

The Region III Report

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

Philadelphia, PA, November 27, 2002

Port Security Committee Formed in Philadelphia

Security at the Port of Philadelphia has moved up a notch with establishment of a Port Security Committee (PSC). Led by the U.S. Coast Guard, the committee will communicate threats, identify risks and coordinate resources to deal with threats and minimize vulnerabilities.

Legislation designed to improve security at the nation's seaports made its way through Congress, where it passed the Senate by a 95-0 vote on Nov. 15. President Bush is expected to sign the measure. It requires the Department of Transportation to conduct vulnerability studies and that ports draw up security-and-response plans for Coast Guard approval.

The most urgent action taken by Philadelphia's PSC was to review and update the Port Security Plan. The plan is updated as necessary to reflect changing conditions and newly identified issues affecting the port's security posture. Officials note that the PSC is responsible for planning and coordinating security procedures and is not a response group that works in consequence management.

The Philadelphia PSC members represent federal, state and local agencies, law enforcement and security organizations and members of the in port industry. The PSC is a regular forum for enhancing security and preventing criminal activity such as terrorism within the port, its waterways and the coastal areas.

Regional Deputy, Engineer Named

Patricia Arcuri will succeed Peter G. Cote as Deputy Regional Director when Pete retires in January. Ken Wallace has joined Region III's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division (FIM).

Pat directs the RIII Administration and Resource Planning Division. FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh announced Pat's promotion on Nov. 20. Ken was hired as a civil engineer with the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Branch (HIRA). His primary assignments will be with flood-iInsurance concerns and FEMA's mapping program, HIRA branch chief Marty Frengs said.

Pat began her career as a disaster temporary employee after Hurricane Agnes in 1972. After repeated renewals of her 90-day appointments, she became a permanent staff member in 1974, starting in the Executive Office of Emergency Preparedness. Pat later worked in Individual Assistance, then Public Assistance, eventually becoming branch chief there.

Pat became the first director of the Operations Support Division, responsible for activities such as payroll, personnel and procurement

Ken's building-science background will be useful in evaluating flood-damage structures and in assessing buildings where structural considerations affect security.

Ken earned his general civil engineering degree from Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ. He lives in Voorhees, NJ.



RISC Business--Attendees listen to speakers at the Regional Interagency Steering Committee meeting at the offices of FEMA Region III, Nov. 19.

- ▶ **Four to the Fore:** Four new Citizen Corps councils have been formed in Virginia in response to President Bush's call to volunteer service. The new efforts are Amherst County Local Emergency Planning Committee, Amherst; Hampton Citizen Corps Council, Hampton; Roanoke Citizen Corps Council, Roanoke; and Suffolk Local Emergency Planning Committee, Suffolk. Working with federal and state agencies. Citizen Corps Councils will coordinate programs at the local level such as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Volunteers in Police Service, Neighborhood Watch and Medical Reserve Corps. *For more information, contact the Virginia State Citizen Corps at www.commonwealthpreparedness.state.va.us.*
- ▶ **Assessing Changes:** FEMA Region III Human Services Officer George Smith is working the Alabama disaster, where the DMA2K rules are being implemented for the first time. Jack Schuback, branch chief for Recovery Operations in the Response and Recovery Division, is participating with George in daily conference calls with headquarters and disaster officials in Georgia, Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee to assess the system. DMA2K rules affect multiple forms of assistance, set new monetary caps, require more extensive coordination with the U.S. Small Business Administration and give the states options as to their levels of involvement. *For more information, contact Jack Schuback at 215-931-5624.*
- ▶ **Floyd Headlines SHMA/NFIP Conference:** State Hazard Mitigation Officers and National Flood Insurance coordinators in Region III held their bi-annual meeting in Williamsburg, VA. The Southampton County floodplain manager discussed the local perspective of disaster response and recovery during Hurricane Floyd. Several Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects were funded in the county after Hurricane Floyd. Region III staff presented topics including changes in administration of the grant program and the status of DMA2K 2000 Pre-Disaster Mitigation efforts. FEMA Headquarters staff discussed Section 322 planning and FEMA's mitigation how-to guide. Also on the agenda were discussion of the flood-insurance surcharge in NFIP communities, ordinance review, statewide mapping prioritization and training opportunities for pre-disaster mitigation planning. *For more information, call Nancy Carpenter at 215-931-5508.*
- ▶ **Severe Weather...Be Prepared:** Winter doesn't officially start until Dec. 21, but it's not too early to prepare. Snow storms can come any time now. Assemble a disaster kit containing such items as drinking water, no-cook food, first aid kit, battery-powered radio and a flashlight and don't forget prescription medicines. Prepare to stay in your home for several days after a storm. Keep cars fueled and in good repair. Place a shovel, windshield scraper and blanket in each car. *For additional information, call Phil Clark at 215-961-5716.*
- ▶ **Fire Grants, Round 9:** Thirty-seven fire departments in Region III received grants in Round 9 of the FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The winners were announced on Thursday, Nov. 21. The total for Round 9 was \$2,496,737. Seven fire departments received grants of more than \$100,000. Colonial Park Fire Company, Harrisburg, PA, received \$231,372; District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department, \$220,500; Bethlehem Fire Dept., Bethlehem, PA, \$160,650; Shelly Fire Co., Quakertown, PA, \$146,285; Allegheny Township Fire Dept., Meadville, PA, \$141,030; and Fountain Volunteer Fire Company, Keyser, WV, \$108,563. In all, 346 grants have been awarded in Region III in the nine rounds. They totaled \$22,605,955. *For more information, call Phil Clark, 215-931-5716.*
- ▶ **Making Facsimiles of Flood Maps:** Our Nov.13 issue carried instructions on how to find online flood maps. Here is so further detail: Start at the FEMA Internet homepage (<http://www.fema.gov/>) and select "FEMA Flood Map Store" in the pictographic links on the left side of the screen. Once you are viewing the wanted map, it is possible to produce a customized, partial version of the official FIRM in the Adobe PDF file format. (NOTE: if you are looking at a zoomed-in section, first zoom back out.) Click on the "Make a FIRMette" button on the left side of the screen. There will be a pink shaded area. Click and hold the button while your mouse is over the pink box, and you will be able to drag the box to cover the portion of the map you are interested in—let go and the map will refresh. Click on the Adobe PDF icon on the left side of the screen, and a new window featuring the FIRMette will appear. Click to save the FIRMette and a PDF file will be created which you can save or print. *For more information, call Michael Craghan at 215-931-5650*

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