DAILY CLIPS

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NEWSPAPER CLIPS
TELEVISION NEWS TRANSCRIPTS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 1993

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Washington, D.C.

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LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE: NOV-09-93

2nd Southland Disaster a New Test for FEMA

By CARLA RIVERA
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A1

The Los Angeles riots of 1992 were the first civil disturbances in history to be declared an official disaster, triggering a massive relief effort by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that has since been clouded by accusations of incompetence and unfairness.

Eighteen months after the riots, in the wake of devastating wildfires, the federal disaster agency—which has been revamped and has a new chief—has set up shop again, prompting questions about what lessons have been learned and whether the fire victims of 1993 will fare better than the riot victims of 1992.

The two disasters could not be more different. One was a civil disturbance that obliterated entire blocks of businesses in the city's poorest neighborhoods, the other a siege of infernos that consumed mostly homes in idyllic, affluent canyons.

Likewise, the two sets of victims have different needs and will require different kinds of assistance, experts say.

But the bottom-line issue is the same: Can the government come

Please see FEMA, A8

through for its citizens in their direst need?

So far, FEMA is receiving good marks. Many local and state officials who went through the riots say the agency's performance this time is far smoother and more humane. Part of the improvement can be ascribed to lessons learned after the 1991 Oakland Hills fires and part to the more familiar problems posed by a natural disaster as compared to civil unrest.

Fire victims, for the most part, report positive experiences.

"I feel real happy with everything that has happened so far; I've been treated very nicely," said David Sabiroff, 46, a sculptor whose rented South Laguna Beach studio and home were destroyed in the first round of wildfires that struck the Southland.

Sabiroff's studio—and 12 to 15 pieces of irreplaceable artwork—went up in flames on 27; two days later he called FEMA's toll-free number to register for disaster assistance. On Tuesday, he received a $2,400 check to pay for temporary housing for him and his wife.

"Everybody's been real super," Sabiroff said. "What's going to be hard though, is when the immediate stuff ends, when the Red Cross closes up and moves out, when everybody is back to business as usual and there are still people ragged around the edges from the fire. What's going to happen then?"

Indeed, it will take months before an accurate assessment can be

■ RELATED STORIES: D1, D2

made of the government's response to the fire disaster. Veterans of the riots say fire victims may encounter roadblocks in trying to prove their losses.

"There are still critical changes that need to occur in the regulation of policy guidelines to ensure that FEMA is always prepared to deal with a disaster," said Cynthia Robbins, director of Urban Recovery Legal Assistance, a legal services program launched last year to help riot victims. "Until then, there will always be the risk of arbitrary decision-making, with different outcomes for similarly situated people."

Many residents of fire-damaged communities say they have seen little evidence of FEMA's presence, despite promises by officials that they would mount a vigorous outreach effort. And some observers doubt that FEMA programs—most designed to aid victims who have little economic means by which to recover on their own—will effectively serve the fire victims, who are generally more affluent.

Jaime Suares is a 48-year-old Pasadena real estate broker who lost his home in the fire. He said he is underinsured for the losses he has suffered.

Suarez said he was persuaded to apply for federal aid after a chance meeting at a Red Cross shelter with Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.). Suarez said he was assured by officials that he could qualify for funds to make up the difference in his insurance coverage.

However, his visit to a disaster application center produced only disappointment and uncertainty.

"At the Red Cross, they were talking about grants being available, but after talking to officials here they seem to be saying all I'll qualify for are loans," said Suarez, after leaving the Arcadia disaster center. "That does not leave me where I was before."

With losses from fire damage expected to reach $1 billion, federal officials still have not indicated how much money will be made available for recovery and cleanup efforts. President Clinton this week announced that $15 million would be advanced to the state to partially cover firefighting costs.

In response to the Malibu fires, FEMA opened disaster centers this weekend at the Calabasas High School gymnasium and the Los Angeles County sheriff's station in Malibu. Centers have already opened in Arcadia, Laguna Beach, Camarillo and Murietta in Riverside County.

Fire victims are eligible for temporary housing assistance, mortgage and rental assistance, disaster unemployment insurance, low-interest loans for rebuilding homes and businesses and grants of up to $12,200 to meet disaster-related needs not covered by other [illegible]ral aid pr[illegible]ams.

To date, the centers have received more than 1,500 applications for assistance. In some cases, checks have been dispatched to victims within two days of application.

But the agency did not have figures on how many fire victims have been approved for assistance and how many have been declined.

Local officials say such information is crucial in determining how effectively the government aid programs are working.

After last year's riot disaster, 50% to 60% of all applications for aid were denied, forming the basis for a class-action lawsuit alleging that the agency illegally denied riot victims relief.

The lawsuit claimed that FEMA "arbitrarily and restrictively interpreted eligibility requirements and required excessive verification and documentation beyond that required" by federal laws.

Betty Holiday, 51, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, applied for disaster aid after her paralegal and credit repair business near Pico Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue went up in flames on the second day of rioting.

Holiday said FEMA gave her contradictory instructions about what information was needed to support her application. Eventually, she was ruled ineligible for aid.

She struggles now to support herself and her developmentally disabled grandson. But she has been gripped by the recent wildfires.

"I watched the fires and I couldn't move from my TV set," Holiday said. "They took me back to the riots and watching my own business burn. If [FEMA] had just helped a little bit I could have gotten back up. But right now I'm pretty fed up with the government."

FEMA officials have declined to discuss the lawsuit because it is still pending. However, FEMA Director James Lee Witt has vowed that fire victims will receive speedy relief.

But people affected by the riots say fire victims will need to be vigilant and should closely monitor the agency's performance.

"The test is going to be how they follow through," said Robbins of Urban Recovery Legal Assistance. "I'm hopeful that the new and improved FEMA can also improve the implementation process."

In many ways, the fire disasters should pose fewer problems for FEMA than did the riot emergency.

The great damage during the riots was sustained largely by businesses, many of which were small, struggling establishments with little or no insurance and often sloppy record-keeping practices.

In many cases, riot victims had difficulty proving that their losses were directly related to the riots. The civil unrest also produced far more complex emotional reactions than the fires did, said those familiar with both disasters.

"With the riots, one of the most difficult parts was the shock to the entire community, that something like that could happen," said Richard Andrews, director of the state Office of Emergency Services.

Please see FEMA, A22

"Obviously, the fires produced shock, too, but also an enormous kind of empathy and community rallying. There isn't the context of anger that both sparked the riots and that was present in the aftermath. All of this makes for a fundamental difference in how the community and government responds."

Fire victims will have their own set of obstacles to overcome, including questions of insurance claims, rebuilding permits, responsibility for debris removal and replenishment of canyon properties.

But many fire victims will start from a much better position than riot victims.

"Almost all homeowners have insurance because it is required, so there is likely to be much more in the way of insurance assistance," said Patty Lombard, executive director of the Western Insurance Information Service, an industry group that provides consumer information.

One group representing Altadena fire victims, the Eaton Canyon Recovery Alliance, is already attracting hundreds to its meetings and has won pledges from the U.S. Forest Service to consider reseeding the area and from Pacific Telephone to provide free voice mail for fire victims.

The group's aims are simple, said organizer James Mc Danniel.

"We want to ensure that the various agencies be held accountable to their commitments."

BALTIMORE SUN

NOV 09 1993

10A

The Fire Next Time

Give us the strength as we face the paperwork, the phone calls and the inconveniences of starting over again.

— Prayer by Rev. Anne Broyles of the Malibu United Methodist Church.

Residents of the Santa Monica Mountains area that was devastated by wildfires last week are already beginning to complain about the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but in fact all that paperwork is necessary. When the government starts giving people money or lending it to them at below-market rates, a lot of bureaucratic "i"s have to be dotted and "t"s crossed. Taxpayers, whose money it is, expect as much.

FEMA has a bad reputation, yet early reports from Southern California suggest it has been performing better than it did after the Midwestern floods of last spring and a whole lot better than it did after Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Many persons whose homes burned to the ground got financial assistance on the spot to help them pay for temporary housing and other needs. Many were getting cash or the assurance of cash to make up for shortfalls in their fire insurance.

The Santa Monica bill to the federal government is not yet in. Though substantial, it will be small compared to the price taxpayers had to pay after the Mississippi overflow or Andrew's sustained 145-miles-per-hour winds. The principal reason river floods and coastal tidal surges associated with hurricanes are so costly is highlighted by the California fires. People build — and rebuild — homes in inappropriate places. They do so in part because they are subsidized when there are losses. In addition to cheap loans and grants there is federal flood insurance, which allows development in areas that everyone knows will have repeat disasters.

By one recent estimate, two percent of flood insurance policies account for 53 percent of the claims. Yet their rates remain ridiculously low — because American taxpayers are obligated to pick up the tab for excess losses. (This is something Congress can and should change.) The homes in the fire-prone mountains and canyons of Southern California are somewhat similarly subsidized by state law requiring private insurers to provide below-market protection.

The best answer to the prayers of Malibu residents is: If you must start over, adopt new zoning laws, construction codes and siting and landscaping requirements. Those could lessen the dangers to them and the cost to everyone else when fire rages through the area next time, as it surely will.

The hills smolder, ashes blow, 'reality hits'

Victims get emotional, financial aid

By Sally Ann Stewart P8A
USA TODAY

MALIBU — Jenny Barrera as enough.

She's standing the middle f a circus tent turned federal isaster center, blinking back ears after her husband napped at her.

"We're just getting on each ther's nerves," says Barrera, wearing the straw cowboy at she wore when she and her ish, tried to beat back e fi that devoured their of 12 years.

Now — even though the cou- e have decided to rebuild eir multi-million-dollar hill- de with a view of the Malibu Pier — all Bar- think about is how uch she's lost.

"The wind blew the ashes ay, [redacted] we don't even have e ashes," she says, stressed d smoking again. "My hus- nd says there's no point in ying, but ... the reality hits e that this isn't a dream."

Sunday, reality packed a llop for many here, five ys after Malibu burned.

Firefighters, beginning to ck up and go home, have al- ost put out the 19,000-acre ar- n blaze that killed three, nearly 400 buildings d at least $170 mil- n in damage. Now, victims gin the grim task of cleaning the debris of their lives.

than 200 people over e weekend sought emergen- disaster relief — ranging reduced property taxes to ychological counseling.

Just because many of this 's most-harmed victims are per-middle class doesn't they don't deserve feder- assistance, says Rita Kepner the Federal Emergency nagement Agency.

"Even people who have in- might underin- ed eligible disaster

sides, when somebody is standing in the middle of the street with only their pajamas, we don't ask them how much money they make before we find them a place to sleep. There's plenty of time for that."

That's why Chris Whitaker, 42, went to apply for federal aid Sunday instead of cleaning up the ashes from what used to be his storage shed.

His Topanga Canyon home was spared, but Whitaker — who owns a tree-trimming and firewood business — lost a recreational vehicle, a $1,500 log-splitter and the tools he uses to make a living.

"I wanted to just shovel the whole mess into my truck and haul it away," Whitaker says. "But I just found out they have to come up and inspect and assess everything, so I won't be touching anything for a while."

The wildfire is taking an emotional toll on everyone.

Diana Armstrong, director of Carden Malibu School, today faces about 40 preschoolers whose school was damaged. She spent the weekend washing soot off books and furniture and assembling playhouses.

"When they come in, I want them to see new, fun things to lighten the situation," says Armstrong, who estimates 15 students' families lost homes.

Armstrong's lined up a psychologist to talk to her students.

"They just need to talk about what they've been through," she says. "Some of the adults can use it as much as the kids."

That was apparent at Malibu Presbyterian Church Sunday.

"It's OK to cry," said the Rev. David Worth. "We have Kleenex in the pews for you."

Worshipers made good use of it as they stood and told their stories. Like when Dan and Lisa Cislo talked about going back to their home and finding just one keepsake.

"It was a Christmas ornament from our first Christmas together. It said 'Love — Christmas 1987.' We h it," says Lisa Cislo.

A few blocks from the firefighters' staging area, an early morning Mass drew parishioners to Our Lady of Malibu Roman Catholic Church, where fire scorched earth within a few hundred yards.

Piles of donated goods ranging from beds to bicycles lay on church grounds under a sign saying, "Fire Victims Help Yourself."

"There's mourning and celebrating. There is grieving and thanking," Monsignor John Sheridan said after Mass as people lingered in a damp chill, talking over steaming cups of coffee, exchanging stories and lessons learned.

Today, firefighters hope to completely extinguish the blaze. But because Wednesday's weather forecast calls for rain, "we could be filling sandbags in case there are mudslides," says Los Angeles County Fire Department Battalion Chief Mike Balzano.

Meanwhile, investigators from 13 agencies — headed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms — are following up on tips phoned in to arson hot lines.

Since Oct. 26, 26 fires have raged through the Golden State, causing at least $1 billion in damage. At least 19 are suspected arson, including the two biggest wildfires — Laguna Beach and Malibu.

"This has to be one of the biggest tragedies ever attributed to arson," says investigator Larry Cornelison. "It took such a toll in ... human misery."

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER NOV 0 8 1993

They're madder than hell in Laguna Beach

p. METRO 6

DAVID L. ELLIS

▶ **THE ISSUE:** Three councilmembers in Laguna Beach are charged with failing to respond to the needs of the community.

▶ **THE WRITER:** Mr. Ellis is vice president/secretary of the Laguna Beach Taxpayers' Association.

Peter Finch's classic line, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore," sums up the attitude of Laguna Beach residents following the devastating fire of Oct. 27.

The Laguna Beach City Council majority of Lida Lenney, Bob Gentry, and Ann Christoph have systematically blocked the efforts to build a 3-million-gallon water reservoir at the highest elevation in Laguna Beach. The purpose of the water reservoir is for fire protection.

Mayor Lenney, after 28 public hearings, claimed on KCBS News that she didn't know the water reservoir's purpose was fire protection. She made this statement as 2,000 firefighters tried to save our city. Her comment is revealing because just weeks before the fire she watched a video of the Oakland inferno and claimed that such tactics, showings of the film, were designed to scare Laguna residents.

Well, Mayor Lenney, we are scared — of your inability to grasp the importance of water as a method of controlling fire.

Politics in Laguna has always been strange and almost humorous to the casual observer. Nestled in a pocket of beauty and wealth, a small and vocal group of environmental extremists comprising Village Laguna has been successful in electing a council majority for the past 12 years.

To this day, after 366 homes were torched, Village Laguna and its lieutenants on the City Council still oppose the construction of the water reservoir. Why?

They say the reservoir would be located in an environmentally sensitive area and precious habitat might be destroyed!

In fact, one Village Laguna activist recently opined in a local publication that the reason the water reservoir must be denied was because the site is in an open-space area that has native plants, possibly including gnatcatcher habitat. A fact that is lost on the opponents of the water reservoir is that the tank was to be buried and the area replanted with all the politically-correct vegetation for the little birds to breed.

It is this "plants-over-people" mentality that has dominated Laguna politics for the past 12 years. Anyone who dares challenge this mentality is labeled a big bad developer or is called insensitive to the unique village atmosphere of Laguna.

After $260 million in property damage, the Laguna Beach City Council remains steadfastly opposed to protecting our community from another fire.

Instead of using water to prevent fires, every summer our confused City Council rents a herd of goats to eat vegetation in the back country. They believe goats are more environmentally correct than bulldozers when it comes to building fire breaks. In fact, during last

Robert Barnum/Creative Department

Nestled in a pocket of beauty and wealth, a small and vocal group of environmental extremists comprising Village Laguna has been successful in electing a council majority for 12 years.

year's budget hearings Councilwoman Christoph wanted to use taxpayers' funds to hire a biologist to follow the goats through the hills to make sure they didn't eat any protected plants.

The tragic fire of Oct. 27 has seared into the minds of all Laguna residents that we can no longer tolerate the environmental extremism that jeopardizes our life and property.

Those of us in Laguna who would like to see people put on the same level as plants have been criticized for speaking out against the council's position on the water reservoir. We've been called insensitive political opportunists, uncaring, and calloused.

Last Saturday I sat in a meeting with a man who lost his home in the fire. Almost in tears, he told us of the firefighter from Northern California who complained that there was no water pressure to save the homes on Skyline Drive, an area where nearly 300 houses were reduced to ash. I believe it is the council majority that is uncaring and calloused.

With a membership 783 strong, the Laguna Taxpayers' Association is by far the largest grass-roots organization in town. We don't get the headlines that Village Laguna gets because our group is focused on the issues local government should care about: private property rights, public safety, and reduced taxation. We are mad as hell at the council majority because something as fundamentally simple as a water reservoir has become a metaphor for what is wrong in our city. As an aside, one of the primary reasons Pepperdine University avoided disaster last week is because it has a 2-million-gallon reservoir on campus, just in case of fire.

The 1994 elections offer the voters of Laguna a chance to bring some balance back to our unique community. Councilmembers Lenney, Gentry, and Christoph must all stand for election. Hopefully, they will run on their records.

The people I talk to don't want high-rises on Main Beach or terra cotta tract homes. We just want some balance at City Hall that puts people and their property on the same level as plants and animals. It's time for those of us in Laguna who are angry to channel our emotions into the defeat of Lenney, Christoph, and Gentry in city elections next November.

