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DERA Newsletter

37 Years of Service

March, 1999

May '99 Colorado Workshop Plans for Tomorrow

DENVER, COLORADO — DERA and the Western Insurance Information Service (WIIS) will co-host the third annual "Planning for a Safer Tomorrow" workshop in Denver on May 18, 1999, in conjunction with the National Flood Insurance Program conference.

The program will focus on flood preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. FEMA Director James Lee Witt will open the workshop by presenting a national policy perspective. Keynote speaker will be the Governor of Colorado, Bill Owens.

DERA members and others interested in flood preparedness and response issues are invited to attend the workshop.

The workshop will feature a panel discussion and exercise demonstration highlighting flood mitigation and emergency response considerations. Panel members include meteorologist Mike Nelson (KUSA-TV); Diane Oestman, flood insurance specialist; Marsha Hilmes, Ft. Collins Floodplain Administrator; Diane Venard, American Red Cross; and Don Bobeda, real estate agent. Previously flooded homeowners and state emergency management planners will also participate.

While the focus of discussions will be Colorado's experience with floodplain management, flood mitigation and response efforts, individuals from outside the state will still find the presentations relevant. Within the U.S., flood preparedness and insurance guidelines are generally uniform, although there are significant differences in local

will give all attendees the opportunity to compare their experiences with model programs from throughout the U.S. and abroad.

In addition, an exhibit hall with over 60 governmental information and product demonstration exhibits will be open during the afternoon.

The Colorado Office of Emergency Management, the Colorado Natural Hazards Mitigation Council, the American Red Cross and DERA will provide exhibits where attendees can obtain an extensive amount of literature on flood preparedness, mitigation measures, and emergency response procedures.

Bob Kistner represented DERA throughout the year-long preparation for this workshop, while Jerry Cassidy helped with administration and logistics. Carole Walker and Shannon Kelly from WIIS worked diligently to develop an exciting program, arrange distinguished speakers, and coordinate sponsors.

DERA members should plan to arrive for an 8:00 a.m. membership breakfast and roundtable. The registration desk opens at 7 a.m., and the workshop begins at 9 a.m.

DERA members may register on or before May 3, 1999 for a cost of \$20, which includes the workshop, NFIP exhibits, breakfast and lunch. Early registration for nonmembers is \$35. After May 3rd, everyone must pay \$45.

The workshop will be held at the Denver Marriott Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse Avenue, which is just Northeast of I-25 and Belleview, about 8 miles south of downtown Denver.

The number for hotel reservations at

To register for the workshop, please request a brochure from the phone number below, or send a check along with your name, mailing address and phone number to:

DERA PFAST Workshop
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80501

Questions? Call Western Insurance Information Service at 303-790-0216 or email dera@disasters.org.

Addressing the Public's Y2K Concerns

Many government officials and business leaders find themselves bombarded with tough questions from the public regarding Y2K preparedness issues. To assist leaders in answering these questions, DERA is including the **Y2K Citizen's Action Guide** in this newsletter. The guide will help officials anticipate the types of information and questions that citizens will be bringing to their attention.

The 120-page **Y2K Citizen's Action Guide** is provided free to all DERA members. While supplies last, copies for non-DERA members are available at \$5.95 postpaid within the U.S. Overseas requests should add \$4.00 for airmail postage.

Also, be sure to access the DERA website, **www.disasters.org**, after May 1st for an informative Y2K checklist and links to other resources on the net.

DisasterCom is the quarterly newsletter of DERA International. News items and articles are always welcome.

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Editor: Kathryn Dunlevy-Wilson

Membership in this Nonprofit Association is open to all who share our commitment to effective disaster preparedness and response.

See Back Page for Membership Application

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Director's Comments

Dear Members:

We'll be sending out membership renewal notices in a few weeks, followed soon afterward by our annual membership directory. We will enclose with your notice a copy of your directory entry as we have it. Please let us know as soon as possible if there are changes to your mailing address or other vital information so the directory will be current. Of course, I'm hoping we can count on you to continue supporting our association through a renewal of your membership. Many members--realizing it was time--sent in dues payments on their own initiative, which is always appreciated.

We've added a line on the top of newsletter mailing labels to show your membership expiration date. This will help you keep track of your membership status and plan ahead. Don't be alarmed if you have a December 98 expiration: We will be sending out 1999 dues notices in about a month.

Many thanks to **Edward J. Higby** for filling in for me at the Disaster '99 conference in Florida last month. A serious illness in my family caused me to miss this conference for the first time in nine years. But Ed volunteered to take over at the last minute and he did an absolutely outstanding job. Thanks again, Ed.

Congratulations to Trustee **Steve Keene** and his wife **Debbie**, who are the proud parents of **Benjamin S. Keene**, who arrived in this world just days after the Florida conference... that's why Steve missed the conference.

I'm looking for volunteers to take on the following DERA projects. If you are interested, please drop me a note or email as soon as possible:

Director, NIAR/India Joint Project.

