

# DISASTERCOM

DERA Newsletter

38 Years of Service

August, 2000



## DERA-NIAR Sponsor Joint Projects

DERA and NIAR-India are undertaking a series of joint projects following meetings between the two organizations in Dayton, Ohio, earlier this year. The officers of DERA and NIAR agreed to maintain their long-standing partnership for mutual aid and joint endeavors.

Dr. Shrikant Jichkar, Chairman of NIAR, and Robert Dockery, Chairman of the DERA Board of Directors, agreed on principles of continued cooperation and partnership. The Executive Director of NIAR, Mr. S. Suri, and his assistant Mr. S. Ram Mohan then worked with DERA counterparts over the next three weeks on specific project outlines, operating procedures and objectives.

One immediate result of the planning session was that the two organizations agreed to a staff exchange program to better understand the administrative, legal and practical issues affecting one another. The first exchange will begin on August 10th, when Mr. Mohan will come to DERA and work for one month as special assistant to the executive director. Mr. Mohan's specialty is Management Information Systems, and one of his first tasks will be to improve our membership support, accounting and administrative systems.

DERA will reciprocate by sending communications technicians and disaster management specialists to the NIAR headquarters campus in Hyderabad, AP State, India, where we will jointly host the Emergency Management Institute.

In 1998, NIAR furnished a communications engineer to DERA during the response phase for a major disaster in Florida, and in 1999, DERA furnished NIAR with a specialist in damage assessment and recovery management following a catastrophic cyclone in Orissa State, India.

During sessions in Dayton, NIAR and DERA directors also met with David and Gaynell Larsen, senior executives of the Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service (FAIRS) to discuss opportunities for three-way partnership, program development, and mutual support. The aim is for both DERA and FAIRS to support the NIAR Emergency Management Institute if sources of funding can be found.

DERA is seeking a U.S. or Canadian-based project manager who can take on this challenging effort as a volunteer within the next month or two. Responsibilities would include overall management of the program, recruitment and coordination of volunteers, financial management and program development grant writing. The project manager would be expected to conduct an extensive public information campaign, seek alliance partners and assist in locating sources of funds for the project. DERA members are invited to submit a letter of interest outlining qualifications as soon as possible.

## Shoemaker Elected Director

Dr. Floyd Shoemaker was elected to the DERA Board of Directors in early August. He is currently Regional Training Manager for FEMA Region VIII in Denver, Colorado, where he is responsible for emergency management training support to the six-state region. For over 18 years, Dr. Shoemaker has provided training and educational services to states, federal agencies and the FEMA Regional staff in Denver. He worked as a key member of the federal emergency support team for numerous major disasters including Hurricane Andrew, the Northridge (L.A.) earth-

quake, and numerous floods throughout the U.S. Previously, he was group manager and branch chief of the Solar Energy Research Institute in Golden, Colorado.

Floyd received his Ph.D. in communication and social psychology from Michigan State University, and he holds a Masters in Journalism from the University of Missouri.

In 1971, Floyd served on the American University faculty in Cairo, Egypt, where he developed the first communications-studies graduate program in the Middle East. From 1971 through 1975, he planned and directed training seminars for students from 36 different cultures. He continues to work with the University as a consultant on international education.

Floyd is co-author of the book *Communication of Innovations: A Cross Cultural Approach*. He and his wife, Connie, co-authored *Interactive Techniques for the English-as-Second-Language Classroom*. He has also published more than 35 articles in professional journals. He is an adjunct associate professor of Human Communication Studies at the University of Denver where he teaches graduate courses on communication and social change.

We're distinctly honored to welcome Floyd to a full 3-year term on our Board.

## Disaster Report Available

We have just received a few copies of the excellent book *Orissa Disaster: Agony of the Living*, which was published in India by Mr. S. Suri, VU2MY. This 168-page hardback book chronicles the exceedingly difficult response to India's 1999 supercyclone in Orissa State, and outlines the continuing tragedy in that area. While copies last, they are available to DERA members at a cost of \$12.00 (non-members \$17.95) postpaid to the U.S. Additional postage to Canada or Mexico is \$4.50. Airmail postage to other countries is \$8.75. Send requests and payment to our address below.

