

TV CLIPS

DATE November 4, 1993
TIME 4:00-6:00 AM
NETWORK CBS
PROGRAM Up To The Minute

TROY ROBERTS, co-anchor:

In an address from the White House, President Clinton promised relief for victims of the California fire. He has ordered FEMA director James Witt to begin distributing emergency funds.

President BILL CLINTON: Director Witt announced my decision to provide \$15 million to the California Office of Emergency Services to help pay for the state and local firefighting costs. This advance will be supplemented as further costs are identified in the coming weeks.

ROBERTS: More than 1,000 homes and 215,000 acres have been charred since wildfires erupted in Southern California last week.

DATE November 3, 1993
TIME 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM
NETWORK Cable News Network
PROGRAM NewsHour

REID COLLINS, co-anchor:

Los Angeles Fire Chief Donald Manning says--and we quote him--"The worst is over in the battle against the wildfires marching on Malibu." Helicopters and planes dropped load after load of water and fire retardant on the flames. Officials say 120 firefighters have been injured, most of them with minor hurts. The federal government's emergency management director says he saw the flames as he flew into Los Angeles earlier today from 100 miles away. Firefighters had to contend with flames whipped by the Santa Ana winds that gusted at 53 miles an hour. Winds have now abated, but thousands had to flee the oncoming lines of fires. Some 35,000 acres have been blackened.



DISASTER UPDATE

Federal Emergency Management Agency

(202) 646-4600

November 3, 1993, 6 p.m. EST

A summary of new information gathered today from situation reports from FEMA's Emergency Support Team, federal response agencies, the Pasadena Disaster Field Office and state and the local governments affected by the fires in southern California.

GENERAL

* FEMA Director James Lee Witt is in southern California again as a result of new fires which broke out on Tuesday. He went there with assurances that President Clinton is committed to making available the full resources of the federal government to help state and local governments fight the fires. Prior to his departure from Washington, Witt said, "We want to make sure that we do everything we can to maximize the availability of federal help to fight these fires and minimize the human suffering which the fires are causing."

On Wednesday afternoon Witt accompanied California Governor Pete Wilson on a tour of the Pepperdine University Incident Command Post in Malibu. He was briefed on the statewide fire situation and he pledged the President's support in the firefight and recovery.

* FEMA Director Witt announced that tomorrow FEMA will advance \$15 million to the State of California to be used to cover immediate emergency costs.

* The Small Business Administration announced they were lowering disaster interest rates for home loans. The new rates are 3.625 per cent and 7.25 per cent, down from 4 and 8 per cent. Most people will qualify for the lower rate. Business loan rates remain at 4 and 8 per cent.

* The Emergency Support Team (EST) Information and Planning Unit at the FEMA Emergency Information and Coordination Center in Washington, DC, is operating on a 24-hour basis. In addition, the Regional Operations Center (ROC) at FEMA's Regional Office at the Presidio of San Francisco also is operating on a 24-hour basis to monitor the situation and support response activities.

* The Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) continues to function at the Operations Coordination Center (OCC) in Riverside directing the efforts of firefighters and response officials. There are some 7,000 firefighters actively engaged in the firefight. Eleven Federal and National Guard aircraft are being used for the fires supported by more than 600 fire engines.

* Emergency Operating Centers (EOCs) have been activated for Los Angeles and Riverside Counties. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) State Operations Center in Sacramento and the Southern Region OES EOC have been activated to support response activities.

-more-

- * To date over 217,000 acres have burned, damaging or destroying over 900 structures and resulting in 64 injuries. Damages could exceed \$500 million. Current disaster declared counties are: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura.

- * Evacuation Centers and emergency assistance has been provided by the American Red Cross and other volunteer organizations. Evacuations centers were opened in all affected counties.

DISASTER RECOVERY OPERATIONS

- * Disaster Applications Centers (DACs) are open in four areas from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The Ventura and Riverside County DACs are scheduled to operate through November 5. The DACs in Orange and Los Angeles Counties are scheduled to operate through November 12. Disaster officials say that these DACs can be extended and new ones opened if necessary. Disaster victims can apply at these centers for a variety of assistance programs including low-interest home and business loans, grants for persons who cannot repay a loan and disaster housing assistance for anyone who is homeless because of the fires. FEMA officials are encouraging fire victims to contact their insurance agents as soon as possible because the Federal assistance programs do not duplicate assistance from other sources.

- * A total of 650 disaster registrations for disaster assistance have been received from disaster victims, of which 168 came through FEMA's toll-free teleregistration telephone number.

- * Briefings for Public Assistance applicants will be held in Orange and Riverside Counties on November 9, and Ventura and Los Angeles Counties on November 10. These briefings will acquaint public officials with the procedures for applying for assistance for damaged or destroyed public structures and reimbursement for emergency measures incurred during the firefight.

- * Crisis Counseling Assistance - Health officials have been briefed on the Immediate Crisis Counseling Services program and the assistance which is available from FEMA. A needs assessment is currently being conducted.

- * FEMA's toll-free Disaster Application Number is 1-800-462-9029. Please publish or broadcast as often as possible. (TDD 1-800-462-7585)

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MEDIA ADVISORY - Do not publish or broadcast:

FEMA Public Information Officers in southern California can provide specific information about FEMA disaster aid programs and response activities. Other questions may need to be referred to those organizations responsible for other types of response activity. The FEMA PIOs can be reached at the Pasadena Disaster Field Office, (805) 405-7548.

Malibu Fire Contained—for the Moment

6,000 Firefighters Work to Save Real Estate of the Rich and Famous

By William Hamilton
Washington Post Staff Writer

MALIBU, Calif., Nov. 3—More than 6,000 firefighters fought house to house to save some of the nation's most valuable real estate today and, as fearsome winds diminished, they hoped they had broken the back of a fast-moving brush fire that threatened to consume this famous beach colony.

"Our belief is the worst is over," Los Angeles Fire Chief Donald Manning declared this morning after a harrowing night when it seemed that flames would sweep down the Pacific coast and into affluent neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

Tonight, more than 30 hours after it started, the fire still burned out of control, although generally confined to canyons and mountainous areas that rise from the narrow strip of beach winding along the coast. But authorities expressed concern that the blaze might yet revive enough to move closer to residential neighborhoods.

Almost untouched were the beachfront houses in this town that has attracted actors and entertainers since the birth of Hollywood. However, at least one actor, Sean Penn, saw his canyon mansion reduced to ashes.

More than 35,000 acres have been charred and at least 200 buildings destroyed in this most spectacular of more than a dozen blazes that have seared Southern California since early last week. The Malibu fire began to the north in Calabasas, and suspicion that it was set prompted Gov. Pete Wilson (R) to offer a \$125,000 reward today for information leading to arrests in any of the fires.

