

# DISASTERCOM

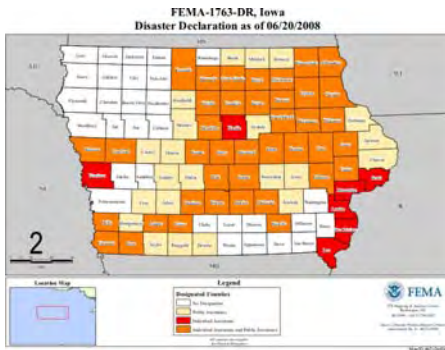


DERA Newsletter

46 Years of Service

June 2008

## Midwest Flooding



State of Iowa, Counties under Presidential Declaration for Federal Assistance. Yellow = Public Assistance only Orange = Public and Individual Assistance and Red = Individual Assistance only

As of Friday June 20, 2008 approximately 300 miles of the Mississippi River were closed to commercial traffic. The Mississippi River was currently cresting at Hannibal, MO and the Missouri River was cresting at Ct. Charles, MO. Water levels are expected to fall below the crests of the emergency spillway in Iowa by June 21. Some levees in Iowa are still threatened, the failure of which would impact over 300 additional homes.

Three power plants in Iowa are damaged and although the repairs are expected to take six months, this is not affecting the power grid. Seventeen major roads are closed in Iowa and 33 state roads are closed in Missouri.

As of press time, flooding is continuing to spread. For current status, please see an interactive map

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25193213/>

## You Search - They Give Search & Shop for DERA



Board Member and Regional Director Anne Hutton has set up an account with GoodSearch® so that DERA receives payment for nearly every web search done by a visitor. The search engine is provided by Yahoo, 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 on the search page as the charity you wish to support. Please bookmark this link:

[www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=872399](http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=872399)

Also, 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 over a hundred other stores when you link through the GoodSearch® site. Here's a direct link:

[www.goodshop.com/?charityid=872399](http://www.goodshop.com/?charityid=872399)



See page 4 for a directory of leading stores and shops that participate.



## Yamini Awarded DERA Gold Medal

By Kathryn M. Dunlevy-Wilson

DERA awarded its Gold Medal for Public Service to Ms Sadineni Yamini (VU2YAM) at the Dayton Hamvention on May 17, 2008. Instead of the traditional ceremonies that normally accompany this prestigious award, Ms Yamini (who prefers to be called "Yamini") requested that the award be presented at a gathering of Young Lady Radio League (YLRL) members in order to highlight the importance of women taking on prominent leadership roles in emergency communications, community preparedness and international projects. In accepting the award, Yamini said, "The right woman with the right qualifications, who is confident in what she is doing can change the world if she has enough courage, goodness of heart and absolute determination."

Courage, determination, and success were indeed the very reasons Yamini was selected for the DERA Gold Medal over more than 150 other nominees.

**Continued on p. 5**

DisasterCom 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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E-Mail: [DERA@disasters.org](mailto:DERA@disasters.org)

News Items: [editor@disasters.org](mailto:editor@disasters.org)

<http://www.disasters.org>

## **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.

### **Officers**

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### **Partnerships & Affiliations Include**

**ARRL**  
American Radio Relay League  
www.arrl.org

**CNA**  
Colorado Nonprofit Association  
www.ColoradoNonprofits.org

**EIIP**  
Emergency Information Infrastructure  
Partnership  
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

## **From Your Editor's desk**

We are pleased to announce that our partner for the International Disaster Management Conference, The Emergency Medicine Learning and resource Center is inviting everyone to their Richard Slevinski Keynote Presentation for their upcoming ClinCon 2008 Conference. The Presentation is entitled, "Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation: The Pit-Crew Concept" presented by Robert Tober, MD. This will be a live webcast delivered on July 11 from 8:00 am to 9:10 am EDT but will be available for an entire year after that and is completely free of charge to view. Simply visit [www.emlrc.org](http://www.emlrc.org) anytime after July 11, 2008.



On another front, DERA has been invited back to Boston this year to submit a presentation on our Emergency Communications Vehicles Project to Dunkin' Brands Foundation. We were very well received last year and expect to place well in the competition for the grant funding to perform our project objectives. As this initiative develops, we will keep you posted.

I hope you will utilize the Good Search and GoodShop websites and contribute to DERA's Disaster Response capability budget in this manner. I have been using the search engine since I became aware of it and it works very well. Please share these links with family and friends and encourage them to support our efforts. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to support our efforts without it costing you anything.