**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

**The Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association, International**

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# DERA International

P.O. Box 280795  
Denver, CO 80228

DERA is a Nonprofit, U.S. IRS 501(c)(3) Disaster Service and Professional Association  
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## Partnerships & Affiliations Include



# E I I P



## Director's Comments

Dear Members:

Please join me in sending get-well wishes to life member John Crawford who has been hospitalized recently. Also, congratulations to David Crews, who received a special achievement award from the Electronic Information Infrastructure Partnership (EIIP) for his support of their weekly teleconference board.

This summer has been difficult for firefighters throughout much of North America and Europe. Greece, with the largest force of wildland firefighters in Europe, sent out a call for emergency assistance in July, but few European countries were able to assist because of their own desperate situation. In the U.S., this has already been the worst fire season in over half a century, with the driest, most dangerous period still ahead.

This summer, uncontrollable wildfires burned property on two U.S. nuclear weapons facilities—Los Alamos in New Mexico and Hanford in Washington—despite the highest national priority for protection. The Los Alamos Laboratory, for example, had to be shut down and evacuated, while no amount of effort could save homes in the nearby town.

On one recent day, over 65 major fires were burning in the western U.S. alone, and at least two entire towns had been destroyed despite heroic efforts of fire crews. On that day, over 20,000 wildland firefighters, 5,000 city and township firefighters and several thousand military troops battled fires across the West. Every available air tanker was committed. A fast and dangerous fire burned just to the northwest of the DERA office, destroying many homes and other buildings, eventually being stopped by extraordinary efforts of 1,000 firefighters and a favorable change in weather.

Simultaneously, crews from three fire districts whose chiefs are DERA members were in desperate struggles to protect rural homes in rugged terrain. Chief Wallace and his Golden, Colorado department fought the Table Mesa Fire, while Chief Minor's crews from Loveland and Chief Charles' firefighters from Berthoud (plus many others) pushed back the Bobcat Gulch fire, literally saving the town of Masonville from destruction.

Once again, our communities have depended on the courage, professionalism, and skill of our firefighters to undo the inevitable result of carelessness, lack of preparedness, and inexcusable neglect on the part of others. I clearly remember a conference three years ago when I heard Chief Minor plead for homeowners to create defensible spaces around their homes and to take precautions such as removal of combustibles from under decks. He called for community warning systems,

better access routes for fire equipment, clear road and property markings, and serious vigilance during times of high risk. How frustrating it must be for him and his fellow chiefs to send their men and women into harm's way time after time when other people haven't done their part to mitigate hazards and facilitate the response. It's one thing to ask your people to risk their lives in the aftermath of a sudden and unforeseeable event. It's quite another situation when a community tolerates hazards—or even knowingly creates them—then turns to the fire and rescue service when the inevitable occurs. In the U.S. and around the world, this challenge must anger and frustrate everyone involved with emergency response.

I personally share their frustration and am still amazed at how difficult it is to generate interest and action in our communities. Still, we must keep trying to improve public awareness and gain commitment on the part of government officials to reduce risks, mitigate hazards and strengthen our ability to respond. As our part in this effort, DERA regularly sponsors workshops on Planning for a Safer Tomorrow, where we bring together emergency management officials, community leaders, insurance industry representatives, business people and interested citizens. Through these workshops and our preparedness publications, we strive to support the efforts of local fire-rescue chiefs and emergency managers. Members including Eve Gruntfest, Marion Olson, Bob Kistner, Jerry Cassidy, Buddy Portch, Tony Mendes, Bob Dockery and John Crawford have worked hard on these workshops and they deserve our thanks and continued support.

*-Jay Wilson, Executive Director*

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## Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

**Susan James**  
Woodbine, MD

**Sam S. Snyder, Ph.D.**  
Downey, CA

**Lawrence P. Holder**  
Chesapeake, VA

**Bob Skillman**  
Loveland, CO

**Cyndi Weakley-Dawson**  
Denton, TX

**Sgt Lance R. Cook**  
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**Chris Colmoee**  
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**Dennis Wolf**  
Omaha, NE