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER NOV 0 6 1993

Federal-aid office to stay open another week

GOVERNMENT: As of Friday, 477 people had applied for disaster relief at the temporary center in Laguna.

By GINA SHAFFER
The Orange County Register

LAGUNA BEACH — More than 470 people have applied for disaster assistance from federal and state agencies, officials said Friday, prompting them to keep the local office open another week.

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency is coordinating financial aid for disaster victims at its makeshift office at the Laguna Beach Recreation Center. FEMA originally had planned to close the center Friday. FEMA will accept applications by phone and mail until Dec. 27.

An average of 60 people a day have shuffled among tables piled with government forms at the center. By closing time Friday, FEMA had received 969 applications; many people applied for more than one type of aid.

Among those lining up this week were pool cleaners, gardeners and housekeepers left jobless by the fire.

Free-lance photographer Holden Clay, 29, who lost his life's work in the blaze, mulled over whether to apply for a loan or a grant.

"They're really helpful — incredibly helpful," he said.

Michael P. Shelden, 41, is applying for a $2,000 loan to replace a trailer, tools and equipment for his recycling business.

"Given the volume of people, I was fairly impressed with how quickly things were handled," Shelden said.

Even business owners who have experienced a downturn in sales due to the disaster may qualify for financial aid.

"If they have any inkling they'd be eligible, they should come in," said FEMA spokeswoman Cory La Bianca.

FEMA officials also are urging property owners to apply for assistance even if they think insurance will cover their losses.

"There may be a gap between their insurance coverage and what it would cost to rebuild," said Jo Ann Darby, manager of the disaster-assistance center.

La Bianca said: "Sometimes, three or four months down the line, they realize they really need assistance. If they haven't applied by the deadline, it's really too late."

NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COORDINATING OFFICE

OES CALIFORNIA
California Office of Emergency Services

FEMA-DR-1005-CA-PR#22
November 8, 1993

DISASTER INFORMATION FROM:
Federal/State Coordinating Office
245 South Los Robles Avenue (3rd. Floor)
Pasadena, CA 91101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

FEMA:	Terry Hamlin	(818)405-7548
STATE:	Greg Renick	(818)405-7276

Daily News Summary

Aid Available Regardless of Status

State and federal disaster recovery assistance is available to all individuals and business owners who have sustained damages or losses due to the Southern California Firestorm. This aid is available regardless of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, handicap, age or national origin.

* * *

Emergency Help Is Available

Emergency food, clothing, shelter and medical assistance is available to individuals and families; call the American Red Cross 1-800-540-2000 or Salvation Army 1-800-725-9005.

* * *

Disaster Housing Assistance Is Available

Temporary disaster housing assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is available. Housing assistance for periods of up to 18 months is offered to eligible homeowners and renters whose permanent residences are uninhabitable because they were damaged or destroyed by the Southern California Firestorm. Types of aid include funding for alternate rental housing or grants for emergency repairs needed to make a residence habitable. Call the Disaster Information Hotline, 1-800-525-0321 (or TDD: 1-800-660-8005 for persons with hearing or speech impairment).

* * *

Free Crisis Counseling Available to Firestorm Victims

Persons who require referral services and short-term intervention counseling for mental health problems caused or aggravated by the Southern California Firestorm are urged to contact their local Mental Health Department for information and free assistance.

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NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COORDINATING OFFICE

OES
CALIFORNIA
California Office of Emergency Services

FEMA-DR-1005-CA-PR#23
November 8, 1993

DISASTER INFORMATION FROM:
Federal\State Coordinating Office
245 S. Los Robles (3rd Floor)
Pasadena CA 91101

Media Contacts: Terry Hamlin (818) 405-7548
Greg Renick (818) 405-7299

FEMA OFFERS MORTGAGE AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE DISASTER HARDSHIP

PASADENA -- Individuals experiencing financial hardship because of the Southern California firestorms may apply for rental and mortgage assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The FEMA Mortgage and Rental Assistance program offers grants to individuals who lost businesses or jobs as a direct result of the disaster and who are thus unable to pay mortgage or rent because of the loss of income.

Frank Kishton, Federal Coordinating Officer for the disaster recovery effort, says the program provides funds in the form of a check to eligible individuals for their actual home-related mortgage or rent payments.

To facilitate processing, and avoid delays, Kishton adds, it is important to provide accurate documentation. An applicant needs 1) proof of pre-disaster occupancy of the mortgaged\rented property which must be a primary residence, 2) proof of mortgage\rent payment obligation and post-disaster payment delinquency, and 3) proof of pre-disaster business ownership or employment.

Individuals may apply for the program by visiting the nearest Disaster Application Center or calling the toll-free disaster teleregistration number: 1-800-462-9029 or 1-800-462-7585 (the TDD number for those with hearing\speech impairments).

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NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COORDINATING OFFICE

FEMA-DR-1005-MA#24
November 8, 1993

DISASTER INFORMATION FROM:
Federal\State Coordinating Office
245 S. Los Robles (3rd Floor)
Pasadena CA 91101

Media Contacts: Martin Zucker (818) 405-7585

MEDIA ADVISORY
Not for Publication

SOUTHLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BRIEFINGS BEGIN TOMORROW ON FEDERAL\STATE DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR FIRESTORMS

Local southern California government officials will begin meeting tomorrow with state and federal experts to begin the process of obtaining funding for emergency operations costs and damage to public facilities incurred during the recent firestorms.

The schedule is as follows:

Irvine, Tuesday, November 9, 9 a.m.
City of Irvine City Hall Complex
Training and Conference Center, First Floor
1 Civic Center Plaza
Corner of Alton and Harvard

Riverside, Tuesday, November 9, 1 p.m.
Flood Control Headquarters
First Floor Conference Room
1995 Market Street

Ventura, Wednesday, November 10, 9 a.m.
County Government Center
Administration Building
Lower Plaza Assembly Room
800 South Victoria Avenue

Arcadia, Wednesday, November 10, 1 p.m.
Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Avenue

--MORE--

San Diego, Friday, November 12, 9 a.m.
San Diego County Emergency Operations Center
5555 Overland Ave, Bldg. 12

At the briefings, officials from affected local governments are instructed by federal and state experts about the variety of programs and eligible costs for disaster-related projects, and how to apply for funding. Federal funds for clean up, emergency operations and restoration of public facilities cover 75 percent of eligible costs. State funding covers 75 percent of the balance, with local governments covering the remainder.

Federal and state assistance funds for emergency and recovery operations are authorized under an Oct. 28 presidential disaster declaration for six California counties -- Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Although briefings are solely for the purpose of helping local officials understand the assistance application process, media representatives are welcome to attend and observe. Spokespersons will be available for interviews prior to the briefings.

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NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COORDINATING OFFICE

OES CALIFORNIA

California Office of Emergency Services

FEMA-DR-1005-CA-PR#25
November 8, 1993
(evening edition)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISASTER INFORMATION FROM:
Federal/State Coordinating Office
245 South Los Robles Avenue (3rd. Floor)
Pasadena, CA 91101

Media Contacts: FEMA: Terry Hamlin (818)405-7548
STATE: Greg Renick (818)405-7276

Daily News Summary

Immediate Tax Refund Available

Immediate tax refunds (drawing from taxes paid in previous years) may be available to individuals and business owners who have suffered losses due to the Southern California Firestorm. An amended return must be filed with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on Form 1040X. Form 1040X is available at the Federal/State Disaster Application Centers or by contacting the Internal Revenue Service toll-free at 1-800-829-1040 (TDD 1-800-829-4059). Applicants from the disaster declared California counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura are advised to write in large, bold letters "VICTIM - FIRESTORM DISASTER" at the top of the form 1040X and also on the envelope mailed to the IRS. In the event that a person has lost access to financial data required to file the form 1040X, the IRS will expedite requests for and provide the data to the applicant. The IRS will also waive the fee normally associated with such an expedited request. The California Franchise Tax Board has a similar program and may be contacted by calling 1-800-852-5711 (TDD 1-800-822-6268).

* * *

Guidance Offered In Choosing Contractor

Guidance is available in obtaining licensed contractors to assist homeowners in repair or restoration of disaster damaged property. Homeowners should contact the California Contractors State License Board Disaster Hotline at 1-800-962-1125.

* * *

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Applications for Disaster Relief

Disaster Application Centers (DACs), jointly operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and local governments, have representatives from many federal, state and local agencies to help speed the application process. Applicants may apply at any DAC, regardless of the city or county in which they reside, from 9 am to 7 pm, until further notice. They may also register and apply by calling the teleregistration number 1-800-462-9029 anytime from 9 am to 9 pm daily. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may register and apply via the toll-free TDD number 1-800-462-7585. Operators fluent in several languages are available to assist callers.

Disaster Application Centers

Open Daily
9 am to 7 pm

Los Angeles County
Arcadia Community Regional Park
405 S. Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia

Calabasas High School Gymnasium
22855 Mulholland Highway
Calabasas

L.A. County Sheriff's Station
23555 Civic Center Way
Malibu

Orange County
Laguna Beach Recreation Center
505 Forest Avenue
Laguna Beach

Riverside County
French Valley Airport
37552 Winchester Road
Murietta

Ventura County
County Sheriff's Training Facility
Camarillo Airport
273 E. Pleasant Valley Road
Camarillo

--more--

Nov. 8: Farmers Insurance updates fire claims, customer support

LOS ANGELES--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Following is a current summary of Farmers Insurance activities supporting its customers affected by the Southern California fires.

Losses: To date, Farmers has received reported claims of 103 homes completely destroyed, 285 homes with smoke or partial damage and 550 homes with wind damage, with losses to date of $64.5 million. These are for properties from throughout Southern California, from Ventura to San Diego counties.

Coverage: Substantial payments for temporary living expenses and contents coverage and structural damage have been made since Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Communications and Customer Contact:

- Customers are being advised to directly contact Farmers agents to process claims;
- An emergency claims number, 800/543-5736, has also been established;
- Local meetings with customers are being held in the affected areas with meetings scheduled in Laguna, Pasadena and Temecula;
- Agents in the affected areas are continuing contact with all customers to check on their safety and damage status;
- Catastrophe claims centers have been established in Simi Valley, Santa Ana and Carlsbad. Satellite claim centers have been established in Orange, Laguna Hills, Moreno Valley, San Bernardino and Pasadena.
- Farmers is coordinating assistance efforts with Gov. Wilson, the California Department of Emergency Services and FEMA, and is working now on issues of debris removal.

CONTACT: Farmers Insurance Group of Companies, Los Angeles
Jeffrey C. Beyer, 213/930-4149 (work)
818/797-5622 (home)
John Millen, 213/932-3083

8 • FEDERAL TIMES November 8, 1993

LABOR REPORT

Partnership Councils Get to Work

By Christy Harris
Federal Times Staff Writer

Following President Clinton's order to create labor-management partnerships throughout the executive branch for reforming government, two agencies have signed agreements with union officials.

Representatives from the General Services Administration, American Federation of Government Employees and National Federation of Federal Employees were the first to sign a resolution requiring "the open sharing of information" before decisions are made, fostering "mutual trust and respect."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has started a similar council.

The GSA national labor-management partnership council will meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month, and other times as needed. Most meetings will be in Washington, D.C.

The council has four members — the two unions' national council presidents and the agency's associate administrator for administration and employee and labor relations director.

They will address problems related to working conditions, provide training in resolving disputes, and try to finish some pending formal disputes within 60 days.

GSA Administrator Roger Johnson said it is a "new beginning" in the agency's labor-management relations.

"It has become clear to me that a level of distrust pervades too many working relationships within the federal government," Johnson said. "I want to change this feeling."

NFFE President Robert Keener said other agencies should model their own partnership councils after GSA's agreement, which involves employees before decisions are made, mandates open and direct communication and increases training.

"With the signing of the executive order and this agreement," said AFGE President John Sturdivant, "we have begun a process that will lead to the most profound changes in federal labor-management relations since President Kennedy gave federal unions the right to bargain in 1962."

FEMA's council has 16 members, seven appointed by AFGE and NFFE and nine agency management representatives.

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH NOV 9 1993

Levee Issue Is Threatening Money For Flood Buyouts

A1

By Robert L. Koenig
Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The debate over whether to repair some rural Midwestern levees could end up sinking a move in Congress to bolster federal buyout programs for flood-damaged towns, a key senator warned Monday.

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., made the warning as a House panel prepared to approve the buyout bill today — at the same time that Baucus' Senate Committee on Public Works and the Environment convenes a hearing on the lessons from the Flood of '93.

Baucus told the Post-Dispatch that he supported the House bill to bolster the buyout program and would try to get Senate approval before Congress recesses later this month.

"We're trying to get this done," Baucus said. "But I don't want it loaded down with an awful lot of amendments" on contentious issues such as whether the Army Corps of Engineers should be required to repair levees that are ineligible for federal aid.

> **"If we can get an agreement . . . perhaps we can get it passed before Congress adjourns."**
>
> SEN. MAX BAUCUS on flood buyout bill

"If we can get an agreement that [the bill] is not loaded down with other amendments, then perhaps we can get it passed before Congress adjourns" at the end of this month, Baucus said.

Baucus made his commitment the day before the House Public Works and Transportation Committee is expected to approve a bill — sponsored by Rep. Harold L. Volkmer, D-Mo., and others — that would increase the federal share in flood buyouts and allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to use more of its flood relief money for buyouts and other "hazard mitigation" efforts.

During the session, the House committee's chairman — Rep. Norman Y. Mineta, D-Calif. — is expected to offer an amendment that would triple, to $105 million, the FEMA buyout money for Midwestern flood victims.

Recognizing the need for more buyout money, White House budget officials agreed last week to support the amendment, at the urging of House Majority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., who has promised to get the full House to vote on the flood legislation this month.

But Senate sources say other flood-related issues — if they are added to the buyout bill — could threaten prospects for Senate action. Those issues include:

- **Levee repair:** Sen. Christopher S. Bond, R-Mo., and Rep. Bill Emerson, R-Mo., are trying to get Congress to approve legislation to force the corps to repair hundreds of flood-damaged rural levees in the Midwest that are ineligible for federal aid. Bond got such a provision into the Senate version of the defense spending bill, but sources said Monday that House and Senate negotiators dropped that measure. Meanwhile, Emerson has warned that he may try to add a similar provision today to the House buyout bill.

Mineta and Baucus oppose the provision, saying it would set a bad precedent and might cost the federal government as much as $1 billion. "We're going to address that question in legislation next year," Baucus said.

- **Flood control studies:** The House buyout bill now includes a provision, sponsored by Rep. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., directing the corps to conduct a comprehensive study of flood control in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. But some environmentalists contend that other federal agencies — not the corps — should lead the study. "That's going to be difficult," said Baucus, who tends to side with environmental groups on the flood study issue. His staff aides say that the White House had ordered a similar study already and that no legislation is needed.

In the interview, Baucus said he hoped to get agreements from Midwestern senators — mainly senators from Missouri, Illinois and Iowa — to separate the levee, flood study and other flood questions from the buyout bill.

THE UNSOAKED RICH

Federal Flood Insurance Is Pork for Wealthy Homeowners—and Al D'Amato Wants To Keep It That Way

Village Voice 2 Nov 93

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Politicians are torn over whether to provide health insurance to the general populace, but they've had little : about renewing a multibillion-dollar federal flood insurprogram, which chiefly benefits wealthy homeowners along the nation's coasts.

Not only is the program pork for the rich, but the fight over its reform is indicative of just how it is for the Clinton administration to move the federal government away from the policies that contributed to last summer's extraordinary Mississippi flood.

Twenty-five years ago, a group of reformers argued that instead of building more levees and tougher structural devices as a deagainst flooding, it would e more sense to redesign buildings along rivers and in zones and to try to persuade people to rebuild on higher

As a result, in 1968, Congress enacted the National Flood Insurance Program, intended to deny insurance to those who built in flood-prone areas unless special precautions were taken.

But the government—notably the notoriously mismanaged Fed- Emergency Management Administration, which handled the program—never issued regulasetting standards. Buyers were never encouraged to mitigate losses from flooding. Rather than improve flood management, the program became an incentive for development within flood plains.

Since two-thirds of all federal insurance coverage is along the nation's coasts, the program has served as a lifeline for well-to-do individuals building vacation homes on sand dunes, river ı, or other exposed sites. In an analysis of coastal develop- patterns from the 1940s to he 1980s, the Interior Depart- d that "increased afflu- federal subsidies are the primary causes for the

Two years ago, the House passed legislation that would have put an end to taxpayer-subsidized insurance for such eroding areas. The Bush administration at first supported the legislation, and the FEMA staff helped write it. But by the time the bill got to the Senate, C. M. (Bud) Schauxte, Bush's head of the flood insurance program, attacked the measure as backdoor federal land-use control. He said it was "despicable."

New York's Republican senator Alfonse D'Amato was among the bill's original sponsors, but as he became caught up in a tight reelection fight, turned against it. The National Realtors Association and the National Homebuilders Association had campaigned against the bill, but it was Long Island homeowners, especially those living on Fire Island, who led the effort. "The Fire Island Association spearheaded it," D'Amato said at the time.

Attempting to win D'Amato's support, Massachusetts Democrat John Kerry sought to appease the Fire Island homeowners by creating an exemption for them, but D'Amato held firm, and the legislation died.

