



**DERA and Many Waters present a
SIMULATED EARTHQUAKE EXERCISE**

“FAULT FOUND”

Imagine a series of large earthquakes striking along the New Madrid Seismic Zone. They will come without the warning of a hurricane and cause much more wide-spread devastation than a tornado. In the immediate aftermath: bridges collapse, buildings will tumble, electrical power, communications and fuel lines will be disrupted or broken, and large numbers of people will find themselves needing medical assistance.

Virtual TableTop Exercise
Conference call participation
Sign up at
www.manywaters.org/exercise.html

**Designed especially for
Engineers and all
classes of
Emergency
Management
personnel**

**Virtual RoundTable
Sunday, Feb. 22**

**Held in Conjunction with EMLRC's
2009 International
Disaster Management Conference
Feb 19-22 Orlando, FL**

MUST ATTEND PROGRAM

Disasters.org 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
P.O. Box 797, Longmont, CO 80502 (USA)

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
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ARRL
American Radio Relay League
www.arrl.org

CNA
Colorado Nonprofit Association
www.ColoradoNonprofits.org

EM Forum (formerly EIIP)
www.emforum.org

EMLRC
Emergency Medicine Learning Resource
Center
www.emlrc.org

FAIRS
Foundation for Amateur International
Radio Service
www.fairs.org

Florida VOAD
Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in
Disaster
www.flvoad.org

NIAR
National Institute of Amateur Radio (India)
www.niar.org



New Member Roster

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Global Group
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David Marantz
West Berlin, NJ

Georg Grosse-Hohl
Monterey, CA

Paul H. Saunders
El Dorado, Trinidad and Tobago

Ms Donna Pierre
Tagarigua, Trinidad and Tobago

John Joseph Krysa
Seba Beach, Alberta, Canada

Welcome to DERA!

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

Attention All Members: 2009 Dues are now due

*Please check your membership
expiration date shown on the mailing
label of this newsletter. If you haven't
yet paid your 2009 dues, please save
DERA the cost of mailing a reminder
by making your payment now. You
have two convenient methods:*

Express Renewal by Mail

Just send us your address label with a
check for your dues. Dues rates are
shown on the last page of this newsletter.
Show any changes needed to your mailing
address, or update your email or phone if
these have recently changed.

Mail to:

DERA Membership
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502

Online Renewal

www.disasters.org/dera/register.htm

From your Editor's Desk

DERA will once again be hosting its
annual membership meeting at the
International Disaster Management
Conference in Orlando February 19-
22, 2009. In conjunction with that,
Many Waters Volunteer Engineers
wants to invite DERA members to
participate in a virtual round table
disaster response exercise entitled:

"FAULT FOUND!" The scenario is
centered around potential
catastrophes resulting to a multi-
state region that could occur
following a large earthquake event
along the New Madrid Fault.



Cost of participation is only \$20 and
travel is not required. All participation
will be accomplished via conference
call. Anyone interested in
participating this year please email
ops@disasters.org or sign up at:
www.manywaters.org/exercise.html
Hope to have you on the call.

- Catherine Lawhun


Many Waters Resource Network, Inc.
Building Teams to Build The Future

**Linking
Partners and Personnel
to Projects
Nationwide**

**Architects, Engineers,
Construction Management, and
Environmental Service Providers
for Development, Public Works,
Industry, Federal Contracting and
Disaster Response**

888-570-1344
<http://www.manywaters.org>

Message from our Chairman

Thank you for your continued membership and support.

Your membership gives our organization the strength and credibility to carry out its many missions. Your fellow members and I just can't say "thank you" enough for your continued loyalty. I hope you will find the enclosed DERA note pad a useful way to show pride in our organization.

Recent membership feedback indicated three important concerns:

1. *Members want DERA to continue our dual missions of being a professional association and a provider of disaster emergency services. Most say it is important that we do more, not less, of each.*

2. *Members want opportunities to take a more active part in managing DERA and leading projects.*

3. *Members want DERA to provide access to membership patches, hats, lapel pins and other membership items.*

Your Board of Directors has followed your lead on each of these items. I hope you know that member suggestions and insights are always welcome...just mail them in or email to me at any time. Please never forget that this is your organization.

Here are some steps I'd like to ask you to take right now as an active member:

1. RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

When you renew early, you save DERA the expense of mailing a renewal notice, you get the tax advantage of payment in 2008, and it's one less thing to worry about in the new year. The easiest way to renew is online with a charge card: Just go to our home page at www.disasters.org and click the membership link on the left.

