

DISASTERCOM

DERA Newsletter

38 Years of Service

October, 2000



News for Members

Membership Dues

As a reminder, annual membership dues are now due. Please check the mailing label on the envelope for this newsletter and see if your membership expires in 2000.

If so, please send that label along with your check or credit card information for payment. Let us know if you wish to upgrade membership categories, or if there are any changes to your mailing address.

Biggs Elected Director

The Trustees are pleased to announce that Wesley R. Biggs, Sr., has been elected to a position on the DERA Board of Directors.

Wes lives in North Kansas City, Missouri and is employed with the Metropolitan Community Colleges District of Kansas City as a security officer. He also serves also as Deputy Fire Marshal for the Inter-City Fire Protection District.

In addition, Wes is enrolled at Maple Woods Community College, where he is studying a multidisciplinary public safety curriculum that includes Criminal Justice, Environmental Health-Safety, and Fire Sciences. For many years has been active with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and the American Red Cross, serving in a variety of key emergency services positions. He is a former CAP Squadron Commander and Director of Senior Programs for the Missouri Wing Headquarters.

Wes will serve a two-year term on the DERA Board.

Membership Cards

We discontinued issuing membership cards several years ago because a survey indicated that very few of our members cared about receiving cards.

Many members, however, have let us know lately that membership cards are important to them. We are obtaining some very nice cards for 2001 memberships, but in the interim we are enclosing with this newsletter your membership card for the year 2000.

We will be sending 2001 pocket calendars late in November along with a form for you to update personal contact information for the membership directory that will be published in February.

Disaster Report Available

DERA has only a few copies left 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:

DERA
Attn: Orissa Book
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502

Mihir Bhatt Visits DERA

In mid-October, Mr. Mihir Bhatt, Director of the Disaster Mitigation Institute in India spent two days in Denver meeting with DERA members and exchanging views on emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation programs in both countries.

Mr. Bhatt, who holds a Master's degree from MIT in Urban Studies and Development Planning, also visited numerous federal, state and local emergency management offices throughout the U.S. under a fellowship sponsored by the Eisenhower Foundation. He met with FEMA Director James Lee Witt and discussed how a program such as Project Impact might be successfully applied in India.

While in Denver, Mr. Bhatt was hosted by DERA member Glen Nickel, who arranged meetings with Dr. Waverly Person, Director of the National Earthquake Information Center, Director Tommy Grier and his staff at the Colorado Office of Emergency Management, and Lynn Highland of the National Landslide Information Center in Golden, CO.

Glen and others from DERA provided Mr. Bhatt with overviews of comprehensive emergency management both from the perspective of governmental agencies and from that of non-governmental organizations (NGO's). A key element of concern expressed throughout the meeting was the difficulty in obtaining community consensus and commitment regarding hazard mitigation and preparedness projects, particularly when there is conflict with other development plans. Even with the resources of Project Impact, many communities have experienced difficulty executing meaningful mitigation projects.

An audio recording of the DERA panel meeting with Mr. Bhatt is available at the DERA web site in *Real Audio* format. Follow the "Audio Library File" link from:

<http://www.disasters.org/dera>

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

ISSN 1521-1592

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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E-Mail: DERA@disasters.org

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Denver, CO 80228

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E I I P



Director's Comments

Dear Members:

Each October, DERA takes the opportunity to proudly recognize its members who are active in fire services, search and rescue and maritime rescue. This year, we are extremely pleased to honor the following:

Charles Bailey

Montgomery County, Maryland

Captain Mark A. Barcelona

Federal Way, Washington

James P. Beck

Stockton, California

Dogan Kazim Blykii

Istanbul, Turkey

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W. Yarmouth, Massachusetts

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Salt Lake City, Utah

Michael Hanna

Massapequa, New York

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Belmont, Michigan

Lawrence Hepburn

Torrington, Connecticut

Clyde E. Hiers

Tampa, Florida

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Memphis, Tennessee

Chief Martin J. Jordan, KB1BXE

Portland, Maine

Russell A. Kilpatrick

Pasadena, Maryland

Robert J. Koester

Charlottesville, Virginia

Chief Steven L. Labov

Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

Chief Edward Lacey

Schaumburg, Illinois

Charles E. Lundfelt

Juneau, Alaska

Chief Dick Minor

Loveland, Colorado

Frank R. Montes-de-Oca, Jr.