Now, two years later, the flood insurance program, with $248 billion in premiums, is $35 million in debt. The General Accounting Office says the fund is so poorly managed it's hard to know what's going on with it. During the early 1980s, the taxpayers had to make a $1.2 billion bailout to reestablish it.

In the wake of this year's flood, Kerry reintroduced his bill, which prohibits federal flood insurance for any development of an area likely to erode over a 30-year period or for buildings already existing in areas likely to erode within 60 years. The price of this low-cost federal flood insurance would be increased by 10 per cent. These provisions 't affect existing insurance policies, do they development.

Massachusetts representative Joe Kennedy has introduced a similar bill in the House, and more than 80 environmental groups, along with the Coastal States Organization—an arm of the National Governor's Association—endorse it.

There's nothing radical about these bills. All they say is that taxpayers should not have to foot the bill for insurance for development on land virtually sure to fall into the water—in an era the National Hurricane Conference predicts will be prone to direct hits in a new cycle of "super hurricanes." (The 25 years of the flood insurance program, in fact, have coincided with a lull in hurricanes.)

As Senator Kerry prepared his bill last summer, his staff members met repeatedly with their counterparts in D'Amato's office in the hope the senior minority member of the Senate Banking Committee could be cajoled into supporting the new legislation. For weeks D'Amato remained a mystery.

Then the Fire Island Association sprang into action, this time introducing a new ally in the personage of Rick Lazio, a first-term Long Island representative whose district includes the western end of Fire Island and the mainland shoreline along the Great South Bay. Lazio took up the fight against Kennedy in the House.

On October 12, D'Amato came out swinging in support of the Fire Islanders. Ira Paul of his office issued a scathing memo to the staff of the banking committee, mocking Kerry's bill, arguing it would run up premium costs without substantially improving the financial condition of the existing program.

This memo was doubly galling

the Kerry forces because it was on calculations made by FEMA, which Kerry himself had requesting for months with o success. The next day, Jona- Weiner of his staff rebutted 'aul's memo with one of his own nd the two staffers argued efore the entire committee staff.

Meanwhile, in the House, Lazio went after Kennedy threatening an amendment weakening the anti-erosion section.

Lazio and D'Amato's forces at argued that flood insurance should not be prohibited in eroding coastal areas, but that premi- l reflect actual risk. Af- a closer look at the numbers, however—this would mean at a ten-fold rise in premiums for their Fire Island constituents—they switched tactics. D' and Lazio now propose that FEMA map coastal erosion let local communities decide whether they want the cut shifting responsibility for the pork of Washington.

Both Lazio and D'Amato argue that Kerry's flood insurance reform will devalue coastal property devastate coastal communities. In one colloquy at a House subcommittee markup session on the bill, Lazio and Queens representative Floyd Flake even cited the importance of making flood insurance available for minorities the working class living on the

The working class on Fire Is- According to the 1990 census, there are 409 residents on the island. Of that total, 402 are white. There are no blacks. Of the 4065 housing units, more than 3000 are for occasional use. They even second homes.

A real estate company on Fire d reports a four-bedroom in the island within the 30- erosion zone runs about $1.5 million. These homes rent for be- $20,000 and $30,000 per during the peak summer

While Congress debates the fu- of flood insurance, the Clin- administration says it wants to change the floodplain policies that have led to piling one levee top of another along the Mississippi and its tributaries, a chief of last summer's flood.

That flood was the largest de- in U.S. history. Federal officials esti ate it caused more than $12 billion in property damage in an area equal to one-tenth of the contiguous 48 states, disrupting the lives of 26 million people. Now more than 50 cities, towns, and counties in nine states along the upper Mississippi have asked to have their property "bought out" by the federal government.

The White House advocates a nonstructural approach—moving towns and people out of the floodplain and restoring the floodplain to its original condition as a natural sponge that could counteract heavy flooding.

In an August 23 policy-guidance memorandum from the Office of Management and Budget and the White House Office of Environmental Policy, the administration ordered the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, and other agencies working in the flood area to "consider, to the extent practical, nonstructural alternatives and design modifications that could provide greater local benefits of flood control, reduction of future potential flood damages to the applicant and adjacent upstream and downstream localities, lower long term cost to the federal government, and natural resource protection."

But while the revised policy is well intentioned, what's going on in the Mississippi River basin is pretty much the opposite. The only programs to apply for are the existing ones, so while the rhetoric says one thing, on-the-ground policy is unchanged. That means, for example, that the corps of engineers is rebuilding levees.

While the government may not want to build back all the levees, especially the less rigorously constructed dikes, the barge owners, big farm groups like the corn and soybean growers, governors, and local farm bureaus want a return to business as usual.

Consider the situation at Valmayer, Illinois, where the levee broke. Two-thirds of the town of 900 voted to relocate to higher ground, but FEMA says the townspeople are moving too fast. Nonetheless the mayor says the feds aren't going to stop the town from rebuilding on 500 acres about a mile east of the old town. Relocation will cost more than $20 million. Only 15 to 20 families will stay in the old town. The town will have room for 1300

Yet the corps, because the nearby farmers are clamoring for protection, already has begun to rebuild the levee at a cost of $1.3 million. The corps originally built the levee because a cost-benefit study showed it was justified by the presence of the town. Now the corps cites the need to help the farmers. When environmentalists and floodplain experts protest, the regional corps officials say the corps is required under law to rebuild.

Then there's Kaskaskia Island in Illinois, where the corps built a levee, also defended on grounds of the existence of a historic town. In 1973, the levee was breached, and half the population left. This year it again was breached, and another half of the population will go. Undeterred, the corps is rebuilding that levee.

Where will the corps get all the money to rebuild the levees? Missouri's Republican senator Kit Bond has offered an amendment to the defense appropriations bill that will provide the funds to rebuild the levees, even the flimsiest private levees that were never built to federal standards or, if they were, seldom maintained.

"The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing," says Roger Pryor of the St. Louis-based Missouri Coalition for the Environment. "There are all these little pots of money, and all these little agencies doing their little thing," he adds. "A tyranny of small decisions reinventing the status quo." ■

Research: Eduardo Iturrate

Preparation key in quakes, fire, floods

By Steve Polkin
The Press-Enterprise

Natural disasters dramatically upset our daily routine. They show how fragile life can be.

But how well we cope depends in large part how well we prepare.

Earthquakes, flash floods and sometimes fires give little advance notice. Disaster might come in the middle of the night, allowing only minutes or seconds to respond.

Yet, there are things that can be done months, even years, in advance. Preparations range from the choices of where and how we build and landscape our homes to putting together an emergency supply of food and water.

▶Policy matters: Timely tips on evaluating homeowners insurance. C-4.

Here is what various disaster-preparedness agencies recommend for the natural disasters of wildfires, earthquakes and floods.

All-purpose family disaster supplies

- Store at least a three-day supply of water (1 gallon per day per person) in unbreakable containers. Keep the water supply in a cool, dark place. Canned fruits, juices, vegetables and beverages also provide essential liquids.
- Store food that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking or water.
- Replace stored water and food every six months.
- The disaster-supplies kit should include: battery-operated radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, a mess kit or paper cups and plates, plastic utensils, paper towels, disposable face masks for dust and smoke, a tent, aluminum foil, a signal flare, paper and pencil, needle and thread, medicine dropper, whistle, plastic sheeting, matches in a waterproof container, portable can opener, lanterns, extra batteries, first-aid kit, a wrench to turn off gas or water if necessary, a shovel, rain gear, rubber gloves and boots, candles, a map, utility knife, compass and small toys for children. Also have one change of clothing and sturdy shoes per person, as well as sleeping bags or blankets.
- Include sanitation supplies such as toilet paper, soap, feminine supplies, plastic garbage bags with ties, plastic bucket with tight lid, disinfectant and household chlorine bleach.
- Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.
- Store the kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller kit in your car trunk.

All-purpose disaster tips

- Keep a list of valuables to take in an emergency. If possible, store them together. Have ready to go: essential medicines, cash, at least one credit card, an extra set of car keys, extra glasses and special items for an infant, elderly or disabled person.
- Have an evacuation plan for your home with at least two escape routes from each room. Practice at least twice a year. If you live in an area with a history of flash floods, have several routes to higher ground.
- Keep important documents, such as insurance policies and birth certificates, in a waterproof/fireproof con-

Please see **CHECKLIST, C-4**

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CHECKLIST

Continued from C-1

tainer or a safety deposit box.

● Keep your vehicle at least half full since gasoline pumps won't work if electricity is cut.

● For insurance purposes, make an itemized list of personal property. Take photographs of the home, inside and out. This helps prove uninsured losses, which are tax deductible.

● Have a collapsible ladder on each upper floor of your house.

People with disabilities should call the fire department in advance and ask to register for assistance in an emergency. Have a network of neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers to aid. Make sure they know how to operate necessary equipment. Keep extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, medication, food for guide or hearing-ear dogs.

● Know how and where to shut off utilities if necessary.

● Learn basic first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. This information often is in the front of the phone book.

● Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the family contact. After a disaster, it's easier to call long-distance than to call the area hit by the disaster.

● Consider the purchase of a portable generator to supply power to lights and cooking appliances. A generator may also be needed if you are in a rural area, the power is out, and firefighters need to use your well water.

● Designate an emergency meeting place for your family near your home and outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.

● Have an emergency plan for pets that includes a pen with a three-day supply of dry food and a large container of water. Pets might not be allowed into emergency shelters for health and space reasons. Also, their behavior might become more vicious after an earthquake.

Long-range planning for fire safety

● Make sure bridges and roads between your house and the fire department support heavy fire equipment.

● Build or buy a house away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points on a ridge.

● Enclose the underside of balconies and decks with fire-resistant materials.

● The roof and exterior walls should be made of fire-resistant materials.

Windows and doors should have thick, tempered safety glass. Use dual-paned or triple-paned windows. Windows should have nonflammable shutters and fire-resistant drapes.

● Install sprinklers in the home.

Construct driveways to allow for large emergen- equipment.

Landscaping for fire protection

Sources of printed information on fire-resistant plants, trees and shrubs include:

● The University of California, Cooperative Extension's "Landscape for Fire Protection" booklet. Call (909) 683-6491 or write: University of California, Cooperative Extension, 21150 Springs F Moreno Valley, Calif. 92557-8708. Enclose a check for $1.50 [redacted] to UC Regents.

● California Landscape Contractors A ciation

● Remember, all plants burn if there is enough heat and other conditions are right.

● Plant trees and shrubbery so the crowns will not touch when they are fully mature.

● Keep landscape clean. Remove litter and prune deadwood and dried-out portions of ground covers.

● Do not allow continuous tree or branch canopy next to buildings.

● Irrigated ground covers like ivy or ice-plant usually do not carry fire.

● Dense chaparral is especially dangerous when it is growing in a canyon below a house. It can create a chimney draft in which the fire rapidly rises.

● Have a "defensible space" by removing all flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from all structures.

● Make sure tree limbs are clear of power lines.

Other fire-safety tips

● Keep roof and gutters free of leaves and needles.

● Store firewood at least 30 feet from any structure and clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.

● Make sure firefighters can read your address from the street. Check to see if your street name and house number are duplicated elsewhere in the county. If so, make the distinction clear when calling in an emergency.

● Use masonry walls, patios, walkways and pools to create a safety barrier to structures.

● Teach family members to stay low to the ground when escaping from a fire.

● Make sure family members know that if their clothing catches fire, they should stop, drop to the ground and roll. Running makes fire burn faster.

● If fire is gradually approaching, back cars into the garage or park them on the driveway, headed out, for quick escape. Close car windows and be ready to open the garage door manually if electricity is out.

For more information, write the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX, Hazard Mitigation Branch, Building 105, Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif. 94129. Or call (415) 923-7257.

Earthquake

● Secure heavy furniture and appliances to walls.

● Use loop-and-hook fasteners to secure items like stereo equipment and VCRs.

● Strap the water heater to wall studs.

● Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches and anywhere people sit or sleep.

● Earthquake damage to mobile homes often is a result of the coach falling off supports. Secure the undercarriage to the foundation. Double-wides should be tied together.

● When an earthquake hits, if inside stay inside and if outside stay outside. Most injuries occur when people are hit by falling debris as they enter or leave buildings.

● Indoors, go under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table; or against an inside wall or a solid, framed doorway.

● Outdoors, stay in the open, away from buildings, trees, telephone and electric lines and overpasses.

● In picking a safe spot, also look for one that will provide air space if the building colls If you are under an for example, stay with the desk if it moves.

Riverside Press-Enterprise 11/7/93

● Stay out of elevators and away from windows, mirrors and heavy furniture that could topple.

● Earthquake insurance typically is an "add-on" to a homeowner's policy. You have to request it.

Floods and flash floods

● "Flood watch" means a flood is possible in your area and a "flood warning" means flooding is occurring or is imminent.

● Flash floods give little warning and occur even when it's not raining where you are. They have great power and can carry large boulders. Leave immediately for higher ground if you hear a flash flood warning. Leave your car, camping gear or other belongings where they are.

● Find out if you live in a flood-prone area from your local public works or emergency management office.

● Homeowner's policies typically do not cover "act of God" flooding. Communities may participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Call your insurance agent if you are interested. But don't wait until the last minute. There generally is a five-day waiting period. ● Call your local emergency management office to learn the elevation of your property so you will know if the flood elevations forecasted will affect your home.

● If you live in an area frequently flooded, stockpile plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, nails, hammer and saw, pry bar, shovels and sandbags.

● Never stack sandbags directly against outer walls of a building. The bags can create added pressure on the foundation.

● Have check valves installed in building sewer traps to prevent flood waters from backing up in sewer drains. As a last resort, use large corks or stoppers.

● In advance, build flood walls, berms or levees to keep floodwaters from reaching the house. Check with the building department first since your floodwall or berm might increase flooding elsewhere.

● Make sure your community keeps ditches and drainage ways open.

● Put your electric panel at least 12 inches above the base flood elevation.

● If you have a fuel tank in the basement, anchor it to the floor and wall to keep it from floating or tipping over.

Sources: Cooperative Extension of the University of California; Federal Emergency Management Agency; American Red Cross; California Landscape Contractors Association; California Office of Emergency Services; Los Angeles city and county fire departments; and Earthquake Preparedness guide by Lafferty & Associates, Disaster/Emergency Preparedness, La Canada.

THE DES MOINES REGISTER ■ TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1993

Overhaul on agenda for disaster agency

FEMA's top-secret duties sidelined

The White House wants to see more disaster planning and less preparation for nuclear war.

By LARRY LIPMAN
COX NEWS SERVICE

Washington, D.C. — The Clinton administration on Monday announced a major overhaul of the Federal Emergency Management Agency designed to streamline its response to disasters, stress mitigation of hazards and sharply curb its role in national security.

Vice President Al Gore said the reorganization would be one of the administration's "reinventing government" projects, which attempt to reduce management overhead, regulatory red tape and centralized decision making.

FEMA was chosen, Gore said, because of its relatively small size — about 2,700 employees — and because of the interest of the employees and new director James Lee Witt.

Responding to what Witt called a "new world order" and a "down-sizing of our military," FEMA's new organization abolishes the National Preparedness Directorate, which was responsible for its top-secret, national security functions.

The Palm Beach Post and Cox Newspapers reported in February that FEMA had spent $1.3 billion over the previous decade on national security programs, including a top-secret project to keep the government operating in case of a nuclear attack.

A major component of that program was the establishment of five mobile units — each with about 60 vehicles — that could be used to support the president and top government officials with food, shelter and high-tech communications equipment during a nuclear war.

It will be one of the administration's "reinventing government" projects

Until Hurricane Andrew hit Florida and Louisiana in August 1992, the detachments — known as Mobile Emergency Response Support or MERS — were little-used in disasters or emergencies.

Under the agency's reorganization plan, the MERS units are being incorporated into FEMA's regular activities. They were used to set up field disaster offices during this summer's flooding in the Midwest.

Witt said the MERS units will join in FEMA's "day-to-day activities. They won't be sitting there like a firefighter in a fire station waiting for a call."

Jane Bullock, one of the FEMA officials who developed the reorganization plan, said Witt has ordered further study of the MERS units to determine whether all five regionally based detachments are needed.

The announcement of FEMA's reorganization came three days after a second bill was filed in Congress proposing a major restructuring of the agency. Witt's plan appears close to the bill introduced last Friday by Rep. Bob Borski, D-Pa., chairman of the Public Works and Transportation subcommittee.

But the reorganization is sharply different from a proposal introduced in May by Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md. That plan would do away with FEMA's national security role and create a domestic crisis unit headed by the vice president.

Sun-Sentinel
Monday, October 25, 1993

EDITORIALS

Turnaround of disastrous FEMA a model for rest of government

The federal agency that's supposed to help in disasters richly deserved its terrible reputation — until this year. Under vigorous new leadership, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is undergoing a dramatic transformation, offering the realistic prospect of effective performance.

FEMA's disappointing response to Hurricane Andrew in Dade County wasn't entirely its fault, because state officials in Florida bumbled, too. In other disasters over the years, though, the agency was faulted repeatedly for slowness and ineptitude.

This summer, as floods inundated the Midwest and the rain kept falling, FEMA's performance began to improve sharply. Under the crisp leadership of newly named Director James Lee Witt, the agency did its job day after day in a professional, helping way. It was noticed, and commented on favorably.

