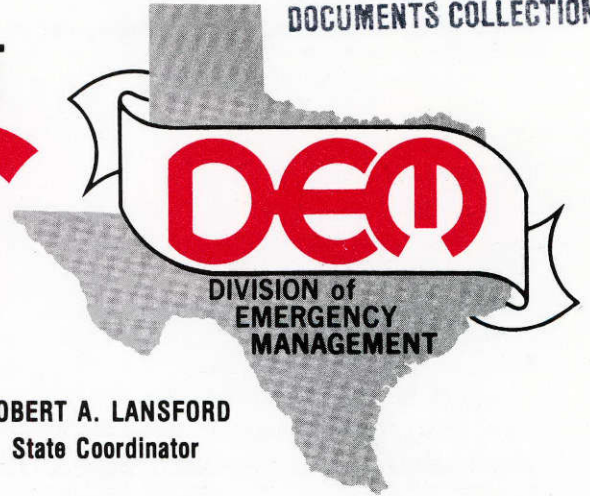


DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DIGEST



ANN W. RICHARDS
Governor

• JOE E. MILNER
Director

• ROBERT A. LANSFORD
State Coordinator

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Among the presentations offered to the 500-plus emergency managers at the 30th Annual State Emergency Management Conference were (clockwise from top) a panel discussion on recovery and floodplain regulations; FEMA Director Wallace E. Stickney; and an update on the American Red Cross by Elaine Clyburn, Director of Disaster Services, Midwestern Operations. She presented State Coordinator Robert Lansford with an award for his "fine spirit of cooperation."

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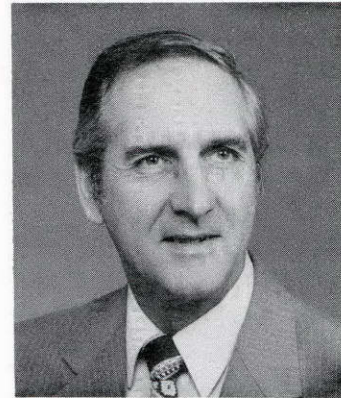
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Ed Schaefer	Region 6 - Waco

DEM UPDATE



by **Robert A. Lansford**
State Coordinator

The early spring months of this year have been no different from those of the past. Spring storms continue to cause problems such as flooding and high winds. On April 5-6 a significant weather system affected a large part of south and southeast Texas, which resulted in a request for a major disaster declaration by Governor Ann Richards on April 9. The President approved the request on April 12.

The initial declaration for Individual Assistance was granted for Cameron County, but was later amended to include Willacy, Jackson, Brazoria and Victoria counties as well. I accompanied the governor on a tour of Cameron County on April 6. We saw flooded homes that were not in a mapped floodplain. Flooding continues to be our major risk, and as proven in Cameron County, it can take place outside of Zone A of the floodplain.

As we finish out the spring storm season and hurricane season approaches, it is good practice to look at what **could** happen in our communities instead of taking the position that "it never has happened before so why worry about it." The federal government is "pushing" catastrophic disaster planning. I think we should be concerned about any and all disaster planning. If one family loses its home, it is catastrophic to that family. The federal planning currently addresses what federal agencies will do in a catastrophic disaster. My question is, "who gets to make the decision if it is or is not a catastrophic situation?" I dislike putting labels on things. Disasters are disasters and we should be as concerned for one as we are for another.

DEM Engineer Wins Award For Innovative Software

DEM Facility Survey Engineer Richard Boltz has been awarded first prize by the State and Local Emergency Management Data Users Group for his development of a personal computer program to minimize the paperwork involved in updating facility listings. The software was entered in the SALEM-DUG original software competition.

Known as CACTUS (Computer Aided Corrections To Update Shelters), the compiled dBase program can be used on IBM-compatible personal computers. Richard demonstrated the program and received the award at the group's annual conference, held this year in North Carolina. The program was also demonstrated at the annual state emergency management conference.