Better yet, consider a Lifetime Membership. For a one-time payment of \$450.00, you can become a paid-up-for-life member and receive a beautiful Life Member medallion and display certificate in recognition of your status.

If you prefer, you can mail your renewal payment. We don't need a new application form if your information hasn't changed...just be sure your check shows your name as we have it.

2. RECRUIT AT LEAST TWO NEW MEMBERS FOR DERA

New members bring vitality to an organization. Please help DERA by recruiting at least two new members over the next two weeks. I'm confident that you have at least two friends or colleagues who would benefit from membership and who would bring us new ideas, energy and new talent.

The member who has recruited the most new members during the previous calendar year is recognized at our annual meeting and receives a special gift. This year's gift is a very nice digital camera which I will present to our most successful recruiter at our Orlando meeting in February.

Can I count on your help? Please use the membership application on the last page of this newsletter, or take your friends to our online membership application at www.disasters.org Click on the "Membership" link on the left side of the page.

3. SHOW YOUR MEMBER STATUS WITH DERA HATS, JACKETS, CUPS, TRAVEL MUGS AND MORE

The DERA online store now has a wide range of items such as these:



There is something at the member supply store for every need and budget. Easiest way to get to the store is by our home page at www.disasters.org and click on the "DERA Supplies" link on the right.

Also, I hope you will consider volunteering for one or more of the following DERA leadership positions:

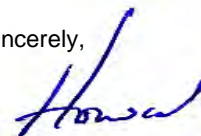
- Board of Directors. Two Board positions become vacant on January 1.
- State Liaison Officers and Assistants
- Regional Planning and Response Coordinators
- Newsletter Editor and Assistant
- Webmaster and Assistant
- Peer Review for DERA Monograph Publications
- Speaker's Bureau Coordinator and Assistant
- Assistant for Financial Development and Grants
- National Contingency Plans Chief and Assistant
- International Program Coordinator and Assistant
- Policy Advisors to the Board
- Student Awards and Scholarship Coordinator
- Online EOC Coordinator and Watch Officers
- Professional Affairs Task Force Members

Each position is briefly described on the following page.

Please let me know if you're interested in one of these positions or if there is a special project you'd like to put together under DERA sponsorship.

Thanks again for all you do as a vital member of the DERA network. Working together, we make a difference every single day!

Sincerely,



Howard Pierpont
Chair, Board of Directors
Howard.Pierpont@disasters.org

DERA Position Descriptions

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering for one of the following positions...or if there is a special project you would like to undertake with DERA sponsorship:

Board of Directors. Two Board positions become vacant on the first of January. If you would like to serve in one of these key decision-making positions, please submit a letter of interest and a resume with references. The nominating committee will contact you to set up a telephone interview.

State Liaison Officers and Assistants. These are the "front line" jobs in DERA. State Liaison Officers represent DERA to state and local officials, establish good working relationships with agency staffs, VOADs and other NGOs, and provide media relations in time of emergency. Our aim is to have a primary and two assistant liaison officers in each U.S. state and territory, with comparable positions for our international membership. Please submit a letter of interest and a resume with references. The Liaison Coordinating Committee will contact you to set up a telephone interview.

Regional Planning and Response Coordinators. These positions coordinate the activities of State Liaison Officers with territorial responsibilities generally following FEMA Regional boundaries. Please submit a letter of interest and a resume with references. The Liaison Coordinating Committee will contact you to set up a telephone interview.

Newsletter Editor and Assistant. Our Newsletter Editor, Catherine Lawhun, has taken on responsibilities as Director of Operations for DERA emergency response missions. She will work with the new editor for an orderly transition over a couple of newsletter editions. Please send a letter of interest and resume.

Webmaster and Assistant. Design and management of www.disasters.org

Peer Review for DERA Monograph Publications

Speaker's Bureau Coordinator and Assistant

Assistant for Financial Development and Grants

National Contingency Plans Chief and Assistant

International Program Coordinator and Assistant

Online EOC Coordinator and Watch Officers. DERA maintains an online EOC at www.dera.us/eoc. The site needs an overall coordinator and several individuals to watch world and national events and post updates. Everything can be done from a web browser at home or even a WiFi hotspot.

Student Awards and Scholarship Coordinator. Arranges publicity for the program, coordinates with program sponsors, and presents awards.

Member Awards and Recognition

Professional Affairs Task Force Members. The task force will explore new opportunities for DERA to better serve its members and the profession.

DERA Annual Membership Meeting

This year's annual membership meeting will address DERA's new face to the community and major decisions will be made. Several important changes being considered are

- 1.) New name for the newsletter
 - 2.) New masthead
 - 3.) Fundraising & Promotions
 - 4.) New Board Appointments
 - 5.) Outreach Activities
- And more!