Now Witt is reorganizing FEMA in a common-sense manner his predecessors either never thought of or couldn't figure out how to accomplish.

Instead of a chaotic, wasteful system in which a distinctive plan was created to cope with each kind of disaster — hurricane, earthquake, a chemical stockpile accident, others — Witt found a pragmatic, logical way to reorganize.

In a word, he streamlined. Four "directorates" have been set up, reflecting the work of an organized, self-disciplined mind.

The first is aimed at making buildings stronger and taking other steps to reduce the impact of a hurricane, earthquake or other disaster. This group in FEMA will identify hazards, offer suggestions on enforcing safety codes and do research and education.

The second unit will train and prepare people to deal with disasters. The third will act when a disaster actually happens, coordinating response and recovery. Finally, a unit was established to handle logistics and technology.

In itself, the reorganization is impressive. Witt, though, wants to make sure it succeeds by bringing employees into the change process.

This week he signed agreements with two unions representing FEMA workers, forming a Labor-Management Partnership Council, which will help the agency make improvements.

All of this is immensely encouraging and could well be Exhibit A for Vice President Al Gore's efforts to reinvent government. If Gore is smart, he will detach Witt from FEMA occasionally, and set him loose in other Washington bureaucratic jungles.

Federal Emergency
Management Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20472

NEWS

(202) 646-4600

Media Contact:

Morrie Goodman

Release No.: 93-125

Release Date:
October 19, 1993

WITT INKS HISTORIC LABOR COUNCIL PACT

WASHINGTON -- A breakthrough agreement forming an historic partnership between labor and management was signed today by the nation's top emergency manager and officials of two major federal unions.

James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), said the unprecedented pact sets up one of the first Labor-Management Partnership Councils recently called for by President Clinton in conjunction with the Administration's reinventing government initiative.

"It opens the way for all involved parties to come together to identify problems, craft solutions and make sure that we deliver the highest quality of services for safeguarding the American people," Witt said.

Under the agreement, the 16-member council will be comprised of seven union-appointed FEMA employees and nine agency management representatives, including a chair appointed by Witt. Each council member will serve an 18-month term, meeting at the call of the chair.

The voluntary agreement was signed at FEMA national headquarters by Witt and representatives of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE).

Signing for the unions were Andrew Giglio, president, NFFE Local 1983; Steve Hardman, president, AFGE Local 1754; Denise Fredricks, representative, AFGE Local 2203; Donough Hammonds, president, AFGE Local 3836; James McGillivray, representative, AFGE Local 4059; and Wilda Capo, president, AFGE Local 4060.

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FEMA Announces Streamlining

WASHINGTON (AP) _ The Federal Emergency Management Agency is being streamlined to end duplicated efforts and ensure that all its resources are available for any type of disaster, a spokesman said Tuesday.

The reorganization follows congressional studies that criticized the agency's managers, citing lack of experience and drive, as well as complaints about the agency's response to Hurricane Andrew in Florida last year.

The changes take advantage of similarities between the responses to all different types of disasters, said FEMA spokesman Morrie Goodman.

"Up to now there has been an approach to deal with hurricanes, an approach to deal with earthquakes, an approach to deal with chemical stockpile accidents _ you name it _ terrorism, anything you can imagine," Goodman told a reporter.

The result was wasted effort and confusion. For example, Goodman said two different parts of the agency were making tapes explaining how to prepare for a hurricane.

And in some cases equipment controlled by one division, such as Civil Defense, might not be available to help with other types of disasters, Goodman said.

The changes were announced to FEMA employees Monday by Director James Lee Witt and Vice President Al Gore, who heads the administration's effort to streamline the federal bureaucracy.

"Our reorganization will enable us to work closer together within FEMA, among the other federal departments and agencies and among state and local governments," Witt said.

Witt divided FEMA management into four directorates:

_Mitigation will work to reduce the impact of disasters by focusing on identifying hazards, enforcing safety codes, planning, research and education.

_Preparedness, Training and Exercise will handle training and preparation for all types of disasters.

_Response and Recovery will coordinate activities during a disaster.

_Operations and Support will handle logistics and technology.

Two existing divisions of FEMA, the U.S. Fire Administration and the Federal Insurance Administration, were retained with some changes.

The number of managers among FEMA's 2,700 employees will decline, but Goodman could not cite figures.

The reorganization also is expected to save money and lead to reduced staff through attrition, he said.

On Tuesday, Witt signed an agreement with the two unions that represent FEMA employees to form a Labor-Management Partnership Council. The council, with seven union members and nine management members, will help the agency make improvements, Goodman said.

The unions are the American Federation of Government Employees and the National Federation of Federal Employees.

AP-NY-10-19-93 1903EDT

FEMA to fine-tune system to better fight disasters

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Emergency Management Agency is being streamlined to end duplicated efforts and ensure that all its resources are available for any type of disaster, a spokesman said on Tuesday.

The changes take advantage of similarities between the responses to all disasters, FEMA spokesman Morrie Goodman said.

"Up to now there has been an approach to deal with hurricanes, an approach to deal with earthquakes, an approach to deal with chemical stockpile accidents — you name it — terrorism, anything you can imagine," Goodman said.

The result was wasted effort and confusion. For example, Goodman said two different parts of the agency were making tapes explaining how to prepare for a hurricane.

The changes were announced to FEMA employees on Monday by Director James Lee Witt and Vice President Al Gore, who heads the administration's effort to streamline the federal bureaucracy.

Witt divided FEMA management into four directorates:

- Mitigation will work to reduce the impact of disasters by focusing on identifying hazards, enforcing safety codes, planning, research and education.
- Preparedness, Training and Exercise will handle training and preparation for all disasters.
- Response and Recovery will coordinate activities during a disaster.
- Operations and Support will handle logistics and technology.

The U.S. Fire Administration and the Federal Insurance Administration were retained with some changes.

On Tuesday, Witt signed an agreement with the two unions that represent FEMA employees to form a Labor-Management Partnership Council. The council will help the agency make improvements, Goodman said.

The unions are the American Federation of Government Employees and the National Federation of Federal Employees.

Sun-Sentinel
10-20-93

Federal Emergency
Management Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20472

NEWS

(202) 646-4600

Media Contact:

Morrie Goodman

Release No.: 93-124

Release Date:
October 18, 1993

WITT UNVEILS FEMA REORGANIZATION

WASHINGTON -- The director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today unveiled a reorganization plan to set the agency on a new path founded on leadership, partnership and service to the American public and the nation's emergency management community.

Witt, joined by Vice President Gore, who heads the Administration's reinventing government initiative, detailed the FEMA reorganization in an address to FEMA national headquarters employees which was televised simultaneously to the agency's 10 regional offices and state emergency managers across the country.

Witt described the agency reshaping as consistent with the Clinton Administration's goal of reinventing government to make it more responsive and productive, and FEMA's new direction of forming partnerships with state and local governments and reducing risks of all hazards faced by the American people.

"We must and will pay more attention to the needs of our customers, the American people," Witt said. "Our reorganization will enable us to work closer together within FEMA, among the other federal departments and agencies, and among state and local governments."

The reorganization is the product of a long and exhaustive study of FEMA resources done in conjunction with the dictates of a changing world environment and its impact on emergency management in protecting the safety and well being of the nation during any type of emergency.

This reorganization, Witt said, will accomplish a three-prong goal of creating new partnerships, emphasizing mitigation, and offering a strong all-hazards approach to emergency management. Witt defined an all-hazards approach as the ability to bring to bear on any disaster all of FEMA's resources.

-more-

"We can create a professional and meaningful work environment that supports innovation and meets the mission and goals of the new FEMA," Witt said, "as well as making the changes that Congress expects and the America people deserve."

Under the reorganization, FEMA will be comprised of four directorates and two administrations. Key elements include:

* Mitigation Directorate will work towards a national mitigation strategy to reduce the impact of disasters, regardless of the cause.

* Preparedness, Training and Exercises Directorate will integrate efforts of the agency to build an all-hazards capability at all levels of government.

* Response and Recovery Directorate will coordinate the activities in times of disaster, although the work will cut across authority lines throughout the agency.

* Operations Support Directorate will handle logistical needs and technological systems.

Two other parts of FEMA, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the Federal Insurance Administration (FIA), were retained but modified to conform with overall agency goals. USFA will play a larger role in the Urban Search and Rescue area and become more fully integrated into overall FEMA activities. The FIA was restructured to conform with overall administrative guidelines of the agency.

-30-

... and if he survives the attack, he probably still won't be around to testify, to make identifications and assist police and prosecutors, because he has to go home," Klock said.

"The question I would ask, and I do not have the answer to this, is to-

...ing to 1991 figures, the latest to be tallied by the Justice Fellowship, a Maryland research group.

"I have same reaction the general public does: It seems like we are having a lot of these kinds of crimes lately," said another FSU criminologist, Prof. Gordon Waldo.

"But if you ask me why, I don't have the answer," he said.

Capitol gets a n...

Ted Plummer, an employe... paint off window frames a... primer and then repainting...

Opryland:

Downtown saloon expected to create 80-85 new jobs

■ Continued from page A-1

$20 million.

The Second Avenue club project alone is estimated at $7.5 million.

Opryland bought two warehouse buildings on Second Avenue in the spring. Construction crews have already torn out both the Second Avenue and First Avenue facades and begun pouring footings for the building of the new facility. The plan is to build facades that will fit architecturally in with the existing historic warehouses along Second Avenue.

Interior design plans call "for a rustic feel. But it will be classily done," Roy said.

"There are three bars — a big bar when you walk in and two portable bars on either side of the stage. There will be full production capabilities. There will be 100 tapings a year. The main focus will be live entertainment, augmented by videos from CMT (Country Music Television) and deejays."

The Wild Horse, which will create 80-85 jobs downtown, will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. The lunch fare will be salads, burgers and barbecue, and more entrees will be offered with dinner. Customers will pay cover charges ranging from $3 to $6 at night.

The opening date is set for June 1, just in time for Summer Lights and Fan Fair, Roy said.

The lower level of the building, with access from First Avenue, will have a gift shop and a lobby and entrance for tour groups, but will not have any other public space. The rest of the lower level will be used for storage, delivery, truck parking and turnaround, and the space needed for the produc-

TennCare:

State understating program's costs, attorney insists

■ Continued from page A-1

seans who currently do not have health insurance.

Nelson, who says he represents "a major player in the health care market," which he refuses to identify, says his prediction is based on conversations with officials of the Health Care Financing Administration and the Office of Management and Budget.

The federal government is expected to make a decision Friday on TennCare. If approved, the program would take effect Jan. 1.

State officials say no new taxes would be required to fund TennCare.

Instead, the state would pool existing funds, including federal and other government money, deductibles and premiums paid by people over the poverty line and money that otherwise would have been spent by hospitals and doctors for charity care.

There's the rub, says Nelson, who calls the collection of more than $500 million in charity care to help finance TennCare "phantom state expenditures."

Nelson believes Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala will not allow the federal government to participate in a program that relies in part on those "phantom" dollars.

Even if she did, "TennCare would still be underfunded by a third of a billion dollars," he says.

Various health care providers, including hospitals and doctors, have argued that TennCare is underfunded. But state officials have insisted there is enough money in the current system to finance a dramatic expansion of coverage for the uninsured.

In recent days, Tennessee's represenatives in Washington were confident the waiver would be granted. Midstate Democrats theorized that the Clinton administration would use Tennessee as a model for health care reform.

The decision will be made by the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration, which runs the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

In a recent interview, senior HCFA officials said the fate of Tennessee's waiver would depend of whether the Clinton administration decided to allow states to advance their own health care reform programs before a national initiative can be put in place.

Nelson says he cannot identify his client for fear of retaliation by state officials.

Tax:

Area Girl Scouts defend exemption for cookie sales

■ Continued from page A-1

ministrative burden of collecting sales taxes would contribute to a growing paperwork "hassle factor" for physicians, said some doctors might decide to take early retirement.

Jane Jones, president of Jane Jones Enterprises, the largest temporary employment agency in the state, said if the sales tax is applied to temporary personnel services, "companies will not use our services" and workers "desperate" for employment will not be helped.

The state has a large number of sales tax exemptions. Most movements to reform the state's tax structure have focused on either imposition of a state income tax or elimination of some or all of the exemptions.

When the Legislature voted this year to make permanent the "temporary" sales tax hike of 1992, it also passed a resolution calling on the Fiscal Review Committee to review the e[redacted]ptions. Today's hearing was the third such session.

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...health insurance ... by expand- ... the uninsured by expand-

DAILY CLIPS

NEWSPAPER CLIPS
TELEVISION NEWS TRANSCRIPTS
FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1994

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Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D.C.

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peared to have crested Thursday as well, Kruchowski said. Without more rain, the river should drop 6.5 feet and return to below flood stage by Sunday morning.

In historic Ste. Genevieve, city workers were bolstering the rock levee system erected last summer.

"What's coming is still a pretty good-sized flood," said David Angerer, administrator for the city about 60 miles south of St. Louis. "But if it's not more than what they predicted, we'll be OK."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

Midwest Rivers Rout Families

VALLEY PARK, Mo. (AP) _ The Meramec River surged higher Thursday, threatening an interstate highway, and some residents driven from their homes for the third time in a year waited out the high water at a church shelter. They pondered their return to the flood plain.

"You wrap your lifetime around a house," said Jim Thayer, who has lived here since 1953. "But it's getting so expensive to rebuild that a lot of people are going to have to give up."

Midwestern rivers fattened on snowmelt and fed by days of spring rains flowed out of their banks this week, forcing people from their homes and reviving memories of last summer's devastating floods.

Flooding was blamed for four deaths in Missouri and one each in Illinois and Oklahoma.

Thayer and his neighbors, including Edna Krupp and her cat Puss, took shelter at Sacred Heart Church. They cheered when a television brought news that the weather service had downgraded its crest prediction for the Meramec.

Instead of cresting at 39 feet on Friday, it topped out Thursday at 37.4 feet and by late evening had fallen to 37.1 feet, the weather service said.

It has already forced about 1,000 people _ one-fourth of the town _ from their homes and threatened to sweep over Interstate 44, which slices diagonally across the state from Springfield northeast to St. Louis.

In Southern Illinois, several families were plucked to safety by helicopter after the Mississippi River pushed through a levee near Miller City. Hours earlier, crews had finished adding 10 feet to the levee to reinforce it.

"We're losing ground quick," levee commissioner Greg Patton said. "Not anything much we can do. Just move out."

In historic Prairie du Rocher in southwestern Illinois, residents piled sandbags atop a levee holding back the Kaskaskia River.

"I just don't want our house to get flooded again," said Erin Huntley, a high school freshman.

The retreating Embarras River left a slimy brown mixture of mud, water, gasoline and oil coating the streets of Villa Grove in east-central Illinois.

More than half the town's 1,000 homes were flooded, and the water supply tainted. On Main Street, residents filled jugs from a 1,200-gallon tank of drinking water perched on a trailer.

Illinois officials called up 150 members of the National Guard and 1,000 were on standby.

In Petersburg, Ill., about 25 miles northwest of Springfield, the Sangamon River rose over Illinois highways 97 and 123. It also had spilled three or four blocks into the city.

In Oklahoma, the Neosho River crested more than 10 feet above flood stage Wednesday at Miami, forcing the evacuation of about 200 families. Teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency visited Thursday, trying to put a price tag on damaged homes and businesses. Gov. David Walters said flooding is worse this year than last, and asked President Clinton for a federal disaster declaration.

Clinton declared five counties in east Tennessee as major disaster areas to help residents and businesses recover from the flooding.

Down the Mississippi at Vicksburg, Miss., the floodgates on Steele Bayou will be closed this weekend to protect the area, flooding 230,000 acres of delta farmland, said Jim Wanamaker, chief engineer for the state Levee Board.

"We are going to have thousands of acres that normally we would have had planted which are not going to get planted this year," said Ron Goldman, of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Heavy rain throughout the Ohio River basin and snowmelt to the north fed the steady rise of the Mississippi, Wanamaker said.

Heavy rain was forecast overnight in the Mississippi Valley.

In St. Louis, the Mississippi crested at 6.5 feet over flood stage. Downriver, people braced for the worst.

In historic Ste. Genevieve, scene of last year's gallant battle against the waters, workers bolstered the left-over rock levees.

"What's coming is still a pretty good-sized flood," city administrator David Angerer said. "But if it's not more than what they predicted, we'll be OK."

AP-NY-04-14-94 2314EDT

TV
CLIPS

DATE April 14, 1994
TIME 6:00-7:00 AM
NETWORK ABC
PROGRAM World News This Morning

THALIA ASSURAS, anchor:

The end is in sight for the floods soaking much of the Midwest. Weather forecasters say this week's flooding should end by the weekend. Still, that's small comfort for people for whom the worst has yet to come. In Missouri, still-rising flood waters have forced hundreds of people from their homes. Evacuations have also taken place in parts of Oklahoma, where the governor is seeking a federal disaster declaration. Federal Emergency Management officials arrive in Oklahoma to assess the damage today.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20472

NEWS

(202) 646-4600

Media Contact:

Morrie Goodman

Release No.: 94-32

Release Date:
April 14, 1994

FEMA POISED FOR MIDWEST FLOOD RESPONSE

WASHINGTON -- The nation's top emergency manager said today that the federal government is poised to respond to the first episode of spring flooding now threatening parts of the Midwest if help is requested by the states.