This will be a multi-year project which initially involves recruiting amateur radio operators and other technical specialists to go to India for 2-3 week periods for teaching. Travel to and from India is at the individual's expense, but in-country lodging, local transportation, and some meals will be provided by NIAR. Within two years, the project will expand to include emergency planners, firefighters, search and rescue specialists, and flood mitigation specialists. The Director is responsible for coordinating with NIAR (our partnership organization in India) recruiting and scheduling volunteers, and transitioning the program to a larger scale over the next two years, as well as working with the World Bank and other funding sources to provide long-range financing of the project. Expected work hours are 5-10 hours per week in 1999, growing to 20 hours per week within two years.

Initially, this will be an unpaid position, but one of our goals is to obtain grant support by the end of 1999, under which a part time director would be funded. In addition, we would aim to find grant support to partially reimburse the volunteers' air travel to India. The director should be prepared to assist in locating financial support and to develop an extensive public information program for the project.

Membership Services Manager. We need a volunteer--preferably one within an hour or two of Denver, Colorado--to manage membership services. The manager would be responsible for processing membership applications, maintaining the membership directory, writing a column for the newsletter, and answering inquiries from prospective members.

On average, the job takes about 5-7 hours per week. Our membership management program runs on a 486 or better PC, and the manager would need access to a laser printer. There is no salary for the job, but expenses are reimbursed.

While we'd like a volunteer somewhere near Denver to facilitate coordination with the home office, we would consider applicants who have a workable strategy for "virtual officing" this job.

Please let me hear from you if you're interested in either of the above jobs.

In closing, I'd like to again say thanks to you for your continued support and membership. Please help our organization grow stronger by recruiting a new member this month. There's always an application form on the back page of each newsletter.

Jay Wilson
Executive Director

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Welcome New Members

Welcome to DERA! Our aim is to meet your professional needs as we work together in dedication and service.

Richard G. Abrams
Bridgeport, CT

Dr. Claire Austin, Ph.D.
Trois Rivières, Québec

Patricia Burritt
Sacramento, CA

Dave Carr-Driscoll
Rochester, MN

Lloyd D. Crosby
Ottawa, Ontario

Steve Detwiler
St. Mary's, PA

Lawrence F. Gibbs
Holt, MI

Jeffrey M. Good
Joppa, MD

Walter G. Green
Glen Allen, VA

John Harachis, Jr.
Athens, OH

Lawrence Hepburn
Torrington, CT

James S. Hoogesteger, W8FVH
Ann Arbor, MI

Ezell Jackson, Jr.
Mount Holly, NJ

George F. Kroeck
Chicago, IL

Chief Steven L. Labov
Elkins Park, PA

James R. Langley
Bainbridge Island, WA

Kevin Lyon
Cleveland, OH

Mike Martin, KC8FCI
Grayling, MI

David W. McGuigan
Bear, DE

Elizabeth Lukacs McKim, KA9WNC
Glen Ellyn, IL

Lonnie McVaigh, KB9LUN
Decatur, IL

Melissa McVaigh
Decatur, IL

Mark W. Merritt
Reston, VA

James Monath
Brook Park, MN

Glen M. Nickel
Colorado Springs, CO

Michael K. Oberuch
Hudson, NY

John Pappas
Kingman, AZ

R. Red Payne
Cerritos, CA

Marlene Robertson
Denver, CO

Jack C. Sawicki
Germantown, MD

Joe Schumacher
Arvada, CO

Norman M. Spence
Bellmawr, NJ

G van Staalduin, MPM
Schiedam, Netherlands

John Stewart
Cheltenham, Victoria, Australia

LtCol Gerry Dale Stover
Hurricane, WV

Tim Volckmann, KB9ORJ
Michigan City, IN

Jim Vought
Evergreen, CO

John R. Wallace, MSW, CSWM, KC5OEB
Denver, CO

Steve Wallach
Arlington, TX

George V an de Water
Salt Lake City, UT

Dr. Stuart Weiss, M.D.
New York, NY


Nancy L. Zimmerman
Bellmawr, NJ



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Report from Sudan

Editor's Note: Mr. John Lobor is a DERA member who serves as Branch Director for the Sudanese Red Crescent Society in the state of Bahr el Jebel in Sudan. The Republic of Sudan is the largest country in Africa and has a population of about 34 million people, 32% of whom live in urban areas. The official language is Arabic, but Nubian and Ta Bedawie are also spoken. Over 70% of the population is Sunni Muslim while 25% practice indigenous beliefs. The economy relies mainly on textile processing, agriculture, petroleum, and mining. Over 80% of the population make their living from agriculture, 10% from industry and commerce, and about 6% from government employment. The Gross Domestic product is \$860 per capita. Sudan borders the Sahara desert and overall only 5% of the land is arable. There are deserts in the north on either side of the Nile, rich farmlands and forests in center of the country, and fertile but very wet regions in the south. Mr. Lobor sent us the following report:

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SCRS) is a member of the International Red Cross movement. Our society was established in 1956 and now has 21 state offices, out of the 26 states in the country. The SCRS has a membership of many thousands of volunteers and about 250 paid staff, all of whom are Sudanese nationals.

