

# DISASTERCOM

DERA Newsletter

40 Years of Service

October 2002

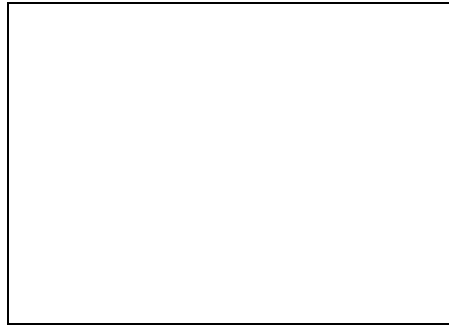


## VeHaun Receives Miriam Smith Memorial Award

The 2002 Miriam Smith Memorial Award honoring those who have served the people of western North Carolina in emergency preparedness and operations has been awarded to JERRY VeHAUN, WA4GTT. Jerry is Director of the Buncombe County, NC Office of Emergency Management and is an active member of DERA. He is also past president of the International Association of Emergency Managers.

This memorial is given annually in memory of Miriam Smith whose tireless efforts and time were spent in demonstrating the abilities of ham operators and the capabilities of amateur radio during times of emergency. Through her work, the amateurs of western North Carolina enjoy an excellent working relationship with emergency management coordinators throughout the region.

The award was presented to Jerry VeHaun at the annual Western Carolina Hamfest in Waynesville, NC.



Carl Smith, N4AA, (left) presents Jerry VeHaun with the Miriam Smith Memorial award. Carl was the husband of Miriam Smith (SK) who was instrumental in bringing ham radio into the emergency manager's office--she was the one who did the "example by fire" work via ham radio that opened their eyes to the potential of ham radio. Carl is the editor of DX MAGAZINE and has a monthly article in CQ Magazine. Both Carl and Jerry are members of DERA.

13th World Conference on  
Disaster Management  
**-CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS-**  
(CCEP)  
The Canadian Centre for Emergency  
Preparedness  
Toronto, Ontario Canada  
June 22-25, 2003

WCDM has become one of the premier events in North America for training and networking among Emergency Response, Emergency Management, Business Continuity, Emergency Health, Security and Risk Management professionals worldwide and for the organizations, which supply and service these professions. The 2003 Conference is expected to attract over 800 delegates from Canada, the US and from around the world. Conference delegates come from all levels of government, educational institutions, business and the emergency response community.

The Conference theme will be "The Changing Face of Disaster Management" with a sub-theme of "NEW THREATS, NEW APPROACHES"

Presentations should fall into one or more of the following categories:

- x Real Events/Real Lessons Learned
- x Emerging Trends in Disaster Management
- x The Human Element in Disaster Management
- x Technical Risks/Emergencies
- x Disaster Management Principles & Practices

Presentation abstracts must be submitted by December 16, 2002.

If you have some knowledge to share, or know of someone who might be interested in presenting, please visit our web site at <http://www.wcdm.org/> or contact Adrian Gordon 905.319.4034 email : [agordon@ccep.ca](mailto:agordon@ccep.ca)

## Salvation Army

### Aid to Flood Victims in East Germany

The Salvation Army assisted residents and emergency disaster workers fighting horrific flooding in much of Eastern Europe. For over a week, The Salvation Army in Dresden, Germany, has been working around-the-clock feeding 1,000 people a day and offering aid to those suffering from what is being called one of the worst floods in that area's history. Initially, Salvation Army personnel fed and offered a respite for military, police, fire and emergency disaster personnel working 24-hours a day without a break.

This ministry expanded to include

people stranded in their homes without electricity and food for days.

Salvation Army personnel are also assisting other agencies unable to handle the large amount of residents evacuated from their homes. In addition, The Salvation Army is providing meals for 300 residents staying in a nearby temporary shelter. "We're serving everyone from police, military personnel, fire fighters and sand baggers to residents and elderly people who've been stranded in their homes or evacuated to shelters.

(Continued on page 4)

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

ISSN 1521-1592

Editor: Catherine Lawhun

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 797  
Longmont, CO 80502

DERA is a Nonprofit, U.S. IRS 501(c)(3)  
Disaster Service and Professional Association  
Established in 1962  
Incorporated in the State of Wisconsin.  
Newsletter ISSN 1521-1592.

