



OEM

Bulletin

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Office of Emergency Management - Winter 2009



Ramsey OEM Coordinator Michael Adams, Cumberland County OEM Coordinator Joseph Sever and Sussex County OEM Director "Skip" Danielson flank the president's podium.

New Jersey Emergency Management Coordinators Invited to the White House

In September of 2008, Ramsey New Jersey Office of emergency Management Coordinator Mike Adams had the esteemed honor and pleasure of experiencing an opportunity that few Americans ever get a chance to enjoy...an audience with the President of the United States.

The invitation simply stated, "The President cordially invites you to his Remarks on Volunteering, on Monday, September 8, 2008, The White House South Lawn." It went on to add, "This invitation is for the sole recipient only and is non-transferable and a confirmation will be sent once your response has been processed with further details regarding this event."

"I called the 202 area code, which I know is Washington, DC," commented Michael Adams, Ramsey Emergency Management Coordinator, "After giving the required information, I knew that it was legitimate and started to make plans to go to The White House."

Those plans included attempting to procure invitations for Nicholas Attardo and Andrew Abadeer, Ramsey OEM's two high school seniors. "Nick is attempting to gain an appointment to the Air Force Academy and Andrew is looking for admission into a joint pre-med-medical school program and I figured this would be a boost in their chances," stated Adams.

Leaving Ramsey pre-dawn, the three drove to the nation's capitol, parked the borough's OEM car at the Ronald Reagan building and walked to the Alexander Hamilton gate to the White House. The Secret Service checked the guest list, and stated Abadeer was on the waiting

Winter Weather Preparedness

West Trenton, NJ – In preparation for the 2008-2009 winter season, Colonel Rick Fuentes is inviting all New Jersey residents to participate in Winter Weather Awareness.

As such, New Jerseyans are strongly encouraged to prepare their homes, vehicles, and discuss with family members the potential effects of winter storms as well as learning about how to calmly and safely manage some winter's challenging conditions.

"By proactively preparing for winter weather before the first snow flakes fall, you are helping to protect yourself and your family from the winter elements

"Invited to the White House"



Ramsey OEM member Nicholas Attardo, a cadet Lieutenant Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol and Ramsey OEM Coordinator Michael Adams flank the podium that President Bush has just spoken at.



list, which they would not get to, so Attardo and Adams passed through the world famous Secret Service Security checkpoint and strolled onto the south lawn of the White House.

"We were taking pictures, exploring the area outside the famed portico and were eventually asked by an army captain to take our seats. Moments later the familiar introduction: 'Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States' was intoned and President George W. Bush walked briskly to the podium," Adams explained.

"Please be seated," the President began, "Welcome to the South Ground of the White House. It is a joy to be here with the members of the army of compassion. I'm really glad that you are here and I appreciate your inspiration to our fellow citizens. I believe that you are a constant reminder of the true source of our nation's strength, which is the good hearts and souls of the American people."

President Bush's most memorable line was when he said, "The terrorists who attacked our country on September the 11th didn't understand our country at all: Evil may crush concrete and twist steel, but it can never break the spirit of the American people."

The President concluded his address by saying, "I want to thank you for what you are doing. I am incredibly optimistic about the future of our country. And the reason I am is because I've seen firsthand the love and the compassion and the decency of our fellow citizens. May God bless you. May God bless the armies of compassion." ●

Photos by White House Staff

Protecting our Pets

General Messaging on Animals in Disasters Courtesy of FEMA



When building your family preparedness plan, remember to include your four legged and or winged family members.

On October 6, 2006, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS Act) was signed into law (Public Law No: 109-308), amending the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. This Act requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that state, tribal and local emergency plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency and also authorizes FEMA to study and develop plans that take into account the needs of individuals with pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency.

FEMA, through Preparedness Grants, the National Response Framework, Public Assistance Grants and ESF 6 Mass Care activities, has developed guidance that outlines federal assistance and provides federal funds for the efforts undertaken to shelter and evacuate animals.

FEMA recognizes that planning for the evacuation and sheltering of Pets is important to the effective disaster response and recovery for every community, and that it is a human issue that all evacuation and sheltering plans include pets. Lessons learned from past disasters have shown us that people with pets have been less likely to evacuate if they cannot take their pets with them.

Messaging Regarding Federal, State, and Local Activity for Animals in Disasters Preparedness

Pet evacuation and sheltering is a community-wide issue. Animals left behind in disasters can become a risk for emergency responders, and be at risk themselves of health complications, getting lost, injured or killed.

Adding the evacuation and sheltering of pets places into existing plans places great importance on community emergency managers

Winter Weather Preparedness

that sometimes encounter in our great state," said Colonel Fuentes.