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Jacksonville, FL

**Daniel Ryan**  
Amherst, MA

**Matthew J. Griffin**  
Denton, TX

**Danny MacDonald**  
Taipei, Taiwan

**Thomas O. Nyambane**  
Nairobi, Kenya

**Joyce Griffiths**  
Lakewood, CO

**Harlan G. Kelly**  
W. Vancouver, British Columbia

**Dennis L. Gage**  
St Charles, MO

**Dogan Kazim Biyikli**  
Istanbul, Turkey

**Wade M. Knapp**  
Jacksonville, FL

**Robert Barton**  
San Bernardino, CA

**Johnny R. Fox**  
Sevierville, TN

**Michael B. Mixson**  
Irving, TX

**M. Gurudutt Prasad**  
Rajahmundry AP, India

**Richard H. Mobley**  
APO AP 96558

**Larry A. Mayorga**  
Boulder City, NV

**Michael J. Ward**  
South Hackensack, NJ

**Stacy Neel**  
Lakewood, CO

**Robert Weeks**  
Camarillo, CA

**Wesley R. Biggs, Sr.**  
North Kansas City, MO

**Elaine Enarson**  
Evergreen, CO

**Joyce Beck**  
Northglenn, CO

**Brian J. Brown**  
Massapequa, NY

**Marshal R. Watson**  
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**Cynthia J. DuBois**  
Portales, NM

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W. Palm Beach, FL

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Sabillasville, MD

**Robin Donald**  
Denton, TX

**John L. Barbato**  
Liverpool, NY

**Lorenzo P. Bowe**  
APO AE 09459

**Kavin J. Catalfu**  
McGuife AFB, NJ

**Sarah Henshaw**  
Managua, Nicaragua

**Max DuBois**  
Birtley, Durham, UK

**T.J. Williamson**  
Kingsley, W.A. Australia

**Robert Hooper, Jr., CSP**  
Corvallis, OR

**Carrie Wilson**  
Fredericksburg, VA

**Carl Brown**  
Decatur, AL

**Rob Beaumont**  
Prescott, AZ

**Joe Wickham**  
Bekasi, W.J. Indonesia

**William H. Stouder**  
Littleton, CO

**Monte R. Anderson**  
Aurora, IL

**Johnna M. McCullough, Ph.D.**  
Bradford, PA

**Edward Murro III, KC2AYC**  
Cedarhurst, NY

**Maria Topper**  
Catonsville, MD

**Charles Price**  
Concord, CA

**N. Gary Symonds**  
Whitby, Ontario

**David C. Anderson, Sr. KCØHRQ**  
Imperial, MO

**Larry P. Teasley**  
Misawa, Japan

**Dr. Michael J. Fagel, CEM**  
North Aurora, IL

**Catherine Cooper**  
Irvine, CA

**Kameron Jones**  
Fort St John, British Columbia

**Mark Batcho**  
APO AE 09009

**Andrew Pike**  
Anaheim, CA

**Dan Papp**  
Valley Center, CA

**Karen Corica**  
Morristown, NJ

**Darrell Bennet**  
Thibodaux, LA

**J. Nanere**  
Jabar, Indonesia

**Jerry B. Bock**  
St Petersburg, FL

**Tony Weeks**  
Toronto, Ontario

**Carol A. Redding**  
San Diego, CA

**Steve Frost**  
Clio, MI

**Digna S. Gallagher**  
Los Angeles, CA

Welcome to DERA! It is our sincere aim to help you attain your professional and personal goals.

## Please Help



Specially marked boxes of Kellogg's Cereal have coupons for American Airlines mileage credit. DERA can use these credits to greatly reduce our cost of disaster support missions and other travel.

*Every dollar we save on air travel is another dollar available for mission accomplishment.*

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Send to:

**DERA**  
**P.O. Box 797**  
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## Dodson Publishes Handbook

DERA member Lt. David W. Dodson of the Loveland, CO, Fire and Rescue Department was so alarmed by the number of firefighter deaths in America that he wrote a book to combat the problem. As a result, his book *Fire Department Incident Safety Officer* is at the top of the recommended reading list for firefighters working toward becoming certified as safety officers through the Fire Department Safety Officers Association.

Dodson's book got its start in the mid-1980s when 128 firefighters were killed in one year in the line of duty. Dodson notes that these figures represent deaths only, while the actual numbers of firefighters injured in the line of duty mount up into the tens of thousands.