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

If you cannot come in person to the meeting please send your comments in by email so that we have your input.

We want DERA to remain a membership driven organization – that can only take place as you let us know your thoughts.

Send all comments to editor@disasters.org

Hope to hear from you soon.

Federal Government Faulted for Communications Interoperability Mismanagement

A report released on December 12th by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), is highly critical of federal agencies responsible for developing a nationwide wireless communications service for use by first responders. The report concludes that responsible federal agencies are no longer coordinating with one other. The report, requested by Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman and Ranking Member Susan Collins, found the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Treasury Department are now working on individual interoperability projects rather than implementing the Integrated Wireless Network (IWN) program.

For years, departments and agencies across the federal government had developed radio communications systems to suit their particular communications needs. However, this often led to first responders from different federal agencies not being able to communicate with one another when responding to the same event. The IWN program was intended to solve this problem by developing a single nationwide federal wireless communications service to replace each of these individual systems, so that law enforcement officials and first responders from across the federal government could effectively communicate during an emergency. According to the GAO report, DOJ and DHS are now working independently on projects; running the risk of duplicating their efforts, increasing the use of resources, and ending up with a system that lacks interoperability.

Senator Collins said, "The communications failures during the terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina cost lives. Yet, despite these hard lessons and the millions already spent on the IWN program, the lead federal departments have failed miserably in achieving interoperability across the federal government. GAO's report should serve as a wake-up call. Congress and the next Administration will have to

redouble efforts to ensure nationwide interoperability for all first responders.”

Senators Lieberman and Collins have worked together to improve communications interoperability at all levels of government. The Senators created the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program, which has provided millions of dollars in grants to increase the ability of state, local, and tribal governments to communicate effectively during a catastrophic disaster or terrorist attack. The grants can be used for initiatives that are consistent with Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans and the National Emergency Communications Plan.

Furthermore, in the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, Senators Lieberman and Collins established an Office of Emergency Communications within the Department of Homeland Security to consolidate and coordinate emergency communications and interoperability policy. Under the Act, that office has been tasked with conducting an assessment of nationwide emergency communications capabilities and developing a national strategy for emergency communications.

Fault Found Earthquake Exercise

OFFICIAL INVITATION TO:

All persons and agencies involved with emergency preparedness, management and response:

Firefighters, EMS personnel, emergency managers, hospital administrators, medical personnel, disaster planning coordinators, law enforcement officials, search and rescue responders, civil preparedness officials, mass fatality responders, and all others who play important roles in critical incidents.

All State Department of Transportation Officials from the following states: Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois & Indiana involved in Engineering and Emergency Response.

All private Civil Engineering and Construction firms engaged in Highways and Bridges construction and engineering and individual licensed

engineers specializing in engineering and construction of highways and bridges.

Sign up now at

<http://www.manywaters.org/exercise.html>

We are also inviting ESRI to provide mapping services and Civil Air Patrol members to play a role for damage assessment and traffic reporting.

Haiti Water Purification Relief Team

Engineering Ministries International, EMI, mobilized a two-man team to Haiti to install portable emergency water purification systems all over Haiti. Widespread deforestation to make charcoal for cooking has destroyed the land's capacity to retain rainwater, so even small rains induce major mud flows that can move earth and rocks to devastating effect. The tropical storms and hurricanes of 2008 wiped out a lot of homes and blocked roads all over Haiti. Below are two photos we took in Gonaives.



Flood waters were 11 feet high in some places and a 2-foot layer of mud still blankets the city a month after the disaster.



Travel is very difficult and dangerous because of mud, debris and road damage.

Here are some lessons learned:

1. **Pack light** - You might have to carry everything you brought with you every day you're in country. Most days, we didn't know where we would sleep that night, so we always carried everything with us.
2. **Be prepared** - Eric brought a small 6- to 110-V inverter that came in handy in places we didn't have electricity. Although we were able to purchase some locally, we should have brought simple bedding for the times we didn't stay in a hotel. Electrical tape, duct tape, and a Leatherman utility knife were all invaluable. Put on your MacGyver hat.
3. **Logistics is everything** - We had water filters to install, and we had the expertise to install them, but getting them out to the disaster-hit areas proved to be the hard part. Cell-phone coordination and good in-country contacts were key.
4. **Difficult conditions** - Mosquitoes bred rampantly in the post-flood conditions. We almost ran out of DEET, we had to apply it so often. One night we slept on a roof, not so much because of the flooding, but because it was cooler on the roof than inside the musty house. Food, even of the local variety, was scarce. During half our time in country, we survived on the energy bars and trail mix we brought with us. Plans changed from day to day depending on what needs were most urgent and which roads were open (and where the truck had broken down the day before).
5. **Hands-on work** - During the recovery phase of disaster response, while we focus on arresting the disaster and preventing it from getting worse, there must be some physical demonstration of God's love; something more than designs on paper. EMI's commodity is people and expertise, but in disaster response, we can focus our partnership efforts with ministries that bring "stuff" to the table: water purification systems, food aid, shelter, etc.

