

DAILY CLIPS

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EMERGENCY HQ

City plans for the next disaster

By TOM ALEX

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

A Des Moines police commander said Sunday that work has been started to establish a permanent emergency operations center in the basement of Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

The facility is expected to be available for occupancy sometime in March. Last summer, when high water washed into Des Moines, police and other workers set up an emergency operations center in a couple of hours at East High School in Des Moines.

"It was fortunate that East wasn't full of students when the flood hit," said Assistant Des Moines Police Chief Nickolas Brown. "We can't count on the next disaster occurring when school is not in session. Last summer, I helped set up an EOC by the seat of my pants. This time we're putting a little more planning into it."

Federal Grant

The city is seeking a \$180,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and has promised "soft" matching funds of a like amount, Brown said. A "soft" match means the city plans to come up with \$180,000 worth of tables and chairs and other items it already owns to equip the room, which will house 60 disaster experts.

The facility will be able to accommodate more than 200 workers if necessary.

Blueprints already have been drawn up for the center. It will be equipped with mobile data terminals, providing computer links

between mobile units and the base station. A television system will be included, allowing a camera operator to send back live pictures to the operations center, where the experts can view disaster scenes.

Brown said a storage room beneath Vets Auditorium was selected for several reasons, not the least of which is that it is high enough above the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers that it will not be affected by flooding. Emergency and disaster experts also liked the fact that it's close to the MacVicar Freeway and two major north-south streets, Second and Sixth avenues. It also has plenty of parking.

About half of the 4,800-square-foot storage room will be converted into a permanent emergency operations center.

"The experts tell us there's a pretty good chance of high water in the spring," said Brown. "We're not paranoid. We're just taking a realistic look at it, and we want to be better organized than we were last year. This won't take any space away from the exhibit hall at Vets, and by using scaffolding, they can pick up some of the storage space they are losing."

One of the problems in finding a place to put an emergency operations center last spring was that many of the city buildings that were available were located along the rivers and were vulnerable to flooding.

Because of his "eagerness to help" last year when disaster service workers were trying to find a home to fight the Flood of 1993, Jerry Stilwell, principal of East, recently was honored with a community service award by Des Moines police and the Independent Insurance Agents of Des Moines.

At a time when there was no time for negotiations, Stilwell not only turned over the keys and control of the high school, he also "rolled up his sleeves and pitched in to help," Brown said.

With a permanent emergency operations center available at all times of the year, Brown said, officials will be prepared to deal with all kinds of emergencies in Des Moines, including hazardous waste situations, tornadoes or plane crashes.

Cost of Wildfire Fight Reaches \$68 Million

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 3 (AP) — The cost of fighting this fall's wildfires in California has reached almost \$68 million and is likely to rise, but the authorities said the cost was unlikely to set a record.

Most fire agencies are still tallying their expenses, but the California Department of Forestry has run up the highest bill so far at \$40 million. That is far short of the \$80 million spent in the 1992-93 fiscal year to battle fires in Redding and Calaveras County, said Kay Fagundes, the department's budget officer.

In all, 26 major fires fanned by Santa Ana winds killed four people in California last year, damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes and caused millions of dollars in damage.

Many fire-fighting agencies have been partly reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which will ultimately pay 75 percent of the costs.

"We prepared our estimate on Nov. 8, and they cut us a check on Nov. 12," said Clare Sletter, assistant chief for financial management with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. "FEMA was very responsive in this disaster."

The Federal agency was also praised by community leaders, in sharp contrast with the criticisms of slowness and inefficiency it received after disasters like Hurricane Andrew and the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

"The evacuation centers were open, press releases were out, representatives were out in the community, especially where people's houses burned," said Annette Slulagi, a neighborhood leader in Altadena, a Los Angeles suburb badly damaged by one fire. "The response time was good."

Soil Experts Issue a Warning to Hillside Homeowners

■ **Environment:** Panelists at flood-erosion workshop also offer advice on landslide and mudflow mitigation.

By KATHLEEN KELLEHER
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

The mudslides are coming to Malibu, and probably the most effective thing residents can do to minimize the damage and danger is hope and pray for a dry winter.

So say the experts, who spoke at a flood-erosion workshop in Malibu recently, sending a worst-case scenario message to about 25 residents on slope stabilization, landslide and mudflow mitigation, flood insurance and tips on when and how to evacuate.

"Be advised that if you're waiting till the storm to prepare, then you're already too late," warned Donald Nichols, a hydraulic engineer for the County Department of Public Works. "If you are at the bottom of a canyon [in a heavy storm], you really ought to save yourself."

Nichols predicted that, as a result of the Nov. 2 wildfires, Malibu will be enduring about four years of heightened danger from floods, mudslides and debris flows before vegetation, which averts flooding by absorbing and dispersing rain, regenerates.

Not only did the fire kill plants holding dirt and rocks in place, U.S. Soil Conservation Service scientists added, it also released burning oils and gases from the plants that made the soil "hydrophobic" or water-repellent.

In an extensive area of hydrophobic soil, said Thomas D. Benson, an engineer with the federal agency, there is the possibility of a debris flow. This occurs in a

rain when the top three to six inches of soil gets so heavy that they cut loose from the hillside, carrying loosened rock, burned vegetation and soil downhill at speeds only slightly slower than water.

"It's a condition that you just have to live with because there are no laws of physics that control it once it starts," Benson said. "We think if a big storm comes it is going to happen. I wouldn't be in the canyons if it does."

But where there is a disaster, there are experts with a multitude of solutions—sometimes conflicting. At least 16 different flood and landslide prevention tactics were discussed at the Malibu workshop in a head-spinning whirl.

"I've had everyone come out to my house: a soil conservationist, a private civil engineer, a geologist," said Pat Mudie, who lives on a Carbon Mesa Road hilltop. "And it seems to be an overwhelming problem with about 10 different experts. Where do you start? I want to know what's the most logical way to go about this. I've had conflicting opinions. The soil scientist said don't do anything. The geologist said everything looks OK [from a landslide perspective]. And the civil engineer said, 'I'm not really happy with what you've been told.' . . . Then I was told to call a native plant specialist."

There is so little agreement that one expert's slide-prevention method is likely to be held up by other experts as an example of

what not to do.

On a recent tour of the fire area led by Soil Conservation Service scientists, for example, the federal specialists pointed out a massive slope covered with jute netting above Pacific Coast Highway near the Malibu Lagoon as an example of poor erosion control.

"We don't recommend jute netting on long, steep slopes," said conservationist Rich Casale, who acknowledged that he had not actually analyzed the site. "The disturbance of the soil to lay it down and the soil disturbance of a fire . . . probably defeated the purpose. We also usually recommend that mulch be used in conjunction with jute."

But the landscaper who covered the vast hillside with the netting, James H. Cowan and Associates Inc., defended the work.

"The conservationists say not to do anything and their school of thought may be well-taken [in light of the storm]," said Clark Cowan, the contractor on that job and son of company owner James H. Cowan. "But for the homeowner who assumes the liability [of rocks and mudslides rolling onto PCH], that's not going to work. The first major rainstorm is a big gamble and a hazard to the highway."

Cowan said he removed rocks and boulders from the slope, cut down burned vegetation leaving root masses and stapled, overlapped and lucked in jute netting from top to bottom. Chain link fences and sandbags were placed at the base of the hill. The cost was about \$100,000, he said.

Casale of the Soil Conservation Service said the use of plastic sheeting or seeding with grasses was also risky on steep hillside,

because both tactics increase surface moisture—and weight—and are likely to cause slides during a rainstorm.

Another worry is improperly placed sandbags that drive water onto a neighboring property.

"I am personally alarmed at the incorrect application of sandbags," said Casale, who added that there is no universal answer for homeowners, only site-specific recommendations.

Nichols, the county representative, encouraged residents to prepare as best they can, then watch the weather closely for signs that a storm is intensifying.

Malibu officials are recommending that residents consult the Soil Conservation Service and the county Flood Control District before implementing any preparation measures.

Woodward-Clyde, a consulting firm retained by the city, is working in conjunction with the Soil Conservation Service. It has produced a map of landslide and flood-prone areas available to residents through the city. The highest priority areas are Big Rock, Las Flores Canyon, Piedra Gorda, Rodeo Grounds Road and Pacific Coast Highway.

Benson of the Soil Conservation Service said three inches of rainfall in 24 hours could spell disaster. He and other experts said most storm preparation measures would probably be rendered useless by a heavy several-day storm. Then the only advice is to get out.

The U.S. Soil Conservancy Service can be reached at (818) 222-4750. The city of Malibu also is planning more flood/erosion control workshops. Call City Hall at (310) 458-2489 for information.

LA TIMES
1-1-94

State Insurance Workshop to Focus on the Claims Process

Malibu victims of the two fires that recently swept through the community are invited to take part in a public workshop hosted by the California Department of Insurance on Wednesday, Jan. 12.

The thrust of the local workshop—one of three in Southern California fire zones—is dispensation of advice and information about the insurance claims process.

State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi said, "Whether an individual has sustained relatively minor damage or lost a home and life's possessions, these workshops can help by providing invaluable assistance about the claims process."

Garamendi and agency specialists will offer information on how to evaluate a policy, understand the claims and

rebuilding process, and protect one's rights under the new Unfair Claims Practices regulations.

A free printed guide to the insurance claims process will be distributed to all participants in the workshop, set for 7 to 9 p.m. in Stauffer Chapel on the Pepperdine campus.

The workshop will not include solicitations from any private operations such as contractors, public adjusters or insurance companies or agents.

Anyone seeking additional information about the Malibu workshop or other workshops (Laguna Beach and Altadena), or persons who have questions or complaints about insurance company practices, policies or claims, can contact the Department of Insurance at 800-927-HELP or 213-897-8921.

BY ANNE SOBLE



CLAIMS PROCESS—Individuals who sustained losses of any magnitude in the recent fires are invited to a state-sponsored workshop on the insurance claims process set for Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in Pepperdine's Stauffer Chapel.

**CALIFORNIA DISASTER LOSSES EXCEED \$1 BILLION FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW;
\$1.3 BILLION IS FIFTH HIGHEST LOSS SINCE 1950**

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Dec. 29 /PRNewswire/ -- For the third year in a row, Californians faced losses exceeding \$1 billion from disasters that struck throughout the state in 1993, according to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES). Major disasters in the state caused more than \$1.3 billion in damages and took the lives of 26 people.

This is the fifth most costly year since OES was established in 1950.

"We started the year with severe winter storms that left more than \$304 million in damages in their wake," said OES Director Richard Andrews. "And we finished up the year with the Southern California Firestorms that destroyed homes and businesses worth more than \$1 billion."

Gov. Wilson issued Proclamations of Emergency in 25 of the state's 58 counties, and California received two Presidential Declarations of Major Disaster during the year.

"The effects of this year's disasters continue to compound those of recent years," Andrews noted. "When we look back at the last five years, we can be proud of the state's emergency response system and admire the citizens of California who have managed to rebound after such repeated losses.

"These events continue to underscore the need for every citizen in the state to be prepared for emergencies of all types," Andrews added. "Our experiences in the last five years, in which we've faced four of the state's costliest disasters, remind us that California is subject to a host of natural and human-caused disasters."

A review of the disasters California has faced in the last five years includes the following:

-- In 1992, earthquakes, flooding, fire and the civil unrest in Los Angeles caused the deaths of 60 people and losses of \$1.6 billion.

-- In 1991, the East Bay Hills Fire, earthquake, flooding, freeze and drought cost the lives of 43 people and losses of more than \$3 billion.

-- In 1990, a series of wildland fires, rain, and snowstorms left four dead and, along with fruitfly infestations, caused losses of \$317 million.

-- In 1989, the Loma Prieta Earthquake alone caused \$5.9 billion in damage and left 63 dead.

In many cases, full recovery from disasters takes years of effort. For example, after lengthy negotiations between Stanford University, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and OES, FEMA this year approved \$18.5 million to restore the university's Green Library West, which was badly damaged during the Loma Prieta quake. Restoration work is expected to begin early next year.

This year's disastrous events began when severe winter storms, mud and rock slides, and flooding struck 24 counties in early January. Gov. Pete Wilson proclaimed a State of Emergency for all 24 counties and the City of Fillmore in Ventura County on Jan. 27. President Clinton subsequently issued a Major Disaster Declaration for the City of Fillmore and the following counties:

Alpine, Contra Costa, Fresno, Humboldt, Imperial, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity and Tulare.

The deaths of 22 people were attributed to the storms.

After nine months of relative calm, disaster struck again when a series of 21 fires erupted in Southern California in late October. When the last ember had been extinguished, more than a thousand homes were gone, almost 200,000 acres had burned, and four people had died as a result of the fires.

At least 10 of the 21 fires were deliberately set, according to arson investigators.

A Gubernatorial Proclamation and a Presidential Declaration for the counties of Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside brought recovery assistance to the fl6d savaged region. OES and FEMA are continuing to operate Community Disaster Recovery and Preparedness Centers in Malibu, Laguna Beach and Pasadena to assist those who suffered losses during the fires.

In addition to the fires and floods, two emergencies were proclaimed by Gov. Wilson due to high sewage levels in the Tijuana and New Rivers in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The rivers carry water from Mexico into the United States where it is ultimately deposited into the Salton Sea (New River) or the Pacific Ocean (Tijuana River). While no dollar losses were attributed to the disaster, both Imperial and San Diego Counties considered cleanup costs to be beyond their resources. The gubernatorial proclamation allowed the counties to seek federal assistance.

FACT SHEET
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRESTORMS
Oct. 26 to Nov. 7, 1993

FIRE	FROM	TO	ACRES DESTROYED	STRUCTURES INSURED LOSS(A)	EST. \$
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Kinneloa (Altadena)	10-27	11-01	5,715	149	\$140 million
Topanga (Malibu)	11-1	11-07	16,885	300	\$375 million
Rocky	10-27	same	2,000	0	

ORANGE COUNTY

Laguna Beach	10-27	10-29	14,808	366	\$435 million
Stagecoach	10-26	10-28	546	8	

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Box Springs	10-27	10-29	2,796	0	
California	10-26	11-01	24,398	107	
Ortega	10-27	11-03	21,392	15	
Repplier	11-02	11-04	5,956	15	
Tribal	10-27	10-28	2,230	0	
Vail	10-28	10-29	536	0	

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Mill Creek	10-27	10-28	4,680	6	
Oak Glen	11-02	11-04	50	00k	

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Guejito	10-26	11-3	20,722	9	
Old Coach (Poway)	11-2	11-3	2,139	36	
Paradise	10-27	10-29	60	0	
Power	10-26	10-26	40	0	
Tecate	10-26	10-29	125	0	

VENTURA COUNTY

Green	10-26	11-4	40,051	66	
Meadow Steckle	10-27	10-31	26,741	1	
Wheel	10-27	10-30	1,384	0	

TOTALS			193,254	1,078	\$950 million
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(A) Private property only. Public property loss estimates not yet available.

Deaths 4 (3 - Topanga; 1 - Kinneloa)

Injuries 162

Total fire personnel 15,000

**Total fire engines through California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid
905**

Helicopters 18

Air Tankers 42

Arson: Of the 21 fires, 10 are confirmed arson.

**Estimated losses: over \$1 billion, with \$950 million estimated
insured losses to private property**

Governor Wilson proclaimed State of Emergency: Oct. 27, 1993

President Clinton declared Major Disaster: Oct. 28, 1993

Sources: FEMA/OES Joint Information Center

Operations Coordination Center, Riverside, Calif.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

**The above numbers are subject to change if and when new information
becomes available. They are current as of 12-27-93.**

CALIFORNIA DISASTER HISTORY -- 1982-1993

1993 -- 11 Gubernatorials (flooding, fires, sewage); 2 Presidentials (flooding, fires). 26 deaths. Estimated loss: \$1.3 billion

1992 -- 7 Gubernatorials (sewage, flooding, earthquakes, civil unrest, fires); 5 Presidentials (flooding, earthquakes, civil unrest, fires). 60 deaths. Estimated loss: \$1 billion

1991 -- 6 Gubernatorials and 3 Director's Concurrences (fire, earthquake, flooding, freeze, drought, toxic spills, and pest infestation); 2 Presidentials (freeze, fire). 43 deaths. Estimated loss: \$3 billion

1990 -- 12 Gubernatorials (rain and snowstorms, earthquake, Mediterranean fruitfly, Mexican fruitfly, wildland fires, drought, freeze); 1 Presidential (wildland fires). 4 deaths. Estimated loss: \$317 million

1989 -- 8 Gubernatorials (4 Medfly, 4 earthquake); 1 Presidential (earthquake). 63 deaths. Estimated loss: \$5.9 billion (earthquake only)

1988 -- 8 Gubernatorials (wind, rainstorms, flooding, fire and wave action, Medfly, wildland fires, high winds); 2 Presidentials (wind and rainstorms, wildland fires); 3 requests to U.S. Department of Agriculture (drought). Estimated loss: \$111 million

1987 -- 10 Gubernatorials (freeze, wildland fires, Medfly, earthquake, flooding); 1 Presidential (earthquake). 21 deaths. Estimated loss: \$457 million

1986 -- 8 Gubernatorials (7 flood, 1 air crash); 1 Presidential (for entire flood area covered by the 7 Gubernatorials). 13 deaths (flood only). Estimated loss: \$379 million (flood only)

1985 -- 7 Gubernatorials (fires, hydrilla), 1 Presidential (fires). 3 deaths. Estimated loss: \$65 million

1984 -- 4 Gubernatorials (high tides, earthquake, fire, floods). Estimated loss: \$50 million

1983 -- 12 Gubernatorials (flooding, earthquake, pest infestations, levee failure); 3 Presidentials (flooding, earthquake). Estimated loss: \$570 million

1982 -- 8 Gubernatorials (flooding, fire/high winds, levee failure, rain); 3 Presidentials (flooding, winds/fire, levee failure). 32 deaths. Estimated loss: \$597 million

1. A Gubernatorial Proclamation of a State of Emergency formalizes state assistance to local government and allows for state reimbursement on a matching basis of local jurisdiction response, repair, and restoration costs. It is also a prerequisite to requesting a Presidential Declaration.

2. A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration authorizes a number of assistance programs for both individuals and public agencies in the disaster area.

3. Dollar loss estimates provided by county Offices of Emergency Services.

4. A Director's Concurrence makes financial assistance available for repair/restitution of damaged/destroyed public property under the state Natural Disaster Assistance Act.