Dodson's first step in combating this tragedy was to develop a checklist for safety officers and the four R's model--resources, risk, recon (reconnaissance or surveying the scene), and reporting. From this list Dodson proceeded to develop a safety class. Since then he has taught approximately 3,000 people in over 50 cities and published his book based on the experiences and interviews with firefighters from all over the country.

"The whole process was a labor of love," says Dodson. The book was written in off-duty time as were four chapters in a more recent firefighter handbook that Dodson has contributed to.

"I'd like to think that they [the books] are helping to cut down on firefighter deaths," says Dodson.

Lt. Dodson's book *Fire Department Incident Safety Officer* is available over the Internet at Amazon.com or at [www.firesci.com](http://www.firesci.com).

## E-journal Welcomes Articles

The new electronic journal *American Emergency Management Response (AEMR)* welcomes serious articles from emergency management professionals, academics, and members of government at all levels.

The *AEMR* electronic journal was created as a public service for individuals, scholars, and decision-makers concerned about emergency management. The Association for National Defense and Emergency Resources (ANDER) and the Department of Political Science at the University of Akron co-sponsor the e-journal.

Please submit articles in either electronic or paper copy. Electronic copies should be IBM compatible and in Word or WordPerfect format. Articles should be sent to [acook@uakron.edu](mailto:acook@uakron.edu). For instructions for sending paper copies, please visit the *AEMR Journal* at [www.uakron.edu/ander](http://www.uakron.edu/ander).

## Amateur Radio Net

With the FCC amateur radio restructuring that took effect on April 15, 2000, I believe DERA should establish a net on 20 meters to facilitate our ability to communicate more effectively in time of disaster. I am considering establishing a net on a weeknight at 0400 Zulu in the hope that this time slot would perhaps accommodate the schedules of a majority of our interested members. However, before scheduling a firm time, I'd like the input of our amateur radio members to ensure that we choose a time that does not conflict with other important commitments.

Would amateur radio members please give me your thoughts on a time that would best accommodate the establishment of a radio net for our members throughout the world? Would a weeknight at 0400 Zulu accommodate our members' schedules? You may e-mail me at [wa6uzp@juno.com](mailto:wa6uzp@juno.com) with your suggestions.

Thanks for your thoughts on this important exercise of our disaster communication capabilities.

73,  
Jim Lucas, WA6UZP

## **The Care and Treatment of 911 Dispatchers**

by  
Rich Abrams

Whether you are the first at the scene or you are the first to be aware of a sudden worsening of an emergency situation, there are times when disaster personnel must be prepared to dial 911 for emergency assistance. It is, therefore, essential that you be ready to respond with concise, precise information to your 911 dispatcher's questions.

First, a trained 911 dispatcher will query you with a series of simple "who, what, when, where, why, and how" questions. Do give your official identity ("I am the emergency radio operator at the Red Cross shelter at the Santa Monica Civic Center.") so that your call will be given the credence and the priority service it warrants.

Second, if you are calling from a cell phone or via a repeater phone patch, be sure to give the correct, complete callback number. Unfortunately, the phone number that is displayed on your 911 dispatcher's computer screen may not be the actual number from which you are calling. For instance, in corporations the main number of the switchboard may display instead of the extension from which you are calling. So be certain to give the number from which you are calling, including extension or cell phone number.

Next, identify specifically what your needs are and precisely where emergency personnel should respond, i.e., "I'm at the

baseball field at Smith High School where an explosion has just occurred. About 25 people are down and unconscious. Take the dirt driveway that goes behind the north side of the school to reach them."

Last of all, whenever possible, utilize alternative communications to contact police, fire, or EMS agencies. Mutual aid radio frequencies, fax machines, packet computer messages, and even runners can be used to carry the information. You should reserve the 911 line for only the most pressing of emergencies such as new events ("The Fifth Street bridge just collapsed."), traditional unit requests on an expedited basis ("The fire chief needs an additional three engines for the brush fire on the south side of the hill. Contact him on Channel 2."), and for priority one commands ("The mayor said to have city hall evacuated. Move all staff to the back-up site at the public works garage. The chemical spill is spreading.")

Follow the above simple guidelines to insure that you have an effective communication link to your 911 dispatcher. As with all equipment used during a disaster, professional training and operation can help eliminate confusion and misdirection.