This morning, Pacific Coast Highway was closed to traffic for 45 miles and crowded with hundreds of fire and emergency vehicles. Overhead, twin-rotor Chinook helicopters flew back and forth to the ocean, where they dunked huge buckets, filling them with sea water to splash on fires raging through offshore hills. At a combination boutique and hair salon nestled in brush on the inland side of the highway, Jori Listama marveled that his girlfriend's business had survived the night.

Early this morning, he had peered through the skylight at the hill behind the building and seen a wall of fire moving over the top. "It looked for sure it was going to get this place," he said.

But the highway was lined with fire trucks, practically enough to assign an engine to each building. Outside the salon was a truck from Pomona, east of Los Angeles, and its crew spent hours dousing the building and surrounding vegetation.

That tactic helped to save buildings along the highway—million-dollar oceanside houses and a motley assortment of bars, restaurants and stores inland. But the owners of houses perched on the hillside and farther inland were not always as lucky.

Along Pacific Coast Highway, many houses were burned to the ground and surrounded by blackened soil. Others had survived, almost inexplicably because the ground around them was burned completely.

Dian Roberts watched from the highway Tuesday as five members of a family lingered on the roof of their house while flames moved closer. When the five finally began going down the hill, Roberts said, "flames that must have been 30 feet high were right behind them and chased them." At least one, she said, suffered serious burns.

Despite the extent of damage, initially estimated at about \$130 million, only one fatality has been reported. The Associated Press said late tonight that Duncan Gibbins, a British director and screenwriter, who had been severely burned when he tried to rescue his cat, had died at 41. Authorities said 120 firefighters have been injured, none seriously.

After being unable to stop wind-driven flames racing from Calabasas to the coast Tuesday, firefighters have sought to contain the fire to an inland area roughly bordered by Pepperdine University on the west of Malibu and Topanga Canyon on the east. They were aided by gradual diminishing of blustery Santa Ana winds. Both edges of the containment area have provided some of the most dramatic battlegrounds. Until this morning, fires threatened the 6,800-student Pepperdine campus, where a command center was established. Topanga Canyon is considered a crucial stopping point because to its east is Pacific Palisades, a heavily populated Los Angeles neighborhood where Ronald Reagan lived before he became president.

Appearing with Fire Chief Manning today, Mayor Richard Riordan emphasized that no fires had spread into the city. But that threat remained, and many residents of Pacific Palisades and Santa Monica

when the sky glowed orange, people were packing valuables in case they had to evacuate.

Early this evening, authorities reported that the fire had jumped Topanga Canyon Boulevard, which bisects the canyon east of Malibu, reviving fears that new residential areas nearer Los Angeles might be threatened and promising another long night for concerned residents.

Many Californians such as Sonny and Betty Karliss, who had to evacuate their home near the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu when fire came perilously close at 4 a.m. today, accept the dangers inherent with where they live.

"We have 180-degree panoramas from every room of the house," Sonny Karliss, a retired real estate broker, said today while the couple waited at a Red Cross evacuation center in Pacific Palisades.

Twice, they have lost their back yard to mudslides, most recently in torrential rains last February that helped end a six-year drought. Their homeowner's insurance has been canceled because of the risk, and now they cannot find anyone willing to repair their patio.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt signaled today that he, for one, thinks it may be time to reassess the kind of risks Californians take when building in what essentially is a desert. Interviewed on ABC's "Good Morning America," he said, "I think, once this is all over, we're

going to have to really do some soul-searching about the process of building into these deep canyons."

The Malibu fire was the worst of four that began Tuesday in a second week of blazes that have destroyed more than 1,000 houses and about 215,000 acres.

The smallest current fire, in San Bernardino County east of here, was tamed Monday night. One in San Diego County was reported contained tonight after burning 1,500 acres.

In Riverside County to the east, a blaze that burned 8,000 acres is almost under control, official said. A fire in Ventura County northwest of here has burned more than 43,000 acres but was reported 99 percent contained.

Clinton: More Fire Help To Come

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, calling the fires in Southern California an "agonizing tragedy," is promising more federal help, including an immediate \$15 million.

"You are not facing these fires alone," Clinton said Wednesday night in a five-minute satellite address intended for Southern California.

A wildfire that began on Tuesday claimed 200 homes as it roared through the seaside town of Malibu, charring 35,000 acres. It was the latest in a series of fires that has burned more than 1,000 homes and 215,000 acres in Southern California in the past 1{ weeks.

He praised efforts of those fighting the fires.

"Until these fires are out, those in the inland empire, and the new ones tearing through the Santa Monica Mountains, our work will continue and we won't rest either," Clinton said.

"With these new fires, the federal response has already begun.

We've provided 37 air tankers, 100 fire crews amounting to 2000 federal fire fighters, 86 fire engines and 22 helicopters," Clinton said.

He said the \$15 million would go to the California Office of Emergency Services "to help pay for the state and local firefighting costs."

Clinton said the amount would be "supplemented as further costs are identified in the coming weeks."

"We are going to try to help communities shoulder their extraordinary expenses that they are facing through no fault of their own," he said.

He said fighting such disasters puts "unbearable strains on budgets of state and local governments."

Clinton earlier declared much of the area as major disaster areas, making the counties affected available for federal disaster relief and low-cost loans.

Clinton said Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Lee Witt and California Gov. Pete Wilson both had told him "the federal efforts are well coordinated with the extraordinary work being done by private citizens, state and local governments."

"I know there are people who suffered losses who are upset and frightened, perhaps spending the night in a shelter," Clinton said.

"This has to be a terrifying experience for children awakened at night by their parents and carried away from their homes, before their loss; for property owners, some of whom have faced down a wall of fire with nothing more than a garden hose in their hands and a prayer in their hearts; and especially for the gallant, heroic men and women who are fighting these fires and risking their lives to save people and property from being consumed by the blaze," Clinton said.

AP-NY-11-04-93 0133EST

CLINTON OFFERS AID TO FIGHT CALIFORNIA FIRES

WASHINGTON, Nov 3 (Reuter) - President Clinton offered federal aid to southern Californians battling wildfires telling them Wednesday night they will not have to face the destruction alone.

He offered some \$15 million in federal funds to help some of the most prosperous communities in the United States pay the cost of fighting the fires.

"This advance will be supplemented as further costs are identified in the coming weeks," Clinton said in brief televised Oval Office remarks.

"Until these fires are out ... our work will continue and we won't rest either," Clinton said.

"I know this is a big burden to California with all your other troubles, so we ought to do what we can to help," he added.

Last week several hundred homes were incinerated and a new round of fires has engulfed 300 houses in the celebrity enclave of Malibu. Loss estimates are running into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Clinton said the federal government has responded to the latest fires by sending 37 air tankers, 2,000 federal fire fighters, 86 fire engines and 22 helicopters have been dispatched to the region.

Last week, Clinton declared several southern California counties disaster areas making them eligible for federal emergency aid.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Lee Witt was dispatched to the scene of the fires along with Agriculture Secretary Michael Espy, Clinton said. White House Chief of Staff Thomas McLarty is coordinating the response effort, he said.