CONTACT: Tom Mullins or Kati Corsaut of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, 916-262-1843

Federal disaster appeal denied

By MARY BETH LANE
PLAIN DEALER BUREAU

COLUMBUS

The Clinton administration has denied an appeal to declare Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties a major disaster area following a severe July 28, 1993, storm.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency told Gov. George V. Voinovich by letter that the storm damage, while serious, didn't exceed the ability of state and local governments to pay for cleanup.

The thunderstorm and high winds left \$8.3 million in public damages, according to the estimate by FEMA, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and local government representatives.

Damage to private property was \$17.8 million.

The storm felled trees and power lines and damaged buildings. At one point, 300,000 Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. customers were without power.

This was FEMA's second and final rejection of Voinovich's request for federal aid. The agency rejected the state's initial request in September. Both Voinovich and Cleveland Mayor Michael R. White appealed the first denial.

"We're disappointed," said Voinovich spokesman Michael Dawson. "We thought we made a good case."

He said Cleveland, Euclid and other municipalities suffered a severe budgetary strain from cleaning up the damages to public property.

Dawson said "there's a possibility" the state could provide some money to the counties to reimburse them for part of cleaning up the damage. He declined to estimate how much state money could be available.

Had FEMA agreed to declare the counties a major disaster area, the federal government would have paid 75% of the \$8.3 million damage cost. The state would have then split the remaining 25% with the counties.

In denying Voinovich's appeal, FEMA Director James L. Witt said: "The impact from this incident affected the three counties on a local level, however it does not appear to exceed the combined capabilities and resources of both the state and local governments as required by (federal law)."

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East chatters in winter chill

By Carol J. Castaneda
USA TODAY

3A

Thousands of train passengers were stranded, hundreds of flights delayed and thousands of families were left without power after the first major storm of the year hit the eastern USA Tuesday.

Four deaths were attributed to the storm. A 10-year-old boy died in traffic in New Hampshire; and two Rhode Island men and one in Pennsylvania died shoveling snow.

"It's pretty bad. Some of the highways are closed," said Wilda Gilbert, cashier at the Akron-Canton Truck Plaza in North Canton, Ohio. "This morning when I left, the highways were completely covered. It was so scary."

In West Virginia, shelters opened for 100,000 to 150,000 people without power, state spokeswoman Jill Wilson said.

Today, the storm, which dumped more than 2 feet of snow in places, is expected to begin tapering off, with only light snow expected in New York and New England.

The heaviest snowfall hit the central Appalachians and upper Ohio Valley. Waynesburg, Pa., got 28 inches.



By Keith Graham, Roanoke Times & World-News via AP
IN VIRGINIA: Children in Roanoke head up their favorite sledding hill Tuesday, after an early morning snowstorm closed schools.

"Every kind of accident you can imagine is happening out there right now," said Pennsylvania trooper Jeffrey Piper in Harrisburg.

In Syracuse, N.Y., 10 inches of snow fell between noon and 3 p.m. alone.

Ohio officials called a state of emergency in four counties where the storm dumped up to 18 inches of snow.

The storm cut power to more than 100,000 customers in parts of Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio.

"We have electrical lines

down all over the county," said Barbara Himmeger of the county Emergency Management Agency in Marietta, Ohio. "The trees are just breaking down here. You can just stand out there anywhere in the county and listen to these huge crackling sounds."

The storm delayed or canceled numerous flights. Smaller airports, including Charleston, W.Va., were shut down.

At Harrison, N.J., just north of Newark, ice tore down power lines.

Thousands of train passengers were stranded on Am-

Damage from second storm

Nearly two feet of snow piled up in some places Tuesday in the second Eastern storm of the week. Some areas affected:

WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO

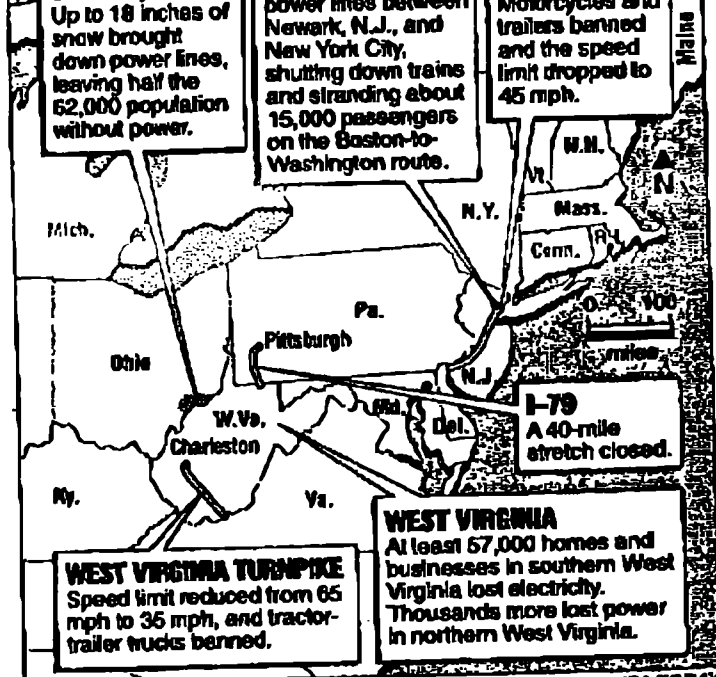
Up to 18 inches of snow brought down power lines, leaving half the 62,000 population without power.

NEWARK, N.J.

Ice downed Amtrak power lines between Newark, N.J., and New York City, shutting down trains and stranding about 15,000 passengers on the Boston-to-Washington route.

NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE

Motorcycles and trailers banned and the speed limit dropped to 45 mph.



Source: USA TODAY research

By Stephen Conley, USA TODAY

trak's Boston-to-Washington route and NJ Transit commuter lines.

But not everyone was miserable in the snow.

At Wisp, a ski resort in Mc-

Henry, Md., "the skiers seem to be pretty happy" with about 14 inches of fresh snow, said Wisp's Carol Richardson.

First Storm of '94 Dumps Snow, Ice and Rain From West Virginia to Maine

By MICHAEL deCOURCY HINDS

It was not the Great March Blizzard of '93, but the first storm of '94 was a severe nor'easter that hampered the East late Monday night and early yesterday morning.

In a nor'easter, school, business and power lines, closed major highways and disrupted a good portion of the region's air and train traffic. Officials in Rhode Island reported that two men had died from heart attacks while shoveling snow, and a 10-year-old boy was reported killed in an accident in New Hampshire. West Virginia, buried under a foot of snow yesterday, was the hardest-hit state.

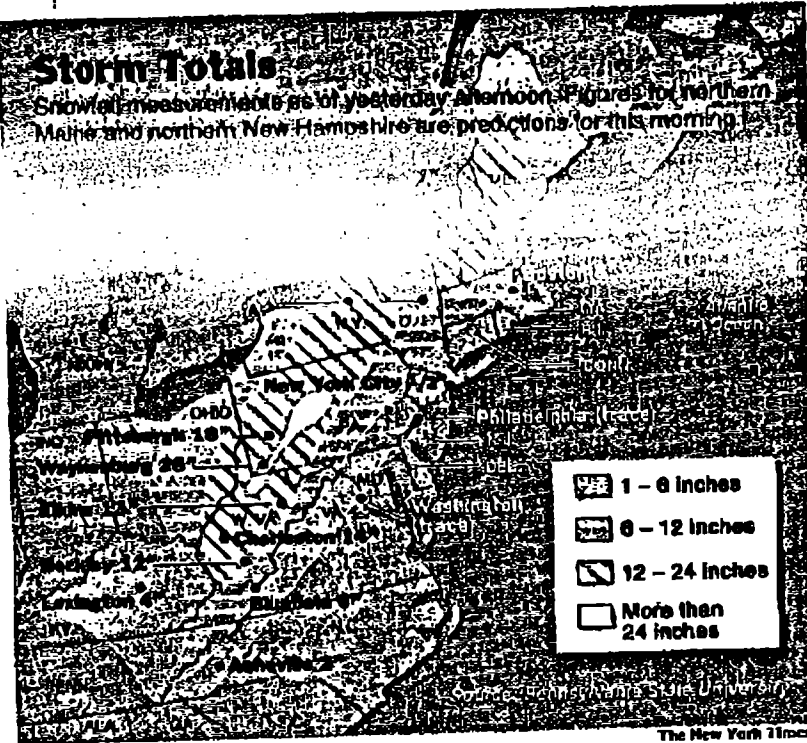
Cities in the calmer center of the storm, including New York, Philadelphia and Washington, saw relatively few disruptions from the light snowfall and icy rain they received.

The storm developed when the jet stream, at a height of 30,000 feet, developed an unusual whirlpool that sucked in Arctic air from Canada and warmer, moist air from the Atlantic, which combined to dump precipitation over 60,000 square miles, said Frederick J. Gadomski, a meteorologist at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa.

"It's a textbook case of the way a nor'easter develops," he said. "This very volatile mixture of air masses led to heavy snows on the western side of the storm and gusty winds and unusually heavy rain on the eastern

Storm Totals

Snowfall measurements as of yesterday afternoon. Figures for northern Maine and northern New Hampshire are predictions for this morning.



side of the storm."

Mr. Gadomski said the storm had dropped a foot or more of snow over a path 400 miles long and 150 miles wide, starting in central West Virginia and passing through western Pennsylvania, western and upstate New York, and much of New England. Mr. Gadomski said the same area was likely to receive a few more inches of snow by Friday.

West Virginia slowed to a standstill. "Just about everything in West Virginia is shut down — government, schools, businesses, everything except emergency services," Gov. Gaston Caperton said in an interview today. "This is one of the toughest storms we've ever had."

About a foot of snow, as well as torrents of icy rain, fell over most parts of the state. Power lines were

downed in many parts of the state, and about 200,000 of the state's 1.8 million residents were without electricity and likely to be without it for a day or two, spokesmen for utilities said. Many highways were closed.

Governor Caperton declared a state of emergency yesterday morning and called in the National Guard to help provide ambulance service and clear the roads of fallen trees and stalled vehicles.

Pittsburgh had the most snow of the big cities hit by the storm. Up to 26 inches fell on some sections of the city, sometimes at the rate of 3 inches an hour. Pittsburgh International Airport, the largest transfer point for USAir, had one runway open but no ramp to reach it and no airline willing to risk using it. John Bronson, a spokesman for USAir, said that about 450 flights to 100 cities had been canceled. Those cancellations caused a ripple effect in other cities; nationally, USAir canceled up to 40 percent of its 2,500 scheduled flights. Many other airlines with operations in Pittsburgh were similarly affected.

Breaking In a New Mayor

Tom Murphy, who was sworn in as Pittsburgh's new Mayor on Monday, said in an interview that he had spent most of the night riding with snowplow crews. "I thought I was in charge of this city," he said, "but obviously there is somebody bigger than me in charge."

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency reported that portions of two interstate highways, I-79 and I-70 near Pittsburgh, were closed to all traffic and that nearly all

of the Pennsylvania Turnpike was closed to commercial vehicles. John J. Conney, an agency spokesman, predicted that many deaths would be associated with this storm but probably fewer than in last March's blizzard when 66 people died.

Two of the three fatalities already reported in the storm were Rhode Island men, William Rekrut, 78, of Providence, and Thomas Zompa, 81, of East Providence. Each was shoveling snow, said Rick Piester, a spokesman for Rhode Island Hospital in Providence. In south-central New Hampshire, 10-year-old Thomas Donovan was killed near his home in Portsmouth. The police said he had been walking on an embankment when he fell onto a road, where he was struck by a van.

People interviewed today said they welcomed the snow holiday. "I don't mind it," said Donna M. Dodson, 52, who works from a restaurant in the White Gap, about 40 miles south of Boston. "Everything looks so much better and pretty."

Schools are closed in many parts of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The Associated Press reported.

But schools stayed open in places like Burlington, Vt., and Syracuse, N.Y., which are used to heavy snow. "I don't mind it," said C. Brown, the Mayor of Burlington, said in an interview. "Four inches isn't a lot for us."

Bill to provide federal support for relocation awaits President Clinton's signature

By David Holmstrom

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

BOSTON

COUNT on it. The Mississippi River will flood again sometime in the future.

And like water dripping from a faucet, the many urgent public and private decisions being made now after the Midwest's biggest flood in history will shape the range of responses and changes in handling floods of the future.

The most urgent decisions now are aimed at increasing permanent relief for homes and structures damaged by the flooding. Waiting for President Clinton's signature this is a bill approved by Congress to raise the amount of federal money available for relocation of homes and structures out of flood plains.

The bill would provide \$106 million instead of the \$24 million available before the flood for relocation. Most of the additional money would be shifted from other disaster funds. More than 200 towns along the Mississippi have decided they have had one flood too many. Moving all or part of a town to higher ground is their answer.

More relocation money, combined with several other existing federal programs such as Community Block Development Grants from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and loans from the Farmers Home Administration, still won't reach the estimated \$400 million the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said is needed to relocate towns.

President Clinton is expected to sign the bill first proposed by Rep. Harold Volkmer (D) of Missouri. It will raise the federal government's buyout obligation to 75 percent of the preflood value of homes, businesses, and structures. Other federal money is available to towns to provide the remaining 25 percent.

"Just about everybody who lived in the north end of town wants out," says Bill Anderson, mayor of Sta. Genevieve, Mo., a

town of 4,500. "Dec. 1 was the deadline for us to make application for federal funds, about \$2 million to cover 145 damaged houses. If the homeowners had flood insurance, we will deduct that."

Many other river towns don't want a complete relocation of the entire town, either, just removal of houses and structures standing in the lowest parts of town. The abandoned land would then be used as a park or field with no structures allowed. "It's a competitive situation out there,"

says Scott Faber, director of flood-plain program at American Rivers in Washington, D.C. "It all depends on the ability of local governments to put together a strong package to dip into these various pots of federal money. If you have people who know how to get federal grants, then your town may be taken care of completely."

Sen. John Kerry (D) of Massachusetts has introduced legislation to strengthen the underfunded, 25-year-old National Flood Insurance Program. What the Mississippi flood brought out into the open was a record of poor enforcement by banks and the federal government of existing federal

flood-insurance mandates. Homeowners with mortgages obtained by home-owners here on a flood plain were supposed to carry federal flood insurance. And communities were supposed to guide people away from known areas of flood. Fewer than 12 percent of mortgage holders complied over the last 25 years. Part of the new bill is to ensure compliance.

The insurance-based model is much better than the disaster assistance model, says Mark Rosen, vice president of the Insurance Institute in Washington, D.C.

"The insurance model," he adds, "means people are paying for it as a tangible risk. They have chosen to be at risk. The disaster model means there are losses and everyone else in the community through tax dollars pays to help those who didn't buy insurance." The bill would be the most needed federal action in the wake of the flooding to get fresh attention.

No federal agency currently has sole responsibility for coordinating the programs affecting the entire Missis-

issippi and Missouri flood plains, stretching across a dozen states.

"The flood this summer," says Mr. Faber, "is partly the result of the tyranny of many small decisions when so many agencies work at cross-purposes." An interagency study done last year by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) discovered that 27 federal agencies and departments were involved in making flood-control decisions. "And there is no real linkage between federal pro-

grams and what states and local governments are doing," says Faber. One of the results of this lack of coordination of all aspects of flood control is that over the last century, as agricultural and industrial development spread, as much as 90 per-

cent of wetlands in three states - Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois - were lost.

The Wetlands Reserve Program, part of the 1990 Farm Bill, called for 1 million acres of new wetlands. Farmers were to receive around \$700 an acre plus technical assistance in the restoration process. But lack of funding kept the program to a

minimum. In fact before the flooding this year, no acquisition funds had been authorized for 1993. But when the flooding occurred, and the public debate of wetlands intensified, Congress funded the lands program by \$66 million for 1994.

Soil experts say that damage to 40 million acres of farmland during the flooding could have been worse. Mandated conservation practices, as a result of the 1990 Farm Bill, helped minimize severe erosion.

Keeping Iowa rivers crooked

The EPC courageously resisted further stream-straightening.

That weed-infested ditch draining water westward from the Loess Hills is the Little Sioux River. The similarly barren ditch crossing U.S. 18 near Garner is the Iowa River. In earlier times, both were wandering waterways, nurturing groves of maples and cottonwoods that shaded fishing and swimming holes. In other areas of the state, both rivers still sport some modest beauty. It's to be hoped that natural beauty is left that the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission voted recently to protect more segments of Iowa streams from being reduced to channels.

Straightening is done to square up farm fields for easier maneuvering of equipment, and to reduce flooding by carrying the water away. The process usually disfigures the countryside but does big floods out of little ones, or creates a flood where there might have been none — downstream. And that encourages downstream landowners to hurry the problem onto the next in line.

By a 5-3 vote, the EPC added 1 stream and river segments to the list of Iowa already protected. The rule says these

particular streams can't be channelized except for road or public-works projects when there is no alternative, or when straightening is necessary because erosion threatens buildings.

The EPC's rule won't touch existing farmland drainage districts. Already, an estimated 5,000 miles of Iowa waterways have been dredged into open ditches.

Watersheds properly protected with soil- and water-conservation structures don't need stream channelization. Terraces, contours and small retention ponds keep runoff under control so that meandering streams can handle drainage. But it's often easier to slash the streamside timber and bulldoze the ditch open.

Ditching promotes water pollution, increases erosion of soil from water-scoured banks, dries up small wetlands that feed off the slow-moving natural streams, and in general represents the antithesis of sound conservation, as well as making life tougher for downstream landowners. In the face of considerable opposition, the EPC made a wise decision.

ACCESS # INDT71063

HEADLINE Honey, they moved the town

Byline: RUPERT CORNWELL

Notes: For the people of Valmeyer, enough was enough. Last summer in the Great Flood they felt the full force of the Mississippi. Some even remembered when it happened before, in 1947. But it won't happen again: they've upped sticks and put their town somewhere safer. Rupert Cornwell reports

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Valmeyer, Illinois - An icy wind cuts across the bare cornfield on the bluffs where Highway 156 begins to curl down into the the rich Mississippi river bottomlands a couple of miles away. At first it seems an ordinary piece of Midwest farmland hunkered down for the winter. But then you notice some unseasonal oddities. A gravelled track has recently been laid, leading towards the woods beyond, and dotting the ground are small wooden lot-markers, with numbers attached. They denote a tiny piece of contemporary American history. This will be the new site of Valmeyer, the first river township t pull up stumps and move after the Great Flood of 1993.