God Bless,

-Catherine Lawhun

## **Auxiliary Interpreter Corps**

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Interpreter Corps is a group of about 220 members whose missions offer their linguistic skills to the U.S. Coast Guard, other agencies of the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. military. Volunteers from multiple Flotillas recently traveled to the African island Nation of San Tome and Principe, some 200 miles off the coast of Gabon in Western Africa. The team spent most of their 10 day stay on the USS Fort McHenry which serves as a platform for the African Partnership Station (APS) initiative which aims to work cooperatively with international partners in promoting maritime security in Western Africa as well as delivering \$100,000 of donated equipment and medicine to the local hospital. The mission involved translation of over 50 power point presentations as well as classroom training and instruction in small boat handling, medicine and first aid. See [www.fort-mchenry.navy.mil/default.aspx](http://www.fort-mchenry.navy.mil/default.aspx) for more information.



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 1% donation	 2.5% donation
 .5%-1.5% donation	 2% donation
 1.5-5% donation	 1.5% donation
 3.5% donation	 2% donation
 5.5% donation	 25% - 37.5% donation
 1% donation	 2.8% donation
 2% donation	 5.5% donation
 2% donation	 2.5% donation
 2% donation	 2%-4% donation
 2.5% donation	 2.5% donation
 5%-9% donation	 2% donation
 3% donation	 3% donation

 Nike 4% donation	 2.5% donation
 Up to 4% donation	 2.8% donation
 2.5% donation	 .5%-3.5% donation
 4%-7.5% donation	 Donation varies
 2.5% donation	 1% donation
 2%-.5% donation	 2% donation
 1.5%-5.5% donation	 7% donation
 1.5% donation	 1% donation
 .5%-2.5% donation	 6% donation

Currently, these and over a hundred other businesses donate generously to DERA when you shop online through [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) and show DERA as your designated charity.

Please bookmark both GoodSearch and GoodShop and use them regularly to benefit DERA.

## SAFE HOSPITALS

As part of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009, Hospitals Safe from Disasters, the UN/ISDR Secretariat and WHO are conducting a survey to map projects or activities designed to make health facilities, health systems and health workers safe from disasters.

If you or your organization is working on a project or initiative that contributes to this goal, or if you know of other organizations or experts working on these issues please go to [http://safehospitals.info/form\\_June08/questionnaire.htm](http://safehospitals.info/form_June08/questionnaire.htm) to complete a short survey before 1 September 2008. The UN/ISDR will compile and publish the results.



## New Member Roster

**Dr. Christopher Fletcher, MD, MPH**  
Nashville, TN

**Nadine Carlson**  
North Richland Hills, TX

**Lowry Mitchell, RN**  
San Leandro, CA

**Stephen Costello**  
Mashpee, MA

**Bettina Brockman**  
Banning, CA

**David Stevens,**  
Martinsburg, WV

**Michelle Cadieux**  
Minneapolis, MN

**Colonel Ahmed Ali Taib**  
Nairobi, Kenya

**Raphael LaRocca, KB3EAF**  
Hagerstown, MD

**David S. Nunley**  
Harriman, TN

**Warren S. Kelly**  
Neive, Italy

**Michael Skellern**  
Schaffhausen, Switzerland

**Jon Beddingfield, N5JJB**  
Ovilla, TX

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

### Members

Send us your news!

Your activities will be of  
interest to everyone.

Email: [editor@disasters.org](mailto:editor@disasters.org)



## FEMA Disaster Reservists

FEMA's disaster reservists, national and regional cadre managers, program managers and all ten regions now have a centralized office solely dedicated to the unique aspects of preparing, training, supporting and deploying the disaster workforce, with particular emphasis on the disaster reserve workforce.

After numerous studies over many years, the new Disaster Reserve Workforce Division (DRWD) will actually implement the first reengineering of the Stafford Act's intermittent workforce in recent memory.

With an eye toward paving the way for a long-term program based on pre-disaster readiness management, Administrator Paulison appointed Donna M. Dannels, a 25-year FEMA veteran and Senior Executive to lead the new office.



Her main objective is to implement standards and systems to better support, train and deploy the disaster reserve workforce.

Admiral Harvey Johnson shared his perspective on a transformed disaster reserve workforce during his more than two-hour presentation to a conference of national and regional cadre managers in March 2008.