"We are in close contact with the threatened states to help assess potential needs and expedite assistance as required," said James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Witt noted that disaster specialists from FEMA regional offices already are working with the affected states to conduct preliminary damage inspections in some flooded midwestern areas, while other agency teams are standing by for immediate assignment elsewhere as needs arise.

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SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER APR 14 1994

Quake retrofit cost agers supervisors

Estimate fell $74 million short

By Rachel Gordon
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

P Az

Backers of the plan to strengthen city-owned buildings in San Francisco's Civic Center to help them withstand earthquakes say the cost estimate approved by voters four years ago was only a "broad-brushed guess."

The estimate turned out to be about $74 million short of what it will cost to shore up City Hall, the Opera House, Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, the Department of Public Health headquarters and the Veterans Building, city officials said this week.

The explanation that the cost would likely be 30 percent more than first estimated because The City hadn't performed in-depth engineering studies ahead of time didn't sit well with some members of the Board of Supervisors.

"We have to do better than that," said Supervisor Tom Hsieh, who chairs the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. "We have to redouble our efforts to make sure that every proposal we submit to the voters gets double scrutiny to make sure it is accurate."

City officials hurried their plan for a $247 million bond measure in order to qualify it for the June 1990 ballot, less than a year after the Loma Prieta earthquake, which had pointed up the vulnerability of many city buildings.

But now that seismic engineers have taken a good look at the buildings, city officials say the cost of the retrofit project may be $321 million.

'It's ghastly'

"People were not given the opportunity to determine whether this (project) would be a worthwhile expense," said Supervisor Carole Migden. "It's ghastly and erodes the confidence of the voters."

City officials may have to go before the voters again in November to ask them to approve $44 million in additional bonds. The City can pick up $30 million from interest earned on the bond money and by redirecting money intended for upgrading The City's crumbling jail in San Bruno, which may be beyond saving, said Rudy Nothenberg, The City's chief administrative officer.

City officials also are hoping that the federal government will pick up some if not most of the tab with money from its disaster relief fund.

Retrofitting the buildings could end up costing still more once the jobs are actually put out to bid. Of course, there's always the chance that it will cost less.

Nothenberg said The City could have waited to place the bond measure on the ballot after doing a more thorough engineering review and cost analysis. But, he said, that costs money.

"You're not going to invest an enormous amount of money for studies if you don't even know it's going to turn into a project," he said.

It was guesswork

The original cost estimate, he said, was based on problems found by Department of Public Works' architects and engineers who visually inspected the properties.

"It really was a broad-brushed guess," he said.

He said there was no attempt to deceive the public. The original estimate was based on the best information available at the time, he said.

Migden said coming up with money for the studies first might have been a better idea. "Once you're committed to a project, it's hard to turn back."

The City ran into a similar problem recently with the construction of a 430-bed jail adjacent to the Hall of Justice.

The original price tag was $51 million. But scores of design changes after construction began forced the price up by $3.5 million.

Like the Civic Center project, the primary culprit was rushed planning — in the case of the jail, to meet a crucial state deadline.

"This seems to happen all the time," said Supervisor Susan Leal. "It would be wise to do a little more planning so we don't get ourselves into a box."

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER APR 14 1994

LARRY BUSH

Why L.A. freeways are fixed faster than ours

p. A21

Jordan's solution has been to put earthquake repairs on hold

GOOD NEWS! Interstate 280, broken in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, is expected to re-open 20 months from now, perhaps as soon as New Year's Day, 1996.

Please note: That is months, not days.

Days is how they measure freeway fix-its in Los Angeles, not in San Francisco.

San Francisco's Central Freeway's retrofit of offramps at Hayes Valley has no deadline for completion. Caltrans and citizens groups — mostly residents who live next to the now-demolished double-deck structure — have yet to agree on what should go where.

Replacement of the razed double-decker Embarcadero Freeway with a surface boulevard is also years away from completion. Debate continues over its connections to the Bay Bridge and U.S. 101 — the "terminal separators." It's a term found only slightly less frequently in the average person's vocabulary than the phrase "well done" can be heard about City Hall.

Oh yes, City Hall. It also needs a retrofit job. Everyone has to move to rented quarters while the dome and all that's beneath it is hiked up. Contractors will put giant Slinkies under it to let the building bounce in the event of another serious quake.

A minor problem has emerged.

City officials' negotiations for rental quarters (the San Francisco Mart at 875 Stevenson St. and an office building at 633 Folsom St.) went 149 percent over budget (as in $22.7 million over budget).

SO NOT enough money is left in the bank to fix City Hall, which is the reason city offices are being moved in the first place.

(The mayor and Board of Supervisors are moving early next year across the street to two floors of the Veterans War Memorial Building, space made available by the planned move of the Museum of Modern Art to Yerba Buena Center.)

San Francisco is the victim of more than an earthquake.

We're the victim of bad timing and bad leadership. Our timing was bad because we had the misfortune on top of misfortune to suffer a disaster during the Bush administration.

Los Angeles quite rightly waited until Bill Clinton was in the White House.

But in San Francisco, after the Loma Prieta earthquake hit in October 1989, the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency surveyed the damage from his living room sofa, watching television as the World Series was preempted by rubble, fire and death. He never came to San Francisco. The only time he talked to city officials was on a TV hook-up during a broadcast.

The Bush administration's secretary of Transportation made a fly-by for San Francisco, barely touching ground.

Compare that with Clinton's response. Within 10 hours of the temblor in Los Angeles, two cabinet officers and the head of FEMA were on the spot — and stayed there for weeks, making sure the on-the-spot promises they made were delivered to the spot.

Then there's the state leadership. In 1989, we had to count on George Deukmejian. He was the governor whose picture could be found on milk cartons over the phrase: "Have you seen this man? If so, please call his office."

Today, we have Pete Wilson. More important, Gov. Wilson has a re-election campaign under way — and one-third of the electorate lives in the Los Angeles area.

State officials say that Los Angeles got its Santa Monica Freeway repaired in a record 84 days because local leaders there pushed for quick results.

Larry Bush, publisher of CitiReport and a onetime aide to former Mayor Art Agnos, is an Examiner columnist.

"Here they didn't pull out all the stops," Caltrans' Jeff Weiss told me. "It wasn't perceived as much of an emergency here."

Right you are. Jordan inherited from former Mayor Art Agnos a

DALE HENDERSCHEID

Mayor Jordan

team working on earthquake recovery. The team disappeared after Jordan handed earthquake tasks to Rudy Nothenberg, the chief administrative officer.

In effect, Jordan's solution has been to put earthquake repairs on hold for the first two years of his four-year term.

State Sen. Quentin Kopp, I-San Mateo/San Francisco, happens to head the state Senate's Transportation Committee.

His response to the quick fix in Los Angeles isn't to push harder for San Francisco; instead he's busy attacking the contract that awarded a bonus for getting the L.A. job done faster.

And then there's Caltrans. Its officials said repair of Interstate 280 was unlike anything ever done in the history of the world and, as a result, would take years to develop a theory and then a design before repairs could begin on two miles of critical double-deck roadway south of Army Street. The latest contract calls for work to be completed at the end of 1995.

Children learn the rhyme about Humpty Dumpty:

All the king's horses and all the
king's men
couldn't put Humpty together
again.

Only in San Francisco, where our politicians have a knack for retaining the least attractive aspects of childishness, has that rhyme turned into reality. They simply don't seem able to put us back together again.

AZARD ECHNOLOGY

March/April 1994 — News on Crisis Management Systems and Applications — Volume XIV, Number 2

Breaking New Ground After Quake '94

By David Griffith
Vice President, EIS International

The recent Northridge earthquake in southern California, like most other disasters, left emergency managers struggling heroically to bring order out of chaos. Initial reports from the region suggest that some were more successful than others. Too often, it seems, these dedicated professionals could not get the vital information they needed, when they needed it.

On several fronts, however, information management made tremendous progress. Local, state and federal emergency management officials accomplished a number of "technological firsts" in their response operations and the Emergency Information System for Windows (EIS/Win) was among the tools that made those breakthroughs possible.

Although EIS/Win was used last year by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) headquarters to manage Emergency Support Function 5 (ESF-5: Information and Planning) information, and as a link to state and local EOCs for the Midwest floods and Hurricane Emily, officials used the software in more localized, and therefore effective, ways during the Northridge response. For example, the earthquake marked the first deployment of EIS/Win to a Disaster Field Office (DFO) to support the FEMA/California OES ESF-5 activities, FEMA's Recovery Channel television broadcasts, and the City of Glendale Emergency Management Agency from the Pasadena DFO

The California field deployment of EIS/Win also included the first real-time sharing of the same EIS dataset by two remote EIS users. Data was entered by the DFO EIS operator directly into the EIS/Win database at FEMA headquarters EICC. As the FEMA headquarters EIS operator entered a record into the EIS/Win database, it was immediately available to the EIS/Win operator at the Disaster Field Office.

In addition, the EIS/Win ECOMM (Electronic COMMunications) network of users provided a new level of efficiency in the use of aerial reconnaissance photography for situation analysis and damage assessment. A process was successfully implemented, using EIS and ECOMM, that transmitted key aerial photos in electronic image format to the FEMA headquarters Emergency Information Command Center (EICC) directly from NASA's Ames Research Center, the provider of the aerial photography. This process saved literally days of hardcopy development and delivery time in this phase of disaster intelligence.

EIS Interoperability

EIS International's staff of emergency professionals were involved in the earthquake response from the beginning, providing special expertise in information technology and emergency management to officials in both California and Washington, D.C.

Upon notification of the quake on the morning of January 17, a team of EIS International technical specialists began importing new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 1:100,000 scale maps of Los Angeles County into the FEMA headquarters EIS/Win map system. This provided a comprehensive and detailed layer of mapping covering the affected areas. These maps, integrated into a more generalized series of California and Los Angeles County EIS maps, were also immediately provided to key EIS user EOCs as they activated for emergency operations that day. Those EOCs included: U.S. Sixth Army EOC, Presidio, San Francisco; California National Guard EOC, Sacramento; National Guard Bureau, Arlington, Virginia.

On January 18 at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), a two-person EIS International emergency information support team began EIS/Win and ECOMM operations in support of the FEMA headquarters ESF-5 staff at the Washington D.C. EICC. This team provided continuous 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. shift support to the EICC and other EIS users linked to the EICC by ECOMM until Friday, January 28. A single EIS International operations specialist continued support of the EICC from January 28 through February 4, during the field deployment of another EIS International team to the Pasadena Disaster Field Office (DFO). EIS/Win ECOMM modem links were immediately established with the U.S. Sixth Army EOC, California National Guard EOC and the National Guard Bureau EIS/Win installations.

A sample of key EIS/Win ECOMM data transmissions and EIS-supported in-the ESF-5 staff at the DFO through February 11.

Utilizing a two-workstation local area network (LAN) and connection to the administrative LAN throughout the DFO provided by FEMA, the same data import/export capability among EIS/Win, ARC/INFO and MAP/INFO systems that is utilized at FEMA headquarters was established at the DFO.

Shared EIS/Win database connectivity was established, utilizing the T-1 telecommunications lines (put in place by FEMA), which connected the DFO with FEMA headquarters. This not only provided high-speed data file transfer between the DFO and the FEMA EICC, it also allowed full real-time access to the EICC EIS/Win databases by the DFO, and vice-versa. Communicating the location and description of any aspect of the response/recovery could now be accomplished in literally seconds, by simply adding a record to the database of the remote EIS site (either the DFO or the FEMA EICC).

To enhance local data compatibility, EIS International personnel at the DFO provided the same EIS Los Angeles County map system to the EIS/Win installation at the City of Glendale Emergency Management Agency. EIS International experts provided selected EIS/Win maps, graphic overlays and text records to FEMA staff at the DFO for broadcast to the public via FEMA's Recovery Channel TV broadcasts.

FEMA's pioneering work in "information connectivity" after the Northridge earthquake is another giant step toward emergency management data compatibility and communication — and one that has provided an "information common denominator" for the exchange of response data among local, state and federal sites. Like the remote EIS/Win user linkages implemented during the Midwest floods and Hurricane Emily, the new EIS installations established following the Northridge earthquake will undoubtedly help critical information flow even faster in response to the next disaster.✦

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C. 20472

International Association of Fire Chiefs

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February 1, 1994

Quakes strike LA, Indonesia, cold blasts much of U.S., 24 fire fighters killed

Earthquakes and ice storms and fires, oh my. The week of January 17 saw nature unleash its furies around the world – Southern California and Indonesia rumbled under the force of earthquakes while much of North America huddled under a thick glaze of ice and arctic winds. And tragically, the U.S. Fire Administration reports that 24 forestry fire fighters, most of them trainees, were killed in Argentina over the weekend when a fire overran their position.

It wasn't a good week, on the whole. California Governor Pete Wilson said January 23 that the devastating Los Angeles earthquake that struck January 17 had surpassed Hurricane Andrew, the $30 billion storm of the century, as the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. The quake, which measured 6.6 on the Richter scale, killed 57 people.

Calling the destruction "unprecedented" in its scale, Wilson said it was clear the quake left more people homeless and did greater damage to the region's lifeline of freeways than the toll Andrew took on Florida in 1992. The quake injured more than 8,000 people, made 25,000 people homeless and caused up to $30 billion in losses, mostly concentrated in the San Fernando Valley. "We are concerned that there not be any rush to put down on paper any final number, a number that's almost guaranteed to be too low," Wilson said.

According to the latest figures, nearly 2,000 damaged structures have been condemned, including more than 10,000 housing units declared uninhabitable. Emergency responders from all over Southern California rushed to fight fires from damaged gas lines, extricate those trapped in the rubble or wrecked vehicles and take care of the innumerable EMS calls from the damaged area. (Watch future issue of *IAFC On Scene* for detailed looks at the emergency response to the quake. IAFC members were in the thick of operations; we'll be talking to them in the coming weeks.)

FEMA officials, including FEMA Director James Lee Witt, were on the scene very quickly. Despite a much smoother response than Wallace Stickney's FEMA managed after Hurricane Andrew, there have still been grumblings from quake victims about inefficiencies. At press time, however, thousands of people had registered with FEMA and the first 1,100 relief checks were mailed January 23 – less than a week after the initial quake. "We have set up these centers faster than any disaster in history, and we set them up for a purpose — to help the people," Witt said on the *Today Show*. He said 1,500 staff members were brought in, new offices were being opened and more than 27,000 disaster aid applications were being processed.

The United States wasn't alone in its earthquake problems. According to the Reuters news agency, a major earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale struck the Irian Jaya region of southeast Indonesia the morning of January 19, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Officials from U.S. Geological Survey and the Royal Hong Kong Observatory said "a severe earthquake" occurred about 62 miles beneath Manokwari, on Indonesia's side of New Guinea, or 2,000 miles from Jakarta.

Workers rushed out of their offices in panic in Nabire, 37 miles southwest of the quake's center, the official Antara news agency reported.

The USGS said it was the largest earthquake in more than two decades to hit Indonesia.

The Associated Press reported on the record cold and ice that swept across the Midwest and the East during the week of tribulations.

Across most of the eastern United States, record low temperatures have closed schools, businesses, roads and airports. Thousands of people have been without electricity or drinking water, and utilities are struggling to keep up with record demands for power.

Power companies in New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and parts of Pennsylvania cut service to thousands of homes for 15 minutes this morning to offset an electricity shortage. Other companies asked customers to voluntarily cut back usage.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, which serves all or parts of seven states, expected an all-time power demand January 19, eclipsing its record 24,627 megawatts on December 22, 1989.

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At least 66 deaths have been blamed on the cold snap that began over the weekend. Most of the victims were killed on icy roads or had heart attacks shoveling snow. Some froze to death, including a baby born Monday in an unheated house in Dayton, Ohio, where it was a record 25 below zero January 18.

Record lows were recorded in dozens of cities, including minus 40 in St. Cloud, Minnesota; minus 22 in Louisville, Kentucky; minus 27 in Indianapolis and minus 22 in Pittsburgh. Schools and universities canceled classes Wednesday in much of the Midwest after deadly wind chills and temperatures well below zero were forecast for this morning.

In Kentucky, ice-covered interstates and parkways remained off limits to all but vehicles carrying essential food, fuel and medical supplies. "We're not patrolling," said Lee Haynes, a police officer in Edgewood, Kentucky. "We can't get help to you. You're going to freeze to death. People don't understand it's a killer cold and wouldn't take long."

From Kentucky to Maine, thousands of customers had no electricity because of downed power lines and record demand for heat. The cold also froze pipes and cracked water mains.

The weather was blamed for 10 deaths in Ohio; seven in Georgia; five each in North Carolina and Tennessee; four each in New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Wisconsin; three each in Virginia and Kentucky; two each in Iowa, South Carolina, New Jersey, Maine, Illinois, Oklahoma and Maryland; and one each in Alabama, New Hampshire and West Virginia.

U.S.NEWS
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■ NEWS YOU CAN USE

HOME GUIDE

THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL SHELTER?