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E I I P



## **Greetings..... from the New Editor**

Dear Members:

I am pleased to be able to take a more active role in this organization. I would like to make a significant contribution in this way and free up the skills of those whose efforts are better utilized in other capacities.

It was the encouragement that I received from Jay and Kathy Wilson some time ago that brought me to the desire to want to help today. The venture that I had placed so much of my time, energies and resources into forming as a public service was being met with a lot of skepticism. As busy as they were, Jay and his lovely wife took the time not only to listen, but also, to allow me to have an avenue for getting the message out. That avenue was this newsletter. Now I am privileged to be able to give back to assist, not only Jay and Kathy, but the DERA newsletter itself.

My goal is to get to know each and every member's tastes in news and present articles that unite us, encourage us and keep our interests peaked in devotion to the subjects that join us together. I welcome all input, feedback and suggestions as we move forward in this transition.

My background includes 20 years in the water and wastewater engineering field where I am still currently employed with a consulting civil firm. In my spare time I have launched and operate a company that matches engineering skills to project contracts. I develop and direct a non-profit corporation that builds teams of professionals to provide response, relief and recovery to disaster situations worldwide. I act as a communications liaison for the South Levy County Volunteer Firefighters and hold an OES field appointment from ARES as KG4UKI.

Although located in Florida, I was fortunate to be able to meet and discuss the editors hip with Jay and Kathy while they were traveling.

My plans are to be able to attend the conference in the spring and be able to meet many of you and provide enthusiastic coverage of the event to those who cannot attend. Until then, a picture will have to suffice.

Hope to meet you all very soon!!!

-Catherine Lawhun



Catherine Lawhun (left) receives editorship from Kathryn Dunlevy-Wilson

For more information about the organizations that Catherine Lawhun has founded see

[www.many-waters.com](http://www.many-waters.com)  
and  
[www.jesus4.org](http://www.jesus4.org)

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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.

**Charles Morano**

Bridgeport, CT

**Scott R. Gothard**

Lake Forest, CA

**Gustavo Lievano**

Caracas, Venezuela

**James G. Anderson**

Neosho, MO

**William Firestone**

Tallahassee, FL

**Kim Brown**

Denton, TX

**Heather Rounds**

Kings Mountain, NC

**George McConaghy**

Turnersville, NJ

**Dan Flynn**

St Louis, MO

**Raphael LaRocca**

Columbia, MD

**W. Sean Vitou**

Avon Lake, OH

**Digna S. Gallagher, RN**

Los Angeles, CA

**Altar Ayesu Wontumi**

Accra, Ghana

**Michael R. Dimmer**

Black Diamond, AB, Canada

**Philip A. Wilson**

Quantico, VA

**Richard Hicks**

Albuquerque, NM

**Marco Aurelio Sllatti Schitz**

Portu Alegre, RS, Brazil

**Mahmoud Badr**

Alexandria, Egypt

**Dr. Bruce A. Bowman**

Oak Hill, VA

**Jacqueline Roderick**

Newport News, VA

**Peter de Gaia**

San Francisco, CA

**George R. Gacser**

W. Bethesda, MD

**Mike Nelson**

Prescott, AZ

**Sarah Henshaw**

Washington, DC

**Marc Huennekens, KG4OPM**

Weaverville, NC

*Help us all get to know you*  
**Send a brief about yourself**

Address points such as:

- Areas of Interest
- Roles you play in Emergencies and Disasters
- Availability from a geographical perspective
- Extracurricular commitments
- Memberships, Positions or Titles

Email to:

www.DERA@many-waters.com

or drop a note in the mail to:

**DERA DisasterCom Editor**

**P.O. Box 2455**

**Crystal River, FL 34423**

This will help us to better tailor our newsletter to your interests; help the readership get to know you, keep you informed of pertinent upcoming events of interest to you. It can also serve as a valuable tool and delineator for workshops involving future planning for DERA at our upcoming conference this spring.