Admiral Johnson stated that bolstering the reserve workforce program, better training, and better support of reservists were his top priorities.

In his closing comments to the more than 130 workforce participants, the Admiral candidly summed up the current leadership's vision for mission success, which relies heavily on a stronger more robust disaster workforce.

## CRISIS INFORMATICS

Serious crises and disasters have micro and macro social arrangements that differ from routine situations, as the field of disaster studies has described over its 100-year history. With increasingly pervasive information and communications technology (ICT) and a changing political arena where terrorism is perceived as a major threat, the attention to crisis is high. Some of these new features of social life have created real change in the sociology of disaster that we are only beginning to understand. However, much of what might seem to be new is not; rather ICT makes some behaviors more visible, in particular first response and altruistic activities. Even so, with each new crisis event, the calls for technological solutions and policy change come fast and furious, often in absence of empirical research. Our lab is establishing an area of sociologically informed research and ICT development in the area of crisis informatics. Here, we report on some of the challenges and findings when conducting empirical study where the subject of attention is disperse, emergent and increasingly expanding through on-line arenas. We specifically consider the challenge of studying citizen-side information generation and dissemination activities during the April 16, 2007 crisis at Virginia Tech, which we have investigated both on-site and on-line. We discuss initial results from these investigations, including findings about the collective and distributed problem-solving activity that characterizes an emerging and significant form of participation in disaster events.

For more information and access to multiple white papers on this subject visit Leysia Palen's Research Group at the University of Colorado, Boulder named ConnectivIT

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### Documentary Explores the Rising Catastrophe of Floods

The severe flooding occurring this week in the Midwest reminds us again of the importance of mitigation. Recent events are eerily reminiscent of the severe flooding that occurred during the Great Midwest Flood of 1993. While few dispute the value and importance of

disaster mitigation, it continues to take a back seat for policymakers. Why? Who makes money from floods? Who benefits from building in harm's way? And why are floods disasters growing with no end in sight? ***The Water's Edge: Profits and Policy Behind the Rising Catastrophe of Floods*** is the first critical documentary to link the systemic failures behind the growing catastrophe of floods in this country.

Through an amazing collection of flood footage and in-depth coverage of repetitive flood victims, ***The Water's Edge*** offers a well-researched and personalized critique of the cultural denials, financial incentives, and policy failures behind the growing natural disaster which causes the most death and damage in the U.S. and worldwide. The 55-minute film includes a clear and uncanny prediction of New Orleans' fate from renowned flood expert, Dr. Victor Baker, just five weeks before Katrina made landfall. And we see how (and why) wake up calls for such disasters are routinely missed with much worse events likely in the near future.

As seen on PBS Stations around the nation, ***The Water's Edge*** is the result of eight years of research by award-winning producer Marshall Frech, who is behind such projects as Flash Flood Alley and [www.floodsafety.org](http://www.floodsafety.org). ***The Water's Edge*** was nominated for an Emmy from the Lone Star Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in 2007.

The Water's Edge was created with funding support from the Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI). For more information about the film, visit [www.thewatersedge.tv](http://www.thewatersedge.tv).

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### EIIP Virtual Forum Presentation The Science of Flood Safety U.S. Geological Survey and National Weather Service Perspectives

The full transcript of this broadcast features Brian E. McCallum, Assistant Director of Hydrologic Monitoring with the Georgia Water Science Center, USGS and Kent Frantz, Senior Service Hydrologist, Atlanta (Peachtree City) WFO, National Weather Service

Visit [www.emforum](http://www.emforum) to download the complete transcript.

# DERA Gold Medal Award

(cont'd from page 1)



As overall manager for the T19KK DXpedition to Costa Rica's Isla Del Coco, Yamini was faced with a daunting task of logistics planning, political negotiation and emergency response on a grand scale. Major obstacles which would have derailed the entire DXpedition developed during initial team deployment, and Yamini alone had to negotiate with senior government officials in Costa Rica. Despite severe language barriers (Yamini does not speak Spanish and government officials could not locate a translator who could speak Tagulu) Yamini's superb command of the English language allowed a clear and candid exchange during difficult, contentious negotiations that extended over several days. To the credit of the government of Costa Rica, senior officials recognized Yamini's technical expertise and ability to manage a complex and highly dangerous operation. Despite sensitive environmental concerns for a pristine island and special security concerns, Yamini persuaded the government of Costa Rica to reverse its emergency quarantine of the island and allow the T19KK team to proceed as planned under her leadership and personal responsibility.