I live in Juba, a town in south Sudan, and am currently heading a branch office in Bahr el Jebel state.

I joined the SCRS in 1988 as a volunteer while still a student at the University. After graduating in 1990, I was appointed as an administrator to assist the branch director in establishing the branch office in Juba. In 1994, I was confirmed as the branch director. We now have more than 350 active volunteers in my office.

In addition to being responsible for branch administration and service activities, I conduct training programs for volunteers and community members in disaster preparedness, concentrating on the following topics: Disaster preparedness, needs assessment, planning and emergency response, logistics management, camp management, health and nutrition in disaster situations, monitoring/reporting/evaluation.

Last year I participated in a training program for 38 community development officers at Amadi Rural Development Institute where I presented lectures in disaster preparedness.

This year, our branch office plans to train 45 new volunteers. Chief activities of the SCRC include relief assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPS), vulnerable individuals including the elderly, blind, leprosy affected, and flood victims; health programs; tree planting; water harvesting; exchange of Red Cross messages for separated family members; and promotion of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

The main organizations working with us in partnership are the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as well as other cooperating organizations.

A major problem hindering our training programs is lack of training materials and

reference books. I would greatly appreciate any teaching materials, books, texts, or pamphlets which other DERA members could send to me. I especially need help getting the following materials:

- Damage Assessment
- Disaster Needs Assessment
- Disaster Management Principles
- Community Preparedness
- Emergency Response
- Natural Hazards Studies
- Hazards Mitigation
- Emergency Health Services
- Environmental Health
- Famine Assessment and Relief
- Water & Sanitation in Refugee Camps
- Supplementary Emergency Feeding
- Disaster Impact on Development

I would greatly appreciate any help readers can provide. Thanks and best wishes to everyone in DERA.

John Lobor
Branch Director, SRCS Juba
Sudanese Red Crescent Society
P.O. Box 235
Khartoum, Sudan

Journal Articles Invited

A new journal, "Environmental Hazards, Global Environmental Change," edited by Kenneth J. Mitchell of Rutgers University and Susan Cutter of the University of South Carolina will begin publication in the summer of 1999. The editors welcome scholarly articles, research reports and field dispatches.

The journal will address human and policy dimensions of threats to human safety and sustainability, such as geological, hydrological, atmospheric, and biological hazards. It will emphasize innovative thinking and interdisciplinary approaches to dealing with the effects of these events on people, property, and society.

Authors are invited to submit three copies of articles of between 4,000 and 6,000 words, although shorter pieces may be considered.

For further information or to submit manuscripts, contact:

James K. Mitchell
or
Susan L. Cutter
"Environmental Hazards"
Dept. of Geography
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

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Faculty Position Open Health Policy & Administration

Tenure track position, Assistant or Associate Professor in the Health Policy and Administration Program, Washington State University at Spokane is open and applications are invited. This is a nine-month position beginning either Fall 1999 or January 2000. Candidates must have a doctorate in health services administration, health policy, or a related social science discipline and funded research experience as well as a graduate level teaching record. Please send a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, a statement of research and professional goals and names of three references to: Winsor Schmidt, Director, Health Policy and Administration Program, Washington State University at Spokane, 668 North Riverpoint Blvd, Box B, Spokane, WA 99202-1662. (Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.)

World Bank Opens New Disaster Management Facility

The mission of the World Bank is to reduce poverty and improve living standards through sustainable growth and investment in people. In recent years, disaster prevention and hazard prevention have become integral parts of development planning. In 1998, the World Bank created the Disaster Management Facility (DMF) to provide operational support, promote capacity building, and establish partnerships to work on disaster issues.

Among the strategies and measures the DMF will use to accomplish these goals are market incentives for mitigation investment, support to both member countries and other World Bank departments, review of the World Bank's disaster assistance portfolio, review of policies on emergency assistance, identification and dissemination of model practices, creation of a DMF website and training. For further information on the DMF and its activities, contact:

Alicia Kreimer
World Bank
Disaster Management Facility
Room F4K-282
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
(202) 473-3205 FAX (202) 522-3224

References Requested for Hurricane Bibliography

The Regional Disaster Information Center for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRID) is assembling a reference database on hurricane studies and publications, especially those concerning mitigation, prevention, planning, assistance and recovery. Authors are invited to submit original manuscripts, and individuals or institutions are requested to send extra copies of publications they may have. If possible, submit material electronically to

crid@netsalud.sa.cr

Hard copy documents should be mailed to:
Centro Reg. de Información Sobre Desastres
(CRID)
Apdo. 3745-1000
San José, Costa Rica

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