*Thanks! Hope to hear from you soon.*

**Dr. John O'Connell**

Glendale, AZ

**David J. Reppert**

Ballston Spa, NY

**Samuel J. Hollen**

Gainsville, VA

**LtCol Frank A. Candiano**

Garden City, NY

**Howard F. Pierpont**

Orangevale, CA

**Robert B. Walker**

Dunellen, NJ

**Stanley J. Grogan**

Pinole, CA

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Harrison Township, MI

**Mark Higgins Turner**

Sydney, NSW, Australia

**David H. Laws**

Norristown, PA

**Emily L. Williamson**

Norristown, PA

**Neftali H. Gomez Gil Guzman**

Mexico City, DF, Mexico

**Edward A. Svitil**

Houston, TX

**Tom Collins**

Chicago, IL

**Lewis Casey**

Albuquerque, NM

**Richard Ferris, KG4MLY**

Asheville, NC

**Ellen Pate**

Midland, TX

**Hiland B. Sabiston, K7DXT**

Asheville, NC

**Charles Shehan**

Pope AFB, NC

**Will Stevenson**

Greenwood Village, CO

**Shubha Shrivastava**

Urbana, IL

**George Mindling**

Port Charlotte, FL

**James D. Ammons**

Carlsbad, NM

**Kevin Oleson**

Renton, WA

**S.M. Evans**

Tulsa, OK

**Jorge L. Garcia Ortiz**

Toa Baja, PR

**Ahmadul Haque**

Bhaka, Bangladesh

**Shaun C. Bertok**

Ballston Lake, NY

**Stephen Esangbedo**

Lagos, Nigeria

**Meghan J. Batchelder**

Willow Grove, PA

**Dr. Raphael Ntummy**

Ghanzi, Botswana

**Keith Wing**

West Milford, NJ

**Harold A. Springer**

Germantown, MD

**David Wood**

Dallas, TX

**Troy Hudson**

Garland, TX

**Welcome to DERA!**

*It is our sincere aim to help you  
achieve your professional and personal goals.*

## **Tropical Storm Isadore** *Salvation Army Relief Effort*

Jackson, Miss. (September 26, 2002) – Salvation Army personnel and disaster units throughout the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi (ALM) Division are responding to victims of Tropical Storm Isadore by providing meals, shelter and cleaning supplies.

The ALM Division is operating from three staging areas located in New Orleans, Louisiana; Gulfport, Mississippi; and Mobile, Alabama. The ALM division has activated all 22 of its mobile feeding units. The division is staffing emergency operations centers in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

In New Orleans, Louisiana, Major Richard Brittle, Incident Commander has sheltered and fed 350 people as well as provided a roving mobile feeding canteen that is providing meals to citizens across the city. Canteens were dispatched from Lafayette and Baton Rouge to assist with mass feeding in New Orleans and surrounding Parishes. Disaster cleaning kits were distributed to 1,200 storm victims.

In Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Major Dan Heard, Corps Officer sheltered and fed 400 Gulf Coast residents. In Gulfport, Mississippi, Incident Commander Major Darrell Kingsbury provided shelter to 100 Gulf Coast residents and fed 600 people on Wednesday. Two Salvation Army mobile kitchens are serving meals in Biloxi and Hancock counties and one is serving in George and Jackson counties. Additional Salvation Army mobile kitchens are in Gulfport assisting victims from Columbus and Greenwood, Mississippi and Lake Charles, Louisiana.

In Mobile, Alabama, Incident Commander, Major David Waite is serving meals from mobile feeding kitchens from Tuscaloosa and Mobile, Alabama; Hattiesburg, Mississippi and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They are also distributing 1,000 disaster-cleaning kits to victims of the storm.

The division has ordered 3,000 additional cleanup kits for mass distribution to disaster victims if needed. In-kind donations are not needed at this time.

### **Response Plan Design**

Tandell Systems LLC, Clearwater, FL., and Emergency Visions LLC, Atlanta have formed a strategic alliance to develop and deliver a comprehensive and informative system for the design, automation and simulation of emergency response plans for natural or man-made disasters. [www.tandelsys.com](http://www.tandelsys.com)

Contact: [info@tandelsys.com](mailto:info@tandelsys.com)

## **Firefighter's Fellowship**

Terrorist attacks, the increase in disasters, the fear of a future attack, natural disasters, the outbreak of fires, the rumors of wars—the list goes on—a list that illustrates why we need to encourage one another. This scripture from Hebrews describes the central premise of the Fellowship of Christian Firefighters. "Encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approach." Hebrews 10:25b.