"I know words alone will not heal your hurt or make you whole, but I hope you will take some solace in knowing that your country is concerned about you and that I am closely following the work being done to protect you," Clinton said. REUTER

REUTER

Clinton pledges \$15 million for firefighting effort

WASHINGTON (UPI) _ President Clinton ordered Wednesday that \$15 million, 37 airtankers and 2,000 federal firefighters be given to California officials to help combat the devastating wildfires sweeping the Los Angeles area.

In a message televised via satellite from the Oval Office, Clinton said White House Chief of Staff Thomas McLarty is coordinating the federal response, while Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Lee Witt and Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy are both on the scene to assess the damage in Southern California.

Clinton said the \$15 million would be handed over to the California Office of Emergency Services "to help pay for the state and local firefighting costs."

"This advance will be supplemented as further costs are identified in the coming weeks," Clinton said.

Saying "We're facing those fires together," Clinton commended the efforts of the pilots who fly into strong Santa Ana winds to dump water on the fast-moving fires.

"Their actions and the work of countless others define the word courage, and we can never repay them for what they've done and what they're still prepared to do," Clinton said.

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Clinton Promises Fire Aid

WASHINGTON (AP) _ President Clinton called the new fires near Los Angeles "a terrifying experience" and promised a strong federal response to help, including an immediate \$15 million.

"We ought to do what we can to help," the president said Wednesday night in a five-minute satellite television address from the White House.

A wildfire that began Tuesday claimed 200 homes as it roared through the seaside town of Malibu, charring 35,000 acres. It was the latest in a series of fire that have burned more than 1,000 homes and 215,000 acres in Southern California in the past 1{ weeks.

"All of the rest of us ought to pull together. That's what Americans do," Clinton said.

"With these new fires, the federal response has already begun. We've provided 37 air tankers, 100 fire crews amounting to 2000 federal fire fighters, 86 fire engines and 22 helicopters," Clinton said.

He said the \$15 million would go to the California Office of Emergency Services "to help pay for the state and local firefighting costs."

Clinton said the amount would be "supplemented as federal costs are identified in the coming weeks."

He said fighting such disasters puts "unbearable strains on budgets of state and local governments."

He praised "the gallant, heroic men and women who are risking their lives and fighting these fires." He saluted "pilots ... flying after dark in strong winds."

Clinton earlier declared much of the area as major disaster areas, making the counties affected available for federal disaster relief and low-cost loans.

Clinton said he had spoken earlier in the evening top both Federal Emergency Management Agency director James Lee Witt and California Gov. Pete Wilson and that both told him "the federal efforts are well coordinated with the extraordinary work being done by private citizens, state and local governments."

"I know there are people who suffered losses who are upset and frightened, perhaps spending the night in a shelter," Clinton said.

"It has to be a terrifying experience," Clinton added.

He said those in California who have suffered such losses, or whose homes are threatened, should know "you are not facing these fires alone."

AP-NY-11-03-93 2126EST

FIRES DEVASTATE MALIBU ENCLAVE, MOVIE STARS FLEE

MALIBU, Calif, Nov 3 (Reuter) - Weary firefighters began gaining the upper hand Wednesday against a southern California firestorm that drove movie stars from their ocean-view mansions and destroyed nearly 300 homes.

The wind-driven wildfires -- a harrowing repeat of infernos that devastated the region last week -- unleashed their fury this time on the celebrity enclave of Malibu, where glamorous refugees loaded their Jaguars and limousines and fled overnight.

A number of blazes continued burning out of control for the second day and new flareups threatened more structures, but Los Angeles Fire Chief Donald Manning declared "the worst is over." Fire crews were aided by calmer winds and a fleet of water-dropping aircraft.

Malibu's rich and famous found themselves reduced to mere mortals when their multimillion-dollar estates were overrun by the worst fire in the town's history.

Mansions belonging to Sean Penn and Bruce Willis were damaged or destroyed during the night, according to news reports.

Actor Gary Busey decided to stay put, Mark Hamill was thrown off his property by firefighters, pop music star Vince Neil grabbed his gold and platinum records before fleeing and Ali McGraw had to hike up a hill to see if her house was safe.

But the famed Malibu Colony -- seaside home to such stars as Larry Hagman and Burgess Meredith -- was spared major damage after it was evacuated, fire officials said.

Hamill, best known for his role as heroic Luke Skywalker in the "Star Wars" films, returned to find his home still standing while dozens of nearby houses had gone up in flames.

"Oh boy, we are lucky," he said.

Others were not so fortunate. "By the time I left it was like 'Apocalypse Now,' " said novelist Richard Christian Matheson, who had time only to grab his cat and a half-finished manuscript.

More than 7,000 people were driven from their homes Tuesday in towns and communities stretching from the Santa Monica Mountains to the Pacific coast, where three wind-driven infernos scorched more than 35,000 acres (14,000 hectares).

An army of 5,000 firefighters began making headway Wednesday as the fierce 60 mph (95 kph) Santa Ana winds that ignited the area like a tinderbox Tuesday began dying down.

The latest fires erupted just after fire crews declared victory over 15 blazes that devastated other parts of the area over four days, destroying 730 homes and charring 180,000 acres (73,000 hectares) from Los Angeles to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Authorities blamed the Malibu fire on arson and estimated damages would run into hundreds of millions of dollars. Some of the houses were worth \$10 million each.

Governor Pete Wilson said the state, a firefighting foundation and several insurance companies were joining together to offer a \$125,000 reward for help in arresting the person who set the blaze.

James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said President Clinton was so concerned about the latest fire damage that he was considering a visit to the devastated areas.

No deaths were reported, but the injury total climbed to 120 firefighters and a dozen civilians, including two men critically hurt with burns covering most of their bodies.

Other major fires forced several thousand more people to evacuate and destroyed dozens of homes in rural sections of Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties.

A thick cloud of choking gray haze hung over Los Angeles, and plumes of smoke could be seen rising skyward.

Flames moved menacingly close to the famed Getty Museum, housing some of the world's greatest masterpieces, but officials said the building escaped damage.

Looting was reported at abandoned beachfront homes in Malibu and three men were arrested.

Mayor Richard Riordan declared a state of emergency in Los Angeles but said it was only a precaution to allow the fire and police departments to coordinate their efforts. "There is no reason to panic," he said in an address broadcast on live television. REUTER

Malibu Wildfire Dies Down, But Hot Spots Plague Firefighters

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Helicopters swooped up Topanga Canyon ferrying giant buckets of ocean water as an army of firefighters stepped up their assault Wednesday on a wildfire that claimed 200 homes in this celebrity seaside town.

The hot, dry desert winds that fed Tuesday's firestorm died down overnight. But erratic gusts Wednesday from the sea and the mountains swirled embers of flame from the brush, posing a threat to homes.

"The winds, thank God, have died down, which have allowed the crews to gain the upper hand," Gov. Pete Wilson said.