Richard began development of the program following the realization that local officials attending a course for shelter systems officers could provide valuable information about the constantly-changing status of local shelters. "Many of these officials were able to point out that certain buildings on the existing shelter list no longer existed, and that the community had new buildings that might be able to be used," he said. "Soon after, FEMA also began to emphasize the need to get local officials involved, and so I was able to mesh my software development with FEMA's initiative."

Starting this year, emergency management coordinators in jurisdictions which receive EMA funding have been tasked to assist in updating facility data. The updating process consists of three steps: identifying buildings which have been torn down for removal from the database; correcting the building name, address and usage as required; and generating a list of new buildings which should be added to the database.

The listing of new buildings developed by local emergency management coordinators generates requirements for future surveys of those buildings by the Division's Facility Survey engineers. Coordinators in Region 5 and 6 are tasked to perform facility updates this year and have been given training in the software. Jurisdictions in the remainder of the state will be scheduled to conduct updates in FY '92 and '93.

The objective of the Facility Survey program is to perform surveys to identify buildings which can be used as fallout shelters or emergency lodging and feeding facilities. During surveys, FS engineers collect detailed data on the characteristics of the structure and evaluate its utility for emergency use during either a nuclear crisis or natural disaster.

Survey data is collected in a FEMA database, which is used to generate two facility listings. Data on structures which provide existing blast or fallout protection is provided in the National Facility Survey listing. The Reception and Care listing catalogs buildings which can be used as lodging and feeding facilities and building which can be upgraded to serve as fallout shelters.

The database generated by facility surveys is maintained on a FEMA mainframe computer in the Washington, D.C., area. DEM receives periodic hard-copy updates of the facility listings and can download current data to personal computers by modem for local processing. The data is used extensively by DEM population protections planners in the development of crisis relocation and emergency management plans.

Since the 1960s, engineers have surveyed buildings to determine their utility in emergency management. At different times, surveys have been performed by federal employees, contractors, summer-hire engineering students and state employees. In Texas, all facility surveys are currently being performed by engineers employed by DEM under a 100 percent federally-funded contract. The current facility survey effort is concentrated on developing facility data for cities and counties which have never before been surveyed because they were formerly in high-risk areas for nuclear attack.

Coordinators wanting additional information about local survey updates or the CACTUS program, or who want to begin their updates prior to their scheduled time, should contact the DEM Facility Survey section at 512-339-2950.

Hazmit Notes

by Wade Nofziger
Hazard Mitigation Officer

Spring rains have not been quite as severe for most areas as the last two years. We've had one Presidential Disaster Declaration so far in 1991.

FEMA-900-DR was declared for five counties: Brazoria, Cameron, Jackson, Victoria and Willacy. This provides Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) opportunities for these counties. Right now the funding should be around \$195,000.

Payments for HMGP projects for 1989 are finally beginning to be made. The following jurisdictions have received HMGP funding totalling \$243,639:

FEMA-823-DR (Northeast Texas Floods), 1989

Cherokee County—\$5,033—*Road and culvert work.*
City of Longview—\$58,818—*Slope protection along several waterways.*

FEMA-828-DR (Spring Floods), 1989

City of Gainesville—\$95,738—*Two projects; channelization of a creek and a levee around the zoo.*
City of Murchison—\$5,300—*Elevation of a lift station.*
City of Southlake—\$37,500—*Concrete box culvert.*

FEMA-836-DR (Tropical Storm Allison), 1989

Liberty County—\$41,250—*Pilings and panels along the Trinity River*

This is the beginning. All of the recommended projects for 1989 and 1990 have been sent to FEMA Region VI in Denton for approval and are being processed. The money, though, has been put on hold by President Bush because the large number of disasters during the past three years have depleted the disaster fund. We hope those funds will be reallocated for Fiscal Year 1992. We'll keep you informed. We should have around \$2.5 million to use for projects already recommended for funding.

Some of the lessons we've learned from the HMGP are that you have to have very thorough documentation and a lot of patience to see a project through to completion. However, things should get better as all of us get more familiar with the system, and it should work much faster.

DEM Staff Presents 'Polly'

Dr. Ruch Honored At Conference

The annual National Hurricane Conference, held in Miami in April, caused quite a bit of excitement at DEM.

