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

May '99 Colorado Workshop Plans for Tomorrow

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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 1999 for an informative Y2K checklist and links to other resources on the net.
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 23 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.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
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<td>Richard G. Abrams</td>
<td>Bridgeport, CT</td>
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<td>Dr. Claire Austin, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Trois Rivières, Québec</td>
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<td>Patricia Burritt</td>
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<td>Dave Carr-Driscoll</td>
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<td>Lloyd D. Crosby</td>
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<td>John Harachis, Jr.</td>
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<td>Lawrence Hepburn</td>
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<td>Ann Arbor, MI</td>
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<td>Chief Steven L. Labov</td>
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<td>Kevin Lyon</td>
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<td>G van Staalduijnen, MPM</td>
<td>Schiedam, Netherlands</td>
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<td>John R. Wallace, MSW, CSWM, KC5OEB</td>
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<td>Steve Wallach</td>
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<td>George Van de Water</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, UT</td>
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<td>Dr. Stuart Weiss, M.D.</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Nancy L. Zimmerman</td>
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Report from Sudan

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 I am currently heading a branch office in Bahar 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 and 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 SCRS 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 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
Susan L. Cutter
*Environmental Hazards*
Dept. of Geography
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

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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.

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:
Alcira Kreimer
World Bank
Disaster Management Facility
Room F4-282
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)
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San José, Costa Rica
Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association

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