

The Region III Report

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

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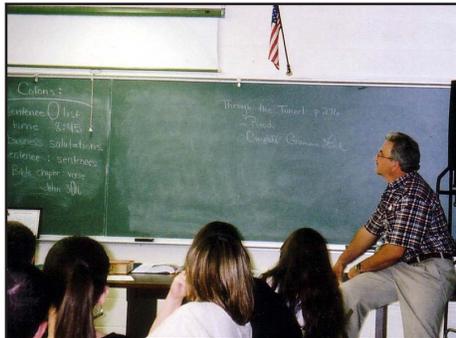
VA Schools Testing Disaster-Training CD

Virginia teachers will be the first to try out a new way to access important disaster-mitigation information for their students.

Teachers from Wise, Scott and Lee counties and the city of Norton, VA, will test a CD put out this week by FEMA Region III's Federal Insurance and Mitigation (FIM) Division.

Floods in southwestern Virginia communities caused extensive damage – enough for two Presidential disaster declarations this year. During the recovery, local, state and federal workers saw a need to help individuals and communities cope with disasters and to limit future damage. The new CD contains disaster-response and mitigation information. It also provides links to other documents available on the web.

“This has been a team effort with the Commonwealth and FEMA. The Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation



In times of disaster, FEMA representatives are often asked to speak to classes and community groups.

have been involved in developing this CD,” FIM Team Leader Gene Marrone said. “We have been working together to making this CD as useful as possible. For example, the material is organized by grade level – from kindergarten to vocational/adult learner.”

“We are excited that background materials ...and other useful documents will be readily available,” said James C. Firebaugh Jr., of the Virginia Department of Education. Danny Dixon, Scott County Public Schools director of instruction, called disaster education efforts “a timely and urgent matter.”

Take the Time to be Prepared

We've gained an hour returning to standard time this week, and Citizen Corps leaders have suggestions on what you can do in an hour or less to better prepare for disasters:

- Update your list of emergency numbers
- Organize and practice a family fire drill.
- Locate the utility mains (gas, electricity and water) for your home and be sure you know how to turn them off manually.
- Create an emergency plan for your household, including your pets. Decide where your family will meet if a disaster does happen.
- Prepare a three-day disaster supply kit – flashlights, batteries, blankets and an emergency supply of water and food for you and your pet.
- Visit with neighbors and discuss how you would handle a disaster in your area.

For more information, go to the Citizen Corps link on www.fema.gov.

Two Join RIII Staff



Houtz



Bainbridge

The FEMA Region III Office in Philadelphia gained two staff members recently.

Susan Houtz, Program Services Specialist in the Administration and Resource Planning Division, has “boomeranged completely” with a move from Cody, WY, back to her hometown of Secane, Delaware County, PA.

Susan, who has 15 years of federal service, was a budget analyst for the USDA Forest Service in Shohone National Forest. Her new job with FEMA includes records management.

Lori Bainbridge, Fire Program Specialist in the National Preparedness Division, is in her 14th year as a firefighter with the Washington Township Fire Department in Mercer County, NJ. She will be monitoring the fire-grant program. Lori plans to hold application workshops for fire companies and make site visits to answer questions and ensure companies are following prescribed procedures.

Prior to joining FEMA, she was Fire Program Coordinator for Rutgers University in New Jersey, where she developed training and certification testing for the Garden State's 45,000 firefighters.

She has completed two years of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy and will get her master's degree in Fire Service Leadership from Grand Canyon University in May.

- **RISC Meeting:** The semi-annual Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting is scheduled for the FEMA Region III office in Philadelphia Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 19 – 20. The session will begin at 1 p.m. with introductions by Regional Director Charlotte Herbert Mears and Response and Recovery Division Director Tom Majusiak. Eleven federal and state agencies are scheduled to make presentations. *For more information, call David Hall at 215-931-5660.*
- **“Are You Ready” is Ready:** The updated version of “Are You Ready: A Guide for Citizen Preparedness” is ready for distribution. Region III has a supply on hand. Copies have been sent to state emergency managers, homeland security advisers and Citizen Corps points-of-contact as well as congressional district offices. *For more information, contact Karin Fairbanks at 215-931-5550.*
- **Audit-Survival Tips:** FEMA Region III Public Assistance staff is sending all state Public Assistance officers copies of a new publication, “How to Survive an Audit.” The booklet, developed by the Office of the Inspector General, includes record and bookkeeping guidance for project management and program compliance. After a disaster, Public Assistance applicants – including municipalities, utility co-ops, and private non-profits – often face complicated projects with costs and issues that may or may not meet FEMA eligibility requirements. The guide also includes sections on Mitigation and Individual Assistance programs. *For more information, call Dave Parks at 215-931-5557.*
- **Fire Academy Courses:** The United States Fire Academy (USFA) will accept applications for the second semester residential program, scheduled for April 1, 2003, through Sept. 30, 2003. Applications must be postmarked Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. Details about courses and application procedure are available on the USFA website. *For more information, go to www.usfa.gov/dhtml/fire-service/nfa.cfm.*
- **Be Prepared for Emergencies:** This is what the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency recommend you put together a disaster kit containing packaged or canned food and a manual can opener, rain gear, sturdy shoes, change of clothes, blankets or sleeping bags, first-aid kit (Don't forget your prescription medications), an extra pair of eyeglasses for each member of the family, battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries, credit cards and cash, extra set of car keys, list of family physicians, list of important family information such as the style and serial number of medical devices, and a three-day supply of water — one gallon per person per day — stored in sealed, unbreakable containers. *For more information, call Liz Monahan-Gibson at 215-931-5631.*
- **New and Renewed CTPs:** Two Region III communities recently became Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) in FEMA's Map Modernization Program. Seven other communities renewed their partnership for 2003. Cabell County, WV, and Raleigh County, WV, are the newest Region III CTPs. Baltimore, MD; Prince Georges County, MD; Harrisburg, PA; Lancaster, PA; Mifflin, PA; Harrisonburg, VA; and Region 1 Planning & Development Council in southern West Virginia have taken on new CTP tasks for 2003. Their efforts contribute the creation of new digital flood maps as well as help to raise flood awareness and advance the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) at the local level. *For more information, call Jon Janowicz at 215-931-5524.*
- **Surplus Equipment Goes to Schools:** Region III recently donated excess computer equipment to the School District of Philadelphia. This equipment included computers, monitors, keyboards, televisions and printers for use in several school computer labs. The equipment was valued at \$90,732. *For information, call Chuck Goehringer at 215-931-5696.*

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. Send suggestions and story ideas to Bob Gunter or Phil Clark at r3report@fema.gov.