The Fellowship of Christian Firefighters began in the Denver area in the early 1970's when two Christian firefighters, saw the importance and the need for Christian firefighters to support and encourage one another. Because of the interest shown nationally, the group united as a nonprofit, nondenominational organization, incorporated in Denver in 1977.

Six times a year, their international newsletter, **The Encourager**, is mailed to thousands of people. Local Chapters sponsor tables at conventions and expositions nation wide including FDIC, Fire Rescue, and Firehouse Expo. They have an active Mexico outreach that includes obtaining and distributing gear and equipment to Mexico along with training.

Director Gaius Reynolds and his wife Sue have been on the road almost continually since September 11 providing encouragement and psychological counseling to firefighters and rescue workers who took part in the response and relief efforts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Please check out the FCFI web page at: [FellowshipofChristianFirefighters.com](http://FellowshipofChristianFirefighters.com) or contact Gaius Reynolds at the International Office at 1-800-322-9848. E-mail [FCFIHQ@ASOL.COM](mailto:FCFIHQ@ASOL.COM)

### **HF Radio Relays**

Last summer was a hot and dry one with many fires. DERA did not activate, but a few times thought that they may have to. James Lucas reports that he has been checking into the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN NET). "The HF bands have not been the best this summer with lots of outages, loss of short skip, and long skip as well. However, with relays they have been able to cross the U.S. and even some DX in the mornings.

## **SALVATION ARMY AID to Flood Victims**

### *in* **East Germany**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Our goal to assist whomever we can, whenever we can, wherever we can," said Major Jim Garrington, in charge of The Salvation Army's work in Dresden. In addition, The Salvation Army has been the only relief organization assisting residents in the historic town of Meissen, Germany. Captain Jerry Duke, officer in charge of The Salvation Army's work in Meissen, immediately began assisting the community as floodwaters began to rise. With no electricity and the town under water Captain Duke began to search for ways to help residents. As food began to thaw in refrigerators, he collected it from neighbors and grilled it on a propane gas grill. Captain Duke and his neighbors then distributed the food to residents throughout the town.

A Salvation Army emergency disaster vehicle (canteen) from Berlin has arrived and The Salvation Army continues to feed over 200 people a day. Since there is no media attention, help for that community is slow in coming, but The Salvation Army remains a vital component in the town's relief and clean-up efforts.

The Salvation Army has also started collecting and distributing cleaning supplies in preparation for the long months of clean up ahead. Housed in a local school in Dresden, the program was immediately overflowing with residents wanting to donate and assist others in the clean-up effort. The canteen given by The Salvation Army in the Midwest to support the Kosova relief effort also is on its way to Dresden to assist in the continuing flood relief and clean-up effort.

### **SAFETY REMINDER**

Seems like every year I hear where some unfortunate soul got zapped because they did not look up before putting up antennae. Those 120-volt lines can be just as deadly as the 12,000-volt kind. So when contemplating an antenna, LOOK UP first and live another day. Also, some still use amps and transmitters with high B+ voltage and a little current. Remember, it takes just a small amount of current to stop your heart. Use the 'one hand in pocket' routine when working around such equipment and unplug it too.

# **Disaster Diploma – UW College of Engineering Communication Course**

The University of Wisconsin, College of Engineering offers a diploma in Disaster Management.

I had the pleasure of attending the May 2002 three-day intensive course in Disaster Communications at their Madison campus.

The primary instructors for the course were Mark Wood and Gary Gerriott. See their instructor profiles that follow.

Attendance was comprised of representatives from the Army Corps of engineers, International Red Cross, International Medical Corps, and others. UW specializes in custom tailoring courses to equip and train a variety of relief and response agencies worldwide.

The main topics were presented around the auspices of designing and transporting an entire communications system into a foreign country as if it were a hostile environment. Fundamentals of:

- Public telephone networks- PSTN (foreign and domestic)
- Power- Batteries, Generators
- HF radio
- Internet and Networking equipment
- Foreign Licensing, importing, security issues and the Tampere Convention were covered.

Some highlights of the course were a tour of the Madison EOC- fully staffed Radio personnel during a drill, Field exercises involving VHF repeater relay operation to delineate urban interference issues, experience in "shooting the Bird" with state of the art SAT phones, hands on demonstrations involving packet using bulletin boards and live demonstration of the prototype American Red Cross Communications van (see separate article below). The minimum technical standards required providing safety and security to field personnel as a recommendation from SIG-TAG currently being circulated for approval by ISCC was distributed as a basis for team practice on design problem for a mock situation.