First, Dr. Carl Ruch was selected at the 1991 recipient of the Conference's Distinguished Service Award. DEM State Coordinator Robert Lansford nominated the Texas A&M research scientist because of his "superb skill and dedication" in developing the Texas Coastal Hurricane Preparedness Program, under contract to DEM. The program consists of five multi-county study areas, for which Carl has designed and conducted relocation studies, vulnerability analyses and contingency planning studies. He has also developed an innovative "real" wind field computer model for use with the Estimated Safe Time remaining before Evacuation Decision-TeXas (ESTED-TX) computer program.

The nomination letter also noted that "his superb efforts have directly affected over 26 percent of the State's population located in 168 political jurisdictions along the 640-mile Texas coastline."

KFDM-TV (Channel 6) in Beaumont, nominated by the State Coordinator for the Hurricane Conference's Media Award, was also a winner. KFDM has participated wholeheartedly in DEM's annual "Hurricane Polly" exercises. From planning the scenario to nightly local news reports on the exercise, which included a telephone poll on evacuation, KFDM management and staff showed their commitment to hurricane preparedness.

Eight members of the Hurricane Polly exercise team presented a workshop at the Conference on the planning and execution of a successful, major exercise. The team included DEM's Clif Maloney, assistant training officer; Region 2B Liaison Officer Ron Lamoureux, and Wade Nofziger, hazard mitigation officer, as well as Capt. Bob Martin, Houston Disaster District Chairman; Al Dreumont, National Weather Service; Libby Beall, Amercian Red Cross; Chambers County Emergency Management Coordinator Mark Hainley; and Greg Bostwick, KFDM-TV's chief meteorologist.

Around The State

George Stapleton, Texas City Emergency Management Coordinator and Public Works Director, has retired. He served as EMC for the past 15 years of his 19 years with the city. The Gulf Coast Emergency Management Association has named him a Life Member for his contributions to the emergency management profession.

City of Grand Prairie Mayor **Duane McGuffey**, Deputy City Manager **Craig Farmer** and Emergency Services Manager **George Grant** recently attended a 2½ day seminar for public officials at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Md. The Disaster Preparedness Seminar included an overview of emergency management, case studies of disasters, development of local preparedness action plans and evaluation of local emergency preparedness programs. The seminar's purpose is to enable local officials to better understand the complexity of emergency management issues.

The area in and around the city of Victoria is now served by a low power radio station that will carry emergency information in times of hurricanes and other disaster situations, according to **Victoria Emergency Management Coordinator Bob James**. Located at the intersection of Highway 87 and Loop 175, the 10-watt facility will cover an approximately 10-mile area and can be picked up at 530 on the AM dial. The transmitter can be accessed only by those authorized to use the facility. Programming is under the direction of the Victoria Convention and Visitors Bureau, which will broadcast community events when no emergency situation exists. The Texas Highway Department will place signs

along nearby roadways to draw motorists' attention to the dial position.

500 homes flooded March 27 in the southeast part of El Paso were completely restored by the next day, thanks to the exercise scenario planned by **El Paso Emergency Management Coordinator Jack Parks**. El Paso city and county departments, the American Red Cross, Texas State Guard, RACES, U.S. Army and Civil Air Patrol were some of the agencies that turned out for the full-scale field exercise. Mayor Pro-tem Ponce and Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Beasley ordered the Emergency Operating Center activated. All information from the field was funneled through the Incident Command System of the city/county emergency management operations to city hall to completely test the entire system.

Bobby R. Young has been named head of the Texas Forest Service Fire Control Department, replacing Pat Ebarb who has retired. Young will be responsible for coordinating the Service's fire suppression and training activities statewide.

Big Bird Get Ready! For Floods family kits are now available from FEMA. Similar to the kits on hurricanes and earthquakes, the kits include a booklet, a "match the message" card game entitled "You're All Wet!" and an audio cassette story—"The Great Flood on Sesame Street," which features Big Bird, Elmo, Oscar the Grouch, Hoots the Owl and Willard Scott as the weather person. Hoots the Owl performs "Get Away From The Water." Order using FEMA Form 60-8.

