

The Region III Report

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

Philadelphia, PA, October 2003

Hurricane Isabel Recovery Begins

Federal, state partners coordinate response

More than 100,000 residents in the middle Atlantic region have sought assistance from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Field offices in Richmond, Va.; Baltimore, Md.; and Wilmington, Del., are processing the applications for aid as well as working with state partners to implement the public assistance program to assist with damaged infrastructure.

Other field offices had been operating in Charleston, W.Va., where the disaster was public assistance only and in Washington, D.C., which had immediate needs for food and ice that were met early. In Harrisburg, Pa., an open field office for a summer flooding disaster took on the additional responsibility for Isabel's one-county declaration.

Isabel hit Virginia harder than any other state as an estimated 10,000 homes suffered damage. Aid to the commonwealth now nears \$75 million, mostly to assist individuals and families in their effort to recover from



Washington, D.C., Sept. 22, 2003 -- Uprooted tree on Foxhall Road NW limits access to power crews at a closed school.

Isabel's devastation. The Region III Regional Operations Center and the National Blue Team worked with Virginia Department of Emergency Management personnel to handle the initial response. The field office now is being run by Region III staff, under the leadership of Lou Botta, the federal coordinating officer, and Michael Cline, the state coordinating officer.

In Baltimore, FEMA's Region VII is partnering with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. In Maryland, more than 5,600 homes suffered damage and hundreds of properties were contaminated by fuel oil spills. Aid to Maryland now exceeds \$40 million. Much of the damage was caused by a surge in the waters of Chesapeake Bay. Bill Lokey is federal coordinating officer and Don Keldson the state coordinating officer.

In Wilmington, Region X personnel are working with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency to assist those affected by either Hurricane Isabel or Tropical Storm Henri. In Delaware, Henri caused considerably more damage than Isabel in New Castle County. Mike Hall is federal coordinating officer and James E. Turner III is the state coordinating officer.

The Isabel recovery is continuing smoothly throughout the region. Most of the initial recovery work should be completed by the end of the year.



Bowleys Quarters, MD, Sept. 23, 2003 -- Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge visits with homeowners in the area. More than 1,800 homes in the Baltimore County area were damaged by Hurricane Isabel.

Regional Director: Thanks to everyone

When the big one hits, it's heartening to know we can count on our colleagues to come to our aid.

Isabel has been a real test of Region III. It was a much larger event than what we experienced with Hurricane Floyd in 1999 – hitting all five states and the District of Columbia in Region III.

The magnitude of response and recovery operations necessitated all the help and support other FEMA regions could provide.

We also thank our federal partners for their work that began as soon as the regional operations center was activated. The mission assignments you executed helped bring back basic services to areas of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia hardest hit by the storm.

Our appreciation, as always, goes to the volunteer organizations and first responders who give the first aid and comfort to victims of any disaster.



Richmond, Va., Sept. 22, 2003 -- President Bush visits a Disaster Recovery Center.

Finally, we salute the outstanding partnerships we continue to have with the emergency management agencies of our mid-Atlantic states and the nation's capital. Together, we can serve all our citizens.

We are implementing the Remedial Action Management Plan to document what went well and

what we can do better in our response and recovery -- before the next disaster.

Wherever and whenever the need arises, you can be certain FEMA staff will be there to assist however we can.

*Patricia G. Arcuri
Acting Regional Director*

Hurricane Isabel Recovery Update

(Individuals and Families)

Disaster No.	Total Apps	Housing \$	Other Needs \$	Total SBA \$
1491-DR-VA	84,138	25,500,000	11,700,000	18,900,000
1492-DR-MD	15,793	17,400,000	5,100,000	16,100,000
1493-DR-DC	1,599	495,500	156,000	102,400
1494-DR-DE*	649	695,400	280,700	1,615,000
1497-DR-PA	496	531,400	11,250	15,200
Total	102,675	44,647,800	17,247,960	36,732,600

* Combined numbers for 1494 and 1495-DR-DE

Federal agencies join FEMA for Isabel

A primary role for DHS-FEMA, in the event of a disaster like Hurricane Isabel, is to coordinate the federal response in providing life-saving and life-sustaining support necessitated by the situation. In the immediate response phase, many federal agencies are essential to the successful execution of the Federal Response Plan.

As Isabel approached the coastal areas and made landfall, federal agencies such as the Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the General Services Administration (GSA), the Forest Service (USFS), the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Defense (DOD), as well as the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross did an outstanding job in supporting the response operation.

The Regional Operations Center (ROC) in Philadelphia issued numerous mission assignments to facilitate the delivery of emergency power, water, ice, mass feeding, debris management, temporary roofing, temporary housing and logistics, before and after Isabel



Poquoson, Va., Sept. 24, 2003 — Ice is a mission assignment.

hit the region. The USACE, EPA and GSA are still assisting in disaster field offices.