The Mississippi overwhelmed Valmeyer in 1947, but then they built the Columbia levee a mile-and-a-half upstream, and when the river went on the rampage in 1973 Valmeyer was unscathed. Not so last year. At 9.30am on 1 August, man's puny efforts failed. Its waters 20ft above flood level, the Mississippi breached the levee, submerging the village for a month. The clean-up had hardly started when fresh rains to the north produced a new surge in the river. On 10 September Valmeyer was inundated a second time.

Enough was enough. A few weeks later the 900 citizens of this rail and farm community voted to get out of the river's way for good. Just 10 families are still bent on staying put. The rest are taking up the offer of Walter Stemler, the dairy farmer who sold the land 350ft above river level for the new Valmeyer.

The old one, to all intents and purposes, is already an archeological site - a Midwest ghost town, where only rubbish-strwn streets and piles of sandbags covered with dead leaves bear witness to the battle lost. On Valmeyer's baseball field, an American flag has been stuck half-way between the pitcher's mound and the home plate, marking where the waters finally halted their advance. In a mud-flecked green trailer that these days serves as Valmeyer's city hall Mayor Dennis Knobloch and his staff plot the rebirth.

"Yes, I know that theoretically a disaster like this shouldn't happen again in 100 years," says Laurie Brown, who now acts as the mayor's secretary. "But just go out and look at the state of the levees. It's sad, really sad, but there was no alternative. After the first flood we thought we could cope. Then the waters came back. In our house they were just an inch below the ceiling. It was devastating. The school board said the school would have to close, and for me that was it. When a town loses its school, it dies."

Mrs Brown once lived with her husband and three children at No 80 Main Street. Outside there are broken bushes and litter and a huge pile of junk topped by a brown-stained fridge. Inside the walls are torn away. The kitchen door, ripped off its hinges by the water, is wedged in the exposed rafters of the ceiling. The floor is covered in brown sludge up to a foot deep. In the back garden, inexplicably, a child's climbing pen of the type you find in a playground, remains intact. Such was the Mississippi's random wrath.

Down nearer the river, the desolation is similar. A couple of farmhouses, reachable by tracks of churned mud, are still in business. Beyond, however, there is nothing. The fields where corn once stretched as far as the eye could reach are utterly bare, dotted with shallow, stagnant pools. On a raw December day, all is shades of grey, black and brown. Fronds of shrivelled corn hang from collapsed power lines, the earth is littered with the skeletons of fishes. Shrouding everything is a silence, broken only by the occasional drone of a light plane or the horn of a river bare away beyond what remains of the levee.

A mile or two further, on what is still technically Main Street, you come across a final row of houses. No 226, where Michael and Pamela Smothers once lived, offers a dash of gallows humour. "Happy Holiday from the Smothers family" says the sign, next to a red wreath on the door. But No 226 and all its neighbours have been destroyed for ever. Children's toys, a rusty kitchen knife lying on a doorstep, a mocking "No Trespassing" sign, are all that remain of civilisation. Dank, rank slime imprisons the rest. The walls of every house are stained brown up to a similar level.

Valmeyer, of course, is only a thread in a tapestry of calamity. The damage there is put at \$55m, a tiny fraction of the flood's total estimated cost of more than \$10bn. Across seven states, 43,000 dwellings were laid waste, 70,000 people forced from their homes. Nearly three-quarters of Mississippi levees were overwhelmed, 50 towns were ravaged. More than 300 million sandbags were illed, many in vain. At its height in July and August, the floods covered an area a third the size of England.

The television crews have long since gone, but through Christmas and the new year holiday the clean-up continued. Even so, officials
* of the Federal Emergency Management Agency say that 10 per cent of flood victims in Illinois and Missouri cannot reach their homes, still submerged by water that will probably freeze this winter. No one knows whether the old levees will be entirely restored. After the cataclysm of 1993, many argue they should be built farther from the rivers, allowing the Mississippi, the Missouri and their tributaries to reclaim the flood plains that existed until man began to tamper with them a century ago. With its decision, Valmeyer may have read the writing on the wall.

Work on the first phase of the new town should be completed next summer, mainly smaller houses and a trailer park. Mayor Knobloch, in normal times a bus driver and part-time teacher, says the project will cost \$20m to \$25m, paid for in part by a Federal buy-out programme and the rest by state and local government. It should be a pretty place. Of the 350 available lots, 150 have already been taken. All three churches of the old Valmeyer are relocating; so is the school, which now camps out in a cluster of grey prefabs eight miles up the road in the town of Waterloo. There will be a business district, shops, a bank - who knows, maybe even a traffic light, which the old Valmeyer never boasted. Some optimistic souls even talk about a movie house.

Speed is essential. Valmeyer may be tenacious and close-knit; half of its inhabitants are related, descendants of the Meyer family, the 19th-century farm settlers after whom the village is named. But even a community so rooted in a particular spot of earth cannot be kept in suspended animation for ever. Doug Sondag plans to keep his 350-acre farm down on the bottoms. But, he warns as he drives a pick-up truck carrying equipment up to the new site: "We cannot hold for ever. We've got to do this fast, or no one will want to go back." Roughly half of Valmeyer now lives in a trailer park at Waterloo. The rest are scattered further afield, in rented houses or with relatives, a few as far away as Chicago.

Of the Valmeyer that once was, only memories will remain. The land around, of course - except the few hundred acres where the Mississippi spitefully dumped sand instead of silt - will be richer than ever. Such are the boons of one of nature's great cyclical cleansings. But gradually the houses will grow over, leaving fields and empty horizons. And once or twice every century, just as in 1993, Old Man River will come to join them.

Four communities get more flood aid

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) _ Gov. Tommy Thompson said Tuesday four communities will share more than \$190,000 in flood aid from the federal government and \$100,000 in aid from Taiwan, Wisconsin's sister-state.

"These funds are the result of our continuing effort to help Wisconsin communities hard-hit by last summer's flooding," Thompson said. "We will continue to work to secure and distribute federal dollars to help people victimized by flooding."

Beloit, Baraboo, Mauston and North Freedom will share the money released Tuesday.

Along with the \$100,000 private donation from the Province of Taiwan, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Community Development Block Grant Flood Aid program supplied the rest of the funds.

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HEADLINE U.S. DISASTER AGENCY PRAISED IN AFTERMATH OF SOUTH STATE
FIRES

Byline: Tony Knight Los Angeles Daily News
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Highly criticized for its slow response to the Loma Prieta
* earthquake and the Los Angeles riots, the Federal Emergency
Management Agency is being praised by local officials and fire
victims in the wake of this fall's fires.

The same agency that was called "a bunch of bureaucratic
jackasses" by Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., after Hurricane Hugo
ripped into the East Coast in 1989, is now being described as quick,
efficient and responsive by Southern Californians.

"My impression was, and from the people that I've spoken to, that
they set up quickly and were very effective," said Annette Siulagi, a
neighborhood leader in Altadena, which was hit hard by the fires.

"The evacuation centers were open, press releases were out,
representatives were out in the community, especially where people's
houses burned," Siulagi said. "The response time was good."

Aides to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who as a gubernatorial candidate
in 1989 criticized FEMA for its slow response to the Loma Prieta
earthquake, also said the agency has improved.

Last month, Feinstein flew to Los Angeles with new FEMA Director
James Lee Witt to tour fire-ravaged areas.

"The senator's view is so far, so good," said Feinstein spokesman
Bill Chandler. "This is a new FEMA that has demonstrated the
capability to respond very quickly in a crisis."

For the most part it is Witt, the 49 year old former director of
the Arkansas Office of Emergency Services, who is being credited with
the turnaround.

Witt was appointed to the post last spring by President Clinton
and quickly went about the business of "stripping this agency down
and starting all over again," said Morrie Goodman, Witt's spokesman.

"He came in and gave the senior staff a lecture," Goodman said.

"He told them, 'You need to think of yourselves as people who are
helping in disasters and not people who work under fluorescent lights
in an office building somewhere.' "

FEMA staffers at the agency's Pasadena office said under Witt's leadership the emphasis has been on speed and efficiency, computerization of the application process and advance planning.

"The first emergency disaster center was opened 50 hours after the president's declaration of a disaster," said FEMA spokesman Marty Zucker. "Only two and a half days after the president's declaration the first checks were issued."

FEMA clerks were smoothly processing claims in Malibu half an hour before the disaster aid center was scheduled to open, said local officials.

"The immediate response from FEMA even before the fires were really over has helped a great deal in trying to pick up the pieces and go forward," said Malibu Mayor Carolyn Van Horn.

That's a far cry from the scorn heaped on FEMA after Hurricane Andrew left 180,000 homeless in south Florida in September 1992. The agency was criticized for delays in providing food and shelter.

The agency received similar criticism for its slow response to the Los Angeles riots in April 1992.

"A lot of our clients still haven't received assistance," says Humberto Benitez of Urban Recovery Legal Assistance in South Central Los Angeles.

FEMA denied more than 50 percent of the applications for riot aid, spawning a class-action lawsuit claiming the agency had illegally denied relief.

ACCESS # FBEE131111

HEADLINE Cost of fighting firestorms may total nearly \$68million, but is unlikely to break records

Byline: Associated Press

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As burned-out canyon dwellers brace for winter storms, firefighting officials continue to add up the cost of battling October and November's firestorms -- a bill that has reached an estimated \$68 million thus far.

While that's a hefty price tag, the final total is unlikely to set any records, federal, state and local officials say.

For example, the California Department of Forestry ran up what may be the largest bill for any single agency.

An estimated \$40 million was spent to fight fires that burned almost 200,000 acres in six counties.

"Yeah, it's a lot," said Kay Fagunes, CDF budget officer.

"But compare it to last year: In 1992-93, we had emergency expenditures that totaled over \$80 million because of the fires we had in the Redding area and in Calaveras County,"

Part of this year's overtime, equipment and other costs will be paid from the department's emergency suppression fund, an annual budget allocation that this year totals \$30 million, Fagunes said.

Most firefighting agencies, including CDF, already have been
* partially reimbursed for their costs by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FEMA ultimately will pay 75 percent of what are referred to as "extraordinary" costs, officials said.

AGENCIES

Hospital, FEMA still at odds over hurricane bills

BY TONY DORIS
REVIEW STAFF

OFFICIALS of SMH Homestead Hospital say the federal government is stonewalling rather than reimbursing the hospital for the patients its emergency room treated in the months following Hurricane Andrew.

Susan Guber, a former state legislator lobbying for the hospital, says the Federal Emergency Management Administration owes SMH Homestead \$500,000 for treatment of victims of hurricane-related accidents who could not afford to pay. The hospital is struggling financially because FEMA has been slow to pay, she said.

"They've chosen to put their heads in the sand and not even think about it," Guber says.

FEMA first promised the hospital \$1.8 million, made good on \$1.6 million early last year and then demanded \$1.4 million back. Agency officials said in July that the private, nonprofit hospital was not eligible for federal funds because its work fell largely under the category of normal operating expenses, even if those expenses increased because of the disaster.

The hospital is appealing, through the Florida Department of Community Affairs. The appeal "is in process," FEMA spokesman Marvin Davis said Friday. He declined to comment further.

A FEMA official visited from Washington to look into the matter two months ago, but a decision has yet to be made, Guber said.

The 102-bed hospital needs not only to keep the \$1.4 million, but needs another \$500,000 to cover hurricane costs that continued to mount since the original \$1.8 million was promised, she said. Those costs include treatment for out-of-town workers who fell off buildings or were burned by roofing tar at construction sites.

The hospital was forced to treat the hurricane patients, since the alternative was sending them more than 25 miles away to Jackson Memorial Medical Center in Miami, which would have been "too far and inhuman," she said. "It's a Catch-22: We've got to take them and we've got to lose the money. It's a slow drip method of killing us."



Guber

lion early last year and then demanded \$1.4 million back. Agency officials said in July that the private, nonprofit hospital was not eligible for federal funds because its work fell largely under the category of normal operating expenses, even if

Up to 1,800 homeless in S. Dade, survey says

By LISA ARTHUR
Herald Staff Writer

A survey expected to be released this week puts the number of homeless people in South Dade between 1,600 and 1,800.

The survey, commissioned in conjunction with the Homestead Air Force Base redevelopment plan, was done to assess the need for homeless housing on the base.

The redevelopment plan calls for a 300- to 500-bed transitional housing facility and education on the base, a decision that has angered residents of the area.

County officials say they have no choice but to offer the homeless a portion of the base; the 1987 McKinney Act stipulates homeless groups have the right of

first refusal on surplus federal land.

But base neighbors have argued the majority of homeless in South Dade are families displaced from Hurricane Andrew who are awaiting single-family housing and don't want to live on the base.

Alan Rubin, vice-president of the Beason Council, said the survey says there is indeed a homeless population in South Dade other than families who lost their homes to Andrew.

"The total number of homeless, both individual and family, is estimated at 1,600 to 1,800," he said. "That number does not include the at-risk or near homeless, including those displaced by

Base neighbors have argued the majority of homeless in South Dade are families displaced from Hurricane Andrew who are awaiting single-family housing and don't want to live on the base.

the hurricane and living in FEMA trailers and with relatives."

The survey counted about 4,400 at-risk or near homeless in South Dade.

Rubin said the survey includes homeless south of Kendall Drive. About 600 homeless individuals were interviewed.

Rubin declined to give a breakdown of how many of the 1,600 to 1,800 homeless the survey found were single males or families.

He said a report fully explaining the survey would be formally released this week — the date is not yet set — and will include an action plan for complying with the McKinney Act on the base.

"We're going to be assisting a much smaller percentage of the 1,600 to 1,800 on the base," he said.

*Kendall Edition
Neighbors Section*

The Miami Herald

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1994

DAILY CLIPS

Special Edition
The Los Angeles Earthquake

NEWSPAPER CLIPS
TELEVISION NEWS TRANSCRIPTS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1994

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THE WASHINGTON POST
JANUARY 29, 1994

Disasters Leave the Government to Pick Up Tab

By John M. Berry
Washington Post Staff Writer

When disaster strikes as it did 12 days ago in the Los Angeles earthquake, a compassionate federal government is expected to be there immediately, cash in hand, to help the victims rebuild their property and their lives.

It usually is. And that can get expensive.

Over the past 10 years, there have been 313 presidential disaster declarations, 27 lesser "emergency" designations and 47 firefighting episodes that have produced federal disaster help.

The cost of that federal help was more than \$22 billion, largely from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Agriculture Department. A host of other agencies, ranging from the Federal Highway Administration to the U.S. Travel Service, also have disaster aid money to spend. The spending total was supplemented by another

\$6.2 billion worth of heavily subsidized loans to homeowners and businesses by the Small Business Administration.

One inevitable aftershock of the Los Angeles quake has been a new drain on the Treasury.

President Clinton this week promised \$7.5 billion worth of aid to help individuals, businesses and governments hurt by the disaster there. Total losses have been estimated at as much as \$30 billion,

though some experts say that figure is much too high.

A rare call to control this recurring cycle of disaster spending came yesterday from White House budget chief Leon E. Panetta.

"Somehow we've got to do a better job in terms of preparing for disasters, either by setting aside some kind of fund to deal with disasters, or looking to insurance companies to try to deal with those areas that are particularly vulnerable to disas-

DISASTER, From A1

ters," Panetta said in an interview on Cable News Network.

Last summer's flooding in the Midwest and the Los Angeles earthquake "are real disasters and they do impact, but the problem is they are getting costlier," Panetta said.

One worry among public policy experts is that the public's perception that the government will cover their losses from natural disasters may be discouraging people from buying insurance to protect themselves.

In earthquake-prone California, for example, just 25 percent of all homeowners have earthquake insurance, according to the Insurance Information Institute, a trade association of property and casualty insurance companies. In the Los Angeles area, the figure rises to 40 percent. One reason so few people carry quake insurance is that it is expensive and carries a large deductible.

The institute said it expects insured losses from the quake to run about \$1 billion, including those for fire and business interruptions.

People don't tend to buy insurance for other forms of natural disaster, either. Federal flood insurance is readily available but many people with property at risk don't buy it because of the cost. And again because of the cost, farmers are so reluctant to buy heavily subsidized federal crop-loss insurance that only one-third of their planted acreage was covered last year.

"We have set up a system that discourages people from insuring against disasters that will be covered by the federal government whether you are insured or not," said Murray Weidenbaum, director of the Center for the Study of American Business in St. Louis and a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

According to officials dispensing federal help after disasters, the people who have suffered losses often

expect the government to provide far more help than it in fact does.

Last fall in Iowa, one of the nine Midwestern states damaged by flooding last summer, James L. Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, observed in a speech, "Too often I have heard comments like . . . 'we're not worried, if anything happens the federal government will bail us out.' "

But the federal help, which gives its donors high political visibility, has become steadily more generous.

Following the Los Angeles earthquake, for example, SBA administrator Erskine Bowles this week doubled, to \$200,000, the amount his agency will lend to repair or replace homes and also doubled, to \$40,000, the limit on loans to cover personal property losses. The SBA also will refinance as much as \$200,000 of an existing mortgage and as much as \$48,000 worth of investments to reduce damages in a future disaster.

All but a handful of the loans carry a 3.625 percent interest rate. The loans can run as long as 30 years, depending on how large a monthly payment the borrower can afford.

Last fall, in order to provide more generous help to the flooded states—and just a few days after Witt spoke in Iowa—Clinton changed the rules governing when he could waive the requirement that states match each 75 cents in federal disaster aid with 25 cents of their own money.

His new alternative standard is unrelated to a state's ability to pay: if total uninsured losses exceed 0.1 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product, or about \$6.4 billion, a waiver is allowed.

Year in and year out, one large group getting federal disaster help is farmers who could buy crop insurance but do not. To entice farmers to buy such insurance, their premiums, until this year, have been set to cover only 53 percent of the expected losses. That share is going up to 68 percent this year, but some experts are worried that higher premiums will further discourage participation. Last year,

only a third of the planted acreage was insured.

Congress routinely rushes through legislation to help farmers hit by floods, droughts and other disasters. Congressional budget experts put the combined cost of special disaster relief and the large subsidy for crop insurance at about \$1 billion a year.

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) has introduced legislation that would require insurance companies to add coverage for earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tidal waves to all homeowners insurance policies.

The Natural Disaster Coalition, an advocacy group that includes insurance companies, directors of state emergency services, construction trade unions and other organizations, is backing the bill.

While the private insurers would sell the new coverage, the premiums would be set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and paid into a government fund, which would carry the risk.

In addition, a separate fund would be created to provide a backstop for both the insurance industry and individual property and casualty companies in the event of a large natural disaster.

The administration has taken no position on the legislation, which the Natural Disaster Coalition argues would limit federal disaster spending. Some critics question that assertion.