The recent spate of natural disasters has exposed a big gap in homeowners policies

Hurricane Andrew brought mangrove fish into Monique and Chuck Sims's South Florida house, along with 4 feet of brackish water. But the young couple felt optimistic when they reclaimed their devastated three-bedroom home two days after the 1992 storm. "We had both homeowners and flood insurance," says Monique. "We thought we had good coverage."

Then the Simses discovered a hole in their homeowners policy as gaping as the one in their roof. Like millions of Americans, the couple lived in a house that had been built years ago, before local building codes became more stringent. What they found out, too late, is that even policies that *guarantee* the full cost of replacing a home often reserve an out when the devastated house must be rebuilt to meet newer standards—as local authorities typically require. The insurer just has to pay to rebuild the house the way it was before. Raising their foundation to meet federal flood standards took $40,000 out of the Simses' pockets.

The offending "ordinance or law" provision is a common clause in policies. But until the recent run of hurricanes, floods and earthquakes, few people noticed; when damage equals less than 50 percent of the home's market value, the house typically does not have to be upgraded to satisfy current codes. John Drennan, a vice president at Allstate, says that competitive pressures to keep premiums low have discouraged companies from making the coverage standard. What really hurts is that an increasing number of insurers will let consumers buy extra code-upgrade coverage at a very modest additional cost, but many agents don't market the option. "The insurance industry has done an abysmal job of getting the word out," says Karen Gievers, a Florida attorney who is running for state insurance commissioner.

When the Klokes' Laguna Beach home is rebuilt, their insurer will pay $50,000-plus to upgrade to meet current codes.

In some instances, insurers are making amends. Cort Kloke of Laguna Beach, Calif., inquired about code-upgrade coverage a year before last October's firestorm burned his 33-year-old house to the ground. At the time, the coverage was unavailable from his company, Farmers Insurance. The company has since begun making it standard and has agreed to pay the $50,000-plus it will cost to bring Kloke's foundation, wiring and insulation to current codes.

Young homes, too. The older your home, the greater your potential vulnerability, since codes are more apt to have changed substantially. "But even a 15- or 20-year-old home can be in an area where codes have changed drastically," says Dean Flesner, a vice president at State Farm. Since 1984, for instance, builders in New York State have not been allowed to put up three-story wood-frame houses because of fire danger. A family with such a house that suffered a severe fire and wanted to rebuild would have to use more expensive alternatives such as masonry; if their policy excluded building-code upgrades,

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the insurer would balk at the extra cost.

Insurers plug the gap in various ways. State Farm policies, for example, exclude code-upgrade coverage unless you specifically add it. Suppose your house is insured for $100,000 and you think another 10 percent would cover building upgrades in the event of a disaster. The extra benefit adds only 2 percent, or $8, to the average annual premium of about $400. If the worst happened, State Farm would give you $10,000 to meet building-code upgrades, in addition to whatever it had to pay of the $100,000. Richer 25 percent coverage adds 5 percent to the premium; 50 percent coverage adds 10 percent.

Prudential's guaranteed-replacement-cost Premier policy includes the coverage automatically at no extra cost but provides just 10 percent above the policy limit for upgrades. Prudential customers whose policies don't include guaranteed-replacement-cost coverage can buy the added benefit for about 10 percent more. But the provision caps any building-code upgrades at the limit of the policy. Travelers' policies also cover upgrades up to the limit of the policy. People who add a guaranteed-replacement-cost provision, which costs just $4 to $10 a year more, get unlimited code-upgrade coverage – except in Florida and California, where it's capped at 20 percent and 25 percent, respectively, above the policy limit.

A legal remedy. In Florida, a law that goes into effect this June will require all homeowners policies sold or renewed in the state to include code-upgrade coverage worth at least 25 percent of the dwelling coverage unless the consumer explicitly declines it. In December, the Dade County attorney won a lawsuit in a lower court against State Farm, claiming that its policies with the exclusion are ambiguous and misleading and that it should have to pay for upgrades for Hurricane Andrew victims; State Farm is appealing. Whatever the outcome, it will directly affect only Florida residents.

Meanwhile, there's a move afoot in Congress to make earthquake insurance and perhaps flood insurance a mandatory part of any homeowners policy. Now, even in high-risk areas, most people don't buy the extra protection (box, right). The bill would also establish a national reinsurance fund to guarantee that insurers could remain solvent even in the event of, say, a class 5 hurricane hitting New York City. Given the natural forces at work lately, it's not inconceivable that that could be next. ■

BY PAMELA SHERRID

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C. 20472

New lab depends on skull

Monterey Herald April 14, 1994

BY NAOMI THEODOROU

Herald Staff Writer

An ancient skull, possibly belonging to a Coastoan Indian and housed at a North Salinas High School biology lab for the last 33 years has become the focus of a battle over the construction of the new Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

North Salinas principal Derrel Kunnas had the skull put under lock and key at the Salinas Union High School District administrative headquarters until a dispute over who has a right to it is settled.

The skull has become the focus of an ongoing dispute over whether the proposed lab site on top of Water Tower Hill in Moss Landing is a sacred Indian burial ground.

Ella Rodriguez, who is of Coastoan descendent and is a tribal spokeswoman, said she is baffled by a recent standoff for possession of the skull.

"This is not a burial site, but nobody seems to listen when I tell them. It it was a burial site, I myself would oppose (the lab project)," she said.

The dispute began Tuesday when a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) arrived at North Salinas High to take the skull for archeological analysis to identify its origin.

FEMA is paying for the majority of the new lab and analysis of the project's impacts is part of its funding-approval process.

Senior biology teacher Mike Guardino said FEMA notified him that a representative would come by the school to take the skull.

Representatives of the Coastoan/Ohlone Indian Alliance showed up at 7 a.m., a few hours earlier than the FEMA representative's appointment, and demanded the skull, citing their legal right to it under a federal Indian repatriation act, Guardino said.

The spokesman for the Indian Alliance "stated that he planned to bury (the skull) that day," Guardino said.

Guardino put off both groups until he could consult Kunnas, who concurred that neither should have it until a legal decision could be made on the issue.

"I told the (Indian Alliance) that they needed to get a judge to make a ruling that they both could live with," Guardino said.

The land's status as an Indian archeological site has been in question for several years but there has never been proof that is is a sacred burial site.

Rodriguez said she assisted with an archeological analysis about two years ago after the marine lab had identified the site as a location for new facility to replace one destroyed in the 1989 earthquake.

The lab had already received development permits from the county and state when a group calling itself Save Moss Landing Indian Land and Environment (SMILE) challenged the permit in court on the grounds that it does not address all the project impacts on possible sacred Indian ground, said Dr. James Nybakken, the facility's interim director.

The case is still in court. Guardino said he began getting inquiries about the skull about a year ago as the land dispute unfold.

"The skull, if it's from the area (on Water Tower Hill) is very important. But if it is (a burial), where is the rest of the body?" he asked.

Rodriquez said the area was either a Coastoan village or gathering site, but "it is not a burial site," Rodriguez said.

As the designated most likely descendent of the local Coastoan tribe, whose roots in the area date back some 4,000 years, Rodriquez said she expects a call from the state Indian Commission to pick up the skull.

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MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE APR 2 9 1994

House OKs relief bill for farmers, small businesses hurt by floods

By Dennis J. McGrath
Staff Writer

Farmers and small business owners hurt by last summer's floods would be eligible for low-interest loans under a bill approved Thursday by the Minnesota House.

The flood relief bill also includes money for a job program, for research into disease-resistant crops and for other farm-related programs intended to help the rural economy rebound from the disaster.

The House bill appropriates $25 million, more than twice the $11 million in the bill passed by the Senate two weeks ago.

"The House stood up for farmers and for rural Minnesota," said House Agriculture Committee Chairman Steve Wenzel, DFL-Little Falls.

The bill, which passed the House on a 111-15 vote, now moves to a House-Senate conference committee. There, legislators will reconcile the differences between the two bills.

The interest rate subsidy, at $15.8 million, is the biggest single element of the House bill. Under it, the state would make grants of up to $2,250 to banks for each farm or small business loan they make. The grants would reduce interest rates by 3 percentage points on loans of up to $50,000.

In addition, the lender would have to lower the interest rate by an additional one-half percentage point. That would give a farmer or small business owner a total interest rate reduction of 3.5 percentage points.

A program to provide emergency jobs would receive $3.7 million.

Advocates of the bill said the spending is necessary because federal aid has fallen short of the estimated $1.1 billion in crop losses last year. Farmers have received about $800 million in federal assistance.

"This is one of the biggest disasters to befall this state," said House Majority Leader Phil Carruthers, DFL-Brooklyn Center. "We need to go to bat for these people."

But some legislators said the money would be ill-spent, because most farmers already have arranged their operating loans and are unlikely to go back and refinance them.

Even though the House bill contains substantially more money than the Senate version, it still is only half the $50 million in aid that legislative leaders talked about providing last summer, when farm fields were still under water.

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MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE APR 29 1994

Prairie Island

Suppose you are in charge of getting new jobs into Minnesota. A big shot from XYZ Corp. is in town looking for a new plant site. How are you going to explain that a bunch of antinuclear zealots have seized control of the Legislature, and now one of this country's safest and lowest-cost producers of electricity is being forced to trash a perfectly good power plant? And that all of NSP's customers are going to have to pay for this? What is your answer when you are asked "Who's next?"

William Schmitt, Mound.

The suggestion in an April 24 article that the generating capacity lost by closing the Prairie Island nuclear plant can be replaced by other power suppliers is both shortsighted and self-serving.

Shortsighted, because based on the information in the Star Tribune's article, closing the 1,060-megawatt Prairie Island plant would reduce the generation capacity in the Upper Midwest, or the utilities in the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP), to the bare minimum needed to reliably supply this region within the next three years.

And self-serving, because even this short-term ability to replace Prairie Island's capacity depends on other states in the Upper Midwest maintaining their nuclear generation. Besides Prairie Island and Northern States Power Company's 526-megawatt Monticello nuclear plant, another 2,100 megawatts of nuclear generation among MAPP utilities is located in Iowa and Nebraska. Minnesota cannot shut down Prairie Island while expecting other states to maintain their nuclear generation to help supply Minnesota's capacity deficit.

We also have this problem if Minnesota expects to supply its deficit from outside the MAPP utilities. Nuclear generation supplies over 12,700 megawatts to Chicago, over 1,500 megawatts to Milwaukee and eastern Wisconsin, over 1,200 megawatts to St. Louis and over 1,100 megawatts to Kansas City. Again, Minnesota cannot expect other states to remain committed to their nuclear generation to help Minnesota replace Prairie Island. Conversely, should any of those states shut down its nuclear capacity, the supply and demand problem Minnesota will face if Prairie Island is closed would be compounded.

We in the Upper Midwest have enjoyed reliable electric service for many years. The Star Tribune's article concerns me that this record has caused some to take our power supply for granted.

William K. Raihala, Minneapolis, senior engineer, NSP.

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SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER APR 29 1994

Fishing for U.S. aid for coast cities

By Michael Paulson
P-I Olympia Bureau

PA1

OLYMPIA — Gov. Mike Lowry and Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts have asked President Clinton for $15 million in federal disaster money to aid coastal communities expected to suffer from this year's closure of the salmon fishing season.

The communities already have suffered from "a series of disastrous coastal fishing seasons," and many of those same communities are being hurt by "the virtual shutdown of the timber industry," the governors wrote in a letter to Clinton.

The governors said the decline in salmon stocks is a natural disaster caused by abnormal oceanographic conditions associated with El Nino and by several years of severe drought conditions.

In Washington, they said, ocean fisheries caught 261,900 salmon in 1991 and 139,000 last year, and are expected to catch none this year because of the closure ordered by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, an advisory body that recommends ocean fishery limits.

"This is not an overnight disaster," such as a hurricane or an earthquake, "but it is a disaster," said Anne Fennessy, Lowry's press secretary.

The governors want the federal money partly for economic development purposes, including tourism promotion and financing business start-

See FEDERAL AID, Page A10

ups. Some of the money also could pay for watershed restoration, short-term loans to fishermen and for shelter, food and other items for displaced workers.

"We do have a long-term problem, because it's not like we're going to turn around next year and have a banner salmon season," said Steve Corson, a spokesman for Oregon's Roberts.

The governors' request may be followed by another for a different type of federal emergency assistance if Lowry proclaims parts of Washington state disaster areas. Lowry can make such a declaration at the request of local governments if they can demonstrate an economic disaster.

Clallum and Wahkiakum counties have already begun that process, and Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Pacific counties are considering doing so.

The letter sent to Clinton Wednesday seeks a share of a contingency disaster fund that Congress attached to a California earthquake relief bill. Clinton last month gave $30 million from that fund to cities and towns affected by the commercial depletion of fish stocks in New England.

Similar aid was granted to Louisiana several years ago after a hurricane harmed that state's shrimping industry.

"If they're going to help New England, they really ought to help the Northwest," said U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., who said he plans to discuss the issue today during a meeting with Clinton.

U.S. Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, D-Wash., said, "When we heard about the Northeast, we all jumped in an attempt to get some of the president's sympathy for our communities, too."

Unsoeld said that getting federal disaster money might be difficult because the Northwest is not suffering from a standard type of disaster but that "we will go for anything for which we meet the requirements."

Two affected fishermen contacted yesterday were skeptical about the value of federal assistance, saying what they really need are more fish.

"Most people in this town would rather be fishing than think about accepting some kind of assistance," said Milt Doumit, a Cathlamet commercial fisherman. "Tourism is good, but it only helps a few people in business. I'd like to see the state raise more fish."

Ken Ferguson, a captain with Fish-On Charter Services in Port Orchard, made a similar plea.

"We feel like the government's turning their backs on us," he said. "If we spent as much money on raising fish as we did on analysis and studies, we wouldn't have a problem."

The state and federal governments have cut spending on salmon hatcheries because their production has been found to contribute to the decline of wild fish.

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The Star-Ledger APR 29 1994

A step on troubled waters

p27

DEAR EDITOR:

While flood-prone residents have been anxiously eyeing the rivers, a small Pompton Lakes group has been taking major steps in preventing its rise.

Thanks to the efforts of environmentalist Ed Merrill and Mayoral Flood Advisory Committee members Monica McGinty and Helen Spafford, Pompton Lakes residents are entitled to a 10 percent discount on flood insurance. The opening lines in a letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) dated Feb. 21, 1992, to the then Mayor John Sinsimer states "Congratulations, your community has been verified as a Class 8 in the Community Rating Systems (CRS). This means that all new or renewing flood insurance policy holders will receive a 10 percent reduction in premiums effective Oct. 1, 1992."

The letter goes on to state that only 14 percent of all CRS applicants in the nation have achieved this rating. The outstanding public service of these few concerned citizens has increased public safety, reduced damages to properties and protected the floodplain.

If surrounding communities make a similar effort, we can take a giant step in reducing the effects of flooding in our area. Federal funding is more apt to help those who help themselves.

Arlene Rosky,
Pompton Lakes

Los Angeles Times
April 25, 1994

When Disaster Strikes, FEMA Teams Mobilize

■ **Assistance:** Many workers for the federal agency are catastrophe victims themselves. They're putting in nine-hour days, six days a week—and liking it.

By JULIO MORAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

After Hurricane Hugo in 1989 severely damaged the boat on which she and her husband were living off the coast of Charleston, S.C., Ceil Olson dreaded having to deal with government officials for assistance.

"I probably felt like most people do about government employees: that they didn't do anything but collect a paycheck," Olson said. "But I never saw a more dedicated, harder-working group of people in my entire life, and I wanted to be part of that team."

She did become part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency team, and now, as a reservist, has dropped everything at her home in Austin, Tex., to join FEMA teams that have dealt with Hurricane Andrew in South Florida, the floods in the Midwest and, now, the Northridge earthquake.

"This is the most satisfying thing I have ever done," said Olson, a former legal secretary and office manager.

Although FEMA maintains a reserve force of trained experts in various fields to respond to disasters, with each new catastrophe the federal agency also hires hundreds of temporary employees to help man disaster application facilities. For the Northridge quake, more than 1,500 local people were hired for temporary work.

FEMA: Team Workers Are Also Victims

Continued from B1

Like Olson, most of the local hires have also experienced disaster—in this case, the Northridge quake—and so are likely to be more sympathetic to other victims seeking assistance.

"I had a woman . . . berate me up one side and down the other about how I did not understand, that I don't have a clue what's going on," Olson said. "I said, 'No ma'am, I do understand. I've been a disaster victim. My daughter lost her home in Hurricane Andrew in Homestead, Fla. I know about that . . . and I'm 1,500 miles away from home.' She calmed down after that."

In the first days after the Jan. 17 quake, FEMA employees were expected to work 14-hour days, seven days a week. Now, they work nine-hour days, six days a week.

At least five such employees at the Earthquake Service Center in Sherman Oaks don't seem to mind the long hours.

□

Sylvia Thibodeaux, 48, suffered only minor damage to her Sherman Oaks home of 19 years: damage to the chimney and a few cracks. But some rental properties she and her husband own suffered more extensive damage, so when a Disaster Application Center in Sherman Oaks opened she went to apply for a Small Business Administration loan.

She saw long lines and harried workers and felt the tension in the air.