Practicality for situation status was emphasized throughout. The course was informative, usable and anything but dull. I also highly recommend the instructors whom I have profiled below.

University of Wisconsin –Madison offers numerous distance-learning courses well geared for and approved by a multitude of disaster relief, planning and recovery agencies worldwide. Three custom modules of coursework can be delivered

in English, French or Spanish on topics covering over 40 topics dealing with Disaster/Emergency Management, Refugees and Displaced persons, Natural Hazards and a special program for Training the Trainers. Offered as both distance learning and in person the colleges annual workshop series, focusing this year on managing mass population displacement for international humanitarian emergencies through the application of the highly regarded Sphere Project guidelines in the assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluating of international response to these crises. The three day Disaster Communications course will be offered again May 14-16 and I highly recommend it.

For additional information contact:  
Don Schramm dmc@engr.wisc.edu  
URL: <http://dmc.engr.wisc.edu>

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## ***Instructor Profile:* Mark Wood**

Member of the United Nations Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET). Published Disaster Communications in 1996. St. John's ambulance brigade as an ambulance man & assistant radio officer, American Red Cross disaster action team in Dallas as a duty officer, Disaster Relief communications Foundation as radio officer, researcher/writer.

Served for HM Coastguard in Liverpool as a radio operator. Worked at BBC TV for 6 yrs. specializing in transmissions for TV & radio broadcasts, worked in Telecommunications Lab & Control Room in London. Previous teacher of Microelectronics & Information Technology as a Network Planner for British Telecom. Lecturer in mobile telecom systems with Ericsson Tech. Qualified electrician.

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## ***Instructor Profile:* Gary Gerriott**

Published multiple SIG works on satellite – internet linking and related works for developing nations.

Volunteers in Technical Assistance. - Management of multiple volunteer & consultant teams assessing, installing & training international ICT projects. Program design & implementation of low cost networking projects using low earth orbit satellites, digital radio, & bulletin boards. Prepared feasibility studies, needs assessments, training programs, proposals, presentations & technical papers on development communication-

related topics, including distance education, Systems design & analysis, high level database programming, applications manager for VITA low earth orbit & digital radio projects. Consultation & project development in renewable energy technologies, instructional course in micro-hydro technologies (Dominican Republic), and:

. Renewable energy project evaluation team leader for U.S. Agency for International Development in Ecuador, 1984 & Central America (ROCAP), 1982;  
. PEACESAT renewable energy two-way audio teleconferences to Pacific Island user groups.

1979-1980 Project Analyst, U.S. Agency for International Development Rural Satellite Program, USAID/LAC, Washington, DC 1980. USAID/Nicaragua 1979-1980.

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## ***American Red Cross Prototype Communications Van***

From the developer John Perry :

This is the communications van that we received a live demonstration of during the Disaster Communications course at UW last spring.

The van boasts a 50 ft telescoping aerial television camera that broadcast disaster situation conditions live via satellite of a large radius surrounding the vehicle. Internally it is loaded with every conceivable piece of radio equipment – not an inch was left to spare. Every conceivable mode of transmission and reception are covered with corresponding antennas atop to boot- (12 in all including microwave).

The Proto type excursion has been deployed to many different scenarios from a stand by mode at the Olympics in Salt Lake City, to the Wild Fires in Colorado, to a Tornado In Maryland, to a flood situation in West Virginia. The truck has worked well with the Amateur radio clubs in this area. They use the truck to test their communication skills. There is now a second truck actually deployed in Phoenix AZ.

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## ***ITU elects Director***

Valery Timofeev has been elected director of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radiocommunication Bureau. Timofeev, who is Russia's deputy minister for communications and informatization, has extensive experience in radio frequency spectrum management at both the national and international levels.