Some congressional budget experts say the strict caps on domestic discretionary spending in recent federal budgets has created an incentive to appropriate too little money for disasters before they occur. That leaves more room under the caps for other spending, and when a disaster does strike, it is handled as emergency spending not subject to the caps.

"From a budget standpoint, the way you ought to handle this is to have a realistic long-term estimate of annual federal disaster relief costs, and include that amount each year under the budget caps," said Charles L. Schultze of the Brookings Institution, a former budget director.

L.A. freeloaders relish food stamps

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Some of the emergency food stamps being handed out to quake victims on the honor system may be going to scam artists who don't qualify, social services officials acknowledged.

Roughly 45,200 people have applied for the food stamps since Monday at 30 welfare offices in Los Angeles County. About 5,000 people were in line by 11 a.m. Thursday in the Los Angeles suburb of Glendale.

"There's no doubt in my mind there's people in line who are taking liberties with the system," said police Sgt. Tom Thate. "There are not this many earthquake victims."

"You want to help those in need, but to do it without checking, to take everyone's word, that's just not the way to do things," said Glendale Mayor Larry Zarian. "I can almost assure you that there are many people standing in line who don't need

food stamps."

Mary Robertson, who oversees the county program, said applicants must sign a document declaring financial hardship because of the quake. But because applicants aren't required to provide immediate verification, there is the chance of fraud, she said.

Some suspicious applications can be delayed, but "it's looking like the majority of the people applying for the emergency food stamps are actually getting the food stamps," said Richard Gonzalez, a county administrator.

The food stamp giveaway — \$112 worth for a single person and up to \$450 for a family — is scheduled to run through Feb. 7.

Suspicious cases will be turned over to investigators. If applicants lie, they can be fined up to \$250,000 and imprisoned for up to 20 years,

Miss Robertson said.

In other developments:

- In Santa Monica yesterday, police stood guard outside an apartment building that had been invaded by thieves who stole television sets and household goods. Officers said the looters managed to get into the condemned building despite plywood on the windows and doors. "It's a little like adding insult to injury," said police detective Mark Rodina.

- The number of quake refugees staying in tent cities and other shelters fell to about 3,000 — compared with an estimated 13,000 last weekend — as victims found new housing or returned to homes declared safe.

- More than 156,200 people have applied for federal quake aid, and more than \$18 million in approved loans were in the pipeline, said James Lee Witt, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

After Fraud, Stories of Woe. Don't Win Aid

By B. DRUMMOND AYRES Jr.
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 28 — Concerned about fraudulent claims for relief, disaster officials decided today to shut down a program that provided Federal food stamps, on the spot, to any poor person professing to be an earthquake victim.

The officials said that starting Saturday they would take three days to check all requests for the stamps, which are in such demand that there have been numerous scuffles and arguments among the huge crowds that have gathered at the 30 relief centers offering them.

"We are very concerned about the fraud situation," said Mary Robertson, a stamp specialist with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services.

Disaster officials could provide no details on the extent of the fraud, which has also been detected in other popular earthquake assistance programs. They acknowledged that few arrests had been made.

Lying and Exaggerating

But at just about every aid center, where there were quarter-mile-long lines of exhausted, earthquake-edgy residents, officials told stories of how some of the 45,000 people who have so far applied for stamps had been found lying about being needy victims of the disaster.

"We had 50 denials from yesterday afternoon to this afternoon," said Sheryl Spiller, director of the Compton stamp center in the city's South-Central section. "People are double-dipping — getting in line twice — or saying their households are bigger than they really are or lying about being poor. And some are just lying that they suffered any damage at all."

Ms. Spiller told of two relatively well-paid aircraft workers who suffered little earthquake damage but took a day off from work to apply for stamps. "We caught them and we're looking into their case," she said.

Food stamp fraud is a felony that carries a maximum penalty, upon conviction, of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Taking Them on Faith

At a Los Angeles County disaster center on Beverly Boulevard west of downtown, Gloria Cuevas, the director, said the fraud was the worst she had ever seen in an aid program.

In normal times the center dispenses monthly welfare assistance to the area's poor. By all the strangers she was seeing, Ms. Cuevas said, it appeared there were many frauds in line falsely claiming to be earthquake victims.

"Sometimes we recognize them and throw them out," she said.

Aid officials had not been demanding any documents to prove eligibility for the food stamps. Applicants simply gave their home addresses and said they were poor and victims of the quake. "We've just been taking their declaration of need and giving them what they want," Ms. Cuevas said.

But under the rules that take effect Saturday, forms regarding place of residence, income and damage suffered in last week's quake must be filled out. Then aid workers will check on the information and, if it proves accurate, will issue stamps when the quake victim returns on the third day.

The amount of stamps issued depends upon income. For example, a family of four with an income of less than \$1,535 a month receives \$375 in stamps. For each additional person, the income level can rise up to \$205 and the benefits go up \$85.

Inside the Beverly Boulevard aid center this afternoon, dozens of people were waiting their turn to pick up stamps. Outside, under a hot California sun, the line snaked around the center and down three blocks.

"It took me 19 hours to get through the line," Maria Keklikyan, a mother of three, said as she emerged at noon, holding \$375 worth of stamps. "I came yesterday morning at 6 and left last night at 8 after they gave me a ticket to get back in line with this morning. I was back here at 7. Some people became so frustrated that fights broke out and the police had to come."

Ms. Keklikyan said the Jan. 17 quake left her a "real mess," with the refrigerator turned over and all the food spoiled.

And Now the Bad News...

"I've been on welfare for the past three years, getting stamps once a month," she said. "The stamp people told me I was entitled to an extra gift because of the damage I suffered. I couldn't make it if I didn't get these. I told the truth."

As she spoke, a squad of police officers came marching up the boulevard, outfitted in riot gear. They had been summoned to keep order. Officials were about to announce that the center had temporarily run out of stamp application forms and thus there would be a two-hour delay in processing.

But once the announcement was made, there was only a slight stir in the crowd, which by then seemed exhausted from the day's wait under the sun.

"Well," said the officer in charge, Captain Thomas W. Lorenzen, "looks like we got past that one O.K. Now let's see what happens next. It's tight out here."

Some Stumble on Windfalls in the Quake's Rubble

By SAM DILLON

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 28 — The earth the last week virtually destroyed Carlos Lara's apartment, and at first, living with his family in the back of his 1979 Oldsmobile, he lamented his misfortune. But now he concedes the disaster has allowed him to reap a windfall in Government housing aid.

The filthy \$400-a-month Hollywood tenement where the Laras lived before the earthquake was a hangout for crack dealers and the scene of a fatal stabbing. But because Mr. Lara is broke and unemployed, he qualified for a Federal program that moves disaster victims who are poor into apart-

that would normally be beyond their means and pays most of their rent for 18 months.

As a result, today the Laras moved into a spacious two-bedroom apartment with a skylight, balcony and underground garage — housing far nicer than their previous homes.

While the need of people like the Laras is evident, the ease and speed with which they were accommodated contrast sharply with the cases of about 40,000 other needy Los Angeles residents unaffected by the earthquake who have been waiting for months, and in some cases years, for non-emergency Federal housing aid.

As a consequence, the \$100 million low-income renter program financed by the Clinton Administration has touched off a debate over how the Government is treating the disaster victims. Some people who have been waiting for Government aid have called to complain, and at least one Congressman has criticized the Federal largesse, charging that illegal immigrants are benefiting unfairly.

Also generating disputes here is the emergency food stamp distribution effort for earthquake victims. Federal and Los Angeles officials say it has attracted dozens, perhaps many more, opportunists making fraudulent claims because procedures have been eased.

Food Stamps Halted

After reports of widespread abuses, and of incidents of food stamp lines becoming unruly, local and state welfare officials said today that though they will continue to accept applications, they intend to stop issuing the stamps for three days to restore order and to investigate reports of fraud. Federal officials would not confirm the reports. [Article, page 8.]

Los Angeles County welfare officials said they had received reports from several of the 29 county food stamp centers that people who did not suffer earthquake damage had nonetheless applied for benefits. Others have applied for food stamps at more than one center or by standing line repeatedly at the same center, the officials said.

Abuses have become easier because of emergency procedures that have eliminated much of the normal screening. Applicants can claim that they suffered earthquake losses and that they meet low-income standards without providing documentation.

The housing program that helped Mr. Lara, known as the Section 8 low-income housing assistance program, is also allowing applicants to "self-certify" in the same way about their income status, though officials said they had encountered no evidence of fraud in that program.

Disruption, Not a Change

The earthquake added new inconveniences to the daily grind of poverty for thousands of poor people like the Laras, in some cases destroying the buildings in which they lived, but in many cases did not radically change their fundamental living conditions, which were already a daily disaster. Still, the aftermath has proved a bonanza for many by allowing them to qualify for Government aid programs suddenly more generous than they have been since the cuts of the 1980's.

The Clinton Administration has promised \$6.6 billion in earthquake aid, and the instant shift to Government generosity has invigorated public officials dispensing aid here with a renewed sense of mission. Many are working from dawn to dusk to process aid requests.

The change has produced enthusiasm among some beneficiaries, but it appears to bewilder other victims not accustomed to Government generosity. "They told me they'd give me a loan, but I said I can't pay you back," said Mary Magdalena Vasquez, who was applying for earthquake assistance today at an aid center in Hollywood. "They said we'll have a check out to you in 10 days."

Some of the 40,000 poor people whose applications for the Section 8 low-income housing assistance have been backlogged for years have been calling the Los Angeles Housing Authority to complain that they have been leapfrogged by earthquake victims. And one Republican representative is criticizing the emergency processing procedures used in dispensing not only housing but food stamps and other aid because undocumented aliens may be receiving benefits.

Program's Intentions

"When all is said and done, we're going to have spent hundreds of millions helping illegal aliens who shouldn't be eligible," said Representative Dana Rohrabacher, a Republican. "It's not fair and it's going to lead America to ruin."

A prominent Hispanic businessman, Fernando Oaxaca, ridiculed Mr. Rohrabacher's criticism.

"This is painful to listen to, if you think of all the misery that's been suffered," Mr. Oaxaca said on a radio news program. "This idea of withhold-

ing the intravenous needle until you show your green card is just crazy."

The original Section 8 housing program was not an emergency relief effort but a permanent antipoverty program. It began as part of the Housing Community Development Act of 1975. Under it, beneficiaries pay 30 percent of their adjusted income toward rent and the Government pays the rest. Since many beneficiaries have tiny incomes, the government often pays 90 percent of the rent or more.

Before the quake there were 31,000 Los Angeles households receiving long-term Section 8 aid, said Marshall Kandell, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Housing Authority. Four years ago, the authority allowed new applicants to sign up for a waiting list during one three-week period and 80,000 persons applied. Today, 40,000 Los Angeles residents are still waiting to receive Section 8 aid, Mr. Kandell said.

After the earthquake, Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros used \$100 million from his department's budget to establish an emergency addition to the Section 8 program that will pay for rental assistance for 10,000 earthquake victims like Mr. Lara for 18 months. Mr. Cisneros also urged Federal and local housing officials to be flexible in the processing of applicants so they could to help victims quickly.

"Cisneros drove us to move fast, and we're kind of inventing it as we go," Mr. Kandell said. A 100-page handbook detailing processing procedures for officials working in earthquake Section 8 application centers has gone through four complete revisions in less than two weeks.

As of Thursday night, nearly 8,245 Angelenos had applied for emergency Section 8 aid, 4,724 had been given certificates allowing them to seek rental housing and about 82, like Mr. Lara, had moved into new apartments, Mr. Kandell said.

In neither the ordinary Section 8 nor the earthquake Section 8 program do Government officials make any attempt to verify applicant's citizenship, Mr. Kandell said.

Unlike the food stamp program, Mr. Kandell said that so far no applicants for Section 8 assistance had been found to be falsifying income or other data. If housing applicants attempt fraud, he said, "We'll catch them later."

Because the new Section 8 housing benefits are limited to 18 months, Congress will either have to appropriate additional money or Government officials will have to consider other potentially disagreeable options, including mass evictions.

"We're not dealing with that right now," Mr. Kandell said. "There are a lot of things we're going to have to deal with later. We may be sorry we did it the way we did it, but we have to get people into housing fast now," he said.

1-29-94

Housing Aid Rules Eased Since Quake

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 28 — Since the earthquake, the rules have eased for the Section 8 low-income housing assistance program.

Before the earthquake on Jan. 17, the Los Angeles Housing Authority provided renter-assistance certificates, financed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to people who could document that they had very low income. To qualify, a single person had to earn less than \$16,900 a year, a household of four less than \$24,150 and a household of eight less than \$31,900.

Applicants also had to document their income, and it had to be verified by housing officials. The application procedure usually lasted 60 days or more, and even those who qualified might wait years before receiving the benefits, which often amounted to 70 percent or more of their rent.

Under an emergency program set up to help poor earthquake victims, the housing agency does not require applicants to certify that their apartments were damaged and that their incomes are low enough to qualify.

The emergency process should take days rather than months to complete. Officials said they would later check to see that applicants had reported their incomes truthfully. The emergency certificates will be good for 18 months.

Sharp Aftershocks Jolt Residents; More Expected

By JOHN HOWARD

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) _ Three sharp aftershocks rattled already fearful residents, sending some shoppers scurrying into the streets and moviegoers into the aisles.

In a Granada Hills cinema, dozens of patrons scrambled toward the exits when the darkened structure shook Friday.

"Come on, it's just an aftershock!" yelled one man after the first 4.0 tremor, centered near Newhall, 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Moviegoers slowly returned to their seats, and the film was uninterrupted through a second, less severe aftershock minutes later.

At an Egghead computer store in Santa Clarita, software and other merchandise fell from shelves during the aftershocks, sending customers running into the streets. Later Friday afternoon, a third tremor struck.

California Institute of Technology seismologists said up to 3,100 aftershocks have hit the area since the Jan. 17 quake. Many of them go unnoticed.

Sixty-one deaths were blamed on the quake, which measured 6.6 on the Richter scale. More than 9,000 people were injured. Damage estimates ranged from \$15 billion to \$30 billion.

Seismologists predicted aftershocks of magnitude 4.5 or greater could continue through next week.

Some people were starting to feel phantom quakes.

"I have felt more aftershocks than there have been," sporting goods clerk Noel Garcia told the Los Angeles Times. "I'm at the photocopy machine and I think, 'Oh, my God. There's a motion problem that's not over yet.'"

Meanwhile, police said con artists, grifters and looters have been on the make.

"It never occurred to me that people could be that downright wicked," said Karl Kreuter, a clinical psychologist who lives near a condemned Santa Monica apartment building that was looted.

The building's main door was stripped of plywood meant to keep out looters and residents. At least 20 apartment doors had been battered down and possessions rifled through, said resident Molly Concer.

"They broke TV sets, things were gone, folding chairs, everything," she said.

Authorities assembled a consumer fraud unit, and federal investigators went to welfare offices to screen phony claims for emergency food stamps. Police on Friday arrested a man who they say sold \$500 worth of food stamps he got from a distribution center.

State agents also were targeting unlicensed contractors and handymen overcharging for quake repairs.

Also Friday:

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala released \$27.5 million for repairs to HHS-funded medical and research centers, Social Security offices, health clinics, substance abuse and treatment programs, family planning clinics and Head Start centers.

Gov. Pete Wilson announced a \$3 million program to hire people who lost their jobs in the quake for cleanup work. Employees will be paid \$2,000 a month.

Roughly 179,000 people registered for federal disaster assistance, and \$27.7 million in temporary housing checks had been issued, federal officials said.

Repairs were completed to the Los Angeles Sports Arena, which reopens today for a professional basketball game between the Los Angeles Clippers and the Minnesota Timberwolves.

AP-DS-01-29-94 0323EST

Earthquake aftermath summary

LOS ANGELES (UPI) _ A summary of developments in the aftermath of Southern California earthquake as of 5 p.m. PST Friday.

EARTH:

_Two strong aftershocks of 4.0 on Richter scale at 12:09 p.m., about 3 miles east of Newhall, and 3.5 at 12:09 p.m. in the same area; another 3.0 aftershock was reported at 4:47 p.m. northwest of the San Fernando Valley; more than 1,500 aftershocks since 6.6 Jan. 17 quake.

FRAUD AND CRIME:

_At least 11 people stopped from filing multiple claims for food stamps from the county.

_Looters steal TV sets, office and equipment from red-tagged apartment house sealed off because of structural damage.

_Authorities urge business owners, disaster victims to beware of scam artists who move in to prey on needy.

_Police said the number of arrests in Los Angeles are way down; only 427 people have been arrested for felony and misdemeanors since the quake, fewer than are arrested on a normal day.

IMMIGRATION:

_Assemblyman Pat Nolan and Congressman Dana Rohrabacher announce legislation prohibiting illegal aliens from receiving state and federal earthquake assistance.

_Federal Emergency Management Agency says "Aliens, whether permanent residents, temporary residents, or illegal, may be eligible" for federal funds.

_Assemblyman Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles, called the attempts by Rohrabacher and Nolan "meanspirited."

GOVERNMENT AID:

_The Department of Veterans Affairs established emergency, one-day processing and approval of loans for veterans with VA insurance policies.

_The U.S. Department of Labor awards \$3 million emergency grant to assist dislocated workers in earthquake-ravaged areas.

_FEMA has processed 179,000 applications for temporary housing and distributed \$27 million in housing vouchers.

_FEMA will open two more center to accommodate applicants, one at the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley and the other near Newhall.

NON-GOVERNMENT AID:

_Salvation Army says cash donations, blankets, cots, bottled water, sleeping bags, diapers, packaged food, baby formula, flashlights and batteries still needed for quake victims.

_Boston residents, officials airlift blankets, towels, flashlights and batteries.

_Japanese government contributes \$25,000 for earthquake relief effort; check was handed to Mayor Richard Riordan by acting consul general of Japan.

_Sterling Winthrop Inc. and Sterling Health donate medicine valued at more than \$500,000 to earthquake relief efforts.

_Oregon growers and shippers send emergency shipment of 20,000 tons of potatoes for quake victims.

_Heinz donates more than 3,000 cases of food products for quake victims.

_Kellogg Co. donated 440,000 pounds of cereals to earthquake victims.

_WRQ offers its Reflection connectivity software free to Southern California residents for telecommuting while the area recovers from earthquake damage.

_Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. waives some penalties, extends deadlines for quake victims.

_The Voucher Corp., a leading provider of child care and dependent care benefit plans, is offering assistance to help working parents locate and interview alternative child care providers.