*Rich Abrams is a member of DERA, APCO, and the American Red Cross, and is a alarm and security dispatcher for Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.*

## **DERA Disaster Emergency Fund**

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# Job Announcements

## NATO, The Hague, Netherlands

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is seeking international positions in the Information Systems Division. The Applications Evolution Branch has several openings for engineers and information systems specialists with university degrees in computer sciences or information systems and an in-depth knowledge of web technology. NATO offices offer a pleasant, challenging work environment in an international community, modern facilities, with well-equipped laboratories and access to the latest equipment.

NATO offers excellent tax-free salary, expatriation, household and children's allowances, excellent private health insurance, generous annual leave and a three-year contract that may be renewed by mutual consent.

NATO official languages are English and French. Excellent knowledge of one is required, and some knowledge of the other is desirable. Principal work in this post is conducted in English.

Candidates must be citizens of a NATO member country. Forward resumes in English or French, quoting reference number A4-ISD-1194 to:

Personnel Officer  
NATO C3 Agency  
P.O. Box 174  
2501 CD The Hague  
The Netherlands

*Resumes may also be directed to the following Email address:*

personnel@nc3a.nato.int

## **Community Redevelopment Agency South Miami, Florida**

The City of South Miami, an economically, racially and ethnically diverse community of 10,500 is seeking a Director for the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). The position is responsible for the administration, development, planning and coordination of projects and programs involving housing, commercial revitalization, redevelopment, rehabilitation, neighborhood improvement and community services. Candidate is responsible for a million dollar annual budget. Salary and benefits: \$50,000-\$70,000. Apply by mail or fax to:

City of South Miami  
Attn: Jeanette E. Navarro  
6130 Sunset Drive  
South Miami, FL 33143  
FAX: (305) 668-3877

## **MPA Program Director George Mason University**

George Mason University invites nominations and applications for the position of Director of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program, a tenure track position at the associate or full professor level, to begin on either January 1 or July 1, 2001. Ph.D. required along with a distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, and/or senior management experience.

The MPA program is part of the Department of Public & International Affairs, and enrolls over 200 students in several concentrations and in Certificates in Nonprofit Management, Administration of Justice, and Information Policy and Administration. The department has over 30 full-time faculty members.

Applicants should submit a letter describing experience and research interests, a vita, and the names of three references. Review of applications will begin September 1 and will continue until the position is filled. Send applications to:

Dr. James P. Pfiffner  
Chair, MPA Search Committee  
Dept. of Public and International Affairs  
George Mason University  
MSN 3F4  
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

## **Fiscal Policy Analyst Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

The Fiscal Affairs Division is the executive budget office of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Division develops, analyzes and manages financial planning and resource allocation activities including the Governor's budget submissions to the Legislature.

Fiscal Policy Analysts provide financial and performance analysis of department programs, operations, and policies. Analysts are responsible for monitoring and forecasting revenue and expenditures, preparing budget recommendations, working with legislative and executive staffs, and proposing policy initiatives.

A master's degree in a field such as public policy, business or economics is preferred. Candidates must have excellent analytical, interpersonal, research and communication skills, including the ability to write quickly and clearly. This is a fast-paced, high pressure environment. Candidates must be self-motivated, responsible team players willing to work nights and weekends during peak work cycles.

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## **Late-Breaking News**

### **ISDR Director Resigns in Protest**

Philippe L Boule' Director of the United Nations Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) will resign on 31 July 2000 in protest over what he perceives to be the efforts to incorporate the Secretariat as a subordinate component of OCHA.

Boule' stated, "In my view, there has been increasing evidence that ISDR was being incorporated as a secondary component into the humanitarian and relief assistance activities of OCHA....The necessary authority and autonomy essential for the Secretariat to operate with distinct visibility as an inter-agency and multi-disciplinary platform for disaster reduction has not been forthcoming....the situation has been detrimental to the cause of disaster prevention itself."

Director Boule' has been particularly concerned that the Secretariat operate not just as a humanitarian assistance organization but that it be involved in the development of sustainable interests within countries, a component of disaster reduction which he felt was "necessary to give equal weight to environmental, economic and social, and scientific and technological aspects of disaster reduction."

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