A huge cloud of black smoke hung over the seaside enclave that is home to such celebrities as Bruce Willis, Demi Moore, Burgess Meredith, Mark Hamill and Mel Gibson. Evacuees returned on bicycles and rollerskates because police closed off a 45-mile stretch of the Pacific Coast Highway.

Among the victims was actor Sean Penn, whose \$4 million Spanish-style mansion was destroyed.

"I don't know if he evacuated or if he was there at the time," said his publicist Carol Stone. Penn wasn't immediately available for comment.

Arson investigators located where the fire broke out, but didn't immediately know whether it was set.

The fire, which began Tuesday morning 12 miles north of Malibu in the Santa Monica Mountains, destroyed 200 canyon ranches and seaside mansions and charred 35,000 acres as it roared through this mile-wide, 27-mile-long coastal strip.

It was the latest in a series that has burned more than 1,000 homes and 215,000 acres in Southern California in the past 11/2 weeks.

As the winds subsided Wednesday, nearly 5,000 firefighters stepped up their attack on volatile hot spots. But the blaze remained out of control. The Santa Ana winds were expected to end Wednesday night, and cooler weather near the coast was predicted for Thursday.

Twin-rotor Chinook helicopters dumped Volkswagen-size buckets into the ocean and swooped up Topanga Canyon to bomb flames with salt water.

C-130 air tankers carrying orange fire retardant painted the canyon's east wall to stop fire from creeping toward the densely populated Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles. At least one home was destroyed Wednesday as Tuna Canyon went up in flames.

Malibu Colony, a gated beachfront strip of celebrity and millionaire homes, was spared, as was Pepperdine University, where 300 students spent Tuesday night in the gymnasium as flames roared past campus.

The J. Paul Getty Museum, with its priceless collection of Greek and Roman antiquities, was safe, a spokeswoman said.

Flames slashed through yards around canyon retreats belonging to Gibson, Charles Bronson, Dick Van Dyke and former Sen. John Tunney. But their homes were barely touched.

In front of a coastal highway home owned by "Diehard" star Willis and Moore, the actor's new black Porsche was covered with white ash.

"He and his wife and the kids left last night," said neighbor and caretaker Artie Cirincione. The couple have two children and are expecting their third.

Curt Pierose was among the lucky ones. He stayed up all night hosing down his \$1 million oceanview home _ and saved it.

"Was it worth risking my life? Probably not," Pierose said.

"But I live on a cul de sac. And I had some room to work. So I thought I'd try it."

Sheriff's deputies and California Highway Patrol officers patrolled empty streets to prevent looting. Three men found stacking televisions on the beach were arrested for investigation of looting, said Deputy Irma Becerra.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Chief James Lee Witt toured Malibu and said his agency was setting up disaster aid centers "in record time."

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt predicted the latest fires would cause up to \$500 million in damage and warned that rain will spawn mudslides.

"I think once this is all over we are going to have to do some soul-searching about the process of building into these deep canyons with all the brush," Babbitt said.

Director-screenwriter Duncan Gibbins, 41, remained in critical condition Wednesday at Sherman Oaks Hospital and Health Center with burns sustained when he tried to save a cat from his burning home Tuesday. Ron Mass, 40, also was in critical condition.

Elsewhere:

_ Firefighters surrounded half of an 8,000-acre wildfire in Riverside County, 80 miles east of Los Angeles, that destroyed or damaged 17 structures, injured six people and forced hundreds to leave their homes.

_ Firefighters contained 70 percent of a 1,500-acre fire in San Diego County that threatened homes near Poway.

AP-DS-11-03-93 1743EST

TV CLIPS

DATE November 3, 1993
TIME 6:30-7:00 PM
NETWORK PBS
PROGRAM Nightly Business Report

PAUL KANGAS, co-anchor:

The winds in Southern California remain erratic tonight. And that's causing concern for firefighters and residents trying to battle brushfires there. Damage estimates have now exceeding \$1/2 billion. Today the Federal Emergency Management Agency said it will draft a national strategy to reduce the risks from natural disasters. FEMA officials say the nation can no longer afford the high-cost disasters, particularly since it knows how to reduce losses.

DATE November 3, 1993
TIME 8:00-9:00 PM
NETWORK Cable News Network
PROGRAM PrimeNews

SUSAN ROOK, co-anchor:

And now to the president of the United States:

* * *

(Clinton talks about communities coming together in the wake of the wildfires.)

* * *

President BILL CLINTON: After designating several counties as major disaster areas, we dispatched forest service air tankers and federal firefighters to the scene. At my direction, Mr. McClarty, the White House chief of staff, has coordinated the federal response. The director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, James Lee Witt, traveled immediately to the scene of the fires, along with agriculture secretary Mike Espy and our general services administrator from Orange County, Roger Johnson. We work with Governor Wilson and his emergency director Nick Andrews, as well the leader in your congressional delegation, especially your senators, Boxer and Feinstein.

And until these fires are out, those in the Inland Empire, and the new ones tearing through the Santa Monica Mountains, our work will continue and we won't rest either. For these new fires, the federal response has already begun. We're providing 37 air tankers, 100 fire crews, amounting to 2,000 federal firefighters, 86 fire engines, and 22 helicopters. I've just spoken with FEMA Director Witt, and he assures me that the federal efforts are well-coordinated with the extraordinary work being done by private citizens in state and local governments.

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DISASTER RECOVERY OPERATIONS

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- * A total of 650 disaster registrations for disaster assistance have been received from disaster victims, of which 168 came through FEMA's toll-free teleregistration telephone number.

- * Briefings for Public Assistance applicants will be held in Orange and Riverside Counties on November 9, and Ventura and Los Angeles Counties on November 10. These briefings will acquaint public officials with the procedures for applying for assistance for damaged or destroyed public structures and reimbursement for emergency measures incurred during the firefight.

- * Crisis Counseling Assistance -- Health officials have been briefed on the Immediate Crisis Counseling Services program and the assistance which is available from FEMA. A needs assessment is currently being conducted.

- * FEMA's toll-free Disaster Application Number is 1-800-462-9029. Please publish or broadcast as often as possible. (TDD 1-800-462-7585)

###

MEDIA ADVISORY - Do not publish or broadcast:

FEMA Public Information Officers in southern California can provide specific information about FEMA disaster aid programs and response activities. Other questions may need to be referred to those organizations responsible for other types of response activity. The FEMA PIOs can be reached at the Pasadena Disaster Field Office, (805) 405-7548.



DISASTER UPDATE

Federal Emergency Management Agency

(202) 646-4600

November 3, 1993, 6 p.m. EST

A summary of new information gathered today from situation reports from FEMA's Emergency Support Team, federal response agencies, the Pasadena Disaster Field Office and state and the local governments affected by the fires in southern California.

GENERAL

* FEMA Director James Lee Witt is in southern California again as a result of new fires which broke out on Tuesday. He went there with assurances that President Clinton is committed to making available the full resources of the federal government to help state and local governments fight the fires. Prior to his departure from Washington, Witt said, "We want to make sure that we do everything we can to maximize the availability of federal help to fight these fires and minimize the human suffering which the fires are causing."