_Taiwan donates \$200,000 to California for earthquake relief; the money will go to various state agencies responsible for earthquake recovery and preparedness.

TRANSPORTATION:

_Foothill Transit will provide emergency bus service between the Burbank Metrolink station and the east Pasadena area.

_Transportation officials will re-open parts of the quake-damaged Antelope Valley Freeway.

_Officials open a time-saving detour on Interstate 5 leading around the badly damaged Gavin Canyon Bridge in the Newhall area.

_Metrolink using eight-car train borrowed from San Francisco to meet increased demand on Santa Clarita line; system has experienced three-fold systemwide ridership increase.

_Los Angeles Department of Transportation to begin operating free commuter bus service Union Station to Hollywood to ease commute.

_Truck lanes reopened on the Golden Valley overcrossing on the quake-damaged Antelope Valley (14) Freeway.

BUSINESS IMPACTS:

_Moving industry sees up to 200 percent increase in business after quake.

_House of Fabrics says four quake-damaged stores expected to reopen by the end of February.

_Los Angeles Sports Arena to reopen Saturday following minor repairs.

UTILITIES:

_Water service has been restored to all areas of the city. There may be customers without water at scattered locations throughout the San Fernando Valley because of problems in local distribution or individual service.

_Approximately 15,000 customers are still being asked to boil their water.

_Electricity restored to virtually all of the DWP's 1.3 million customers.

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Swindlers, Crooks Surface to Prey on Quake-Battered Masses

AP Photos LA111

By LARRY GERBER

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) _ Swindlers and looters are preying on earthquake victims and abusing emergency relief programs, authorities said Friday as they began cracking down on the scams.

Federal investigators went to welfare offices to screen phony claims for emergency food stamps. State agents mounted a sting operation in the San Fernando Valley targeting unlicensed contractors and handymen overcharging for quake repairs.

"It never occurred to me that people could be that downright wicked," said Karl Kreuter, a clinical psychologist who lives near a condemned Santa Monica apartment building that was looted.

The Euclid building's main door was stripped of plywood meant to keep out both looters and residents. At least 20 apartment doors had been battered down and possessions rifled through, said resident Molly Concer.

"They broke TV sets, things were gone, folding chairs, everything," she said.

The Jan. 17 earthquake, measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale, killed 61 people and left thousands of buildings uninhabitable. Moderate aftershocks measuring 4.0 and 3.5 struck Friday, but no new damage was reported.

Late Friday, a southbound ramp connecting Highway 14 to Interstate 5 reopened, offering some relief to commuters through the traffic-choked Newhall Pass, 30 miles northwest of downtown.

The pass became a bottleneck when the quake severed a ramp between the freeways and damaged a bridge on the interstate.

To combat fraud, the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday approved a 72-hour waiting period for those applying for a one-time allocation of emergency food stamps. The change goes into effect Saturday.

Previously, stamp seekers only had to give proof of residence, and declare they met low-income requirements and were affected by the quake, to walk away with the stamps, leading to accusations of double-dipping.

"It's not our intent to hassle people who need food. But a few people are going to cheat, and we're trying to strike a balance," said Dick Montoya of the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

Those fraudulently obtaining food stamps could face \$250,000 in fines and 20 years in prison, Montoya said.

State and local prosecutors teamed up with consumer advocates to pursue more than 1,000 complaints of price gouging. Among the complaints:

- _A plumber charged \$1,200 to reconnect a water heater;
- _A hardware store sold \$6 replacement pipes for \$20;
- _Milk and water sold at up to \$10 a gallon, 99-cent batteries for \$4, gasoline for \$2.50 a gallon.

A city law forbids merchants from raising prices more than 10 percent during an emergency. Violators face six-month jail terms and a \$1,000 fine.

Southland Corp., parent of 7-Eleven stores, previously announced it was revoking the franchises of eight store operators who overcharged quake victims.

Four unlicensed contractors offering quake repairs were charged with felonies. A sting operation in which agents posed as quake victims was certain to net more, said Dennis Bishop of the Contractors State License Board.

Those charged under felony statutes could face three years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Also Friday:

_U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala released \$27.5 million for repairs to HHS-funded medical and research centers, Social Security offices, health clinics, substance abuse and treatment programs, family planning clinics and Head Start centers.

_Gov. Pete Wilson announced a \$3 million program to hire people who lost their jobs in the quake for cleanup work. Employees will be paid \$2,000 a month.

_Some 179,000 people registered for federal disaster assistance, and \$27.7 million in temporary housing checks had been issued, federal officials said;

_More than 3,000 people remained in Red Cross shelters and tent camps, and an estimated 1,300 people were camping on their own, said Dick Andrews, head of the state Office of Emergency Services.

AP-DS-01-28-94 1956EST

**FROM PR NEWswire WASHINGTON DC 202-347-5155 01/28/94 18:01
(WITH QUAKE) TO NATIONAL EDITOR:**

**FAIR: FEMA GRANTS TO BE AWARDED TO ILLEGAL ALIENS;
FEDERAL POLICY WILL SHORT-CHANGE MILLIONS OF L.A. QUAKE
VICTIMS;
POTENTIAL FOR BILLIONS IN FRAUDULENT CLAIMS**

**WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 /PRNewswire/ -- The Federation for American
Immigration Reform issued the following:**

**With damage estimates as a result of the Jan. 17 Los Angeles
earthquake running as high as
\$30 billion, federal relief will cover only a fraction of rebuilding
from the devastating natural disaster. Nevertheless, the Federal
Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared its intention of
awarding grants of up to \$12,000 to people who are in the United States
illegally.**

**According to a FEMA statement, "Aliens, whether permanent residents,
temporary residents, or illegal, may be eligible" to receive funds from
the federal government. FEMA further stated that it will not ask
applicants about their citizenship or legal status in the United States
when they apply.**

**People without valid Social Security numbers can prove eligibility
for these grants by producing a letter from a landlord or a utility bill
to prove that they have suffered losses as a result of the quake. These
lax regulations could lead to a booming industry in bogus rent receipts,
letters from landlords and utility bills, costing the taxpayers billions
of dollars.**

**In addition, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
(HUD), working through FEMA, is authorizing emergency Section 8 housing
assistance for quake victims. Under Section 8, families may be eligible
for as much as \$1,335 a month in housing assistance for up to 18 months.
Again, HUD will not distinguish between legal residents of the United
States and illegal aliens in the disbursement of this assistance.**

**While no one would argue with the emergency food and temporary
housing to those who lost their homes as a result of the quake,
providing rebuilding assistance to people who are here illegally is ill-
advised and will inevitably lead to rampant fraud. With FEMA's budget
already stretched beyond the breaking point by Hurricane Andrew, the
Mississippi River floods and a series of disasters in Southern
California, government assistance will cover only a fraction of the
losses that have been incurred over the past two years. Providing
scarce resources to assist illegal immigrants in the United States
cannot be justified under those circumstances.**

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AP-NY-01-28-94 1822EST



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Fax NewsExpress

DISASTER UPDATE

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs
Morrie Goodman, Director

(202) 646-4600

January 28, 1994 4:00 p.m. EST

A summary of information gathered today from situation reports from FEMA's Emergency Support Team, Federal response agencies, the Disaster Field Office in Pasadena, the State of California and local governments affected by the Northridge Earthquake in Southern California:

SITUATION

- * Over 2,500 aftershocks have been recorded since the primary earthquake on Jan. 17. More than a dozen measured over 4.0 (including one yesterday at 4.5) and several were over 5.0 in magnitude.
- * Early and only partial estimates of earthquake losses already exceed those from Hurricane Andrew at more than \$30 billion.
- * Long-range planning is underway to repair and replace the damaged highway infrastructure. Pacific Coast Highway has reopened, but Santa Monica Freeway at La Cienega Boulevard, Antelope Valley Freeway (Highway 14) at Golden State Freeway, and Simi Valley Freeway (Highway 118) at Foothill Freeway remain closed.
- * Electrical and natural gas services have returned to normal in the Los Angeles area.
- * Forty-seven LA County hospitals and medical centers are fully operational, four are open with limited service, and one (San Fernando Health Center) remains closed.
- * All but 9,000 of the area's 640,000 students were expected to return to school today. Although 230 portable classrooms have been added to some damaged schools, 47 schools remain closed.
- * A delegation of emergency management officials from Japan presented a check for earthquake recovery assistance to California's First Lady, Gayle Wilson, on Jan. 26. The Japanese officials are here to observe the earthquake response and recovery effort and gain knowledge that could be valuable in their own earthquake-prone region.

FEDERAL RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- * Seventeen stationary Disaster Application Centers (DACs) and 13 mobile DACs remain in operation throughout the affected area. Latest figures available show that 25,419 applications have been taken for temporary disaster housing assistance alone, and \$27,650,070 has been disbursed for that purpose to date.
- * FEMA's 1-800-462-9029 teleregistration number (TDD: 1-800-462-7585) received 14,534 disaster aid applications in the past 24 hours, for a cumulative total of 131,136.
- * Approximately 7,300 displaced persons are currently staying in 35 shelters (33 American Red Cross, 2 Salvation Army). Another 7,600 are sleeping in tents in temporary emergency shelter parks.
- * A total of 354,630 meals have been served to date from 82 mobile feeding units (72 Red Cross, 5 Salvation Army, 5 Southern Baptist) operating in the disaster area.

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- * **U.S. Forest Service (USFS) personnel** are providing logistical support to the DACs, including heating, lighting, ground covers, tent flies, comfort amenities, and meals to DAC staff. A USFS team is also supporting the Mobilization Center at March AFB, processing over 500,000 pounds of supplies a day.
- * **Six Public Health Service Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs)** are supporting medical centers and health clinics on a 24-hour basis. Two Veterans Administration mobile health clinics are also in operation.
- * **Over 3,000 older persons are homeless**, many as the result of severe damage to two senior-citizen mobile home parks and three senior-citizen centers. Special staff from the Administration on Aging of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are monitoring the DACs to ensure that elderly individuals receive special assistance.
- * **Staff from the Administration on Children and Families (ACF)** of HHS report a total of 27 Headstart sites damaged with over 1,300 children affected. ACF will be providing \$10 million to affected Headstart programs. An additional 4,000 families are newly eligible for payments under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, and applications are being taken in local parks where homeless families are situated.
- * **FEMA and the Federal Transit Administration** have discussed funding for emergency transit needs. Such funds may be provided through LA's Metropolitan Transit Authority. FEMA's earthquake supplemental request includes \$315 million for mass transit and \$200 million for repairs to local roads.
- * **In addition to 5,568 staff and volunteers from the American Red Cross**, tens of thousands of individuals affiliated with 27 other voluntary agencies are active in the disaster response and recovery effort. FEMA, State and local officials meet with representatives of these organizations each Monday to ensure coordination.
- * **All voluntary agencies active in the disaster area** say that a cash contribution is one of the best ways to meet the needs of disaster victims in a timely and effective manner. Priority needs also include blankets, diapers, personal comfort items, and plastic sheeting. Donated clothes are NOT needed. The FEMA donations hotline is 1-800-342-1100.

The news media are requested to publish/broadcast the FEMA toll-free disaster assistance teleregistration number as often as possible: 1-800-462-9029, or 1-800-462-7585 (TDD)

For media inquiries only, Public Affairs staff are available at the Pasadena Disaster Field Office to help media. Their number is 818-405-7548.

Stations should call the FEMA Radio Network at 1-800-323-5248 for a series of recorded actualities on the latest developments. These will be updated daily NLT 3:30 p.m. EST.

Regular TV news briefings on the "Recovery Channel" will be uplinked at 10am PST. Live disaster recovery information will be provided from 1pm to 10pm PST daily. During other hours, a crawl will provide essential information. Satellites are Ku Band, SBS 5, Transponder 4, 3.840 Horizontal; and C Band, Galaxy 6, Transponder 7, 11.872 Horizontal.



**NEWS RELEASE
FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL
COORDINATING OFFICE
Fax NewsExpress**

150 East Colorado Boulevard

Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
CALIFORNIA**

**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#86a
January 28, 1994**

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

Media Contacts:

**FEMA: (818) 405-7548
OES: (818) 405-7408**

DISASTER RELIEF AVAILABLE THROUGH INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY GRANTS

As part of the disaster recovery effort, the Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program has been activated for the victims of the Northridge earthquake, according to Frank L. Kishton, Federal Coordinating Officer and Richard Andrews, Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

"The program provides grants to persons who have serious needs and necessary expenses related to the Northridge earthquake that are not covered by insurance or other federal, state and volunteer disaster assistance programs," Kishton said. * "The amounts of the grants vary depending on the unmet needs of the applicant. The program, administered by the state of California, (funded 75 percent federal and 25 percent state) provides a maximum grant of \$12,200. In addition, the State of California may add up to \$10,000 in state funds for a total of \$22,200."

The grant program is one of the many assistance programs triggered by the major disaster declaration which President Clinton issued on January 17, 1994.

"Essentially, the IFG program is a safety net for people who have exhausted all other means of assistance such as low-interest Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, volunteer agency donations and/or insurance," Andrews added. "We encourage all people who suffered losses from the Northridge earthquake to apply for state and federal assistance."

Grants can be used to cover disaster-related expenses such as essential home repairs, replacement of personal property and transportation. They also may be used for medical and dental bills, funeral expenses and debris removal.

Further information on this or any other disaster assistance program is available by calling the disaster information hotline at 1-800-525-0321 or 1-800-660-8005 TDD for the hearing impaired. This hotline operates 24 hours a day until further notice.

-end-



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**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#86S
27 de enero de 1994**

★

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

CONTACTO DE PRENSA:

FEMA: (818) 405-7455

OES: (818) 405-7408

**ASISTENCIA POR DESASTRE DISPONIBLE EN EL PROGRAMA DE SUBVENCION
INDIVIDUAL Y FAMILIAR**

Como parte del esfuerzo de recuperacion del desastre, el Programa de Subvencion Individual y Familiar (IFG, por sus siglas en ingles) ha sido activado para ayudar a las victimas del terremoto de Northridge, segun Frank L. Kishton, Oficial de Coordinacion Federal, y Richard Andrews, Director de la Oficina del Gobernador de Servicios de Emergencia.

"Este programa provee asistencia a personas que tienen serias necesidades y gastos necesarios relacionados con el terremoto de Northridge y, que a su vez, no tienen cubierta de seguro o ningun tipo de asistencia dentro de los programas federales, estatales o de programas de asistencia de organizaciones voluntarias," dijo Kishton, "la asistencia economica ofrecida bajo este programa varia dependiendo de las necesidades del solicitante. Este programa es administrado por el estado de California y provee una asistencia economica maxima de \$22,000."

Este programa de subvencion es uno de los varios programas ofrecidos bajo la declaracion de desastre firmada por el Presidente Clinton el 17 de enero de 1994.

"En su esencia, el Programa de Subvencion Individual y Familiar es una forma de asegurar que aquellos individuos, que no hayan cualificado para otros programas tales como: prestamos personales bajo la Administracion de Pequenos Negocios (SBA), donaciones de agencias voluntarias y/o cubierta de seguro", dijo Andrews. "Le exhortamos a todas las personas que han sufrido perdidas a consecuencia de terremoto de Northridge, que soliciten asistencia estatal y federal."

Esta asistencia economica puede ser utilizada para cubrir gastos relacionados al desastre tales como: reparaciones en el hogar, remplazo de pertenencias personales y transportacion. Tambien podran ser utilizados para cuentas medicas/dentales, gastos de funeral y eliminacion de escombros.

Para mas informacion sobre este o cualquier otro programa de asistencia por desastre, puede llamar a la Linea de Informacion de Desastre "Hotline" al 1-800-525-0321 " al 1-800-660-8005 TDD (para personas con impedimento del oido o del habla). Esta linea estar operando 24 horas al dia, hasta nuevo aviso.

-fin-

*Hold for release
by BR1E*



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27 de enero de 1994

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California Office of
Emergency Services

CONTACTO DE PRENSA:

FEMA: (818) 405-7455

OES: (818) 405-7408

**DUEÑOS DE NEGOCIOS Y VÍCTIMAS DE DESASTRES
CUIDADO CON LOS TIMADORES**

"Cuando una comunidad pasa por un desastre, los timadores intentan engañar a aquellas personas con necesidades por medio de trampas asociadas con el desastre," dijo Frank Kishton, el Oficial de Coordinación Federal. "Queremos que los dueños de negocios y otros individuos tengan mucho cuidado cuando mantengan asuntos relacionados con el desastre. Si hay duda alguna, consulte con la agencia del gobierno apropiada u organiza con no-lucrativa."

Por ejemplo, mientras los verificadores de FEMA inspeccionan los edificios para los daños del terremoto, además de sugerir que las víctimas empleen a los contratistas licenciados, FEMA no endorasa ni aprueba los contratistas de los edificios.

Entre otras precauciones, pregunte por las licencias de los contratistas u otras credenciales apropiadas al aceptar cualquier cheque de las agencias públicas o los cupones de pago.

Las preguntas acerca de FEMA, la Oficina Estatal de Servicios de Emergencia, y los programas locales de recuperación además de los métodos de operación deben ser dirigidas a la línea de información "hotline". El número gratuito es 1-800-525-0321. Aquellas personas con limitaciones del oído o del habla pueden llamar al número TDD, a 1-800-660-8005.

Para las preguntas relacionadas al fraude de contratistas, llame a la Junta Estatal de Licencias de Contratistas a 1-800-962-1125.

Las preguntas generales relacionadas al fraude de los consumidores pueden ser dirigidas a la Agencia de Protección del Consumidor del Procurador de California. Este número es el 1-800-897-6677 y está en operación desde las 8:00 hasta las 16:30 horas, de lunes a viernes.

-fin-

*Hold for release
by Brie*



NEWS RELEASE FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COORDINATING OFFICE

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O E S
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FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#90

January 28, 1994

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

Media Contacts:

FEMA: (818) 405-7548

OES: (818) 405-7408

Daily News Summary

State/Federal Northridge Earthquake Disaster Facts

To apply for federal/state Disaster Assistance:

24-hour toll-free teleregistration

1-800-462-9029, TDD 1-800-462-7585

For information:

24-hour toll-free information hotline 1-800-525-0321, TDD 1-800-660-8005

Property Damage:

Estimated total structures damaged: 40,000+

Estimated total damage cost: Being assessed.