Springfield, Ohio

Steve Munson

Elk City, Idaho

William Musto

East Northport, New York

Alexandro Nieto

Boulder, Colorado

Michael K. Oberuch

Hudson, Ohio

Dr. Marian L. Olson, CEM

Golden, Colorado

Thomas F. Pedigo

Bowling Green, Kentucky

Battalion Chief Ralph Privitera

Rochester, New York

Chief John Rukavina

Asheville, North Carolina

Robert Ryan

Amazonia, Missouri

Chief Joe Shumacher

Arvada, Colorado

Jim Sells

Concord, North Carolina

Captain Daryl D. Sensenig, CEM

Odenton, Maryland

Randy Sheppard

West Palm Beach, Florida

Bob Skillman

Loveland, Colorado

Chief Robert Squyres

Jonesville, Louisiana

dr ing G van Staalduinen, MPM

Schiedam, The Netherlands

Robert Swanson

Syosset, New York

Chief Mark Wallace

Golden, Colorado

Michael R. Watson

Russellville, Arkansas

Sandra G. Weeks

Pleasant Hill, California

Fire Marshal Philip T. Wilk

Morristown, New Jersey

Carrie Wilson

Manassas, Virginia

-Jay Wilson, Executive Director

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CPTI, P.O. Box 351057, Westminster, CO 80035

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined DERA since our last newsletter:

Robert Heyer
Red Bank, NJ

Chris Metzger
APO AE 09603

Nellie Moxley
Takoma Park, MD

Ron Mobley
Honolulu, HI

Patricia Burritt
Sacramento, CA

Romilio Carrasco
Santiago, Chile

Maggie O'Connor
Gaithersburg, MD

John G. Tesmer
Radom, Poland

Thomas F. Pedigo
Bowling Green, KY

Suhas Bhand
Bhopal, India

Joseph Vinson
Palo Alto, CA

Stuart A. Nelson
Goldsboro, NC

Troy Kurth
Missoula, MT

Art Mock
Washington, DC

Miguel Carrasquillo
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Sandra G. Weeks
Pleasant Hill, CA

Michele R. Volpp
Lockport, IL

Robert Squyres
Jonesville, LA

Kathleen Byrne
Portland, OR

John Kingsley
Denton, TX

Brent Sachs
Broomfield, CO

M. Shajjat Hossain
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Patrick Iwan
Hugo, MN

William L. Waugh
Atlanta, GA

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

Please use the membership form on the back page of this newsletter to recommend a friend or associate for membership in DERA.

Position Announcements

Fiscal Policy Analyst

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Fiscal Affairs has openings for fiscal (budget) policy analysts. The Division is the executive budget office for the Commonwealth and develops, analyzes and manages financial planning and resource allocation including the Governor's budget submissions to the Legislature.

Fiscal Policy Analysts provide financial and performance analysis of departmental programs, operations, and policies. Analysts are responsible for monitoring and forecasting revenue and expenditures, preparing the Governor's annual budget recommendation, working with legislative and executive branch staff, identifying and monitoring key budget and policy issues and proposing policy and savings initiatives.

A master's degree in a related 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 and high-pressure environment. Further information is on our web site: www.state.ma.us/bb/

Starting salary is \$41,213 with excellent benefits. Interested applicants should apply as soon as possible. Send resume, cover letter and a brief analytical writing sample to:

Barbara Aiken
Fiscal Affairs Division
State House, Room 272
Boston, MA 01233

Warning Systems Manager

Contra Costa County, California is seeking a manager for Community Warning Systems. The position works within the Sheriff's Office and is responsible for management of the current system as well as modernization, integration and coordination with state, city, county and other governmental agencies.

Desired qualifications include a bachelor's degree with a major in information systems, engineering, business or public administration, or a closely related field, and two years of experience providing program oversight and coordination of critical incident response planning and emergency services.

For further information, please telephone (925) 335-1701. An application form and additional details are available from:

Human Resources Department
Contra Costa County
651 Pine Street, 2nd Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Job announcements are posted as soon as DERA receives them at :

Emergency Management Gold !

To get directly to the site, go to

www.disasters.org/dera

Select "EM Gold!" from the left menu.

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.

Please collect these coupons from your friends and associates.

Send to:

**DERA
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502-0707**

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.

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. For instructions for sending paper copies, please visit the *AEMR Journal* at 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 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

Please help us provide emergency relief and assistance to victims of catastrophic disasters.

DERA funds vital emergency relief efforts and critical preparedness projects, often when there is no other source of funds.

Disaster victims are depending on us.

Please don't let them down.

Tell us how to use your donation:

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 South America Africa Asia
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 Only within _____ (Location)
 Where needed most

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Mail To:

DERA Disaster Emergency Fund
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502-0797

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DERA is an IRS 501(c)(3) Organization. FEIN 39-1777651.

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.

Starting salary is \$38,067.12, with excel-

lent benefits. To learn more about this job, please visit our web site:

www.state.ma.us/bb/

How to Apply: This is an open posting with no deadline. Interested candidates should apply as soon as possible. Please send resume, cover letter and an analytical writing sample to:

Barbara Aiken
Fiscal Affairs Division
State House Room 272
Boston, MA 01233

We are an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Women, minorities, veterans and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

For the latest job announcements, visit

Emergency Management Gold

at

www.disasters.org

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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Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association

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E-Mail: _____ Radio Callsign: _____

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Charge Card Transactions will be billed to your account through MTC Management Service, Berthoud, Colorado.

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