You Search- We Give
**GoodSearch &
GoodShop for
DERA**

Remember, Board Member and Regional Director Anne Hutton has set up an account with www.goodsearch.com so that DERA receives payment for nearly every web search done by a visitor. It's a good search engine, and DERA gets paid for nearly every search done. (You can check on how much we're earning at anytime by clicking on the "Amount Raised" button at the search page.) Just be sure that DERA is listed as the charity you wish to support.

There is a link to GoodsSearch on DERA's homepage:

<http://www.disasters.org>

Also, here's a direct link if you prefer:

www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=872399

Also...and this is important.... one of the tabs on GoodSearch is for online shopping, where DERA receives a significant percentage of online sales from Amazon, Target, Best Buy, Petsmart, Barnes & Noble, Travelocity, Circuit City, Lands' End and about fifty other stores when you link through the GoodSearch site. Here's a direct link:

www.goodshop.com/?charityid=872399



You may also link to GoodShop from this logo on the DERA homepage,

www.disasters.org

**GoodShop at the
online stores
below and earn
money for DERA.**

1-800-Flowers.com
7% donation

Apple Store
1% donation

Best Buy
.5%-1.5% donation

Buy.com
1.5-5% donation

Drugstore.com
5.5% donation

Expedia.com
1% donation

Guess
2% donation

Home Depot
2% donation

HP
2% donation

iTunes
2.5% donation

Kodak EasyShare Gallery
5%-9% donation

Lands' End
3% donation

Amazon.com
1.5% donation

Barnes & Noble
2.5% donation

Bloomingdales
2% donation

Circuit City
.5% -1.5% donation

Dell
2% donation

eBay
25% - 37.5% donation

Gap
2.8% donation

Hotels.com
2.5% donation

HSN
2%-4% donation

J.Crew
2.5% donation

Kohls.com
2% donation

Macy's
3% donation

Nike
4% donation

Office Depot
Up to 4% donation

Oriental Trading Company
2.5% donation

PetSmart
4%-7.5% donation

Saks Fifth Avenue
2.5% donation

Sephora
2.5%-3.5% donation

Target
1.5%-5.5% donation

Toys R Us
1.5% donation

Wal-Mart
.5%-2.5% donation

NORDSTROM
2.5% donation

Old Navy
2.8% donation

Overstock.com
.5%-3.5% donation

Priceline.com
Donation varies

Sears
1% donation

Staples
2%

Teleflora
7% donation

Travelocity
1% donation

Zappos.com
6% donation

**FEMA Voice Radio
Fire Comm Guide**

Here is a link to a new FEMA Voice Radio Fire Comm Guide. Although oriented toward fire fighters, it offers interesting information, which may be of interest to all radio users.

Click on the link, below, or copy the URL to your web browser. Keep the whole URL on one line when you copy it. If you wish to download the book, it is a 4 MB file.

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/Voice_Radio_Communications_Guide_for_the_Fire_Service.pdf

IT'S A DISASTER!

...and what are YOU
gonna do about it?

4th Edition

A Disaster Preparedness, Prevention
& Basic First Aid Manual

by Bill & Janet Liebsch

FEDHEALTH - DERA Association

I am pleased to announce that DERA has become associated with FedHealth of Tucson AZ. Bill & Janet Liebsch publish a book and CD called "It's a Disaster!...and what are you going to do about it? This is a disaster preparedness, prevention and basic first aid manual. While not a medical manual, information has been compiled from around the world and is a great read. I'd like to see every household have a copy.

We are looking to create a series of short videos based on the book as well as a series of lecture topics.

We are able to make the book available at a significantly reduced price through DERA at www.disasters.org website. A portion of the proceeds goes directly to fund DERA activities. Larger quantities of the hardcopy book or CDs are also available. Specially imprinted copies are also available in larger quantities. See the web site for more information or contact Howard Pierpont Howard.Pierpont@disasters.org for any questions.