Injuries:

Patients being admitted to hospitals: 1,397

Injuries/Fatalities: 9,159/57

U.S. Earthquakes Occur in Many Tongues

The diverse population of Southern California makes communication necessary in numerous languages in the relief and recovery efforts of the Northridge earthquake. U.S. Army forces have supplied 116 linguists to support the Disaster Application Centers (DACs), both those in fixed locations and mobile DACs. Three Korean linguists from the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, California, are working at the headquarters of the federal/state/local disaster response and recovery effort in Pasadena. The Defense Coordinating Officer there is also working to acquire the services of seven Russian linguists, and the department of Defense continues to provide an additional five Korean linguists to supplement a contingent of Spanish and English speaking disaster assistance employees.

--more--

Daily Summary

Add One

Human Services: The Assistant City Manager of Fillmore requested the immediate placement of adequate mobile homes for 50 families. An inspector will meet the City Manager and perform inspections to determine availability of existing resources (to include mobile home vacant pads) and applicant eligibility. An abbreviated pre-placement interview of applicants will be performed to determine the need for and location for a mobile home.

Seventeen fixed and 13 mobile state/federal Disaster Application Centers (DACs) are open. DAC hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily until further notice.

Public Works and Engineering: The Army Corps of Engineers (COE) provided 189 engineers to conduct building safety inspections and so far they have completed a few hundred inspections of commercial and public buildings, condominiums, apartments, and single-family dwellings.

Firefighting: Forest Service Base Camp managers are now assigned to 18 Disaster Application Centers (DACs) and are taking actions to resolve meal, and health and safety needs.

Mass Care: Total shelter occupancy of 7,323 persons continues to decline as programs to assist in the transition from emergency shelters to transitional housing reach more of the affected population. The population at temporary emergency park shelters is 1,782. This number is declining as more suitable housing is located and because of local efforts to reassure those affected by the quake that their "green tagged" homes are safe to reoccupy.

Health and Medical Services: Health surveillance activities continue in the affected areas with the goal of avoiding outbreaks of disease associated with post-earthquake living conditions. The local/state/federal public health and medical services plan for individuals encamped in parks is being monitored so that additional resources may be provided as needed. The assessment of the affected area continues with public health outreach teams focusing on outbreak control, disease control, and food and water safety.

Food: Federal, State, and Los Angeles County officials met to discuss measures to reduce the long lines at offices taking applications for emergency food stamps. Participants agreed to develop a more efficient crowd control plan, draw resources and staffing from all County resources, and develop a campaign to counter on-the-street perceptions that this is an easy, free-food program. Consolidation of the 29 emergency food stamp application sites into five super sites was suggested. Law enforcement officers supported this proposal since it would allow them to concentrate their forces.

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**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR91
January 28, 1994**

*California Office of
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Media Contacts:

FEMA: (818) 405-7548

OES: (818) 405-7408

Teleregistration Available Immediately to Register for Disaster Assistance

Earthquake survivors who have received appointments from busy Disaster Application Centers (DACs) to return at some future date for state/federal disaster assistance are encouraged to call the teleregistration number to initiate the disaster assistance process as soon as possible.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) note that the addition of more phone lines and operators has eased the initial log jam on the toll-free disaster application hotline.

FEMA National Teleregistration Center in Denton, Texas reports that there is a lag between calls (indicating that callers are experiencing no busy signals whatever).

The system has caught up with the overwhelming demand for disaster assistance due to an accelerated expansion of available operators. Individuals may call Teleregistration (1-800-462-9029; TDD 1-800-462-7585).

The Disaster Information Hotline, for application status reports and assistance program information, is 1-800-525-0321; TDD 1-800-660-8005). Teleregistration operators are available to take calls in a variety of languages 24-hours a day, seven days a week until further notice.

--end--



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**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#92
January 28, 1994**

*California Office of
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Media Contacts:

FEMA: (818) 405-7548

OES: (818) 405-7408

FEDERAL/STATE OFFICIALS URGE ALL TO APPLY

More than 178,000 residents of Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura counties have registered for federal/state disaster assistance since the Northridge earthquake.

Still, disaster officials are concerned that many of those who could benefit from the various programs have not yet applied.

"Some people might think they earn too much or have too little property damage to qualify," said Richard Andrews, Director, Governors Office of Emergency Services.

"I've even heard that some persons whose homes have been green-tagged as structurally sound think that makes them not-eligible," said Andrews. "What they should do is allow us to determine their eligibility. There may be programs that can benefit them, no matter what their income level or extent of damage."

Disaster assistance is not welfare, and not all forms of assistance are monetary. Valuable advice is also available on state and federal income tax relief, veteran and Social Security issues, property tax relief and more.

Anyone who experienced losses due to the earthquake should visit a Disaster Application Center (DAC) or call the toll-free Teleregistration number at 1-800-462-9029 or 1-800-465-7585 TDD for the speech or hearing impaired. Persons with questions about any of the available programs may call the toll-free information hotline at 1-800-525-0321 and 1-800-660-8005 TDD for the speech or hearing impaired.

-end-



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FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#93

January 28, 1994

*California Office of
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Media Contacts:

FEMA: (818) 405-7548

OES: (818) 405-7408

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS

State-Federal Assistance Scoreboard

Calls to state-federal disaster information hotline: 48,179

Total Number of Disaster Application Centers: 182

Registration for state-federal assistance:

At Disaster Application Center 47,562

Via toll-free registration 131,136

Total 178,698

Temporary Housing Checks Issued 12,831

Total Value of Checks Issued \$39,398,801

Small Business Administration

Loans Approved 104

Total Value of SBA Loans \$3,245,500

Beginning Sunday, January 30, all Disaster Application Centers will operate between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Not for Publication

Earthquake daily news briefings continue to be conducted at the Federal Emergency Management Agency/State Disaster Field Office at 245 S. Robles Ave., Pasadena. Discussing disaster medical concerns at the 10 a.m. session tomorrow (Saturday, Jan. 29) will be U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala. With her will be Assistant Secretary for Aging Fernando Torres-Gil, and Social Security Commissioner Shirley Chater, who will be prepared to discuss the federal response to senior citizens affected by the disaster. Additional disaster concerns and status reports will be discussed by Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Lee Witt and Director Richard Andrews, of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

-end-



MEDIA ADVISORY FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COORDINATING OFFICE

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FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#94

January 28, 1994

*California Office of
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Media Contacts:

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OES: (818) 405-7408

MEDIA ADVISORY - NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE NEWS BRIEFING

NOTES: BEFORE/AFTER BRIEFING, MEDIA INVITED TO TOUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM AREA AT DISASTER FIELD OFFICE

WHEN: Saturday, January 29, 10:00 a.m.

**WHERE: Disaster Field Office
245 S. Los Robles
Pasadena, CA 91101**

PARTICIPANTS:

**Secretary Donna E. Shalala
Health and Human Services**

**Director James Lee Witt
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

**Bill Ludwig, Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Program**

**Director Richard Andrews
Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)**

ISSUES:

- * Health and Human Services' earthquake recovery activities**
- * Emergency food stamp program**
- * Earthquake concerns of the day**
- * Question & answer session**
- * One-on-one interviews**

ATTENTION

TV STATIONS: The briefings will be made available by satellite at the following coordinates: KU Band SBS-5, Transponder 4; C-Band Galaxy 6, Transponder 7

-end



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**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#95
January 28, 1994**

*California Office of
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Media Contacts:

**FEMA: (818) 405-7548
OES: (818) 405-7408**

**PRESIDENT AUTHORIZES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PAY
90 PERCENT OF EARTHQUAKE INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR COSTS**

When President Bill Clinton inspected the Northridge earthquake damage on January 19 he said that it was likely that California would qualify for increased funding for infrastructure repair, and if that were the case, he would authorize the change. He made good on that promise today (January 28) when he approved a higher level of federal funding to repair damaged roads, bridges and other public facilities.

The President's action changes the cost sharing split between federal and state governments. The federal government will now pay 90 percent of total eligible infrastructure costs, and the state of California and/or local government will pay 10 percent. Ordinarily, federal agencies cover 75 percent of the cost and the state and local government pays 25 percent of the cost of repair of public property.

"I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the state of California, resulting from an earthquake and aftershocks on January 17, 1994, and continuing, is of sufficient severity and magnitude that special cost-sharing conditions are warranted under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("the Stafford Act") for the Public Assistance program," the President said in a letter to James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The cost-sharing adjustment applies only to public infrastructure. The law prohibits a similar adjustment for the Individual and Family Grant program. The federal government will continue to reimburse 75 percent of those costs.

However, the federal government will pay 100 percent of the direct federal costs for emergency response to the Northridge earthquake. The funding for emergency work began on the day of the earthquake, January 17, and continued through January 25.

-end-

DAILY CLIPS

Special Edition
The Los Angeles Earthquake

**NEWSPAPER CLIPS
TELEVISION NEWS TRANSCRIPTS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1994**

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PLEASE RECYCLE CLIPS

Quake Brings Down Walls, And Neighborhood Emerges

By SARA RIMER

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29 — This week, for the first time in the four and a half years that they have been next-door neighbors, nodding and saying hello, but nothing more, Vera Marx and Dinah Freedman visited each other's homes. The earthquake left both their houses in shambles.

"We're talking now," Mrs. Freedman, who is rearing five children, said the other evening as she prepared dinner in the garage, where her family has been camped out for the last 10 days.

Her husband, Gary Freedman, a psychiatrist, said: "We're not just talking. We gave them our keys."

Before, a Typical Block

Extraordinary things have been happening here at the epicenter in the city's Northridge section, on the J-shaped cul-de-sac of Rathburn Avenue and Septo Street. Until the earthquake, it was a typical block in the San Fernando Valley: Fourteen one-

and two-story ranch houses with orange trees and big backyards, some with swimming pools. With houses selling for \$300,000, it was the affordable California dream, a mile from the freeway. Privacy and security mattered more than conviviality. It is like that all over Los Angeles — "the most private city in America," Steve Martin called it in the movie "L.A. Story."

The disputes that arose between neighbors had to do with space: the Marxes's lush bougainvillea had grown over onto the Freedmans' garage. The Weismans' Dalmations had ventured into the Navas's yard, next door. Around each house there were walls — five-foot-high cinder block and concrete walls, as Californian as the swimming pools. (By law here, swimming pools must be enclosed by walls or fences.)

Several doors down from the Freedmans, Louise Lamb was talking about the earthquake the other evening with her neighbors, Fauzy and Berta Handel, from El Salvador, over the rubble of what had been the wall between their houses. It was the longest conversation they had had since the Handels, who do not speak English fluently, arrived on the block seven years ago.

"I'm 5 foot 4," said Mrs. Lamb, who is 71 and has lived on the block for 28 years with her husband, Robert, a retired geography professor. "It's kind of hard to talk over a wall."

The Handels, she said, had offered

Major Aftershocks Felt

Buildings and nerves were rocked in Los Angeles as three aftershocks, one registering 5.0 on the Richter scale, struck during the night. Page 18.

Continued From Page 1

her a pizza. "I was about to say that we had just eaten dinner," Mrs. Lamb said. "But my daughter said, 'Take it.' They were trying to be friendly."

Looking for a Message

The emergency housing of choice on the block is a borrowed RV, parked on the street. Lyle and Tammy Weisman and their four sons have been crowded into one since city inspectors condemned their house. With his office shut down by the earthquake, Mr. Weisman, a financial consultant who normally leaves for work at 5 A.M. and returns at 7 P.M., was taking phone calls the other day on his front lawn.

"There's some message in all of this," he said between calls. "I'm trying to figure it out. Maybe it has to do with being neighborly. All the fences went down."

Mrs. Weisman has had the chance to see some of her neighbors clearly for the first time. "We actually spoke," she said. "Before, I could only tell you what they looked like behind the tinted glass of their cars."

Mrs. Weisman, who drives a Toyota, said she knew her neighbors across the street, Frank and Martha Kertes, by their black Mercedes.

The common experience of the earthquake has swept away the need for security and privacy and, at least for now, the block is a community. With their water supply cut off, Lolita and Heinz Frederick have hooked a line into the Marxes's house, next door. The Marxes have water, but no gas. So when Paul Marx, a retired chemist, turned 65 four days after the earthquake, Mrs. Frederick baked a banana nut cake and invited the Marxes over for a surprise party. They had never before broken bread together.

"In California we're not kaffeeklatsch people," Mrs. Frederick said. "We have our own lives."

**'Wait a minute,
you look familiar
to me. We live
across the street.'**

Until the earthquake, Dr. Freedman's world had been defined by his family, his synagogue and his mentally ill patients, who live in group homes. Now, he said, "it seems like the world is our block." Nearly every day the 46-year-old psychiatrist has reported another encounter with a neighbor.

"The other night I went to drop off some pictures I had taken of the house at an instant-photo place next to Lucky's department store," he said. "The owner was acting real familiar. She started telling me their floor was cracked. I said, 'I have five kids, we're living in the garage.' She said, 'We know that.' I said, 'Wait a minute, you look familiar to me.' She said, 'We live across the street.'"

Alice Parseghian, along with her brother and sister-in-law, Levon and Arpine Parseghian, had moved in five years ago. They are Lebanese-Arménians, from Kuwait. With sister and brother both putting in long hours — she at the instant-photo shop, he at his jewelry and watch repair business — the block is where they eat and rest. Dr. Freedman, in turn, leaves at 8:20 each morning to drive his children to school, and often does not get home from work until 10 P.M.

It is nothing like Kuwait. There the Parseghians lived in an apartment. "All the neighbors knew each other — no exceptions," Alice Parseghian said. "We have to visit at least once a day, if not four or five times."

The people along the cul-de-sac consider themselves fortunate. Three houses have been condemned. Seven others have cracked walls, broken

glass and dishes, books and clothes scattered everywhere. But no one was physically harmed.

The damage to the houses is already being repaired. It is more difficult to predict whether the changes in behavior that are now visible will become permanent. The Kertes rebuilt their wall the day after the earthquake. The Handels are working on theirs. The Marxes and the Freedmans are in discussions about their wall, which is shared.

Questioning Security

For the past week, though, the residents have been questioning everything from the notion of security — does it exist anywhere? — to community, to their life styles and relationships.

"Normally, I run to pick up one kid at school, then the other one," said Mrs. Freedman, who is 45 and grew up in Mexico. "Then I go shopping. Then I run into the house and start cooking dinner. I take care of my husband's documents and papers. By Friday night, I drop like a potato on the couch, and I'm too exhausted to care if the earth falls down. When something like this happens, you think: 'What am I doing here? What is my purpose? What is the next step?'"

Mark Nolte, 34, who has spent the last 10 years moving, from Seattle to San Francisco to San Diego to Los Angeles, and leaving people, has had to move one more time. The house he was sharing with two roommates has been condemned.

"I lost my security, my place to stay," Mr. Nolte, a management trainee for a sporting goods company, said, standing amid the wreckage. But it didn't matter, he said. Smiling, he explained that after the earthquake he could not stop holding onto Simonette, the woman he had been seeing casually since they met at a sports bar in December. It was, he said, the first time he had fallen in love.

"I've been on my own since I was 21," he said. "I was so used to getting up and moving. All I learned was how to leave friends, and how not to get hurt."

Mr. Nolte's friend, a 23-year-old bank clerk, was the first person he called from a pay phone after the earthquake. "I was coming out of this war zone," he said. "She said, 'Come here and let me take care of you.' That last little bit of machismo was gone. I said, 'I'll be there in an hour, babe.'" And, he said, he headed for the freeway.

Old Worries Fade

The father of five down the block, Dr. Freedman, meanwhile, has stopped worrying about his Mercury Sable station wagon. "The week before the earthquake my auto transmission went

out," he said. "The warranty was for 60,000 miles. I had 60,700 miles. The repair cost \$2,500. I was pretty bummed out. Then the earthquake happens, and all of a sudden the car was no problem. Who cares? My rabbi gave me a Talmudic saying: 'I was afraid of a dog until I saw a lion.'"

The earthquake is Dr. Freedman's lion. He feels as alive, he said, as he did back when he was a young art student in San Francisco.

"Someone told me that Michelangelo fit 1,000 years of living into one lifetime," he said. "I wanted to do that. In normal life, things are predictable. You know where things are. Now I don't even know where my toothbrush is. Every day something new develops."

Dr. Freedman recently waited in line for six hours at the Federal Emergency Management Agency office. "I had an interesting time," he said. "I brought my videocamera. There were thousands of people there. It's history."

Overnight he turned his garage into living quarters, moving in bunk beds, a sofa and dining room table and chairs, hanging curtains and installing a telephone. With a hot plate, and basins

instead of a dishwasher, Mrs. Freedman has been keeping a kosher kitchen in the garage.

The other afternoon Dr. Freedman was building a storage shed in the backyard. Watching him work, Mrs. Freedman admired her husband's hands. "That's one of the things I fell in love with," she said. "He puts all his mind, all his strength into something, and his hands go with it."

For Paul and Vera Marx, who have reared one daughter on the block, the earthquake has meant a physical separation. Mrs. Marx has been sleeping in a friend's RV parked on the street. While her house has been deemed safe, she is fearful of the aftershocks. Mr. Marx, who is 6 feet 5, says he is too tall for the RV, and sleeps in their bedroom. He misses his wife, he said.

"I just hope I can get her away for a little bit," he said. "The best thing is to find someplace that's aftershock-free."

A trip may not be long enough for his wife. "I hate California, I hate California, I hate California," she said. "I tell him 'I'm leaving, with or without you.' He just looks at me."

At the other end of the cul-de-sac, Berta Handel has also arrived at a decision: "No more Limoges," she said, vowing not to buy another piece of the expensive china that she and her husband, who owns a money-changing business, have been collecting for years. It all broke in the earthquake.

Four doors down, Cass Golnaraghi, who owns a car wash, was also re-evaluating the importance of material things. He said he had paid \$280,000 for his five-bedroom house five years ago, and spent \$50,000 for renovations. It has been condemned.

"This is nothing," Mr. Golnaraghi said, surveying the ruins. "It's just all money."

