

The Region III Report

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9/11 Events Readied



Increased readiness. These are the watchwords for the upcoming anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Region III states and the District of Columbia plan a heightened state of alert during the anniversary.

Officials are planning memorial ceremonies for not only New York City, but also the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA, where the fourth hijacked airliner was forced down in a confrontation between terrorists and aircraft passengers.

Memorial programs are scheduled in several locations in Virginia, including Arlington,



Family members of victims of the September 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon visit the site in Arlington, VA.

where a 180-square-foot American flag will be unfurled on a bridge over the Potomac River. A massive bronze bell will toll 184 times to honor victims of the Pentagon crash.

In Shanksville, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency reports it will be tracking the high-profile memorial event in Somerset County where a crowd of about 30,000 is expected.

The Emergency Operations Centers in most Region III states report that staff will be on increased alert during the days surrounding Sept. 11.

Debris Removal Requires Planning

Debris removal is one of the most expensive and complex parts of disaster response and recovery. Successfully managing large debris operations requires coordinated effort by a broad spectrum of public and private entities. To identify best practices and shortfalls, FEMA Region III staff members have visited several small- to mid-size debris operations in the past year. They concluded that properly pre-planned operations went

well. Those that developed a strategy “as they went,” did not.

Many of the best practices involved taking action in advance of work. These included negotiating load and hauling contracts, identifying available debris-staging/reduction sites, identifying regulatory requirements and coordinating concurrence of the proposed debris-management procedures by the responsible regulatory agencies. Other important preliminary steps were identifying probable debris characteristics and quantities and establishing an incident-command structure to manage resource allocation.

FEMA Region III has sent a copy of the referenced debris operations analysis to each state, along with a request to meet to discuss the status of debris planning and to encourage including a catastrophic debris element in each plan.



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Region Expands Outreach Efforts

Region III launched an ambitious new program to expand and better integrate the External Affairs operations. Regional Director Charlotte Herbert Mears tapped veteran FEMA manager Robert J. Gunter to lead the new operation.

Region III Public Affairs Officer H. Ross Fredenburg announced his plan to retire, effective Sept. 7. Ross celebrated his 55th birthday on Aug. 31, after more than 30 years of federal-government service. Charlotte announced Ross’s decision, saying, “He will be missed...join me in extending thanks, best wishes and good luck as he enters retirement.”

Gunter, a long-time director of the Region III Response and Recovery Division,



Robert J. Gunter

assumed the directorship of the Flood Insurance and Mitigation Division last year. He officially was detailed to the new post of special assistant to the regional director for external affairs

on Aug. 26. Those who have worked with Bob would not be surprised to hear that he came into the job with a long list of plans and suggestions.

The new group will work to increase service to and coordination with the states.

“‘Not my job’ is not an acceptable response,” Bob declared, explaining the involvement he foresees of the whole region in the new initiative. Effective communication and outreach will “be part of everyone’s job,” he said

“We work for the public. The people need the information. We’re going to see that they get it.”

► **President Declares Patriot Day:** President Bush has proclaimed September 11 as Patriot Day. The President has invited state and local governments and the people of the United States to observe Patriot Day with appropriate programs and activities.

All federal government departments and agencies and interested organizations and individuals are to display the U. S. flag at half-staff in honor of those who lost their lives as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Also suggested for the event is a moment of silence in honor of those victims of terrorism.

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives approved an amendment on December 18, 2001, establishing Patriot Day. *For more information, call Phil Clark, at 215-931-5716.*

► **Lowe Proposes DMA2K Deadline Extension:** FEMA officials hope to extend the deadline for state, tribal and local mitigation plans to Nov. 1, 2004.

Flood Insurance and Mitigation Administrator Anthony Lowe announced the proposed extension on Sept. 3 at the NEMA Mitigation Committee meeting in Asheville, NC. The new deadline is not yet a 'done deal,' Lowe said. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) must clear the new rule amending the Feb. 26 interim final rule. The FEMA Office of General Counsel has discussed changing the deadline with OMB, and OMB was receptive, Lowe reported.

FEMA's goal is to have the change published by the end of September. *For more information, call Joe Zagone at 215-931-5542.*

► **FEMA Considers State Mapping:** How responsive FEMA will be to state priorities in allocating mapping funds for the upcoming fiscal year? To the extent state priorities meet or exceed FEMA goals, FEMA will consider them fully. FEMA's objective is to convert paper maps to digital products over the next three years. FEMA also intends to request additional funding in FY 2004 and beyond to update and modernize the entire flood-map inventory by FY 2008.

FEMA has requested \$300 million for FY 2003 to achieve four goals. They are: reduce the average age of maps from 14 years to six years; produce maps for 50 percent of the flood-prone communities that have never been mapped; update maps for 15 percent of the highest-priority communities (those with maps that do not accurately represent the actual flood risk); and leverage FEMA funds to obtain a 20 percent contribution in cash or in-kind services from cooperating technical partners. *For more information, call Jon Janowicz at 215-931-5524.*

► **Mitigation Issues New How-To Guide:** The Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration has issued the latest volume in the series of Mitigation How-To-Guides. No. 7, Integrating Technology and Other Manmade Hazard Considerations into Mitigation Planning. Already out are No. 1, Getting Started: Identifying Resources and Assuring the Success of the Hazard Mitigation Plan; and No. 2, Understanding Your Risks.

In review are No. 3, Developing a Mitigation Plan; No. 4, Bringing the Plan to Life; No. 5, Using Benefit/Cost Analysis in Mitigation Planning; and No. 6, Incorporating Historic Resources into Mitigation Planning. They will be sent to the states as soon as they are available. *For more information, call Joe Zagone at 215-931-5542.*

► **Training Opportunities Available:** Emergency management staff at many levels can take advantage of training opportunities available through the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) and the National Fire Academy (NFA) and independent study courses. The best time for state staff to apply is during the open seasons, June 1 to July 31 and Dec. 1 to Jan. 31. During those times, enrollments are accepted until the class is full. *For more information visit the training website at www.fema.gov and click on education and training on the menu bar.*

More circulation: *The Region III Report* is a vehicle for FEMA to share information for and among our federal, state and local partners and our full-time staff and reservists. Thank you for your comments and suggestions on our first two issues. Please send any additional email addresses or changes to susan.greatorex@fema.gov.