DEM Personnel

Donald Jones, a planner on the Population Protection Planning staff for some 14 years, has moved on to a new job at the Texas Department of Health. **Gordon L. King** is the new PPP engineer. Gordon, a native of Sweetwater, has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in architecture from the University of Texas. He was a commercial architect prior to joining DEM. **Russell Lecklider**, previously a PPP planner, is the new supervisor of the PPP staff. Russ replaces **Frank Hall**, a DPS Highway Patrol Inspector, who filled in following the retirement of **Bill Dourte**, who was with the Division for 17 years.

Shannon B. Rasch is a new secretary for the PPP section. Originally from Ohio, Shannon has an associate degree in accounting from Miami University in Ohio and an electronic technician degree from the U.S. Marine Corps. In other PPP news: PPP now has a FAX machine that can be reached at 512-836-8479.

Spring Brings First '91 Declaration

More than 11,900 persons in a five-county area have applied for state and federal disaster assistance because of storms and flooding that occurred April 5-6. Governor Ann W. Richards requested the disaster declaration for Cameron County April 9 following a personal tour of the area and DEM's damage survey. The request was approved April 12 for Individual Assistance programs and the counties of Brazoria, Jackson, Victoria and Willacy were added as damage there became apparent.

On April 26 Cameron, Jackson and Victoria counties were also approved for Public Assistance after the damage assessment showed more than \$4.2 million in public property damage.

More than 1,800 of the applicants applied in person at a Disaster Application Center in San Benito; the rest phoned in their application to the toll-free teleregistration center staffed in Denton.

To date, the Individual and Family Grant program, administered by the Texas Department of Human Services, has approved \$10.2 million for 6,065 families; the Temporary Housing program has approved 4,907 applicants and released more than \$2.3 million; and the Small Business Administration has approved 778 loans to homeowners and renters and 92 to business owners at a total of more than \$8.8 million.

Flood Insurance Rates To Drop For Some Texans

Flood insurance policy holders in 43 states will be paying less for flood insurance beginning October 1. A five percent reduction in the cost of flood insurance will affect some 400,000 new and existing policyholders in 293 communities participating in the new Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Twenty-one of the communities are in Texas.

The CRS, an initiative of the Federal Insurance Administration (FIA), encourages community and state mitigation activities beyond those required by the NFIP. Such activities include greater efforts to reduce flood losses, encouraging more accurate insurance ratings, and promoting the awareness of flood insurance.

To participate in the basic NFIP, a community must agree to enact minimum NFIP mitigation standards. The CRS program goes further and rewards those communities that take additional steps to reduce the risk of flooding. Community participation in the CRS program is voluntary. Participating communities in full compliance with NFIP standards may apply for a CRS classification and its accompanying premium credits. There are ten classification levels, with Class 1 having the greatest premium credit (45%) and Class 10 having no premium credit. Credit points are granted based on the specific types of mitigation activities undertaken. The categories of activities under which credit may be granted include:

- Public information activities
- Mapping and regulatory activities

- Flood damage reduction activities, and
- Flood preparedness activities

Participating communities that meet minimum NFIP requirements automatically receive a Class 10 classification. For the 293 communities that successfully applied for the CRS program, initial verification has resulted in redesignation as Class 9, with 500 self-certified creditable points.

In a letter to the chief official of each community selected, FIA Administrator C.M. "Bud" Schauerte, extended his congratulations. At the same time, he spelled out the procedure for verification and subsequent reviews which could result in even lower rates for policyholders in these communities.

According to FIA officials, after verification and review of findings, recommendations will be made for additional points. Verified CRS ratings will be provided to the communities by February 15, 1992, and any additional reductions in insurance premium would become effective on October 1, 1992.

The NFIP is administered by the FIA, a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Currently there are over 18,000 communities participating in the NFIP, with over 2.4 million policies in force.

For more information about the CRS, contact NFIP/CRS, PO Box 501016, Indianapolis, IN 46260-6016, or call 317-845-2924.

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