On Wednesday afternoon Witt accompanied California Governor Pete Wilson on a tour of the Pepperdine University Incident Command Post in Malibu. He was briefed on the statewide fire situation and he pledged the President's support in the firefight and recovery.

* FEMA Director Witt announced that tomorrow FEMA will advance \$15 million to the State of California to be used to cover immediate emergency costs.

* The Small Business Administration announced they were lowering disaster interest rates for home loans. The new rates are 3.625 per cent and 7.25 per cent, down from 4 and 8 per cent. Most people will qualify for the lower rate. Business loan rates remain at 4 and 8 per cent.

* The Emergency Support Team (EST) Information and Planning Unit at the FEMA Emergency Information and Coordination Center in Washington, DC, is operating on a 24-hour basis. In addition, the Regional Operations Center (ROC) at FEMA's Regional Office at the Presidio of San Francisco also is operating on a 24-hour basis to monitor the situation and support response activities.

* The Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) continues to function at the Operations Coordination Center (OCC) in Riverside directing the efforts of firefighters and response officials. There are some 7,000 firefighters actively engaged in the firefight. Eleven Federal and National Guard aircraft are being used for the fires supported by more than 600 fire engines.

* Emergency Operating Centers (EOCs) have been activated for Los Angeles and Riverside Counties. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) State Operations Center in Sacramento and the Southern Region OES EOC have been activated to support response activities.

-more-

Disaster Update - Page 2

* To date over 217,000 acres have burned, damaging or destroying over 900 structures and resulting in 64 injuries. Damages could exceed \$500 million. Current disaster declared counties are: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura.

* Evacuation Centers and emergency assistance has been provided by the American Red Cross and other volunteer organizations. Evacuations centers were opened in all affected counties.

DISASTER RECOVERY OPERATIONS

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ACCESS # SFC1931468

HEADLINE PENINSULA / Stanford Wants to See Federal Quake Payments

Column: BAY AREA REPORT

LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 1.9 Words: 179

DATE 10/15/93

SOURCE THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE (SFC)

Edition: FINAL / PENINSULA

Section: NEWS

Page: D5

(Copyright 1993)

Stanford University -- University President Gerhard Casper called attention yesterday to the coming anniversary of the 1989 Loma Prieta * earthquake by criticizing the snail's pace of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in paying for quake repairs on campus.

"It's quite shocking that four years after the event we should be in this sorry state," Casper told the Faculty Senate.

Casper apologized to students and faculty of several departments who have used trailers and other facilities elsewhere on campus while they wait for needed repairs to buildings closed by the Oct. 17, 1989, temblor.

So far, FEMA, which is supposed to pay for 75 percent of all eligible repairs, has reimbursed Stanford only \$5 million, primarily because of a dispute over what repairs qualify for federal money.

In the meantime, Casper said, Stanford has paid for about \$60 million in repairs with infusions of money from the trustees, alumni donations and other sources. About \$100 million worth of repairs and reconstruction work is needed to reopen Green Library, the language and earth sciences buildings, the Stanford Museum and other damaged structures.

ACCESS # POR32890561

HEADLINE PRESIDENT GIVES APPROVAL TO KLAMATH FALLS DISASTER AID

Byline: From correspondent and wire reports

LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 1.9 Words: 201

DATE 10/16/93

SOURCE PORTLAND OREGONIAN (POR)

Edition: FOURTH

Section: LOCAL STORIES

Page: B02

Category: Oregon

(Copyright 1993)

President Clinton approved federal disaster aid for Klamath County on Friday.

This means the courthouse, City Hall and other public structures, including schools, bridges and roads damaged in the Sept. 20 earthquake are now eligible for money to rebuild.

Money also will be provided to help pay for clearing debris from public areas and for emergency measures taken to protect public health and safety.

- * The Federal Emergency Management Agency will coordinate the assistance. The agency pays 75 percent of repair costs while state and local governments pay the balance.

Fema staff, headed by Charles L. Steele, of the regional office in Bothell Wash., will come to Salem on Wednesday to open an office.

More than public property was damaged in the magnitude 5.7 earthquake and its 5.5 aftershock.

Last week Gov. Barbara Roberts announced that low-interest federal loans will be available soon for homeowners and businesses that suffered damage in the quake.

Roberts said the U.S. Small Business Administration loans could be used to cover property damage as well as economic losses resulting from the quake. The SBA is expected to establish field offices in the area.

Private sector damage was estimated at \$3.3 million and \$4.2 million to public facilities.

PROJECT REBOUND ENDING CONFERENCE OCT. 18

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 15 /PRNewswire/ -- Project REBOUND (created by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency) will host a conference on Oct. 18 at the Moseley Salvatori Conference Center, Hospital of the Good Samaritan, as a closing activity. A videotape on PROJECT REBOUND and the people the program has assisted will be a highlight of the conference.

"Project REBOUND helped more than 304,000 people impacted by last year's civil unrest by providing crisis counseling, comprehensive emotional support, educational/training programs and information and referral," said Patricia Mendoza, Ph.D, director of Project REBOUND. "As our project closes, we gratefully acknowledge the assistance we received from a variety of sources."

The conference program features speakers from the county, state and federal level addressing response to civil unrest. The speakers include: Areta Crowell, Ph.D., director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; Linda Fain, State of California Department of Mental Health, FEMA; Jim Pittman, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, Center for Mental Health Services, Emergency Services and Disaster Relief Branch; and Josie Arcurio, Acting Deputy, Disaster Recovery Manager, FEMA.

Ambrose Rodriguez, assistant director, Adult Services, LACDMH, will discuss the Project REBOUND Crisis Counseling Grant. Mendoza will discuss "The Impact of a Man-Made Disaster on a Community."

Other presentations will highlight training, programs, assistance to the elderly, stresses on adults created by the unrest, outreach in multicultural communities, school intervention programs, healing approaches with preschoolers, disaster planning and management and the legacies that remain in the community.

The conference will end by acknowledging those whose assistance and work have helped rebuild the emotional fabric of Los Angeles after the civil unrest.

CONTACT: Kimi Mann, 310-492-9796

Essex, towns get \$90,000 for blizzard cleanup costs

13
Essex County and its 22 municipalities are the beneficiaries of nearly \$90,000 in federal funds that will be used to help offset cleanup costs incurred during last March's blizzard.

County Executive Thomas J. D'Alessio presented the checks yesterday to municipal representatives in his office at the Hall of Records in Newark.

The money, totaling \$16,458 for the county and \$73,161 for the municipalities, was issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse the area for damage and services performed during the storm.

The March 13 blizzard dumped 13 inches of snow and caused heavy damage throughout the area.

The municipal amounts dispensed yesterday ranged from \$300 for Caldwell to \$5,044 for West Orange to \$23,101 for Newark.

