

# The Region III Report

The FEMA Region III Information Source, Philadelphia, PA

August 5, 2002

## Electronic Newsletter Debuts

We have designed this electronic newsletter to keep all the members of the Region III FEMA family aware of activities and new policies as they occur. You will be receiving this newsletter twice every month. I invite you to participate in this information sharing process by submitting articles you think may be of interest to others. Please e-mail your ideas to Ross Fredenburg at [Ross.Fredenburg@fema.gov](mailto:Ross.Fredenburg@fema.gov).

I am excited about this new product. We want to send it as far and wide as we can. Please share it with others and let us know their e-mail addresses so we can add them to our distribution list. Let's make this a dynamic newsletter that truly contributes to communication within the entire emergency management community within Region III.

*Charlotte Herbert Mears, Region III Director*

## Congress Adds \$447 Million

President Bush signed a supplemental appropriation bill into law August 2, which contained \$447.2 million for programs administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The breakdown is as follows:

\$150 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This is in addition to the \$360 million already allocated for 2002.

\$100 million for First Responder Planning. (The bill also provides \$151.3 million to the Department of Justice for grants under the USA Patriot Act for responders' training and equipment not duplicated by the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.)

\$56 million for planning for state and local Emergency Operations Centers

\$54.2 million for existing national Urban Search and Rescue systems

\$50 million for Interoperable Communications Equipment

\$25 million for Citizens Corps

\$7 million for Secure Communications to states

\$5 million for National Mutual Aid

Some of this funding could be affected by contingency language contained in the conference report. All funds are to remain available until Sept. 30, 2003.

## First Two Rounds of Fire Grants Bring \$2.7 million to Region III Fire Companies

FEMA's 2002 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program has begun to distribute the \$360 million that is available for local fire departments.

So far, FEMA has distributed \$27 million to 353 fire departments in the first two rounds of grant announcements. Of this amount, \$2.7 million has gone to 28 fire companies in the Region III states. Competition for these grants was very strong as FEMA received \$3.2 billion in applications.

Within Region III, the most grant money so far has gone to Virginia fire departments. The grant program has distributed about \$1.4 million to 12 Virginia companies. On July 31 in Salem, Virginia, Region III began a series of Fire Grant public events. At the Salem event, the Salem Fire & EMS Department demonstrated the type of self-contained breathing apparatus units it will buy with its \$111,698 grant. You can read a full account of the Salem event on the Region III portion of [fema.gov](http://fema.gov).

Of the other Region III states, \$713,000 has gone to Pennsylvania



*Regional Director Charlotte Herbert Mears speaks in the City of Salem, VA, on July 31. New breathing apparatus can be seen to the left of the podium, and old apparatus, to the right.*

fire companies; \$406,000 has gone to West Virginia companies; and \$249,000 has gone to Maryland companies. Delaware and the District of Columbia have yet to receive a fire grant.

The grant announcements will continue for the rest of the year. They will be made approximately every two weeks until the entire \$360 million is distributed. Fire departments could apply in one of four categories (fire operations and firefighter safety, fire prevention programs, emergency medical services, and firefighting vehicles). They had to agree to contribute a share of the cost of the proposed activity. Screening panels met last April in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to evaluate the grant proposals.

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- **Fiscal Year '03 Appropriations:** The Senate Appropriations Committee has taken its initial action on FEMA's Fiscal Year 2003 appropriation. It recommends \$900 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, \$180 million for interoperable communications equipment for firefighters and emergency medical services personnel, \$75 million for the Urban Search and Rescue Teams, \$75 million for state and local emergency planning grants, \$180 million for emergency operations centers, \$15 million for mutual aid, \$60 million for emergency responder training, \$15 million for the Community Emergency Response Team program and \$1.1 million for security clearances for state and local emergency management personnel. The President's Budget for '03 requested \$3.5 billion for a First Responder Program. (Contact: Steve Adukaitis 215-931-5659)
- **Region III Intranet Unveiled:** Region III has just unveiled its new on-line informational resource, the Region III intranet. Since its inception at the beginning of the year, the intranet has grown tremendously, acting as a functional tool for regional and disaster readiness. The Intranet, located at the address r3.fema.net, provides information such as news, disaster data, procedures and policy, links to email and phonebooks, geographical information system products, a Philadelphia area guide, and much more. While the Intranet is currently only available to those inside the FEMA firewall through network or TACACS service, the region is working to expand its availability. (Contact: Tom Majusiak 215-931-5502)
- **Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology aids damage assessments:** During last spring's Virginia floods, Region III field-tested a new system that combines geographic information system (GIS) mapping with GPS coordinates and digital photography. The result is a very detailed map that aids damage assessments and can be easily shared with other emergency managers. It can also facilitate mitigation planning. Virginia emergency managers participated in the new system and found that it can be very helpful in helping the governor decide on the need to request federal assistance. (Contact: Tom Majusiak 215-931-5502)
- **Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) launches Community Outreach effort as a guide to all-hazard disaster preparedness:** Whether it's a coastal storm, a power outage or an anthrax threat, a new corps of volunteer presenters has preparedness information and recommendations to share with the public in Delaware. The new outreach program is a cooperative project of DEMA, the Delaware National Service Programs – the Delaware Commission, Senior Corps, and local emergency management offices. The presentations include preparedness information and guidelines for disasters, emergencies and terrorist threats. Central to the presentation is a hands-on home emergency supply kit. DEMA demonstrated its presentation program to the news media in Dover and Seaford on July 31. (Contact: Ross Fredenburg 215-931-5614)
- **New Deployment Procedures:** Beginning August 1, FEMA adopted new deployment procedures meant to better facilitate the timely assistance to states when disasters are declared. The primary change is the elimination of the need for a region to sign off on one its reservists being deployed to another region. While Disaster Assistance Employees may be relocated from one disaster to another, Federal Coordinating Officers will retain final release authority. (Contact: Frank DeGregory 215-931-5672)