The ROC was fully activated on Sept. 15 to oversee the initial response, with representatives from every Emergency Support Function present. The ROC deactivated on Sept. 25 when all Disaster Field Offices were self-sufficient. Region III continues to provide any needed assistance.

Region's firefighters get \$44.3 million in grants



Members of Congress join FEMA Region III in ceremonies to award Assistance to Firefighters Grants to fire departments in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Photo at left, U.S. Rep. Robert A. Brady congratulates the City of Chester Fire Department in Pennsylvania on its \$89,856 grant for fire prevention. At right, U.S. Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski speaks before presenting a symbolic check for \$225,000 to the Savage Volunteer Fire Department in Maryland for a firefighting vehicle. Region III Fire Program Specialist Lori Bainbridge represented FEMA and Maryland Homeland Security Director Dennis Schrader joined Senator Mikulski and local officials. Through October, Region III states have received 540 grants totaling \$44.3 million.

In Brief...

- ▶ **EMPG remains within FEMA:** The passage of the Fiscal Year 2004 Homeland Security appropriations bill on Oct. 1 confirms that the Emergency Management Planning Grants Program will remain in FEMA.
- ▶ **Fire prevention grants:** The FY 2003 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant program is accepting applications through Nov. 13, 2003. Private and public organizations dedicated to reducing the effects of fire and fire related incidents and national, state, local or community organizations (including fire departments) that are recognized for their expertise in fire prevention or safety programs and activities are eligible to apply for funding through the program. This is part of the FY 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. More information is at www.usfa.fema.gov.
- ▶ **WV libraries get Disaster Resource Kits:** Following this summer's severe storms that resulted in flooding and landslides across the State of West Virginia, officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services have prepared comprehensive disaster information kits to distribute to each of the 225 libraries in the state. The Disaster Resource Kits provide citizens a single source for information on all aspects of response and recovery.
- ▶ **Determined Promise:** In conjunction with the Department of Defense (DOD), FEMA Region IX participated in a bio-terrorism exercise called "Determined Promise 2003" Aug. 18-29 in Clark County, Nevada. Acting Region III Director Patricia Arcuri and a team of employees observed Region IX's staff execute the exercise. More than 1,000 local, state and federal personnel worked with DOD to practice, prepare and coordinate emergency response plans and the deployment of resources. "Determined Promise 2004" will be held in Region III next summer.

News From Our State Partners

D.C. among first to complete EMAP

Washington, D.C., and Florida are the first jurisdictions in the nation to be accredited for their successful completion of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), which means they are recognized for compliance with national standards and demonstrated accountability.

EMAP is a voluntary review process for state and local emergency management programs. Accreditation demonstrates, through self-assessment, documentation and peer review, that a program meets national standards for emergency management programs.

The program, which is administered by the National Emergency Managers Association, also brings to light areas and issues where resources are needed.

On Sept. 10, Region III National Preparedness Division Director Robert Welch, Emergency Management Program Specialist Patrick Twiss, and D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams attended a press conference held in recognition of the capital's accreditation by the National Emergency Management Baseline Capabilities Program (NEMB-CAP).

The press conference was covered by all major D.C. television stations and print media. Welch highlighted FEMA's participation.

"The accreditation for the District is a tremendous achievement because this was part of a peer review, not a strict federal assessment of the District's capability," said Welch. "The District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency is to be commended for its hard work."

In addition to Washington, NEMB-CAP assessments have been conducted in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Delaware, West Virginia, and Virginia are expected to be accredited in 2004.

Did you know?

Isabel is the first hurricane ever to cause simultaneous major disaster declarations in all six Region III jurisdictions.

Under Secretary Michael D. Brown presents fire grant, briefs Region III on DHS actions



FEMA/News Photo by Niki Edwards



FEMA/News Photo by Niki Edwards

Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response (left), answers questions from Region III staff members at a meeting in the Regional office in Philadelphia on Aug. 20. He announced that the FEMA name would be retained under DHS. At right, Brown joins U.S. Rep. Jim Gerlach (far right) in presenting an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$50,958 to Fire Chief Brian Gable at the Monarch Fire Co. #1 in Monocacy Station, Pa.

On the move

Personnel changes ...



Stephen Simpson received a promotion as an Emergency Management Program Specialist in Public Assistance.



Linda Ploener has resigned from her post as an Emergency Management Program Specialist in the National Preparedness Division.



Kevin Koob, Emergency Management Program Officer with the Response and Recovery Division, was called for military duty.



Robert Scherer, Emergency Management Program Specialist with the Response and Recovery Division, was called for military duty.

Liberty Bell relocates to new pavilion

Region III staff watched history in the making on Oct. 9 as the Liberty Bell moved to its new home -- a block from the FEMA office on Independence Mall. The bell was moved two blocks on this specially designed cart during a day of related festivities.



Photo By Susan Grattorex