A winter weather safety guide can be found on the official New Jersey Office of Emergency Management website at <http://www.ready.nj.gov/plan/winter.html>

Logging on to the website will allow individuals to access, download, and printout valuable winter storm related information from the state's foremost emergency management site free of charge and available anytime day or night. Winter Safety tips are also available to residents without Internet access by calling 2-1-1.

The following are some quick Winter Safety tips:

- Have your home heating system inspected by a professional once a year to test its efficiency and ensure safety
- Have a mechanic winterize your vehicle during your next oil change/service visit
- Remember to create a family emergency kit and action plan
- Avoid driving during a winter storm
- If you must drive please follow all the rules of the road and respect the inclement conditions as well as fellow drivers
- If you need help call 911
- Listen to your local media outlet for winter storm watches, warnings and instructions regarding your area

When it comes to winter preparedness, don't be left out in the cold. Take some time during Winter Weather Awareness Week to properly winterize your household and vehicle.

The NTSB and the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management Team for Training Course



New Jersey State Police Lieutenant Kevin Fowler & Sergeant First Class Jeff Mottley are pictured with NTSB training staff

The National Transportation Safety Board and the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management teamed together and presented a three-day training course entitled, Transportation Disaster Response - A Course for Emergency Responders, at the NTSB Training Center in Ashburn, Virginia on November 18-20, 2008.

The course was the result of a two year planning initiative between the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management's Emergency Preparedness Bureau and the NTSB. Lt. Kevin Fowler of the North Regional Unit and SFC Jeff Mottley of the Central Regional Unit worked with Erik Grosf, Sharon Bryson, and Jim Arena of the NTSB in bringing this training course to fruition.

This course was designed specifically for emergency responders and planners. The purpose of the course was to provide participants with the tools to most effectively manage a major transportation disaster. During the course, audio/video materials, case studies, recent examples and panel discussions were employed to illustrate key principles of the unique aspects of responding to major transportation disasters.

Some of the key points covered were:

- Integration of the Incident Command System and the investigative processes during a transportation disaster
- Response to a transportation event involving terrorism and/or hazardous materials
- Management of resources in site security and support staffing
- Response to media inquires and managing press at the scene

- Communication between local communities and families of the victims
- Providing assistance to family members
- Forensic aspects of recovery and identification
- Long-term issues facing the affected community following a major disaster

In addition to Lt Fowler, SFC Mottley and representatives from the NTSB, instructors from the Minneapolis Police Department and specialized FBI units also provided instruction.

The NTSB and the Emergency Preparedness Bureau are attempting to bring the training course to New Jersey in the Spring of 2009. ●

Protecting our Pets



to work with local and national NGOs as well as local, state and federal officials to identify resources and capabilities and assess needs before disasters strike

The evacuation and sheltering of pets can be a costly and complicated process. As with other eligible disaster-related work, state and local emergency managers look to FEMA to outline requirements for disaster assistance grants and aid.

Specifically, FEMA has worked to strengthen state and local planning through the following areas:

- FEMA has been working closely with other federal agencies such as the USDA and DHS Office of the Veterinarian, and non-governmental partners such as HSUS to develop effective policies and practices that strengthen response and recovery actions in disasters.
- FEMA / DHS Preparedness grants have already been utilized in some communities to provide funding for specialized vehicles to evacuate animals in disasters.
- The recently released National Response Framework outlines the importance for local and individual preparedness plans to in-

clude animal evacuation and sheltering. It provides guidance on how response plans at all levels of government should include plans for animal concerns.

- The NRF places specific mention for the safety and well-being of household pets under the federal direction of ESF 11, coordinated by the USDA. In fact, one of the five primary functions of ESF 11 is :
 - Providing for the safety and well-being of household pets: Supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) together with ESF #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; ESF #8; ESF #9 – Search and Rescue; and ESF #14 – Long-Term Community Recovery to ensure an integrated response that provides for the safety and well-being of household pets. The ESF #11 effort is coordinated by USDA/APHIS.
- FEMA's Public Assistance Grant Program under its Disaster Assistance Directorate recently issued Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.19: Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering on October 24, 2007. This policy strengthens the ability of state and local emergency managers to develop pre-disaster planning and coordinate animal evacuations and sheltering operations during disasters by outlining activities and facilities eligible for reimbursement un-

Honors & Award Ceremonies

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Geleta on the birth of their new baby boy Jayden Michael Geleta.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Manghisi on the birth of their new baby boy Luke Thomas Manghisi.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. April Sudol on the buirth of their new baby girl Ava Ann Sudol.

Congratulations to Captain Kenneth McCarthy on his recent retirement from the New Jersey State Police. Captain McCarthy's true professionalism and leadership will be greatly missed. NJOEM wishes him health and happiness in retirement.