Municipal officials attending the presentation represented Belleville, East Orange, Essex Fells, Irvington, Livingston, Maplewood, Newark, Orange, South Orange, Verona, West Caldwell and West Orange.

D'Alessio praised the towns for their reactions to the storm, saying, "You are all credited for identifying urgent situations requiring the county's immediate attention."

He noted the county had to work with communities to move parked vehicles off county roads to make way for snow plows.

Emily sends FEMA agent calling on Avon

Associated Press

AVON — When N.C. native Thomas Credle comes calling on a community, you can usually expect a disaster.

He arrived in this storm-battered Hatteras Island village on the Outer Banks more than a month ago to lead the federal government's response to Hurricane Emily. It was his 70th response to a presidentially declared disaster.

Compared to hurricanes Andrew last year in Florida and Hugo in the Carolinas in 1989, Emily's recovery has been easy, said Credle, 59, of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The agency and the state of North Carolina have mailed 536 checks totaling \$1.3 million for housing assistance and grants for individuals and families.

"It's certainly heartwarming to be stopped in the grocery store by someone who says that 'we appreciate you coming here to the Outer Banks to help us out,'" Credle said.

The speedy reaction to Emily resulted in part from criticism that the agency's response to Andrew was slow and inadequate.

Avon residents who sustained damage during Hurricane Gloria in 1985 marveled at FEMA's work.

"It's just like night and day," said Dan Gray, who lost his home during Emily.

■ OUTLOOK

WASTE WATCH



P.11

DISPOSABLE DOMICILES

On Capitol Hill and in the White House, staffers are supposed to recycle scrap paper and even old envelopes. But federal recycling policies are decidedly less rigid when it comes to reusing big-ticket items—such as houses. A new government report shows that, instead of forcing owners of insured, erosion-threatened waterfront homes to move their houses out of harm's way, a 1988 law encourages them to demolish their habitable abodes and collect big federal insurance checks.

Auditors with the Federal Emergency Management Agency say that hundreds of homeowners have been knocking down usable homes and rebuilding lavish structures a few dozen feet away on the same land (as the photographs above of property at the same site on North Carolina's Outer Banks reveal). Others receive advance payments, delay demolition and then rent their homes to summer vacationers.

Five years ago, Congress amended the National Flood Insurance Act to include houses threatened by erosion. Why pay a total-loss claim once a house has collapsed, the theory

goes, when it's possible to spend much less upfront simply to move a house off an eroding sand dune? But the law also allows homeowners the option of demolition, and there's the rub. Nearly 80 percent of 329 affected homeowners have chosen to destroy their houses. The reason: The feds pay them 110 percent of the value of their house if demolished, but only 40 percent if moved.

The fund has paid \$15.9 million to homeowners who demolished their homes, \$9.6 million more than it would have cost to move them. Taxpayers haven't had to ball out the fund since 1986, but the damage caused by recent hurricanes and flooding has many lawmakers worried. Bills to revamp the system are working their way through Congress.

■ **Say cheese.** For a snapshot of why the defense budget is so big, picture this. Over just two years, military contractor McDonnell Douglas improperly billed the government for \$3 million in photo-lab expenses, including pictures of the staff Halloween party and photos of the marketing department's Christmas pizza party, the Defense Contract Audit Agency reports. Not to be outdone, the front office ran up a \$275,000 tab for the firm's 50th anniversary bash. □ BY JAMES POMKIN WITH GREG FERGUSON

FEMA will close office on Outer Banks Friday

By Lane DeGregory
Staff writer

AVON — After distributing more than \$1.4 million to almost 600 victims of Hurricane Emily, the Federal Emergency Management Agency will close its Hatteras Island disaster field office on Friday.

"This does not mean that federal assistance to the Outer Banks disaster victims is over," FEMA Coordinating Officer Thomas P. Credle said Wednesday. "The application period for individual assistance will continue through Nov. 8."

Hurricane Emily blew through Hatteras Island's four southernmost villages on Aug. 31. In less than 12 hours, the Category 3 storm caused more than \$12.6 million in damages and left at least 25 percent of the villages' permanent population homeless.

Pamlico Sound surges caused by the storm's 100-plus mile-per-hour winds also flooded the island's only school, causing more than \$3.1 million in damages to the K-12 facility.

On Sept. 10, President Clinton declared Dare County a major disaster area.

FEMA opened a temporary office in the Sun Professional Building in Avon the next day — staffing it with 83 employees.

So far, 887 islanders have applied for federal assistance.

FEMA officials said as of Wednesday:

■ 444 applicants had received a total of \$1 million in housing assistance to help them repair their homes and find temporary lodging.

■ 133 people had gotten a total of \$406,750 in individual and family grants. FEMA provides 75 percent of the grant money. State and local governments contribute the balance.

■ The Small Business Administration has distributed \$2.1 million in low-interest loans. The loans allow people to repair their homes or businesses or to recover from economic injuries.

■ The Federal Government has pledged \$173,167 to help restore Cape Hatteras School. Federal money will provide 75 percent of the school's disaster recovery costs while state and local funds will contribute the balance. By the time final damage reports have been tallied, officials said, the federal government may give the school as much as \$500,000.

"Our experiences here in the Outer Banks have been very positive," Credle said. "I and my staff have

AID APPLICATIONS

Victims of Hurricane Emily can apply for federal assistance through Nov. 8. Following are phone numbers of various agencies which are accepting applications for aid:

■ New applicants should contact the FEMA National Tele-registration Center: 1-800-462-9029

■ Applicants who have already applied for aid but have questions should contact the FEMA Information Hotline: 1-800-685-8351

■ Individual and Family Grant applicants should contact the N.C. Division of Emergency Management: 1-800-804-2779.

■ Small Business Administration loan applicants should contact the SBA Disaster Information Hotline: 1-800-359-2227

■ People who need information about repairing or elevating their homes, businesses or other structures should call Hatteras Island Building Inspector Elvin Hooper: 1-919-995-4401

been appreciative of the cooperation given by local communities, and, especially, the local citizens — many of whom have suffered serious losses."

MIAMI HERALD OCT 20 1993

Mysterious arson fuel creates dangerous, high-tech infernos

By PHIL LONG
Staff Writer **A1**

ORLANDO — It was as if someone opened the kitchen door to Hell.

Firefighters who arrived at an abandoned warehouse only minutes after a blaze began there saw something they'd never seen or experienced before: an inferno so hot that even 100 yards away, cars and mobile homes sized and blistered.

In the belly of the hollow building, a brilliant white flame climbed through walls and ceiling, shimmering unforgettably like a radiant wave.

Now, 2½ years later, authorities believe the fire may have been Florida's first glimpse of a high-tech arson technique that baffled investigators across the nation for a decade.

The fires are so hot that they leave no trace of where they started.

Until now, the technology of arson hadn't changed much since the advent of whale oil. Pour out something flammable, get it lit and get going.