While the DXpedition did not have emergency communications as its primary purpose, all the elements needed for rapid and effective management of communications response to a major international disaster under dynamic and unpredictable conditions were present, and Yamini handled them all successfully. The credibility she established with the governments of Central America through her candor,

determination and professional management style will pave the way for future international cooperation in a region of the world particularly vulnerable to devastating tropical storms, flash floods, landslides and far-reaching environmental emergencies. Her ability to successfully deliver to the government on 100% of her assurances will go a long way toward paving future cooperation during crisis situations.



Presenting the award on behalf of DERA was Bascombe Wilson, WØAIR, Chair of the DERA Board of Directors, and Dennis Hardin, KFØLF, representing DERA's international membership at large. Honored guests for the presentation included Dr. Sudhakar Rao, (VU2SH) of India, whose corporate offices are in New Delhi, Washington, DC, and Newark, NJ, Mr. S. Suri (VU2MY) and S. Ram Mohan (VU2MYH) of the National Institute of Amateur Radio in India, Leszek Fabjanski (SP3DOI) of Poland and Jeanie Parker (WA6UVF) of YLRL.

The DERA Gold Medal for Public Service is awarded annually to an individual who has made lifetime contributions to the field of emergency management, courageously made sacrifices in the service of others, or who has distinguished themselves in public service through uncommon courage, skill, and achievement in the face of overwhelming obstacles. The medallion itself is two inches in diameter on a ribbon representing the national colors of the recipient, accompanied by an engraved parchment attesting to extremely noteworthy achievement. DERA has presented gold medals for public service since 1962 but the award given to Yamini represents the first award that was not connected with a specific catastrophic disaster event or the sacrifice of one's life that others might live. The DERA Board concluded that Yamini's work and contributions will have far-reaching consequences in international disaster assistance and will contribute significantly to breaking down barriers such as those that tragically delayed international assistance to cyclone victims in Myanmar. DERA's Board of Directors Chair Bascombe

Wilson stated: "Yamini and her friends in YLRL provide real hope for a better world in the future. DERA is privileged to recognize Yamini, VU2YAM, for her remarkable achievements and selfless dedication to the service of others."

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## NET GUARD

WASHINGTON — The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today \$320,000 is available in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 to pilot, test, and develop tools for a potential new Citizen Corps (CC) National Emergency Technology Guard (NET GUARD) Program. NET Guard teams will be comprised of volunteers with information technology (IT) and communications expertise to assist States and localities in responding to and recovering from incidents that cause significant damage or destruction to IT and communications infrastructure. Teams will be a local asset, managed at the local level, and deployed in response to a request from local or State authorities.

This competitive pilot program will award funds to four jurisdictions. To be eligible to apply, local government applicants must be located in one of the 2008 DHS Urban Area Security Initiatives jurisdictions and must have a Citizen Corps Council and programs supported by emergency management. Additional eligibility criteria are included in the solicitation announcement. Beginning June 18, 2008, eligible government entities may apply through the Grants.gov portal, accessible on the Internet at <http://www.grants.gov>. Applications can be received no later than 11:59 PM EST July 2, 2008.

Citizen Corps is FEMA's grassroots comprehensive strategy to actively involve the full community in preparing and building resilience through participation with emergency management in planning, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery.

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## SAVE THE DATE

**February 22, 2009**

### DERA Annual Membership Meeting & Symposium

The Rosen Centre  
Orlando, Florida

*In conjunction with the 30th Annual International Disaster Management Conference, Feb 19-22.*



## China Earthquake



Here are NASA satellite images of a dangerous "quake lake" drained to safety yesterday. Meanwhile, heavy rain has hit south and east China, threatening reservoirs, state media said. The rain "affected" more than 930,000 people in eastern Zhejiang province and damaged more than 70,000 hectares (270 sq miles) of crops, Xinhua quoted local officials as saying. Meteorological authorities say Zhejiang province will face more heavy rain in two days.

## NIAR, India

### Radio Operator Expansion Program

A seminar on Amateur Radio for Next Generation was organized at National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), Hyderabad coinciding the foundation day i.e. 21<sup>st</sup> June, celebrating 25 years of service and as part of Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Shri S.Suri, Founder and Chairman, NIAR in his address unveiled the proposal for bringing out a road map document for creating 100,000 amateur radio (HAM) operators citing examples of long term economic and scientific development for the country.