The book is endorsed by the The International Association for Counterterrorism & Security Professionals (IACSP), Arlington VA



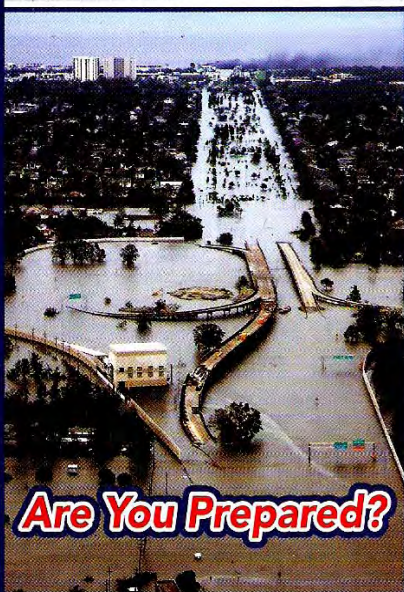
EMLIRC
EMERGENCY MEDICINE LEARNING & RESOURCE CENTER

presents

2009 International Disaster Management Conference

Preparing Freedom's Lifelines...

**MUST ATTEND
PROGRAM!**



Are You Prepared?

Conference Date & Location

February 19-22, 2009

The Rosen Centre Hotel · 9840 International Drive · Orlando, FL 32819
Reservations (800) 800-9840 · www.rosencentre.com

Conference Highlights

- > Lessons Learned from Recent Disaster Events
- > Disaster Response Strategies and Tactics
- > Medical / Public Health Disaster Management
- > Terrorism Response Strategies and Tactics

Who Should Attend

All persons and agencies involved with emergency preparedness, management and response...

Firefighters, EMS personnel, emergency managers, hospital administrators, physicians, nurses, DMAT personnel, disaster planning coordinators, medical facility administrators, law enforcement officials, search and rescue responders, civil preparedness officials, mass fatality responders, and others who play important roles in critical incidents.

More Information

Visit www.emlrc.org or call (800) 766-6335. EMLRC · 3717 South Conway Road · Orlando, FL 32812



EMLIRC
LIFESAVING EDUCATION FOR LIFESAVERS

Celebrating
30 Years

1979-2009



Membership Invitation



Established in 1962

MISSION

Preparedness - Response - Education

DERA is a Nonprofit Disaster Service and Professional Organization.

Our members work together as an active, world-wide network of disaster preparedness specialists, response and recovery teams, trainers, consultants, technical experts, researchers and project managers.

We help disaster victims by improving planning, communications and logistics, reducing risks and mitigating hazards, conducting community preparedness programs, and by sponsoring emergency response missions.

We sponsor a school awards program that encourages students to study the effects of disasters and to conduct projects that reduce local hazards and improve community preparedness, safety and environmental protection.

As a prominent international professional association, our membership is composed of key leaders in the field of emergency management from around the world, including key government officials, volunteers, consultants, business managers, researchers, educators, students and wide range of charitable groups.

Our quarterly newsletter, DisasterCom, brings current information about developments in emergency management and reports on the activities of our global membership.

We sponsor research projects and the publication of emergency management guides, case studies, technical assessments, and preparedness materials.

If you share our vision of commitment and service, we would welcome you as a member.

Please complete the application that follows or contact us for further information.

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

Also, please visit us at www.disasters.org

Professional Affiliation
Membership Application



Name: _____ Title: _____
Organization: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP/Postal Code: _____
Country, if not USA or Canada: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____ Radio Callsign: _____

Please Select Membership Classification
Enclose Check, Purchase Order, or Charge Card Authorization for Dues

Professional / Technical / Academic
\$50.00 per year
\$25.00 for Student, Retired or Unemployed

Nonprofit Organizations
\$75.00 per year

Executive / Management
\$75.00 per year

Governmental Agency
\$95.00 per year

Corporate Membership
\$450.00 - \$2500.00

Small or Independent Business
\$125.00 per year

Amounts are in U.S. Dollars. Foreign currency and drafts are credited at commercial exchange rates. All checks must be payable through a U.S. bank. Add \$5 per year if you wish newsletter sent by Airmail, or \$20 for Global Priority Mail. Rates good for 2008-2009.

CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

I authorize DERA to charge the following account for membership dues as marked above:

Please Check: VISA MasterCard American Express Discover Purchase Order Attached

Card Number: Expires: _____ / _____
Month / Year

Authorized Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____
2008-12-NW

**You may join online at www.disasters.org
or mail this application to:**

**DERA - Membership
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502-0797**

**Did a member refer you
for membership?**

Name of Member: _____