The problem with such fires is the "something flammable" stage: liquids or solids leave chemical traces, signposts to investigators. Even gasoline leaves an odor that can be detected hours after it starts a blaze.

Then, in 1984, a new type of fire suddenly surfaced, one that burned hotter and much quicker than anything seen before, so hot that it leaves no trace of what started it. Pouring water on it actually feeds the blaze — it is so hot that the water atom is stripped of its oxygen molecule and is consumed by the flame.

Whatever started it — perhaps something akin to solid rocket motor — whoever is behind it is a complex

Experts call them "HTA" fires: High-Temperature Accelerant. They are changing the face of arson and threatening the safety of firefighters like nothing else in the past 50 years.

"Comparing HTA fires to all the arsons before is like compar-

ing a jet plane to a bicycle," said Richard Gethhausen, who has investigated a dozen HTA fires in Seattle and elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest and is one of the nation's top experts on the phenomenon.

In several HTA fires around Seattle, Gethhausen said, melted iron pipe and puddles of other metals were testimony to temperatures in excess of 5,000 degrees.

The intense probe into HTA fires, unparalleled in the history of arson investigation, has taken researchers outside traditional law-enforcement channels to pick the brains of military weapons experts, the best fire scientists and even NASA rocket scientists. So far, no luck.

Changing fire rules

"The problem with these fires is that nobody knows exactly what the chemical is or who is using it," said Florida's expert on HTA, Lt. Ron McCardle in the Bureau of Arson Investigation of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office in Tallahassee.

"HTA fires 'change the rules' — things happen that you don't expect," said McCardle, a 29-year veteran firefighter and arson investigator. Fire hot enough to drop the roof of a warehouse in minutes and vaporize half-inch thick steel I-beams, "is something far from the normal fire," McCardle said.

All that can be done in most cases is to surround the building with fountains of water to protect adjoining structures, experts say.

"When you have a fire like that, there's no way of getting inside and putting it out. It's 'surround and drown' time," said Joseph Cieniewski, a fire

fighter with the Orange County Fire Group, one of the nation's largest fire insurers of commercial buildings.

Most of the HTA fires have been in the Pacific Northwest. Since the HTA spree began in 1984, the Seattle Fire Department and investigators for the Federal Emergency Management Administration have probed 12 HTA fires in Washington, California, Oregon and Canada, with insurance losses of \$1 million to \$4.5 million per fire. There have been similar fires in Illinois, Pennsylvania and at the Orlando warehouse.

Only possible HTA in Florida

The Orlando fire, which occurred March 1, 1991, is the only Florida blaze categorized as a possible HTA fire by FEMA. For those who saw the inferno, there is no question it was an uncanny experience.

The first pumper company arrived quickly after the alarm — the fire station was only a minute away. The warehouse, in an industrial district about five miles north of downtown Orlando, was empty except for some stainless-steel racks, but the fire raged like the building contained a refinery.

Jets of smoke shot through tiny openings in the walls. Balls of sparks ricocheted about inside. In less than five minutes, flames ripped through the roof. Within 20 minutes, much of the building lay collapsed.

"I'd never before seen a fire become that intense... in such a short time," said 25-year veteran fire Capt. Richard Schultz, head of the Fire Analysis Bureau of the Orange County Fire and Rescue Division.

For investigators, the warehouse fire was full of mystery. The structure had no gas, water or electricity, said Lt. David Holtenbach, an Orange County arson investigator. There was no lighting. The warehouse empty, save the stainless-steel racks that were melted into puddles

No claim submitted

Several days before the fire, a demolition crew had shown up at the site and removed a portion of one end of the building, said Deputy State Fire Marshal Don Muirhead. The crew left and never returned. No one remembers the company's name.

It didn't seem that insurance was the motive. No one ever came forward with a claim.

The case is "closed for administrative purposes," but is still a "suspicious" blaze, said Lt. Dale Ottobacher, supervisor of the Central Florida office of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Arson is a big business in Florida. Last year, the state fire marshal counted 4,229 suspicious fires that caused a total of \$39 million in losses, killed 24 people and injured 50, and resulted in 231 arrests.

Although there are no "typical" arsonists, said Maj. Nancy Olson, supervisor in the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office, there are patterns within arson. Just over half of the arsons are committed by people angry with their spouses, fired from jobs or spiteful for some other reason, Olson said. The next most common motive for arson is financial.

More than half of the arsons are residential, followed by a group that includes vehicles, vacant buildings and construction sites and a group that includes business properties and public buildings.

A deadly threat

Because arson is the hardest of major crimes to prove, few cases are solved and most policies are paid off, Clepienski said.

HTA fires also pose a deadly threat to unsuspecting firefighters.

"There's a potential for a tremendous amount of injuries because of the unexpected," said Frank Ennist, fire training battalion chief for the Broward County Fire-Rescue Division.

In HTA blazes, firefighters shouldn't climb on roofs the way they normally would. Roofs are already dangerously weakened by the fast-moving HTA supertorch. And the structures are three times as hot as in a normal fire, making it impossible for firefighters to penetrate and attack the fire from within, Ennist said.

The word needs to get out that this is a devastating, heinous crime that is facing the fire service," said Seattle Fire Chief Claude Harris. "I think of nothing in my life that

After one of Harris' firefighters was killed in a suspected HTA fire in 1989, the department made a 26-minute training video using TV news footage and information from all the suspected HTA fires to date. He wonders what criminal genius baked up HTA's formula that government experts can't yet duplicate despite years of study.

The criminal mind behind HTA

"This is a cold, businesslike person," Gehlhausen said, "not some whacked out crazy like a Ted Bundy. It is not his intent to harm anyone, but if someone is harmed . . . to him, they were in the wrong place."

The criminal mind behind HTA seems to have a strong working knowledge of chemistry and structural engineering. The Wall Street Journal reported in a recent story on HTA fires. He may even be an aerospace engineer or former military bomb expert.

So far, Harris' training film has been sent to more than 3,000 fire departments and copied by numerous others. Many firefighters in South Florida have seen all or parts of the videos.

"We're aware of the dangers and we're always looking," said Capt. Ron Sperry of Metro-Dade Fire Department. "Most departments by now are well aware of these kinds of fires and their hazards."

The image of his first HTA fire — a San Francisco bay-side warehouse — is an indelible image in Gehlhausen's mind.

"It was incredible," he said. "It was like science fiction."

"I couldn't believe it. And I wouldn't accept the fact that there was such an extraordinary occurrence that could not be explained. Not the federal government . . . not the military, no one could tell us what was causing it."

A time to move on

We Will Rebuild to continue renewal as a smaller foundation

By PATRICK MAY
Herald Staff Writer

Heartened by the steady renewal of hurricane-battered South Dade, We Will Rebuild downsized Tuesday from an 800-member civic powerhouse, promising to continue its urban resuscitation on a smaller, more streamlined scale.

The board unanimously voted itself out of existence at 9:05 a.m., replacing its 75 members and 800 committee volunteers with the We Will Rebuild Foundation Inc. The new group — two paid employees and a new board of 21 — will oversee the massive rebuilding campaign started last fall by its predecessor.