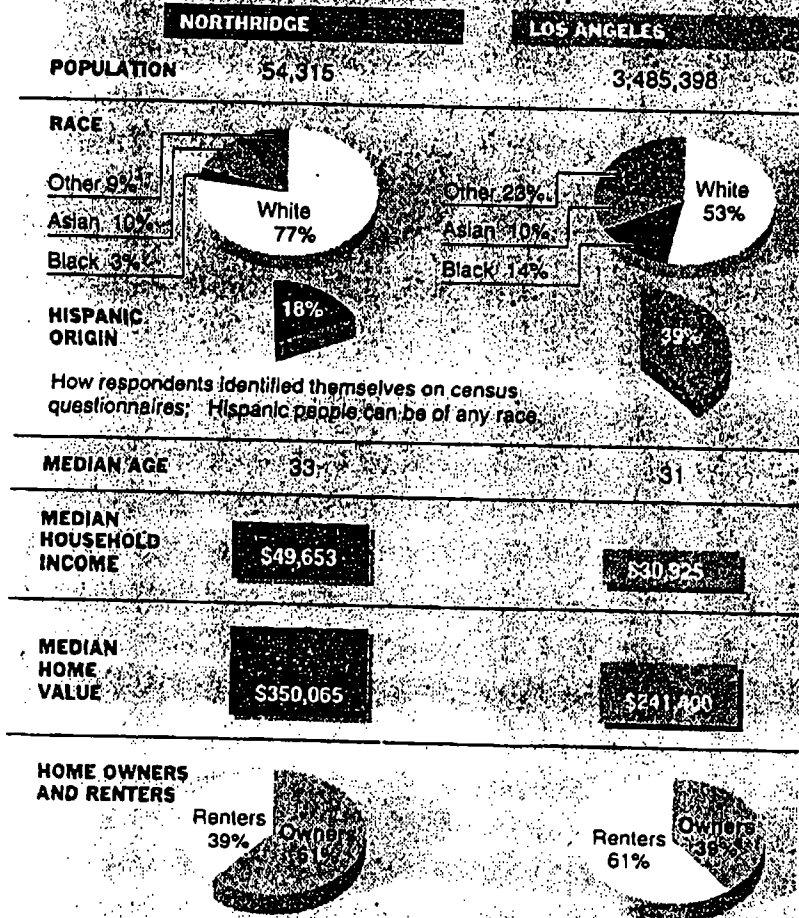
Mrs. Weisman lost the wedding china from her mother. "I'm sorry it went, but I'm not going to mourn for it," she said. "Maybe this is all about paring down, and doing with less."

Maybe so, said her husband, who grew up in Beverly Hills.

Though no one knows how long it will last, the Weismans' block has been transformed. Still, Mr. Weisman said drily, "There should have been an easier way to do this."

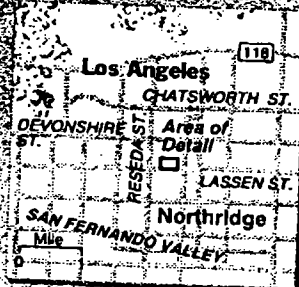
How Northridge Compares to Its City

Data from the 1990 census



Source: Census Bureau; data analysis by Jeannie D'Amico, Queens College Sociology Dept.

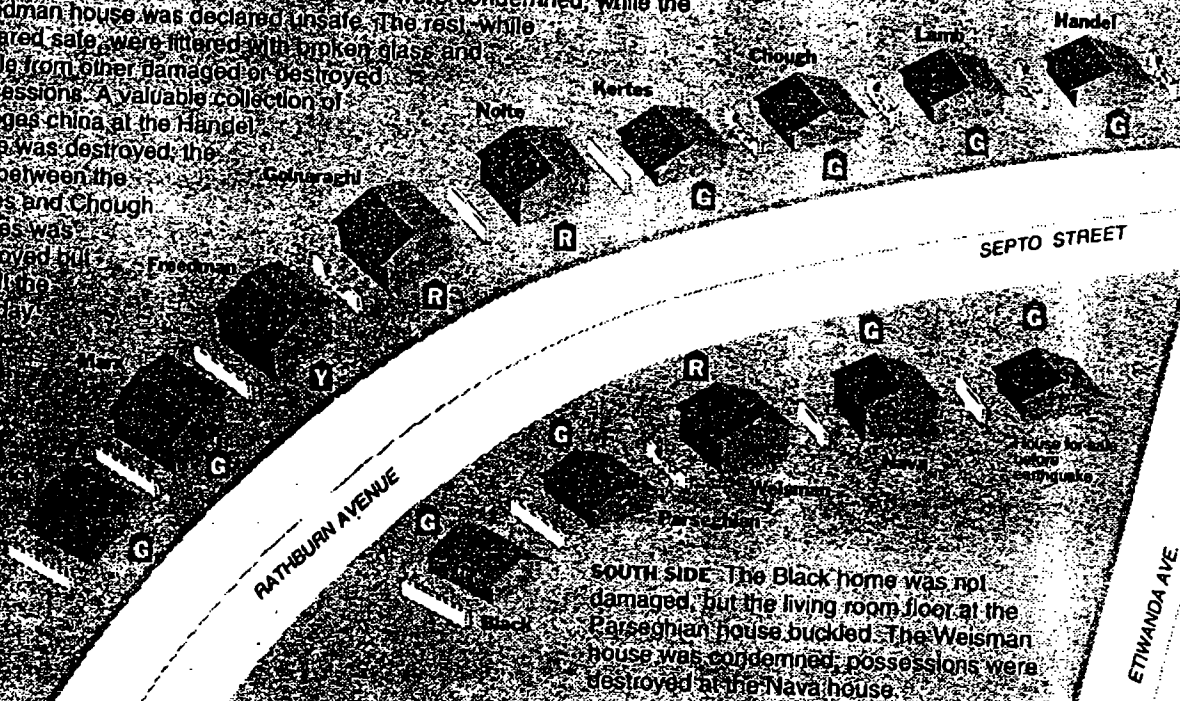
Earthquake Damage, House by House



- R** Condemned—red tag
- Y** Unsafe but not condemned—yellow tag
- G** Safe to enter, no structural damage—green tag



NORTH SIDE: The Frederick home suffered almost no damage, but others were not so lucky. The Golnaraghi and Notta houses were condemned, while the Freedman house was declared unsafe. The rest, while declared safe, were littered with broken glass and rubble from other damaged or destroyed possessions. A valuable collection of Limoges china at the Handel home was destroyed; the wall between the Kertes and Chough houses was destroyed but rebuilt the next day.



SOUTH SIDE: The Black home was not damaged, but the living room floor at the Parseghian house buckled. The Weisman house was condemned; possessions were destroyed at the Nava house.

Three Strong Aftershocks Cause More Destruction in Los Angeles

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29 — Nearly two weeks after a major earthquake brought normal life to a standstill here, three strong aftershocks rattled the city early this morning, causing a new round of slightly damaged highways, collapsed walls and frazzled nerves.

The new quakes were felt throughout the city and they all occurred within an hour of each other. One aftershock registered 5.0 on the Richter scale of ground motion and lasted 20 seconds.

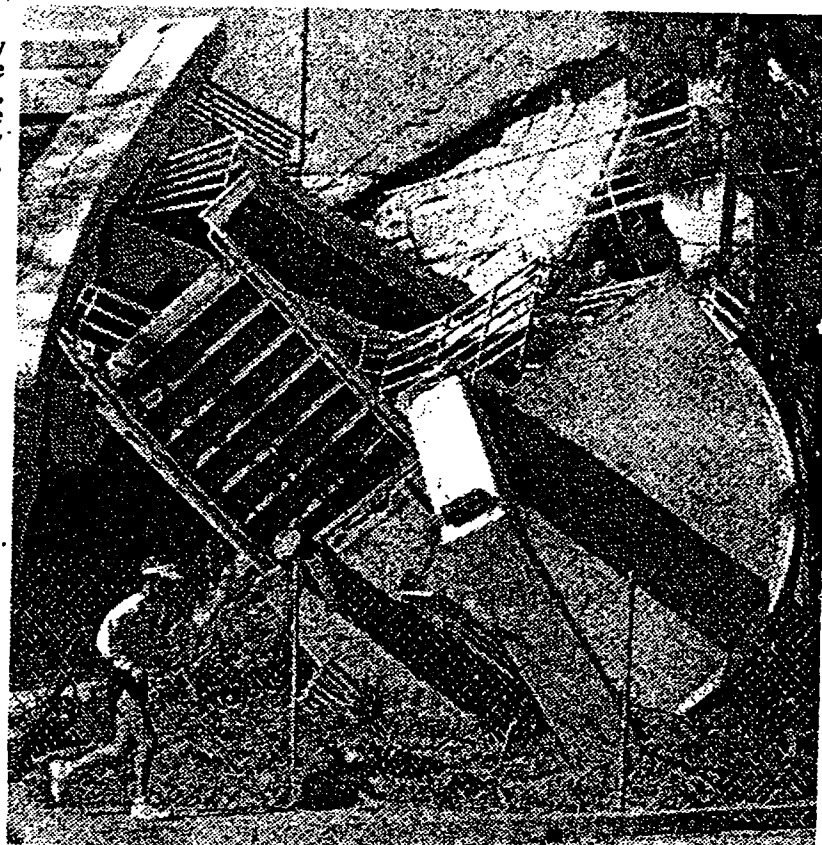
Seismologists have recorded more than 3,000 aftershocks since a magnitude 6.6 earthquake jolted the city on Jan. 17, killing 61 people and injuring thousands. People here have not felt most of those tremors, but many of the stronger ones have awakened them at night or startled them during the day. More than 300 of the shakes have been of 3.0 magnitude or greater, and more than 30 have been over magnitude 4.0.

Assessing New Damage

Such strong aftershocks are expected after a major earthquake, said Jay Aller, a spokesman with the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. Aftershocks from the Jan. 17 quake could continue for a year and several could be of a magnitude over 5.0, he said.

City and state officials dispatched hundreds of workers today to assess the new damage, reinspecting buildings that had been hit by the major earthquake and examining others that had not been damaged. A partly collapsed parking structure at California State University at Northridge collapsed further, and four freeway bridges were closed this morning after they sustained damage.

Bob Steinbach, emergency management coordinator for the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, said the earlier quake had already weakened structures, leaving them at risk. "There's bound to be significant



A large aftershock yesterday caused a partly fallen parking structure at the California State University at Northridge to collapse further.

damage from the aftershocks because some of the buildings were perched precariously."

The damage from today's aftershocks is adding more work for building inspectors already stretched to their limits. Eight hundred of them from city, state and county agencies are posting buildings with red, green or yellow signs that say in Spanish and

English how safe each structure is.

More than 33,000 buildings have been inspected since the Jan. 17 earthquake, and 27,000 have been found damaged to some degree, Mr. Steinbach said.

More than 1,700 have been red-tagged, meaning they are unsafe and uninhabitable. More than 5,000 have been tagged yellow, meaning they have been found damaged enough to permit

The toll from new California jolts: bridges, a garage, nerves.

limited entry. Nearly 20,000 dwellings have been evacuated, Mr. Steinbach said.

But recently some city officials have questioned whether many buildings have been wrongly condemned and many people mistakenly told they must leave their homes and apartment and seek Federal help.

Inexperienced Inspectors

Mr. Steinbach said that with so many buildings affected and inexperienced volunteers doing some of the work on the basis of only short orientations, the process is bound to be faulty. But he said many buildings will be reinspected in coming months and found to be safer than they were first thought, he said.

"This is a rapid evaluation," he said. "We go down the street, do a quick loop around the house and if there's no apparent damage, we won't post it. But if we see anything suspicious, we will. The only thing we have on our minds is life safety," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency said that 34,820 people had applied for housing assistance by Friday and that 12,831 checks had been issued to cover people's housing needs for up to three months.

At the end of the three months, those receiving aid must reapply. Even if a structure is later declared habitable, the first Federal aid has already been paid out.

Earthquake offers Californians sneak preview of 'telecommuting'

By Hugh Dellios
TR STAFF WRITER

SANTA CLARITA, Calif.—Happily secluded from the metropolis 30 miles away, residents of this picturesque desert valley north of Los Angeles are finding themselves trapped in their own paradox.

Many of them had fled up the Golden State Freeway over the decade in search of a spot where the streets were safer and the air clear enough for a view of the encircling San Gabriel, Santa Monica and Tehachapi Mountains. Their entire outlook changed at 4:31 a.m. Jan. 17.

When the 6.6-magnitude earthquake dropped the Golden State Freeway like it was made of toy blocks, people in the Santa Clarita Valley realized how tenuous and how important their sole concrete connection to the big city really was.

Suddenly, half of those in the valley's work force found that instead of their usual 30- to 40-minute commute, they were in five-hour, bumper-to-bumper trips on side roads.

Rather than abandoning their beloved retreat, however, Santa Claritans soon may lead Los Angeles' urgent, post-quake foray into a high-tech future of "telecommuting," working from home with the help of computers, phone lines and data networks.

Los Angeles officials long have telecommuting as a way to reduce congestion on the region's extensive network of freeways.

With the increase of service-sector computer jobs, the possibility of employees working at home increased, although officials said scaling was needed to break workers' corporate habits.

"We recognized this technology as the wave of the future, but in light of the damage [from] the earthquake, that future is now," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich.

Within days of the quake, some people were commuting to their offices in downtown Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley via a helicopter service that charged as little as \$40 a trip.

And suddenly, there was a rush for seats on the Metrolink suburban commuter train, which has its own tunnel through the mountains to the city—a fact few area residents knew or cared about until the quake.

But as the jammed trains rolled out of the Santa Clarita station last week, many riders were talking about turning their homes into what telecommuter junkies call "virtual offices."

"I haven't heard anyone say they'd rather live in L.A. so they didn't risk being cut off," said James Dale, 39, an AT&T data network architect who occasionally telecommutes from his Santa Clarita home and rides the Metrolink when he has to go downtown. "It's more like people talking about how we can stay here and make it work."

Many workers got a taste of telecommuting in the days after the quake—if they could find a

phone line working. And with reconstruction of the Golden State Freeway and the Santa Monica Freeway on Los Angeles' West Side expected to take a year, it's likely to become an increasingly attractive option.

Los Angeles city and county officials on Thursday announced the start of a Southern California Emergency Telecommuting Partnership with the federal government.

The program will provide incentives such as 800 numbers, information kiosks and funding to companies that want to get their workers off the freeways.

Officials said they plan to add to the 12 telecommuting centers already in operation in the Los Angeles area, including one north of Santa Clarita in the city of Lancaster.

The first weekend after the quake, Pacific Bell Telephone Co. offered free installation of telecommuting equipment to any interested company and received 500 calls from Los Angeles' six area-code regions.

By coincidence, a development company in the Santa Clarita Valley began promoting a 30,000-square-foot building as a telecommuting center just days before the earthquake.

One major company, a health-care provider, already had moved in, but the quake unleashed a flood of calls from other potential tenants interested in renting "state-of-the-art telecommuting suites" specially equipped for video conferencing, computer networking and high-speed, high-capacity fiber optics.

Among the callers were officials of Health Net, a health maintenance organization that fields 10,000 patient calls a day, mostly at its corporate headquarters in the San Fernando Valley where the quake was centered.

The company already had two dozen Santa Clarita Valley employees who were telecommuting. Now it plans to set up 60 more in their own close-to-home work stations, answering calls.

"We have found that it is great for the morale of employees. We are saving them a 70-mile commute," said James Wilk, Health Net's vice president for human resources. "And now the earthquake is a powerful opportunity for applying this new technology available to us. This is something we're going to be in for the long run."

In the next year or so, Santa Clarita Valley, with \$162 million in quake damage, could be a perfect laboratory for telecommuting and other new experiments in getting to and from work.

Among the 147,000 valley residents seriously thinking about phone commuting is the City of Santa Clarita's intergovernmental affairs director, Michael Murphy.

A California native, Murphy, 38, said what had been a 40-minute commute from Simi Valley is now an hour to 2½ hours. And when he arrives, his office is a makeshift plastic tent because the damaged city hall has been evacuated.

"A lot of what I do is on the phone. Why not do it at home?" Murphy said.

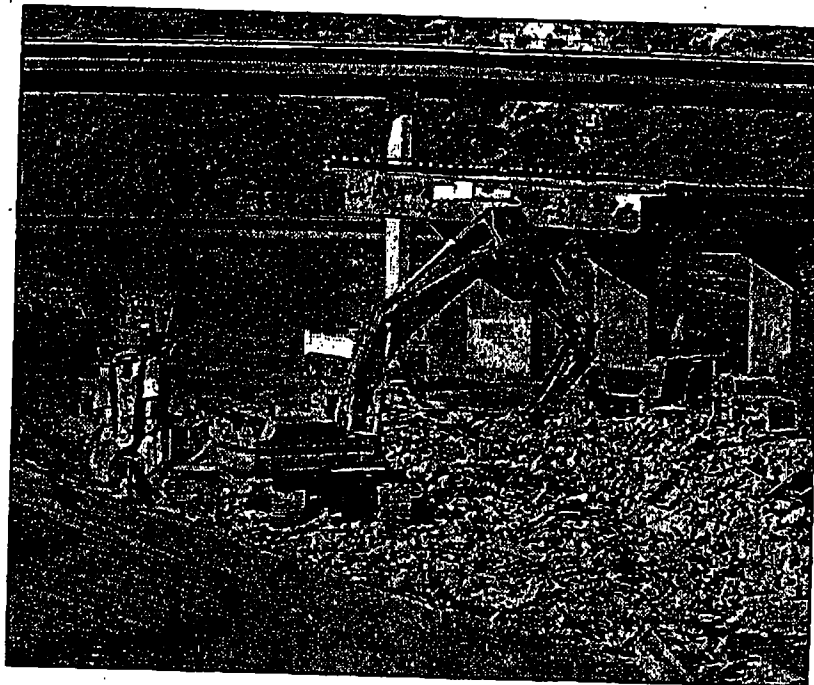
Another who may be thinking about it is John Canavan, who spent two hours commuting via shuttle buses and Metrolink to Universal Studios on the south end of the San Fernando Valley, where he helps design the attractions for the studio's popular theme park.

Transportation officials are hoping to match San Francisco's experience after its 1989 quake, when a third of new train riders kept up the practice. Metrolink ridership last week soared from 400 to 6,000 a day, and commuters' cars were spilled a mile down the road from the station.

But Canavan was talking about moving his family closer to work.

"I love the mountains. I love the atmosphere here. I don't want to move, but I can't work this way," he said.

"This has changed everybody's way of thinking."



Reuters photo

With quake-damaged sections of the Golden State Freeway closed, many Santa Clarita Valley residents will rely on "telecommuting."

Strong Aftershocks Damages Freeways, Structures

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29—The strongest aftershock in 10 days jolted Southern California before dawn today, disabling more freeways and further damaging teetering structures.

The 3:20 a.m. jolt, which measured 5.0 on the Richter scale, rumbled through town on the first night that some families had finally summoned the courage to return to their damaged apartments. There were no reports of injuries.

