges for individuals with access and/or functional needs during the response and recovery phases of disaster. It will feature Core Advisory Groups (CAGs), which consist of individuals with access and/or functional needs, FEMA personnel, local emergency managers, and other concerned stakeholders who work together to bring about change in how emergency services are provided. The webinar will offer captioning.

To join the webinar:  
- Register for the event using the Adobe Connect registration link.  
- Be sure to test your Adobe Connect connection prior to the meeting.

### Must Reads

**Nursing Homes Need Improved Emergency Plans, But Who Will Verify Them?**

Two months before a dozen residents died in sweltering heat at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, the now-shuttered nursing home submitted a plan to county administrators to show the facility could handle crises like a missing resident or a hurricane. The 43-page emergency management plan had errors: typos and an outdated hurricane drill copied and pasted from the previous year.
Security at the Speed of Life

Everyone wants to be safe and secure, but can you imagine if you had to go through a security screening at the metro station like there is at the airport? What if there were a way to safely scan crowds for potential threat items in places like metro and train stations without security officials coming into direct contact with the public and while maintaining individual privacy?

What We Can Learn From the Recent Tsunami Evacuations

While no significant tsunami developed following the magnitude 7.9 earthquake that rocked the Gulf of Alaska early Tuesday morning, residents in vulnerable coastal locations in southern Alaska, the Aleutian Islands and British Columbia evacuated to higher ground, just as many of them had practiced previously.

Baltimore CBP Seizes Nearly 3,000 Counterfeit Stainless Steel Sinks

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Baltimore recently seized 2,990 stainless steel sinks for displaying a counterfeit UPC shield design that, if authentic, would have a suggested retail price of approximately $1.1 million. The shipment of sinks arrived in Baltimore from Malaysia and was headed to an address in Maryland. Read more here.