"It was so busy that I thought they needed help," said Thibodeaux, who in 1987 retired after 25 years as an administrator for Pacific Bell. "So I stopped by the FEMA employment office in Pasadena. I went in at noon and I was sworn in by 2 p.m."

Thibodeaux is now a supervisor. The long work hours have not affected her. "Strangely enough it hasn't bothered me yet," she said. "Maybe it's my approach in that I know I don't have to be here working, I want to be here."

In addition to helping victims fill out applications, Thibodeaux has ended up doing a lot of counseling.

"Sometimes you have to talk to some people a little longer than others," she said. "There is a lot of satisfaction in this job. It makes you feel good."

□

Gennadiy (Henry) May, 42, of Tarzana, is originally from Minsk, Belarus, in the former Soviet Union. In 1988 he was working with a construction crew building an underground metro line in northwestern Armenia when a 6.8-magnitude earthquake hit.

"We were 200 feet underground and we did not feel a thing," May said. "But when we came to the surface a few hours later, we saw all the destruction. We began helping dig people out of the rubble."

May's experience in Armenia helped him deal with the Northridge earthquake, but he was motivated to help quake victims here to pay off a personal debt.

"I am very grateful to this country for what it did for myself and my family by accepting us as political refugees," he said. He has been in the United States just over two years. "It was an opportunity to pay back a moral debt."

May, who speaks German and Russian, began as a volunteer interpreter. He was hired about a week later after discovering that he had lost his job as a cashier at a liquor store that had been severely damaged by the quake.

"Just speaking to people in their own language makes it easier for them," he said. "I am doing what I want to do, what I can do. I want to help people. This is the reason I spend more time with my colleagues here than my family. But they understand."

Mabel Portillo, 37, of Canoga Park ran her own importing and marketing company. But the combination of the recession and the Jan. 17 quake led her to shut it down. Portillo, who lived in Monterey Park in 1987 when the Whittier Narrows quake hit, suffered damage to her condominium. Most of her neighbors moved out, but Portillo, despite being without water, electricity or gas, decided to stay.

With time on her hands, Portillo—who speaks French, Spanish and some Portuguese—volunteered to translate for some of her neighbors who needed assistance at the FEMA centers.

After making a few trips to the center, a FEMA employer asked her what she was doing. After explaining the situation, she was offered a job.

"I started the next morning at 8 a.m.," said Portillo, who started as an interpreter, then worked registering people and now is a supervisor.

Portillo said she enjoys work more now.

"I've always had a job where I had to convince people that they wanted something I was selling," she said. "Here, I'm giving people something they already want and need. It's really nice.

"People have said to me, 'I can't believe how nice you are.' But I just enjoy it," she said.

□

Armineh N. Shabazian of Sherman Oaks is of Armenian descent, but grew up in Iran. She and her parents fled Iran during the revolution. When an earthquake hit Armenia in 1988, many members of her family were killed. Her father became very depressed and died six months later.

"His death affected me a lot," she said.

So when the Northridge quake hit, Shabazian saw an opportunity to honor the memory of her father and help others as well. Fluent in Farsi, Armenian and Russian, she volunteered to interpret.

"In the memory of my father, I wanted to help," said Shabazian, who never before worked outside her home. "I told my husband I'd be out only for a few hours, but I ended up staying the whole day."

Shabazian said she has stayed close to some of those she has helped. The Northridge quake has been a painful reminder of the past for many Persians who lost everything during the Iranian revolution and Armenians who lost property and loved ones in the 1988 earthquake.

"I do so much counseling I think I should go into counseling," she said jokingly. "I enjoy meeting people and I get emotional with them, even though I probably shouldn't.

"But I think my father would be proud."

□

Steve Miller, 29, lost his apartment in Sherman Oaks and his job at Bullock's in Northridge Fashion Center as a result of the Jan. 17 earthquake.

In the days following the 6.8-magnitude quake, he slept on the grass at Van Nuys-Sherman Oaks Recreation Center. When a Disaster Application Center was set up at the park, Miller got in line with hundreds of others expecting to deal with uncaring government bureaucrats.

While waiting to apply for unemployment benefits, he instead got a job offer to help other quake victims apply for unemployment.

"If FEMA wasn't around, I don't know what would have happened to me," Miller said.

Miller said he has seen some of his former colleagues from Bullock's and others from his old neighborhood in line at the FEMA centers. Sharing stories about the disaster with the applicants has been mutually beneficial.

"Each time I talked about it, it was more and more therapy for me," Miller said. "I could really understand what they are going through. I would tell them my story and it would give a little more feeling to the EDD [state Employment Development Department]."

Miller, who recently moved into a new apartment in North Hollywood, lost about half of everything he owned when his apartment collapsed. He and his girlfriend also broke up when she decided she had enough of earthquakes and moved back to New York.

But Miller remains upbeat.

"I am grateful for my life," he said. "I tell people, 'It's going to be OK. You've made it this far.'"

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LOS ANGELES TIMES APR 14 1994

POST-QUAKE WATCH B6

Balancing Act

Hours after the Jan. 17 earthquake, officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency were in Los Angeles, assuring victims that housing grants, food stamps, rebuilding loans, even new eyeglasses, were coming. The talk, from all of the agencies on the scene, was soft, reassuring and helpful.

Now, the big stick has come out. People who snatched aid they didn't deserve are getting their comeuppance from a federal task force. A dozen people were arrested Tuesday on charges of making $64,000 in fraudulent claims. A mere drop in the bucket compared to the $1.5 billion disbursed by various federal bodies, but there's more to come. FEMA is mailing dunning letters to 3,000 recipients deemed ineligible for the grants they got. Two thousand checks worth about $6 million have been returned, some of them clearly in response to the federal investigations.

Once again, the attitude of FEMA and its seemingly inexhaustible director, James Lee Witt, is exactly right. "We want the money to 'go to the needy and not the greedy,'" says a FEMA spokesman. "Those who make honest mistakes will not be prosecuted." For those with a gnawing sense of doubt or guilt—hey, there's still time to inquire or return the money.

In the meantime, the computers are whirring in Washington, cross-checking for duplicate applications, odd patterns—anything suspicious. Any huge aid effort will tempt the greedy. But bring the hammer down too hard or too early and truly needy, desperate people will go wanting. FEMA has found the point of balance.

LOS ANGELES TIMES APR 14 1994

The Good Tax News: Uninsured Disaster Losses Are Deductible

With Friday the deadline for filing income taxes, the disaster-weary can at least look forward to some tax relief: Uninsured casualty losses from the Jan. 17 Northridge earthquake—as well as from last fall's fires and mudslides—are deductible on individuals' federal and state returns.

Moreover, because the Northridge quake was declared a federal disaster, victims of the temblor can choose to take those losses on either their 1993 or 1994 returns. That is a major advantage for people who expect their 1994 incomes to be lower.

But doing all this additional figuring can take time—which is why many people are expected to ask the Internal Revenue Service and California Franchise Tax Board for filing extensions this year.

"No doubt there will be a lot more extensions than usual," said Paul White, a partner in the Sherman Oaks accounting firm of White, Zuckerman, Warsavsky & Luna. Among his clients, "more people who usually file early are at least waiting until the last minute."

White's firm is temporarily renting offices in Burbank because the quake demolished the accountants' headquarters. The firm was relieved when it was able to find or recover all the records needed to prepare its clients' 1993 returns, he said.

But many taxpayers have not been as lucky, losing important documents that they need to file their 1040s because the quake damaged their houses.

"Just about every client I've worked with has lost at least some records," said Alan Kennan, a tax partner in the Los Angeles office of the accounting firm Grant Thornton.

Others will have to file extension requests with the IRS (Form 4868) because "they are still waiting for the simplest of records," said Elaine Blackman of White, Zuckerman.

Those records may include W-2s from their employers or 1099s showing investment income, she said.

In such cases, "the government basically expects you to reconstruct your income and deductions for 1993," Kennan said.

If people still end up having to guess at, say, how much they gave to charity in 1993, label it an estimate, he advised. But they should be conservative because the government will check it carefully, he said.

Even figuring out your deductible casualty loss can be a headache.

"First you have to get a real estate appraiser to tell you what the value of your property was before the disaster and after," Kennan said. The difference is your tentative loss.

Insurance payments must be subtracted from that tentative loss, producing a net loss figure.

But there is a catch: To be deductible, casualty losses must exceed 10% of your adjusted gross income—basically income before itemized deductions—plus $100.

Rep. Howard L. Berman (D-Panorama City) has introduced federal legislation to make uninsured losses 100% deductible for victims of declared national disasters.

In California, state Sen. Herschel Rosenthal (D-Los Angeles) has authored a bill that would provide identical relief for disaster victims on their state tax returns.

Neither bill is expected to pass by Friday, spokesmen for Berman and Rosenthal said.

However, if the proposed legislation is enacted later, taxpayers entitled to the bigger write-offs could file amended returns. The tax breaks would apply to losses on declared disasters that occurred on or after Jan. 17, the day of the quake.

Deciding whether to take the limited loss that is available now this year or next year may be easy for people faced with extensive rebuilding—but still waiting for disaster aid.

"The question is, how badly do you need cash now?" Kennan asked. "Fixing your house may be more important than waiting a year to get a bigger deduction."

Requesting an extension to sort all this out can provide nearly six months' reprieve—to Oct. 14 this year because Oct. 15 is a Saturday.

Even with a filing extension, the IRS and the California Franchise Tax Board expect checks for about 90% of the amount owed to be in the mail by midnight Friday. Although it is possible to get an extension for paying federal taxes, it is not automatic.

The state does not grant extensions per se, tax board spokesman Jim Shepherd said. But, he said, people with quake damage should make the state aware of their situation.

"If someone is assessed a penalty for filing late or paying late and it was because of the earthquake, we will be lenient if they protest the penalty," Shepherd said. "We're the same way when there is any type of catastrophe."

—JILL BETTNER

LOS ANGELES TIMES APR 14 1994

Panel Rejects Mandatory Quake Insurance Plan

■ **Government:** Proposal to revive state-run coverage fails by one vote in Assembly committee as vote splits along party lines. It will be reconsidered next week.

By JERRY GILLAM A3
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SACRAMENTO—An Assembly committee Wednesday narrowly rejected legislation to revive a state-run earthquake insurance program to help homeowners repair damage caused by major temblors.

The party-line vote by the Housing and Community Development Committee was 5 to 3, one short of the six required for approval.

But the measure's author, Assemblyman Rusty Areias (D-San Jose), a candidate for state controller, expressed confidence that he will obtain the needed vote when the measure is reconsidered next week.

"The Big One is in our future," Areias said. "It is intelligent public policy to plan ahead for the disasters that we know will occur."

The mandatory insurance program would provide homeowners with up to $15,000 to repair homes damaged by earthquakes. It would cost the average homeowner $25 to $75 a year, depending on seismic zones and types of home construction.

Homeowners who refused to pay would face liens that could not be foreclosed by the state until the home is sold. Mobile homes and condominiums would not be covered. County tax collectors would collect the fees and the state Department of Housing and Community Affairs would administer the program.

Wendy Zaucha, a spokeswoman for the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn., objected that "the fee is really a tax increase that doesn't require a vote of the people." The former state earthquake insurance program, created after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, was repealed in 1993 after critics claimed it was bordering on insolvency and was giving the public a false sense of security.

If the program had been in place when the Northridge quake struck, Areias said it would have contained about $350 million, enough to give each of the estimated 60,000 to 70,000 Los Angeles-area homeowners who had damage a check for $5,000.

The insurance industry prefers a national natural disaster insurance recovery plan pending in Congress that would cover damage caused by earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes and volcanoes. It is sponsored by Rep. Norman Y. Mineta (D-San Jose).

"I can't quarrel with the insurance industry wanting federal legislation," Areias said. "But they know and we know it's not going to happen. This is only a foot-dragging technique."

Marjorie Berte, director of the State and Consumer Services Agency, disagreed with Areias, saying the Wilson Administration is optimistic that the federal bill will become law. Deputy State Insurance Commissioner Masako Dolan said her boss, John Garamendi, a Democratic candidate for governor, also prefers the federal approach.

Areias' bill was defeated when five Democrats voted for it and three Republicans voted against it. Two Democrats and one Republican were absent when the vote was taken. Assemblywoman Paula L. Boland (R-Granada Hills), whose district was hard-hit by the Northridge quake, cast one of the "no" votes.

"As good as this bill sounds, I also support a federal program," Boland told her colleagues. "I don't think California can afford to do this alone. This bill would be fooling the public."

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C. 20472

Tighter immigration rules sought

By JORGE A. BANALES

WASHINGTON, April 13 (UPI) _ A Republican congressional task force called Wednesday for tighter immigration rules and a crackdown on undocumented aliens who reportedly cost the United States $22 billion a year in social services.

The task force held a hearing on the proposed "Illegal Immigration Control Act of 1994" that includes provisions ranging from denying government benefits to illegal immigrants to requiring tamper-proof work permits, and more than doubling the U.S. Border Patrol personnel.

"We are fed up," said Rep. Jay Kim, R-Calif. "Illegal aliens are collecting welfare, they are even registering to vote.

"We must send a clear message to the world: no more free-lunch, no more free health care or welfare," he said. "Social services provided to undocumented inmigrants are costing between $20 billion and $21 billion a year."

Asked whether the task force conducted any study of how much undocumented workers pay in federal, state and Social Security taxes, Rep. Ron Packard, R-Calif., told United Press International that "on a national basis, all costs exceed in $22 billion the benefits."

"We are not racially motivated," Packard said. The new legislation should ensure that "no agency of the federal government will pass funds for illegal aliens, be it in education, housing, health care _ except emergencies _ or the Federal Emergency Management Agency for long-term assistance."

"We are not anti-immigrants," said Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif. The United States takes "more legal immigrants than all other countries in the world," he added. "But, we cannot afford to take care for all the people coming to this country."

Rep. Susan Molinari, R-N.Y., cited the case of an undocumented immigrant released following a drug arrest in January, who is now charged in the shooting death of a police officer two months after his release.

Molinari said that "in New York state alone, taxpayers pay more than $100 million a year for illegal aliens in the state prison system."

Rep. John Doolittle, R-Calif., said Congress "has delayed something we must do: enforce our own laws."

According to Doolittle, undocumented inmigrants cost the state of California some $3.2 billion.

The bill would streamline deportation procedures for aliens convicted of aggravated felonies, and allow deportation proceedings to begin prior to completion of sentencing.

The bill also would authorize the registration of aliens who are on criminal probation or parole, and would provide funds to add 3,000 border patrol agents and 1,000 immigration criminal investigators.

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE APR 14 1994

4 counties declared flood disaster areas

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Gov. Jim Edgar declared four central Illinois counties as state disaster areas on Wednesday, sending state resources to areas hit hard by torrential rains that caused flash flooding this week.

Edgar's declaration affects Douglas County, in east central Illinois, and the west central Illinois counties of Calhoun, Greene and Jersey. All four are still recovering from last summer's flooding.

Edgar said the declaration will allow homeowners to seek adjustments in their property taxes to reflect flood damage and will send state police, transportation, public health and environmental officials to the areas to assist in flood-fighting efforts.

On Monday, 4 to 8 inches of rainfall caused flooding along the lower Illinois River and its tributaries. In Villa Grove in Douglas County, flooding to a depth of more than 4 feet disabled the town's public water supply.

FLOOD-WEARY MIDWEST SOAKED BY OVERFLOWING RIVERS

By Andrew Stern

CHICAGO (Reuter) - The battle against floodwaters has resumed in the Midwest after spring downpours sent rivers spilling over their banks and forced thousands of water-weary residents to evacuate, officials said Wednesday.

"We have a lot of water, everywhere," said Kay Carter from Village Grove, Illinois, whose main street had become part of the overflowing Embarras River.

The weather was gradually clearing over flood-stricken areas from Missouri to Ohio, promising at least temporary relief from spring flooding. However, light rainshowers were forecast for later in the week.

Officials said while many Midwest rivers -- including the mighty Mississippi -- were cresting at historically high levels, the situation was not as dire as last summer when thousands of square miles of cropland and dozens of towns and hamlets were inundated for weeks.

Earlier this week, up to 10 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period in parts of central Missouri, feeding the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

"We just got a tremendous amount of rain dumped on northern and western Missouri and parts of Iowa and Illinois," said Ken Kruchowski of the Corps of Engineers in St Louis.

Kruchowski said the Mississippi was expected to crest at 39 feet Thursday at St Louis, well below the record of 50 feet set last summer when the city's barrier against the river sagged but held.

The biggest concern was below St Louis where the onrushing Missouri River joined the Mississippi and threatened towns like St Genevieve, Cape Girardeau and Chester, Illinois, which barely survived last summer's flooding.

Some of the protective levees damaged by the Great Flood of 1993, the worst in a century, had yet to be repaired, and sandbagging had resumed at breaches in the barriers.

Smaller tributaries in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio rose suddenly after three days of rain that sometimes resembled a torrent from the sky.

"Champaign County (Illinois) got so much rain and it came down on us so quickly," said Carter in Villa Grove, Illinois. Schools and many businesses in the town of 2,700 were closed, and a six-square-block area in the center of town was impassable except by boat.

The Wabash River in western Indiana was expected to crest soon, and already some of the two hundred residents evacuated from an area from Lafayette to Terre Haute had begun returning to their homes, emergency officials said.