The aftershock was the second-strongest since the initial Jan. 17 quake. An immediate aftershock measured 5.6, and a Jan. 19 aftershock also measured 5.0. There

were several other aftershocks this morning, including a magnitude 4.2 tremor at 4:16 a.m.

"Even as a 5, it's not at all unexpected," said seismologist Lucy Jones at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

The tremor was centered in the Northridge-Granada Hills area of the San Fernando Valley, 20 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. It was felt over much of Southern California. Street lights were knocked out in Santa Monica and a water main snapped in Northridge.

In Hollywood, workers hastily removed dangerous sections of a 70-unit apartment complex after today's jolts worsened cracks and

holes in the brick walls. A section of the Santa Monica Freeway that had been open to carpools sagged six inches and was temporarily closed. The section is east of the portion that collapsed in the initial quake.

Two lanes of a main link of the Ventura Freeway, another major east-west corridor, were closed when cracks were found at an overpass.

The Jan. 17 earthquake registered 6.6 on the Richter scale and killed 61 people. The Red Cross estimates 50,000 family dwellings were damaged.

Other developments today:

- Officials said they will suspend an emergency food stamp program for one day Sunday to set up a plan to

combat fraud. The program has distributed \$13.8 million in food vouchers to date to some 75,000 applicants, but began using a three-day waiting period on Friday.

- City officials said hundreds of earthquake-damaged buildings may have been wrongly tagged as unsafe or seriously damaged. Conversely, some buildings approved for limited entry are actually unsafe. Russell Lane, the city's chief building inspector, said as many as 30 percent of the ratings will be changed.

- Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala announced that her department was making available \$28 million to provide services to earthquake victims.

Earthquake May Have Succeeded Where California Developers Failed

Santa Monica Risks Losing Its Eclectic Mix to Gentrification

By William Hamilton
Washington Post Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—If Santa Monica were a building, it would be the Sea Crest Apartments, nine stories of 1920s aqua and pink Art Deco architecture that has the beach and the Pacific Ocean as its front yard.

In the Sea Crest lives an eclectic mix of tenants, a cross-section of California culture in all its manifestations—therapists, political activists, aspiring screenwriters, retirees, drug dealers and at least one celebrity, singer Joan Baez. All were attracted to the unbeatable combination of ocean views at rent-controlled prices.

Since Jan. 17, when the earthquake hit Santa Monica with a strength about the same as that at the epicenter, the Sea Crest has been boarded up and closed. Tenants such as Manny Greenhill, 76, Baez's former manager, are going to have to move out of what Greenhill calls his "Chelsea Hotel on the beach," referring to the fabled New York hotel popular among artists and pop stars.

Sea Crest's tenants do not know yet whether they will ever be able to come back.

If the apartments are demolished, there will be no problem

building something in their place—developers for years have eyed the property, which is flanked by two luxury hotels. But a special kind of community could be lost.

Santa Monica itself faces the same prospect. Many fear the earthquake will succeed where landlords and developers have failed, opening up the city of 87,000 to further gentrification and threatening a fragile mixture of rich and poor, moguls and the middle class.

The precise numbers fluctuate, but city officials say the earthquake destroyed or heavily damaged at least 2,400 apartment units, roughly 15 percent of the city's housing stock, and displaced nearly 2,900 people.

The loss of those apartments, even if temporary, threatens Santa Monica's carefully preserved diversity. That mix of residents has been safeguarded in recent years by a range of aggressive, and at times radical, city policies, from strict zoning regulations to provisions that every development include at least 30 percent low- and moderate-income housing.

But even with those policies, "the People's Republic of Santa Monica," as the city is sometimes known because of its home-grown style of progressivism, can often seem more like the kingdom of the beautiful people.

Change—in the form of fashionable restaurants and stores and outrageously expensive homes—has come rapidly in recent years.

Twenty years ago, when actress Jane Fonda and her husband Tom Hayden moved into a rambling old beach house her actor father, Henry Fonda, called "the shack," the city had a small-town quality that set it apart from the fashionable environs of the Hollywood Hills and Brentwood.

While movie moguls such as Louis B. Mayer had always kept beach places on the Santa Monica shore, the city was also home to a huge McDonnell Douglas Corp. aircraft plant and thousands of working-class and middle-class families in modest houses or apartment complexes.

Today Fonda is gone, her place taken by a generation of newer stars—such as Jeff Bridges, Darryl Hannah and Michelle Pfeiffer—who do not do their wash at a neighborhood laundromat, as Fonda is reputed to have done for a time.

Housing prices, fueled by the inflated market of the 1980s, have skyrocketed. And entertainment industry giants such as MGM and Sony Music have relocated here, forsaking Hollywood and the rest of Los Angeles for Santa Monica's clean ocean air, shorter commute and increasing glitz.

"I think we are one of the smallest big towns in America," said City Councilman Ken Genser. "We used to be just a small town."

"The pressure for commercial growth, for high-rises, the affluent enclave by the sea is tremendous," said Hayden, no longer married to Fonda but still active in city politics as a state senator. "But it hasn't entirely succeeded because Santa Monica has rent control and has growth control."

Hayden has been in the middle of the struggle to preserve Santa Monica, often at odds with city officials. Right now he is one of the

most vocal critics of a plan by the Rand Corp., a think tank with headquarters here, to develop office and retail space and build 350 residential units on property near City Hall.

Politics in Santa Monica revolves around development issues, and the city-wide referendum that approved rent control in 1979 is generally considered a watershed in the city's recent history. Every apartment built before that date is subject to the controls. The state legislature, in reaction, made sure it was possible for a landlord to take his units off the market, but there is lingering resentment on the part of many building owners, typified by a sign on the side of one apartment house near the ocean.

"Soviet Monica—rent controlled," it says. Next to it is a hammer and sickle.

But even if rent control defies normal market forces, as critics argue, losing an apartment covered by it has an immediate impact.

At Santa Monica College, where the Red Cross has established an emergency shelter, more than 250 people who have lost their homes are bedding down on cots, many afraid they will have to leave the city for some place where housing is cheaper.

Posted on a bulletin board in the shelter are notices of apartments for rent, but there are few takers. "I've seen a lot of people come up and just shake their heads," said Norveen Violetta, a Red Cross official. "They can't spend \$600 to \$700 a month

for an apartment. They don't have that kind of money."

In the best-case scenario envisioned by city officials, most of the damaged apartments will be rebuilt and offered to their former tenants—but at higher prices. The apartments would still be rent controlled.

"The affordable housing stock is going to take a hit on this, because someone has to pay to repair the damage," said Mary Ann Yurkonis, administrator of the rent-control program. "It's not something the owners can absorb."

In the worst-case scenario, many buildings will be condemned and torn down, and the owners will be able to build new units they can rent at market levels, inevitably higher than units under rent control.

Jay Johnson, chairman of the rent-control board, said the city will try to prevent that by requiring building owners to prove that it is financially unfeasible to repair a building, even with higher rents to cover the costs. "We're very much focused on preserving as much as we can," he said.

L.A. Coliseum Repair Tab: \$35M

LOS ANGELES (AP) _ The repair bill will total \$35 million for the earthquake-damaged Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the historic home of the Los Angeles Raiders and the University of Southern California football team.

"It's a disaster, which is a word I guess we are using too often these days in Los Angeles," said Matt Grossman, president of the Coliseum Commission.

The 92,000-seat stadium sustained \$17 million in damage and will require another \$18 million for seismic strengthening, according to a report from city Administrative Officer Keith Comrie's office.

The famed Peristyle arches sustained visible cracks, but the heaviest damage was in the seating area.

"A series of parallel columns supporting the upper seating areas of the bowl rocked outward violently during the quake, inflicting tremendous structural damage to the columns and the beams supported by those columns," said Don Webb, renovation project manager.

"Additionally, the inner seating bowl subsided about four inches."

A claim has been submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency seeking money for repairs, Webb said.

Grossman said the commission is determined to reopen the Coliseum in time for USC and Raiders football games this summer.

The Coliseum, built in 1923, hosted the Summer Olympics Games in 1932 and 1984.

"We need to get some help on the funding to get it done. The alternative is to just turn our backs on the Coliseum, and I don't think any one would choose that," Grossman said.

AP-NY-01-30-94 0006EST

UPI Databank

Earthquake aftermath summary

LOS ANGELES (UPI) _ A summary of developments in the aftermath of Southern California earthquake as of 3:30 p.m. PST Saturday.

EARTH:

_Four strong aftershocks of 3.3 on Richter scale at 3:20 a.m., 5.0 at 3:20 a.m. 4.2 at 4:16 a.m. and 3.0 at 1:45 p.m.; all centered around Northridge, a hard-hit northern Los Angeles suburb; more than 3,000 aftershocks since 6.6 Jan. 17 quake, with 353 measuring between 3.0 and 5.9.

_Seismologists said there is a one in seven chance of 5.0 magnitude quake occurring within a week.

NEW DAMAGE:

_Aftershocks caused stairwells to collapse at California State University, Northridge, campus, which has been closed since Jan. 17 quake.

_Portions of several area freeways closed to allow crews to search for earthquake damage; most reopen within hours after quick structural repairs.

FRAUD:

_Officials implemented 72-hour waiting period for emergency food stamps to cut down on fraudulent applications.

GOVERNMENT AID:

_195,000 applications for disaster relief in 12 days after quake; number now exceeds those taken in the first six months after Hurricane Andrew struck south Florida in 1992.

_Region's 19th disaster assistance center to open Monday in Santa Clarita.

_More than 100 linguists called in to aid residents applying for aid at disaster assistance centers.

_Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued \$39.4 million in temporary housing assistance to 12,831 applicants; Small Business Administration approves 104 disaster-related home and business loans totaling \$3.2 million.

NON-GOVERNMENT AID:

_Population in Red Cross shelters, tent cities declining as people move into temporary housing.

_Red Cross opens 16th service center to provide recovery assistance for quake victims.

TRANSPORTATION:

_Quake-damaged portions of Antelope Valley (14) Freeway closed as damaged transition roads are destroyed for removal.

_Golden State (I-5) Freeway reopened.

_Metropolitan Transportation Authority announces acceptance of Red Cross vouchers for purchase of monthly bus and rail passes and tokens.

_Commuter hotline kept open over the weekend to match commuters who want to carpool, avoid traffic jams on quake-damaged freeways.

UTILITIES:

_Los Angeles Department of Water and Power lifts all boil-water advisories; says tests show all areas are receiving reliable disinfection treatment. Some residents in Santa Clarita and Valencia still being urged to boil all water.

_800 people lost power in the Granada Hills-Chatsworth area after the 5.0 aftershock; power restored within five hours.

SERVICES:

_Three quake-damaged libraries to reopen Monday.

_Landfill opened to the public for free disposal of earthquake-related material.

_25 quake-damaged schools to reopen Monday; some students have been out of school for two weeks. Eight other campuses that sustained more severe damage to remain closed Monday.

_Red-tagged houses and buildings to be re-inspected; authorities say condemned buildings may only need repairs.

TOLL:

Structures damaged estimated at more than 40,000; estimated \$30 billion in damage.

Sixty people dead; Nearly 1,400 patients admitted to hospitals, more than 9,000 injured.

WHAT THEY SAID:

USDA spokesman Bill Ludwig on emergency food stamp fraud: "The bottom line is some people are taking advantage of a system designed to prevent our citizens from going to bed at night hungry."

Los Angeles police Sgt. Mike Sonntag on the aftershocks: "It didn't feel good, let me tell you."

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Shalala announces \$28 million in funding for LA facilities

By CYNTHIA LITTLETON

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala announced nearly \$28 million in funding Saturday for quake-related needs in Southern California.

"From one end of (the Health and Human Services) department to the other, we have scrubbed our budget to come up with the \$28 million to be reallocated for this emergency," Shalala said before embarking on a tour of the earthquake-damaged facilities with Social Security Commissioner Shirley Chater and Assistant Secretary for Aging Fernando Torres-Gil.

The funding will go toward repairs, health care, substance abuse treatment and research, Shalala said. She said \$10 million will be earmarked directly for 17 Head Start facilities that were damaged in the 6.6 quake on Jan. 17 and subsequent aftershocks.

Shalala said two community health centers in Fillmore and San Fernando, near the epicenter of the largest temblor, were among the most seriously damaged, along with several Social Security branch offices. One branch office in Van Nuys cannot be reoccupied.

But Shalala said the flow of Social Security checks should not be interrupted.

"We are doing what the federal government doesn't do very easily, and that is making advance payments to make sure that Medicare, Social Security and other vital programs are not disrupted any more than the already have been," Shalala said.

Social Security checks are being sent to some southern California post offices one week early to facilitate their distribution to quake victims who have lost their homes.

Signs instructing Social Security recipients to pick up their checks at local post offices have been posted throughout the hard-hit areas. FEMA and Red Cross officials and Red Cross shelters are also helping to distribute checks to those still living in shelters, Shalala said.

Shalala pledged \$100,000 in aid for senior citizens who need help in getting disaster relief. Shalala also promised to secure additional funding for crisis counseling programs.

"Disasters like this affect people not only in the short term but in the long term as well, and we find that children and the elderly are the most vulnerable," Shalala said.



DISASTER NEWS



Federal/State Coordinating Office
200 10th Street, Third Floor, Des Moines, IA 50309

FEMA-DR996-IA-PR #95, January 29, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: FEMA: (515) 280-9044
STATE: (515) 281-7534

Susan Gedutis
David Miller

WORKSHOP MARKS A NEW ERA IN U.S. FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

DAVENPORT, IA -- Local, state, federal and volunteer agency officials concerned with floodplain management met last week in Davenport at a four day workshop to discuss opportunities to reduce future flood loss, with emphasis on acquisition and relocation of homes and businesses out of areas that flood. The conference reflects FEMA's commitment to reducing the number of people and structures at risk, and is a beacon of cooperation between floodplain administrators and concerned local representatives. More than 150 federal, state and local officials attended what floodplain experts say marks a new era in floodplain management.

"The workshop showed communities that it is possible to move a community out of areas that flood, and that it has been done before quite successfully even in the most restrained town budgets. We tried to nurture a 'Yes we can' attitude," Ed Thomas, FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer and Disaster Recovery Manager, said.

Thomas used the image of a patchwork quilt to explain how a multitude of assistance programs may be "stitched" together by one or more persons working with a vision of the final project: a solution to flood related problems, both for survivors and town officials. Aspects of several programs, from funding to technical assistance to human services, were discussed by representatives from 18 agencies. Thomas explained that while every community may take advantage of the variety of programs, individual communities will design their "quilt" according to its own needs, utilizing more of one program and less of others.

In attendance were representatives from local Councils of Governments, regional and city planners, city and town officials, American Red Cross, Department of Energy, Economic Development Authority, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Housing and Urban Development, Iowa Emergency Management, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Park Service, National Association of Floodplain Managers, Salvation Army, Small Business Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Page 2

Also at the workshop were representatives of communities nationwide that have participated in federal buyout and relocation programs. City Manager Cy Carney of Des Moines, Nancy Sidell representing Kampsville, Illinois, Tom Hirsch, Town Planner of Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, and Charles Hardt of Tulsa, Oklahoma all shared their experiences through presentations and informal question and answer periods.

An important outcome of the workshop was that local officials learned how to start, develop and implement mitigation programs through ideas shared by other communities who have implemented buyout programs. As well, participants identified changes needed now to make buyouts work, and provided feedback to agencies to improve and streamline both programs and processes.

Some ten to fifteen thousand structures throughout the Midwest may be relocated as a result of this summer's flooding. In Iowa, State Hazard Mitigation Officer Chris Finch said that to date 21 applications for relocation and acquisition have been received by the state, accounting for approximately 570 homes, with more applications expected by the February 15 deadline. A total of \$500 million in federal funds will contribute to the acquisition/relocation process in the entire Midwest, of which Iowa expects to receive approximately \$16 million.

Under the National Flood Insurance Program, property that is continually or substantially flood damaged must either be rebuilt or relocated. Acquired land must then be converted to open space, which not only reduces the cost of future floods, but also can contribute to long term benefits for the economy and quality of life in the community. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation program also is a major source of funding for relocation and acquisition projects. The state of Iowa has designated acquisition and relocation projects as the primary use for FEMA Hazard Mitigation funds.

The flood recovery workshop was an interagency effort, co-sponsored by FEMA in Des Moines and the State of Iowa Emergency Management Division and conducted by the Association of State Floodplain Managers with facilitation provided by the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Program.

Floods Soak West Virginia, Pennsylvania

Families Evacuated, Roads Closed; Ice Threatens Indiana Bridges

Associated Press

PARKERSBURG, W.Va., Jan. 29—An Ohio River swollen with rain and melted snow surged beyond its banks today, unleashing floods that covered some homes up to their roofs and sank a 50-foot boat as it rested in a back yard.

Floods also battered Pennsylvania, where the Monongahela River threatened 100 homes, and Indiana, where one river fork rose more than five feet above flood stage.

In Parkersburg, the Ohio River was 2½ feet above flood stage and was expected to crest Sunday at 5 feet above flood stage. About 200 homes were flooded along the Little Kanawha River, which flows into the Ohio. No injuries were reported.

The waters closed roads, swallowed a baseball field and a volleyball court and forced about 200 families to leave their homes, said Ken Riffle, of the Wood County Of-

fice of Emergency Services.

The Williamstown Bridge, which connects Williamstown and Marietta, Ohio, was closed because water had covered the Ohio side.

The Hocking River flooded the southern Ohio town of Chauncey, forcing the evacuation of about 55 people and washing out the two state routes that lead into town.

About 235 people were allowed to return to their suburban Cleveland homes after ice was cleared from the overflowing Chagrin and Rocky rivers.

Bridges in Indiana, including a few that date to the early 1900s, were threatened by ice chunks from last week's cold snap that jammed against pilings along the surging White River.

In south-central Indiana, the East Fork of the White River crested 5½ feet over flood stage but did not

threaten the town of Seymour.

In Pennsylvania, the Monongahela River rose 2½ feet above flood stage near Carol Bowers' mobile home in the Pittsburgh suburb of West Elizabeth. The home wasn't damaged, but the timing couldn't have been worse: Bowers had just put it up for sale.

Elsewhere in Pennsylvania, the problem was ice. It clogged waterways throughout the state and contributed to one death, a woman whose car skidded on a bridge, hit a snowbank that acted as a ramp and plunged into the Conestoga River.

Ice also caused problems in Connecticut. At least 75 homes near New London along the Shetucket River were flooded when ice jammed against a bridge. And an ice floe a mile long and 60 feet wide jammed the Pomperaug River near Southbury, forcing 30 people to leave their homes.