## Training Campus 2003

Tarrant County College, near Fort Worth Texas has recently opened a 27 ac (11 ha) facility that offers training in firefighting and rescue operations. The complex has it's own administration and classroom buildings, along with a fire station, a six story high rise, simulated homes and retail establishments, as well as several trenches that enable trainees to practice various types of water rescue. Water in the channel is used to train student in defensive swimming and will flow at a rate of 7ft/s (2m/s). Obstructions placed at the bottom of the channel will create a choppy, white-water flow. Computers in the administration building control the intensity of the fires and the reaction of the flame as the extinguishing agent is applied. There are confined space props as well and structures for simulating fuel spills and train wrecks. The college hopes to recoup its \$18 million investment in the training center in about 10 years by marketing not only to Texas fire and police departments but also to departments across the nation.

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### Job opening ARRL Laboratory

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The ARRL Laboratory has a job opening for an RFI/EMC specialist. The successful candidate will work at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, on a variety of technical projects and programs relating to radio-frequency interference and its effect on the Amateur Radio Service. An Amateur Radio license and experience is required for this position. This job is a unique opportunity to work with ARRL members, the FCC, industry groups and standards organizations to make a real difference in this critical area for Amateur Radio. Some additional duties of this position are: Work with amateurs to find solutions to RFI problems; maintains and improves ARRL's RFI information; write articles, book material and papers about RFI; and develops and maintains a database for tracking and documenting RFI problems. Send a resume and salary expectations to Bob Boucher, Personnel Manager, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Resumes may be sent via e-mail to [rboucher@arrl.org](mailto:rboucher@arrl.org). No telephone calls, please. ARRL is an equal opportunity employer.

The Handbook CD for Radio Communications (2003) Version 7.0 <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1956>> is \$39.95 and includes the entire 2003 edition of The ARRL Handbook as a fully searchable, easy-to-use CD-ROM. It will ship in November .

## Finding My Place-a Student's Perspective

Two years ago, I was a junior at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton. I had found myself in a dead-end situation. I had switched majors three times searching for something more but not knowing what that more was exactly. On top of not being sure of my future, I was bored and unchallenged in the classes I was taking. I decided I needed something new and exciting, where routine was not the only word that was known, and I could love what I was doing.

So I started volunteering at North Tarrant County Fire Department (NTCFD) in Ft. Worth, Texas. This was something I always had an urge to do, but was something that my time had not allowed before. The first three months, 6 other rookies and myself went through training on C shift (every 3rd day). The training consisted of both classroom and hands-on in addition to regular testing. Half way through my training for becoming a firefighter with NTCFD I realized that the major I was currently pursuing was not where my heart was. I decided to change my major to Emergency Administration and Planning (EADP) and as luck would have it UNT was one of the few schools with a program.

I started the program and have not looked back since. At the time that I changed my major, I was already a junior; I jumped in with both feet and emerged myself in EADP courses. Within the first week of my EADP classes I knew I had chosen the right major. It was in the middle of the semester that I really knew I had the right major because I still was interested.

Also, I knew what the professors were teaching me could be applied to real-life situations. Many topics, which are covered in class, I find myself relating to the fire station, as we (the members) strive to better our station. From the classroom setting I have taken Hazard Vulnerability Analysis to my department as well as plan out functional exercises that we do at our station.

When it came time for me to do an internship for my major, my Chief and Captain had me act as the Public Information Officer (PIO) for our department. As PIO I had the opportunity to put together a large Open House for NTCFD for our 10th Anniversary. I had the chance to work with both print media and the radio to advertise for our event. In addition, I worked with local companies to donate food and drinks for the event.

In addition, to having valuable in-the-field work as a firefighter and PIO, I have also had the honor to serve on NTCFD Board of Directors as the Secretary, upon my election last May. This has allowed me to take part in important decisions such as appointing a Fire Chief and the purchasing of an '88 Engine (an improvement from our '74).

At the end of this last fall semester, after hearing other EADP students rave about the IAEM conference in California, I decided I needed to become active with other branches of Emergency Management besides just the Fire Service. I became a student member of professional Emergency Management organizations in Texas, nationally, and internationally as well as started my training to become a member of the American Red Cross Disaster Action Team (DAT) through the Denton Chapter. I have completed initial training and I start my on-call rotation in March.

By being a member of professional organizations, you receive many benefits such as finding out about conferences. So while I am volunteering for the DAT and my fire department I will also attend conferences this spring.

Upon my graduation in early July, I will have been able to receive in-the-field work with American Red Cross as well as North Tarrant County Fire Department, have an Emergency Management degree, and will have learned the latest updates and information in Emergency Management through the conferences and organizations. Hopefully, with all of this, I will be ensured a job. I have been fortunate to be able to have received such valuable hands-on experience with NTCFD and the DAT.