"It's running in a cycles, seems like," said John Byrum of Indiana's emergency management agency. "This could be the worst flooding in years along the Wabash. Last November, it was the White River (in central Indiana) that flooded."

Residents along eight Ohio rivers were under flood warnings, with the rising Mahoning River near Youngstown in the eastern part of the state the most threatening.

"It certainly is inconveniencing some people, but I still wouldn't qualify this as a major flood," said Gene Kinn of Ohio's emergency management agency.

REUTER

NORTHSHORE CITIZEN
APRIL 13, 1994

Major earthquake would bring top officials to Bothell

y Liz Wimmer
staff reporter

BOTHELL — Federal representatives will converge here if a ajor earthquake hits this area predicted.

In the event of any "fairly sig- ficant disaster," the Federal mergency Management Agen- 's (FEMA) Region X headquar- rs Canyon Park in Bothell ould become the operations cen- r for federal emergency support until field offices could be tablished near the site of the di- saster, according to Lloyd Hara, Region X director. The Northwest region covers Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska.

The agency would be able to provide communications by setting up "kind of a mini-telephone c pany" using the Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) team, he said. This system was used in Los Angeles during the recent earthquake and was there until communication lines were restored, Hara said.

Regional officials will be checking to see if their own facility is as earthquake-proof as possible this week during statewide earthquake awareness week, Hara said. "We're telling other people to do these things, right?"

In recent years, representatives of the Northwest region have spent most of their time responding to disasters elsewhere because this area has been relatively quiet, said Hara, who was appointed to his post earlier this year.

For instance, people from Region X went to Iowa last summer to help manage the response to the flooding there, he said. This region still is sending people to the Midwest to address mitigation issues stemming from the floods, he said.

Despite the recent calm, these four Northwestern states face many potential natural disasters, he said. "In this region, obviously, probably the biggest thing that we're worried about is an earthquake."

Historically, the area has had a sizable earthquake every 30 years, he said. "We've had some fairly significant earthquakes in the region over the years but no one lived here then."

Because the region has not had a major earthquake in recent memory, residents have been somewhat complacent about preparing, Hara said. "In this area we have not, in many instances, taken the necessary steps to reinforce our structures."

People can prepare for a medium-sized earthquake, he said, but "if the big one comes at 9.0 (on the Richter scale), not much is going to hold up under conditions of that nature."

With the end of the Cold War and the election of President Bill Clinton, FEMA has shifted to an "all-hazards" agency, according to Joan Rave, public information office for Region X.

"The basic emphasis now with the new administration is that FEMA is no longer primarily focused on nuclear preparedness. A big part of our previous mandate was to prepare for 'the big one,'" she said. "A lot of our evacuation plans and contingency plans were based on that scenario, on the bomb."

FEMA now is using once top secret technology and expertise to respond to disasters, Rave said.

The agency's regional headquarters are located at the Federal Regional Center, an underground office building that was designed to serve as a fallout shelter and base of operations in the event of a nuclear attack or other emergency. It was built in 1968 after a U.S. Army NIKE missile site there was decommissioned.

The Clinton administration has reorganized FEMA completely, making it a model agency for their plan to "reinvent government," Rave said. "It's real refreshing for the most part, because most of the people want to be involved in the disaster stuff anyway. We're sort of in a transitional state."

About 65 people work in the agency's local office, but the Northwest region relies on a cadre of on-call employees to help respond to disasters, Rave said. Besides response and recovery, the Northwest region also has divisions that address the administrative and financial side of disaster response, mitigation measures such as moving structures out of flood plains to prevent damage, and preparedness training for government agencies and volunteer organizations.

The agency is taking a much more pro-active approach to eliminating hazards with its newly formed mitigation division, Rave said.

Representatives of FEMA emphasize that they will not be the first ones responding in an emergency. In fact, FEMA only steps in when the President declares a federal emergency. Most of the agency's work supports state, local and volunteer programs addressing emergency preparedness.

Because most people will have to rely on their own resources at least initially, Hara emphasized that people need to prepare for a major disaster by evaluating their homes and their insurance policies.

FEMA offers free brochur that address emergency pr paredness. Topics include diffe ent disasters and how to respon a family disaster plan, a fami disaster supplies kit, how to he children cope with disaster emergency food and water, ar an emergency preparedne checklist as well as a disaster pr paredness coloring book for ch dren. To order any of these, co tact Joan Bunten, FEMA, 1 228th St. S.W., Bothell, W 98021-9796; 487-4600.

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C. 20472

International Association of Fire Chiefs

ON SCENE

IAFC

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April 1, 1994

NAPA begins federally-funded fire fighter staffing study

After initial meeting, IAFF refuses to participate

by Tony McDowell

The IAFC is closely monitoring a federally-funded study of firefighter staffing levels currently being conducted by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). The project, which is funded by the U.S. Fire Administration, is tasked with developing recommendations to "assist officials at the city, county and state level in determining the appropriate number of trained emergency response personnel necessary for safe and efficient operations at emergency incidents."

FEMA Director James Lee Witt called for the study in an apparent attempt to resolve the on-going conflict between various fire service organizations over the staffing issue. Controversy surrounding staffing levels has been at the forefront of national fire service politics since 1991, when the IAFF proposed the inclusion of a minimum staffing amendment to the NFPA Standard on Occupational Safety and Health (NFPA 1500).

"We feel it is important that the fire service across the country be comfortable with the study results," Witt said in a news release issued by FEMA. In order to provide the fire service with opportunity for comment, NAPA called for the development of an Advisory Committee composed of the IAFC, IAFF, ISFSI, NVFC and the NFPA.

IAFF Action

After the first informational meeting of the Advisory Committee, IAFF President Alfred Whitehead sent a letter to NAPA refusing the IAFF's participation as a member of the Advisory Committee, withdrawing its support for the study.

"The IAFF reached its decision after thorough consideration of the history, timeliness, scope, composition of the review panel, role of the Advisory Committee and probable acceptance of the results of yet another study," Whitehead stated in his letter. "We believe that such an effort is redundant and will add further confusion to an already garbled scene."

Chief Phil McGouldrick, president of the IAFC, said he was somewhat surprised by the IAFF's position, and was disappointed. "The meeting seemed to go well, and we had identified a number of common concerns and philosophies," he said.

The study

The first part of the study will consist of a literature review and "scoping effort," which will result in the development of a workplan for the second half of the study. The "scoping effort," scheduled to last eight months to a year, will include site visits to fire departments, interviews with fire fighters of all ranks, and consultation with the various fire service organizations. NAPA anticipates conducting several site visits in the Washington, D.C. area, and one or two visits to other parts of the country, according to project director Dr. Gary Womsley.

The study panel consists of: Professor Sandra Biloon (University of Hartford); Chief Alan Brunacini (Phoenix Fire Department); Professor Louise Comfort (University of Pittsburgh); Patricia Florestano (University of Baltimore); Constance Horner (Under-Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); Dr. Rosemary Sokas (Professor of Medicince, George Washington University); Carl Steinberg (Director, Center for Public Service, University of Virginia); Edward Tochterman (Senior Management Assistant, Baltimore County Fire Department); Costis Toregas (President, Public Technologies, Inc.); and Graham Watt (Past-President, National Training and Development Service).

"We wanted to assure that the panel was not reflective of the current organizational philosophies, which is why nominations for panel membership

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International Association of Fire Chiefs
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were not solicited from the organizations," said Womsley. "The panel members should be knowledgeable and have a certain degree of expertise, yet at the same time must not *represent* a [fire service] organization or convey an advocacy for a single perspective."

The Advisory Committee, which was supposed to consist of the elected leadership of the IAFF, IAFC, ISFSI, NFPA and NVFC, was designed to provide "technical expertise and professional judgment." The Advisory Committee was described as the liaison between the NAPA study group and FEMA, and cannot in any way change or control the study process, methodology or results, according to Womsley.

Fire Service Relations

According to McGouldrick, the IAFC has been optimistic about the prospect of participating in an effort that could improve communications and relations in general between the various fire service organizations. "Clearly the time has come for us to begin to work together more constructively," he said. "I don't believe the IAFC, NFPA and the IAFF are really very far apart on fireground staffing."

Chief Tom Siegfried, IAFC's first vice president, agrees. "It's time we re-assess our organizational positions. We had hoped the NAPA study could help us to do that in an informed and unbiased manner."

But it appears that might not happen any time in the near future. There is growing concern that the study will be stopped or delayed because of the concerns raised by the union. "It appears that James Lee Witt wanted to help resolve the staffing issue," said IAFC Executive Director Garry L. Briese, CAE. "But it will be difficult for FEMA to justify the cost of this study if the union isn't involved."

Watch future editions of *IAFC On Scene* for more information on the NAPA study.

International Association of Fire Chiefs

ON SCENE

BONUS! FOUR EXTRA PAGES!

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April 1, 1994

Chief thanks Pentagon, Civil Defense for strong influence on fire service

In this era of FEMA bashing, let me hitchhike on your article about FIRESCOPE in the February 1 issue of *On Scene*.

Before there was USFA and before there was a FEMA, I ran the (only?) operationally-oriented fire R&D program in the United States, well-coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service. Believe it or not, that was in the Pentagon – in Civil Defense, OCD, DCPA, what have you. Remember "Bud" Nelson? His favorite quote was, "Thank God for Civil Defense," for nobody else was putting the money into how-to-do-it on large fires. NBS was pretty basic (although I also supported *their* work) and the USFS was not very interested in urban problems.

So I very naturally gravitated to FIRESCOPE, and was on one of their basic boards (titles escape me 20 years later) and made innumerable pitches supporting the concept and the organization. Back then I chaired the IAFC Research Committee, the group that had a major affect on the orientation of the IAFC publications program, and maybe on a few attitudes, as well.

I could go on for pages about the influence of Civil Defense on the fire community – it was largely ignored, and today goes almost unsung, but it was for real, as both testimony before both Congress and the Fire Commission proves. I was the Defense Department delegate to the Commission and wrote the first draft on research in America Burning. I sometimes wonder if there would even *be* a USFA if the Pentagon had opposed it?

Retired Chief James W. Kerr, Phd, FPE
Winter Park, Florida

The Star-Ledger

Date APR 1 4 1994

Gas bubble found in Salem 1 reactor

By TED SHERMAN P1

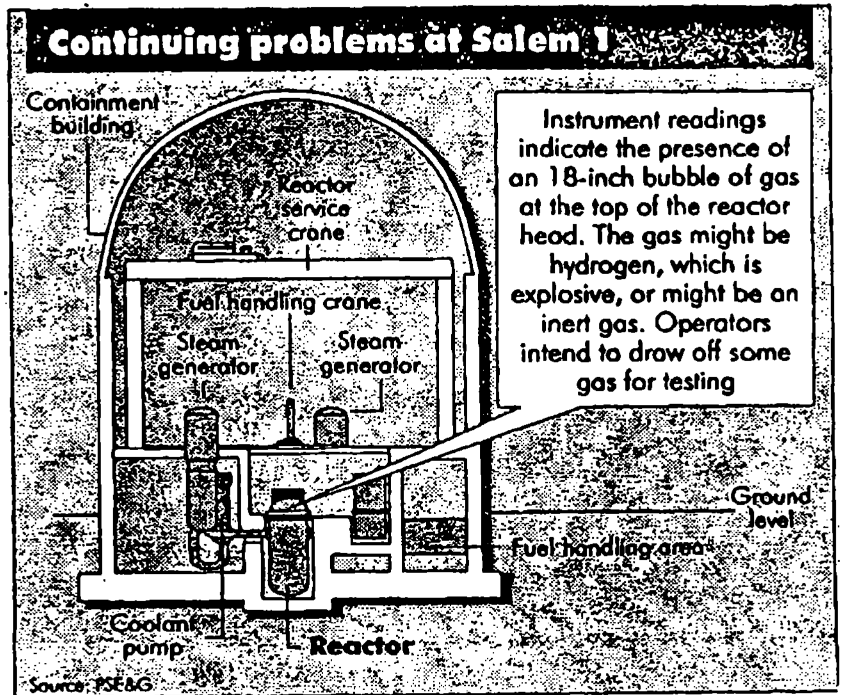
A gas bubble—possibly of explosive hydrogen—has formed at the top of the Salem 1 reactor in the wake of last week's emergency shutdown at the South Jersey nuclear plant.

Technicians discovered the bubble yesterday morning after instruments indicated that the reactor's coolant levels were down.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which is investigating last Thursday's seven-hour emergency alert, said the gas bubble appeared to be at least 18 inches high, displacing some reactor cooling water and pushing the coolant level to about 90 percent.

NRC spokeswoman Diane Screnci said investigators yesterday were still trying to determine whether the gas bubble was hydrogen or a non-combustible gas such as nitrogen, but did not believe the buildup to be a serious danger, even if it is determined to be hydrogen.

"It is not unusual for gases to gather at the top of the reactor head when the



The Star-Ledger

coolant pumps are off and the pressure comes down," she said. "But we want to know what it is."

Screnci said the gas bubble was discovered yesterday morning when one of the resident NRC inspectors was walking through the Salem 1 control room and noticed the reactor vessel instrumentation system showing a lower-than-normal level. Similar readings were obtained from three other monitoring systems, confirming the presence of a collection of gases atop the big reactor vessel.

Public Service Electric & Gas Co., which operates Salem, was planning to test the gases late yesterday evening by venting a small sample, said Steven E. Miltenberger, PSE&G vice president and chief nuclear officer.

"We want to understand it and understand what we've got, so there is some level of concern," Miltenberger remarked. "But there is no danger to workers or the public, the core of the vessel, or its systems."

The gas bubble, which is slightly radioactive because of its contact with the reactor water, was small enough that there was never any possibility that displaced cooling water would have left the nuclear fuel exposed, he added.

Salem is a pressurized water reactor which, as its name implies, surrounds the nuclear core with water that is kept under pressure to prevent it from boiling. The system is normally totally filled with water. But as the plant cooled down last Thursday evening and pressure was reduced in the hours following the emergency alert, a bubble of non-condensible gases formed at the top.

When first discovered yesterday morning, reactor coolant levels were at 93 percent. As the gas bubble grew, those levels fell to 90 percent and then stabilized there.

In the days following the accident at Three Mile Island in 1979, there was much worry about the possibility of an explosive steam and hydrogen bubble atop the damaged TMI-2 reactor. That scenario was not being echoed at Salem, which was no longer hot and was never damaged in the shutdown.

Miltenberger said engineers did not believe the gas in Salem 1 was hydrogen because the reactor was no longer under pressure and down to a relatively cool 160 degrees in temperature.

"We don't have a source of hydrogen in there," he explained. "What we believe is that it's nitrogen."

Even if it was hydrogen, he said there was still no danger of explosion because there was no oxygen in the system. A nitrogen bubble would not represent a problem unless the gas was left to accumulate over a period of days, further drawing down the cooling water and possibly exposing core systems or the fuel rods.

PSE&G intends to draw off the gas today, and treat it by filters before venting it into the air.

The 17-year-old Salem 1 power plant, which is located on the Delaware River in Salem County about 35 miles southwest of Philadelphia, remained in cold shutdown yesterday. PSE&G has agreed not to attempt to restart Salem 1 without the prior consent of the NRC, which has a seven-member Augmented Inspection Team at the site.

Salem 1 was at 73 percent power last Thursday morning when the emergency alert occurred, as plant operators began reducing output after river grass from the Delaware clogged cooling-water intakes.

According to preliminary reports, power was brought down to below 10 percent when a sudden—and unexplained—10 degree drop in reactor temperature led one operator to pull several control rods in an effort to bring the reactor coolant temperature back within specifications.

The action somehow caused the reactor to surge in power up to 25 percent, resulting in an automatic shutdown. At that point, a chain of events that included the failure of several automatic safety systems led to wildly fluctuating reactor pressures, allowing a very small amount of radioactive coolant to spew through a relief valve and onto the floor of the containment building, where it was later cleaned up.

At 1:16 p.m., PSE&G declared an emergency alert, and began notifying federal, state and local officials of the problem. All personnel not involved directly with the emergency were told to leave the site.

The problems left operators unable to fully control pressure and temperature within Salem's primary cooling system for at least four hours.

PSE&G was finally able to begin the process of cooling down the plant shortly after 5 p.m., and the alert was ended at 8:20 p.m. No radiation was released as a result of the emergency, according to the company, and no injuries were reported.

There have been no conclusions reached on root causes. The control room operators have been interviewed to determine if they may have played a role in causing the accident, although Screnci said there still has been no connection made on possible operator error.

The NRC spokeswoman said the inspection team yesterday was focusing on equipment issues and why certain systems did not work.

"The emergency operating procedures are also being examined and how operators used those procedures," she said.

The on-site inspection is scheduled to be completed tomorrow.

Salem 1 is expected to be out of service at least two weeks, with workers performing a number of unrelated maintenance tasks while the investigation is underway. PSE&G officials say the unit could actually remain idle for a month or more.

Meanwhile, Salem 2 yesterday remained at 40 percent power, generating 330 megawatts. Power is still reduced there because of continuing high grass conditions in the Delaware and problems with one of the unit's steam generators.

The nearby Hope Creek nuclear plant is also out of service for a scheduled refueling.