Congratulations to Lieutenant Colonel Jerome Hatfield on his recent appointment to Deputy Superintendent of the Homeland Security Branch. LTC Hatfield has been a long time emergency management professional dedicated to achieving ultimate NJOEM success. His professionalism, knowledge and elite skills have forged a rich tradition of excellence here in NJOEM and we are con-
fidant that he will carry those efforts over to the Homeland Security Branch. ●

Making a Difference

by Norman A. Smith, Associate Executive Director, Project Freedom Inc. & Chair, NJ Statewide Independent Living Council. [email: ProjectFreedom1@aol.com] Project Freedom develops, builds and operates housing designed for people with disabilities. Project Freedom has been a working partner with the NJOEM on disability and disaster issues since 1999, when it began to conduct outreach to the disability community about the importance of emergency preparedness.



In conjunction with National Disabilities Awareness Month, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management is pleased to announce the expansion of the Register Ready program, New Jersey's special needs registry for disasters. Register Ready is a free, voluntary and confidential program designed to assist people with special needs who may find it difficult to get to safety in the event of an emergency.

Initially introduced as a pilot program in the spring of 2008 to the Garden State's coastal counties, Register Ready is now available in the state's following counties: Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer. As such, NJOEM is working to continue the program's expansion until all 21 counties are included. Currently more than 6,400 New Jerseyans with disabilities have signed up with Register Ready.

"Expansion of the Register Ready program into four more counties is an important step for New Jersey to help people with disabilities prepare themselves for emergencies and disaster," said Norman A. Smith, Associate Executive Director of Project Freedom and Chair of the NJ Statewide Independent Living Council. "People with disabilities and senior citizens need to have an emergency plan, disaster supplies, and register themselves with Register Ready."

People with disabilities (or caregivers on their behalf) are encouraged to register electronically, if possible, by accessing <http://www.registerready.nj.gov/>. Alternatively, they can call New Jersey's toll-free 2-1-1 telephone service. This service will register people, offer free translation, and provide TTY services for the hearing-impaired. Paper registration forms are also available from the above mentioned county offices of emergency management, by contacting one of the following phone numbers or addresses:

Burlington County OEM

PO Box 6000
One Academy Drive
Westampton, NJ 08060
609-518-7200

Camden County OEM

Depalma Complex
2311 Egg Harbor Road
Lindenwold, NJ 08021
856-783-4808

Gloucester County OEM

1200 Delsea Drive
Clayton, NJ 08312
856-307-7100

Mercer County OEM

350 Lawrence Station Road
Lawrence, NJ 08648
609-799-8868

Additionally, numerous community, civic, faith-based, medical, and non-profit organizations are also helping to register people with disabilities.

"The time to get Register Ready is now," said Colonel Rick Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police and Director of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. In addition to this great program, make an evacuation plan for yourself, your family, and your pets. Prepare a readiness kit of things you'll need to have with you if you must evacuate or shelter in place for an extended period of time. Talk now to friends and family who can help you get to safety when a crisis hits," Colonel Fuentes added. ●

Now's the Time.

Resolve to be Ready in 2009

Keeping New Year's resolutions can be hard, but emergency preparedness is one resolution that can be easy to keep with Ready's three simple steps:

- ✓ Get an emergency supply kit.
- ✓ Make a family emergency plan.
- ✓ Be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur in your area and their appropriate responses.

For more information on how to prepare your family, home, and business for all types of emergencies, visit www.ready.gov.

Logos: Homeland Security, Ad Council, Ready www.ready.gov

Protecting our Pets

der Presidential disaster declarations.

- FEMA is working with our partners in federal, state and local governments, as well as nongovernmental aid organizations, to issue more guidance to state and locals who want to strengthen their response capabilities.

Preparedness Messaging for Individuals and Families:

Animals left behind in disasters can become a risk for emergency responders, and be at risk themselves of health complications, getting lost, injured or killed. That's why family preparedness plans need to account for the four-legged and winged members of the household. Preparing for pet evacuation and sheltering may seem complex at first, but it is as easy and effective as preparing for any emergency your family may encounter.

Begin by identifying what needs to be in your pet's evacuation kit: vet records that show immunizations and health conditions; medications; identification and microchip documentation; photographs of you and your pet; water, food and bowls; and comforting items such as blankets and toys, among other items.

Now that you know what to take, you need to know where to go. Not all shelters allow pets. Some do take pets, but they are kept in a separate section. Identify where your fam-

ily can go with your pets and how you would get there. It may be a family member's home, a hotel or a congregate shelter identified by the local emergency manager. Either way you will need a transport such as a cage or crate and a leash. Preparing now can mean all the difference in keeping the entire family safe during disasters.

For more information on developing your pet preparedness plan, go to <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm> and to Ready.gov <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html> to download the brochure.