I have heard some of my peers' say how hard it is to get an internship to fit their schedule between work and class. Internships are especially important in my opinion because the field of Emergency Management is one of common sense, crucial decisions, experience, and knowledge of the terms and phases. A good internship will definitely give you the experience that can't be taught in a classroom as well as the knowledge of the terms and phases.

My advise to my peers who find themselves seeking that internship, that priceless experience, as someone in the same boat: a student taking 18 hours, working a 30 hour a week job, and staying active in my organizations, is simple. First and foremost, this need to be something you love, where you want what you want to do for the rest of your life, not something to fill your time until retirement. If this is truly where your heart is, then I say, "time management and dedication!"

Without my time management and dedication to pursuing this as my career, I could easily become overloaded and burdened by the load I have chosen. If I could not fit into my schedule the initial C shift training for the fire department, I would not be where I am today and have half as much experience. If I had chosen to be the typical college student, I would have gone out on Thursday nights to the clubs instead of going to the Fire Station to do a 24-hour standby shift. Had I approached NTCFD or DAT with anything less than 100% to work my way up and a willingness to jump in with both feet at once, I would not have had the same opportunities. So as a student who wants to work in Emergency Management, the opportunities will be there, you just need to take them and do just a little bit more and better than what was expected of you.

This field we work in, is the most self-gratifying work I have ever done and I'm grateful that I get to do it. These are just the first two years of many more to come in Emergency Management for me and I know nothing better I could do with my time. I just can't wait until I am no longer a student and can devote more time to this field, because I don't know other jobs that you can have this much fun in something you love and care about.

Kim Brown, Senior EADP  
University of North Texas  
[kimbrownfromunt@hotmail.com](mailto:kimbrownfromunt@hotmail.com)

# CERT

## Community Emergency Response Teams

The Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept is a program originally started in Los Angeles, California in the mid 1980's following the Mexico City earthquake. Over 100 of the 800 untrained people who responded on a voluntary basis to assist in the earthquake rescue died. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s assessment of the causes of these fatalities included the initiative to develop training programs for volunteers as a part of the disaster planning process. Today, Los Angeles has approximately 40,000 trained personnel available who have gone through this type of training.

Capt. Bob Palestrant of the Miami-Dade CERT Program cites that the high numbers of trained individuals in LA is due to the fact that it is a mandatory requirement for all city and county employees. Miami-Dade's CERT program, only in existence since 1998, and without the mandatory employee training requirements, boasts approximately 2000 individually trained volunteers already. Capt. Palestrant would love to see local legislation that would mandate the training for all city, county and municipal employees, which would bring his totals to approximately 31,000. Regardless of the size, Miami -Dade is rated 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country among CERT teams with L.A. being first and San Francisco being second. Miami-Dade along with Hernando County (incl. Tampa, FL) have also received an award and commendation from the National Association of Counties for their CERT programs. Only these two were selected out of all counties applying across the entire nation.

Capt. Palestrant's program is funded by the Miami-Dade Fire-Rescue Department, not by FEMA, and they are grateful to have their continued support. The program allows police and fire experts to be placed where they are needed in a mass event rather than being stopped on the street to respond to minor incidents while in route to a more critical need. This was the scenario that brought the need into the spotlight for training the public to respond in their own neighborhoods during the Hurricane Andrew response.

The Disaster Snapshot Assessment Program is an integral part of the program. It is designed to determine accurate damage assessment, rapidly advise authorities of local area damage, and improve allocation of resources. The program is designed for each Snapshot Report to correspond to a specific address. Two types of information are assessed: damage and destruction, and flooding. Four separate pictures indicating levels of damage ranging from minor damage but habitable through total destruction are shown on the Snapshot Report, and each level is given a numerical designation. Photos are compared with area damage and flooding, and the information is called in to a voicemail system, which logs the need into a computer that is integrated with a mapping system. The mapping system then identifies the areas with the greatest need for police and fire response, and CERT's may be sent to the other less affected areas for assistance.

A committed effort is on to train as many responders as possible and a major focus

revolves around the educational component. High school students, in Miami-Dade, must log 75 community service hours each as part of their graduation requirements. This would be a wonderful avenue that would serve not only to train more individuals but to awaken in a larger number of youths a heart for choosing the emergency response professions as a career.

The Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has become a part of a national network of CERT communities. FEMA uses this training structure as a guideline for organizing training across the nation.

Individuals completing CERT training may be affiliated with one or more of the following teams:

- Neighborhood CERT: Five or more neighbors serving immediate residential neighborhoods.
- Business or Government CERT: Co-workers serving places of business and surrounding areas, or county, municipal or state employees.
- School CERT: School faculty and staff serving school and surrounding area.
- Faith-Based CERT: Teams based at a house of worship serving the immediate neighborhood or travel into areas that need assistance.
- Youth CERT: Organized service-oriented groups, such as Civil Air Patrol, Fire or Police Explorers, or school based clubs.

Each member must complete four 4-hour classes in the following areas to become certified.

- Disaster Preparedness
- Team Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Medical Operations
- Damage Assessment
- Disaster Simulation
- Fire Suppression
- Light Search and Rescue

Continuing Education offerings include:

- Terrorism Awareness
- Communication (Amateur Radio)
- CPR
- Critical Incident Stress Management

Large Scale disaster simulations are held once a year where all teams are invited to participate.

The CERT Information line: 305-468-5445  
This information line will make available training schedules and other relevant information.

For General information contact:  
Capt. Bob Palestrant, Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management (305) 468-5416 or  
Bobbi Andres at (305) 468-5418  
Email to [eoc@miami-dade.fl.us](mailto:eoc@miami-dade.fl.us)  
Or visit the website  
<http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/oem/cert.htm>

### FEMA

For Information about the national CERT program and links to other CERT sites visit <http://www.fema.gov/emi/cert>

## Istanbul Project

### Project Summary

1. Name: Traveling/Mobile Disaster Training Center Project
2. Applicant: Civic Coordination Against Disasters
3. Duration: One year
4. Location: The project will take place in 15 districts of Istanbul
5. Background Information: Turkey had been shocked by two devastating earthquakes at 1999 in Gölcük and Düzce where 20 thousand people were dead and 45 thousand people were injured. Another big earthquake is expected in the Marmara Sea, which will affect Istanbul is expected in the nearest future. "Traveling/Mobile Disaster Training Center Project" in short named GAEM. Here a traveling temporary Education and Training Center will be constructed in each district of Istanbul; conduct activities for 10 days and travel around the 15 districts for a year. Thus the information and the culture coping w ith disasters will be disseminated all over the city and thus the citizens could be organized against Disasters in their natural environment.

### Project Goal and Objectives

Therefore the main motto of the project is "Learn and Organize on the Local level for Disaster Preparedness". The project is aimed at the participation and organization of all residents at the local level. NGOs dealing with disaster preparedness such as CBO's, municipalities and other public institutions and organizations will all stimulate the people to get organized, increase their awareness providing seminars, education and training courses on a common ground of standard knowledge and information.

Exhibition, cartoons, movies, first aid training courses, animations, performances, seminars, workshops etc. will take place in the mobile center.

A part of the center will be allocated to NGOs where they can open their stands, distribute their brochures and arrange activities to inform the visitors. Since the project will be implemented by the cooperation and participation of the local administrators, governments and related other official bodies, the citizens will learn their preparedness plans & organize themselves accordingly.

### Project Administration

The Civic Coordination Against Disaster along with a close collaboration will actualize the project administration and the management and cooperation with all the local NGOs and governments and mutual bodies will be formed on the project fields.

In the meantime, the representatives of Chambers of Geophysics Engineers, Civil Engineers, National Earthquake Council, Emergency Medical Help Association etc., form a Consultative Board for the programme and the implementation of Education and Training Programs which will take place in the Mobile Center Subjects such as; Types of Natural Disasters, Disaster Legislation, Mass Physiociology during Disasters, Crisis Management, Training Safety and Damage Criteria's of the Buildings... will be prepared by this board also.

Estimated Project Budget: approximately 250.000 US Dollars for one year.

For more information contact:

e-mail: [info@sivilkoordinasyon.org](mailto:info@sivilkoordinasyon.org)  
[goncagirt@hotmail.com](mailto:goncagirt@hotmail.com)

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10-02  
ISSN 1521- 1592

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