Shri Suri explained that the initiatives taken by Shri Rajiv Gandhi VU2RG as a radio ham in establishing NIAR in 1983, has empowered the people to support their communities during many major

natural calamities saving valuable life and property. The activities for amateur radio promotion have brought scientific and economic development of the country citing the example of 10 satellites successfully launched by IRSO recently, out of which 7 were related to amateur radio, which are designed and developed by student hams from various universities around the world. He also cited latest experiments conducted in the field of cancer research, on the 'Kanzius' machine which uses radio waves to cure cancer.

Over 150 HAM delegates representing various amateur radio clubs, Students and Teachers of various technical and educational institutions including the Delhi Public School, RK Puram New Delhi, Uppal -Kendriya Vidyalaya Sanghatan School, Little Flower High School as well as from states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala attended the seminar.

The discussions and deliberations of the seminar emphasized the need for liberalizing procedures for Amateur Station Operator License Examination and issue of licenses in a time bound manner to achieve the target of 1 lakh Hams. Development of low cost wireless communication devices particularly the Software Defined Radios which can be built in the range of Rs.5000/-. A strategy with special emphasis program for class 6 to 8 school students to make them partners in technology promotion as well as social and economic benefits of amateur radio to the country were elaborately discussed.

The members of Governing Council were felicitated on this occasion. A resolution seeking support of Government of India and other State governments to promote and popularize amateur radio through educational and technical institutions to support the vision and mission of the road map to create 100,000 in a period of 2 years was unanimously passed at this event.



From left to right: Mr.J.Suryanarayana-VU2JJS, Dr.J.Shankar-VU2DET, Mr.Suri-VU2MY, Mr.Charanjit Singh-VU2LKB, and Ms.Bharathi-VU2RBI

## Atlantic Hurricane Season News

NOAA appointed a new National Hurricane Center Director in January. Bill Read was appointed as the new director of it's Tropical Prediction Center, which includes the National Hurricane Center and two other divisions.

New Instrumentation that measures surface winds, known as stepped frequency microwave radiometers, have been added to the wings of the Hurricane hunter Aircraft.

The National Science Foundation has awarded \$159,945 as a three year grant to William Gray, Colorado State University for a project to three areas of research. (1) improvement of extended range seasonal Atlantic basin hurricane prediction; (2) improvement of intra-seasonal (month-to-month) prediction of Atlantic hurricane activity; and (3) improvement in probability forecasts for U.S. hurricane landfall.

## Fundraising Efforts for China & Mynamar

Doctors without Borders/ Medecines Sans Frontieres (MSF) raised over 1,200,000 mostly over the web. Other organizations have sent relief supplies including water filtration systems and plastic sheeting for temporary shelters. A joint relief effort by Samaritan's Purse and Billy Graham Evangelistic Association sent 90 tons of relief supplies. Americares sent 15 tons of medicines. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) sent more than 11 tons of medicines, equipment and supplies. Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors aims to raise \$19.3 million through the Bridge Fund Sichuan Earthquake Compassion Fund for the International Red Cross, to benefit the Red Cross Society of China efforts.

The American Red Cross (ARC) has raised more than \$17.5 million for relief efforts in China and more than \$2 million in Mynamar, with more than \$4.7 million for international response fund after May 2. By comparison, the 2004 tsunami effort raised hundreds of millions of dollars in a relatively short time.



34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# CLINCON 2008

presents

2008 Clinical Conference on Prehospital Emergency Care



### Conference Location

The Rosen Centre Hotel · 9840 International Drive  
Orlando, FL 32819 · (800) 800-9840 · [www.rosencentre.com](http://www.rosencentre.com)

July 10-13, 2008

### Conference Overview

ClinCon 2008 is designed to create an educational experience that will help EMS Personnel provide the highest quality prehospital care to their patients. The time has come for practical, research based clinical street medicine to be practiced by every prehospital care provider.



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### Who Should Attend

Paramedics, EMT's Firefighters, EMS/Fire Administrators, EMS Medical Directors, EMS Educators, Emergency Physicians, Emergency Physician Assistants, Emergency Nurses, First Responders and other Allied Health Professionals interested in learning practical, research based clinical street medicine.