You can take the free online training to help yourself and your family and community prepare for disasters. IS-10 Animals in Disaster, Awareness and Preparedness and IS-11 Animals in Disaster, Community Planning are available by going to <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm>.

You can also order a copy of the Animals in Emergencies for Owners DVD for free. This video, developed by the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) / FEMA, is intended to help pet and livestock owners prepare to protect their animals during emergencies. The 2 DVD kit (K-673) is available by going to <http://www.fema.gov/library/index.jsp> and entering "pets" in the subject field. ●

Target Hardening Response & Emergency Activation

T.H.R.E.A.T

In a proactive effort to provide public awareness, increase vigilance, gather intelligence and help to prevent against terrorist activity in New Jersey, the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) will be deploying their Target Hardening Response and Emergency Activation Teams (T.H.R.E.A.T) throughout various heavily traveled areas, shopping destinations and critical infrastructure sites in the Garden State this holiday season.

T.H.R.E.A.T is a comprehensive deployment of State, county, and local resources with the specific mission to mitigate potential terrorist and criminal activity by working with local security and law enforcement officials to supplement existing security resources, provide deterrent presence and detection capabilities as well as introduce an element of unpredictability to disrupt potential terrorist and criminal planning activities.

"During the holiday season, shoppers tend to let their guard down, get caught up in the holiday rush and forget about how important it is to stay alert regarding crimes against their person such as robbery and crimes against the State such as terrorism. The goal of the T.H.R.E.A.T is not only to provide shoppers with added safety and security but also remind everyone to be on the look out for suspicious activity in highly concentrated areas such as malls and shopping outlets. The goal is to deter and eliminate criminal and terrorist elements," said Colonel Rick Fuentes Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. ●

NJ State & Local Agencies Complete Full-Scale Emergency Response Exercise

250+ Emergency Responders Successfully Test Plans & Equipment



EMS personnel test the Neptune System.

WOODBIDGE, NJ,- Recently, county and local public safety officials conducted a full-scale emergency response exercise, the Garden State's first exercise of this kind in a petrochemical facility. The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management in coordination with the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and Northeast New Jersey Northeastern New Jersey Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) held the multi-agency exercise at Hess Corporation's Port Reading refinery and terminal.

During the exercise, more than 250 emergency responders from numerous state and local agencies and departments worked together to successfully deploy plans and equipment to respond to a variety of emergency scenarios. Participants included local and county fire departments, state and local police departments, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Middlesex County Rapid Deployment Team and Hess Port Reading's fire brigade.

"The exercise provided an outstanding opportunity for professional responders from across the state to take our emergency preparedness to an even higher level, said Colonel Rick Fuentes; Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police and the state's Office of Emergency Management Director."

The exercise was designed to test multi-agency operational and response capabilities including fire suppression, emergency medical techniques, search and rescue efforts, technical apparatus function and rapid resource deployment. Most notably the state's Neptune System a state-of-the-art high volume water and foam delivery system was deployed.

"The Neptune System will be a key tool in protecting and assisting people during emergencies," said Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Joseph Doria. "Today's exercise allowed us to test this equipment and ensure its capabilities."

Hess Corporation accepted the invitation to host the exercise as part of the company's commitment to operating safely and making a positive impact in the community. "We see emergency preparedness as a vital part of running a safe and effective operation," said F. Borden Walker, Hess Corporation Executive Vice President and President, Marketing & Refining. "This exercise continued to build the strong working relationship between Hess and emergency response agencies so we're ready to work together if a serious incident should occur."

250+ Emergency Responders



The engine behind Neptune's force

State officials see cooperation between the public and private sector as fundamental to the effectiveness of today's exercise. "Conducting large-scale exercises that include emergency personnel from multiple state and local agencies and the private sector enhances our ability to respond to any type of large-scale disaster," said Richard L. Cañas, Director of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. "We thank the Hess Corporation for hosting and participating in today's exercise, as enhancing our private sector partnerships is key to New Jersey's homeland security strategy."

"My fellow Freeholders and I are steadfast in our commitment to keep our residents safe," said Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, chair of the County's Law and Public Safety Committee. "We embrace all opportunities to train with our federal, state, local and corporate partners because by working together, we enhance our ability to respond effectively and efficiently to keep our residents safe."

"Middlesex County has an outstanding reputation for its emergency preparedness policies and programs," said Freeholder Director David B. Crabel. "We've earned that reputation because we emphasize training, we work closely with agencies at all levels of government and we take a proactive approach to our emergency preparedness plans. This exercise falls in line with our philosophy." ●



Recently, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Regional Operations and Intelligence Center hosted guests from the Swedish Office of Emergency Management. Their visit is part of a proactive effort to promote international emergency management relations as well as collaboratively share emergency management ideas.