### More Information

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

### Presented by

Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center · [www.emlrc.org](http://www.emlrc.org)



## CALENDAR

Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership  
Stafford Act Revision Group Discussion  
July 9, 2008  
Live Chat  
[www.emforum.org](http://www.emforum.org)

Disaster Preparedness Summit  
July 17, 2008  
Houston, TX  
<http://disasterpreparednesssummit.org>

Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership  
Target Capabilities Implementation Project  
July 23, 2008  
Live Chat  
[www.emforum.org](http://www.emforum.org)

The Future of Continuity of Operations  
(COOP) and Telework Conference  
August 6-7, 2008  
Washington, DC  
<http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com>

Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership  
Public Assistance Cost Recovery  
August 13, 2008  
Live Chat  
[www.emforum.org](http://www.emforum.org)

Disaster Preparedness Summit  
August 21, 2008  
Boston, MA  
<http://disasterpreparednesssummit.org>

International Disaster and Risk Conference  
(IDRC Davos 2008)  
Aug. 25-29, 2008  
Davos, Switzerland  
<http://www.iaem.com/>

2008 National Conference,  
American Board for Certification  
in Homeland Security  
September 2-4, 2008  
San Diego, CA  
<http://www.acfei.com>

IAEM 56th Annual Conference  
& EMEX 2008  
"Putting a New Spin on Emergency  
Management"  
Nov. 15-20, 2008  
Kansas City (Overland Park), KS  
<http://www.iaem.com/>



# *Will You Help Provide a Disaster Communications Lifeline?*

*You can provide life-saving disaster communications as an individual donor, team sponsor or volunteer.*

Tragically, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita underscored just how critical disaster communications can be.

Since 1962, our nonprofit mission has been to provide emergency communications during disasters. Our volunteers have responded to hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, wildfires, floods, volcanoes, winter storms, manmade disasters and tsunami. Our volunteers have served in every part of the U.S. and throughout the world. They need your help.

*You can be an important part of this vital mission starting today.*

We operate and maintain a variety of emergency communications systems including portable satellite terminals, mobile units that can provide local and long distance communications and lightweight flyaway kits with battery powered two-way radios. Our volunteers deploy these systems in support of emergency responders, relief agencies and the public whenever there is a need.

*No community is immune from disasters and communications emergencies, and we are working hard to strengthen our ability to respond rapidly to any location that has a need. To do this, we need to modernize our aging equipment, some of which is over 25 years old, upgrade our satellite systems to handle greater capacity, and obtain additional communications vehicles and satellite terminals.*



An important aspect of our project is training and equipping local volunteer teams in communities throughout the U.S. Our volunteers are active and retired communications professionals, Amateur Radio operators, emergency managers and electronics technicians working as highly effective, rapidly deployable teams.

Annually, each emergency communications team needs sponsorship contributions of at least \$35,000 to maintain their equipment and cover deployment costs. This does not include the initial \$98,000 needed to purchase and equip each communications vehicle. A reliable source of funds is needed to maintain and repair vehicles, electronics equipment and portable generators, pay for satellite air time and internet service, cover insurance, gasoline, travel expenses and to upgrade or replace obsolete equipment. We receive no government funds, but depend entirely on the generosity of private individuals, civic groups, businesses and other donors.

***We urgently need financial support for this vital mission. Please help or refer us to someone who can.***

## **Donors and Sponsors Needed**

Please help us obtain operating funds as well as donations of vehicles, satellite systems and radio equipment.

Major sponsors who partner with DERA on this project will receive full recognition through logo and name placement on communications vehicles, prominent attention in media releases, and extensive visibility as vehicles are seen enroute to disasters and on display at exercises, conferences and significant public events.

***Your help as a donor, project sponsor or volunteer will provide a communications lifeline to those in need.***

## **Our Organization and Mission**

DERA was founded in 1962 as a nonprofit disaster service and professional organization. Our headquarters is in Denver, Colorado, and we have active members working throughout the United States and around the world. Our volunteer members work together on a wide range of disaster preparedness, response and recovery projects that are vital to community readiness and safety. Donations to DERA qualify as charitable tax deductions within the U.S.

## **Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA)**

[www.disasters.org](http://www.disasters.org)

Email: [dera@disasters.org](mailto:dera@disasters.org)

P.O. Box 280795, Denver, CO 80228

(970) 532-3362

*DERA was established in 1962 and is a Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Disaster Service, Educational, and Professional Organization*



## **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](http://www.disasters.org)