Quoting from the Bible's book

of Ecclesiastes, We Will Rebuild Chairman Alvah H. Chapman Jr. told the board it was time to move on. "There's a time to tear down and a time to build," he said. "Now's the time for the next chapter of We Will Rebuild."

After assembling an impressive resume of accomplishments — from helping to clutch Homestead Air Force Base from oblivion to landing more than \$10 billion in federal aid — We Will Rebuild members made it clear they weren't walking away from an area still in dire need of help.

"We're not saying that everything has been done," said lawyer and We Will Rebuild director

PLEASE SEE REBUILD, 4B

REBUILD, FROM 1B

Aaron Podhurst. "But what's left to do should be done by a smaller group with a more focused mission. Nobody, though, should get the thought that everyone in South Dade is in good shape."

Of the nearly \$60 million in grant requests received by We Will Rebuild, a little more than \$19 million has been handed out or promised, said Tom David, an executive loaned from Metro-Dade who will serve as the foundation's executive director at least until spring. His \$45,000-a-year salary is supplemented at \$1,000 a week by the foundation.

'We're not saying that everything has been done. But what's left to do should be done by a smaller group with a more focused mission. Nobody, though, should get the thought that everyone in South Dade is in good shape.'

AARON PODHURST,
We Will Rebuild director

The foundation, poised to stay in the rebuilding business for the next three years, will spend much of its time getting more projects on line with an additional \$6.6 million that has been pledged, some of it not set to arrive until 1997.

Another \$400,000 in interest earned on the donations made so far will be spent at the discretion of the foundation's board, David said. Most of the 19 grants likely to be paid out in the coming months will go to projects

designed to increase housing stock and boost social services, two areas the foundation will likely concentrate on. They include proposed grants of \$100,000 to the Agape Women's Home and \$100,000 to the Centro Campesino Center.

"The seeds for many of these projects have already been dropped," said Rod Petrey, a lawyer with Holland & Knight and the foundation's new chairman. "Housing and social services are important economic development tools, but it'll take one or two years for all these plans to come to fruition."

In closing up shop Tuesday, Chapman ran down a list of reasons why the larger organization was outmoded. He said most of We Will Rebuild's original goals had been met, "and while there is much to be done, South Dade is significantly rebuilt."

"It's very heartening," Chapman said, "to see a sea of new roofs where there once were acres and acres of devastation."

Chapman said private and public agencies, no longer saddled with the state of emergency left in Hurricane Andrew's wake, are back in shape to resume their

public service duties. He said the "incredible burst of volunteer activity is fast diminishing, as well it should, because the jobs have been done."

Many of the loaned executives who helped keep We Will Rebuild going are returning to their jobs. President Ray Goode is also leaving, although he wouldn't say Tuesday where he was headed. Fund-raising activities have ceased, but We Will Rebuild's offices in downtown Coral Gables continue to receive donations, including an out-of-the-blue check Monday from a trust account for \$15,000.

Chapman also said "we no longer need the full-court press of We Will Rebuild to push legislative efforts for the 1994 legislative session."

The foundation will retain much of the clout that made We Will Rebuild such a rainmaker, enabling the group to lobby nearly \$700 million for a state legislative fund and coax enough dollars out of Disney to help rebuild 344 units at Country Walk. Chapman, retired chairman and CEO of Knight-Ridder Inc., which owns The Miami Herald, will serve on a small board of advisory directors, whose political connections will be called upon as needed.

Oct. 2, 1994

The Miami Herald



**FEDERAL/STATE
COORDINATING
OFFICE**

**HURRICANE EMILY DISASTER
NEWS RELEASE**



Media Contact:

FEMA - George Thune

(919) 995-6171, ext. 2507

CC&PS - Tom Hegle

(919) 733-5027

FEMA-1003-DR-NC-029

October 20, 1993

For Immediate Release

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, NORTH CAROLINA
HURRICANE EMILY DISASTER ASSISTANCE UPDATE**

AVON, OUTER BANKS, N.C. -- The following are the total number and value of checks mailed to date by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State of North Carolina to residents who sustained damages caused by Hurricane Emily:

DISASTER HOUSING ASSISTANCE -- Administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, may be available to individuals and families whose homes were destroyed or made uninhabitable as a result of damages from Hurricane Emily. The program provides funding for temporary accommodations or minimal home repairs needed to make properties safe, secure and habitable.

CHECKS: 444 TOTAL VALUE: \$1,028,965.59

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY GRANTS -- May be available to individuals and families who have serious immediate needs resulting from the disaster that cannot be met by other sources. These grants, administered by the state, are 75% funded by FEMA, and 25% by state and local governments.

CHECKS: 153 TOTAL VALUE: \$405,750.00

TOTAL VALUE OF ALL CHECKS: \$1,434,715.59

FEMA APPLICATIONS: Teleregistration (1-800-462-9029) 628

Disaster Application Center (now closed) 259; Total: 887

Application deadline is Monday, Nov. 8, 60 days following the Presidential declaration.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Applications for: home loans 464 business loans 194
economic injury and disaster loans 154**

Residents may obtain information concerning FEMA programs as well as the status of their individual applications by calling the Information Hotline: 1-800-685-9351.

**Editor's Note: For further information call the FEMA PIO, at (919)
995-6171, ext. 2507**



FEDERAL/STATE
COORDINATING
OFFICE

HURRICANE EMILY DISASTER
NEWS RELEASE



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FEMA-1003-DR-NC

October 20, 1993

HURRICANE EMILY DISASTER FIELD OFFICE TO CLOSE

AVON, OUTER BANKS, NC. --Thomas P. Credle, Federal Coordinating Officer for the Hurricane EMILY disaster relief operation, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) official announced the closing of the Disaster Field Office in Avon, NC on October 22, 1993.

The office was opened on September 11, 1993 in the Sun Professional Building in Avon one day after the President declared Dare County a Major Disaster area because of Hurricane EMILY. Initially staffed with 83 FEMA employees consisting of permanent full-timers, civilian reservists, and locally hired staff, the office staffing is now down to a total of 27 employees.

"This does not mean that Federal assistance to Outer Banks disaster victims is over," Credle said. "The application period for individual assistance will continue through November 8, 1993, the 60-day period prescribed by law."

New applicants can still apply using the National Teleregistration Center toll-free number (1-800-462-9029).

Those who have already made applications may obtain information concerning FEMA programs, as well as the status of their individual applications by calling the Information Hotline: 1-800-685-9351.

The State has also provided closeout points-of-contact at Raleigh, NC:

The toll-free number established at North Carolina Division of Emergency Management in Raleigh for questions pertaining to the Individual and Family Grant Program is 1-800-804-2779.

The telephone number and contact person for all questions concerning elevation of structures is Elvin Hooper (Building Inspections) at (919) 995-4401 in Buxton, NC.

Since the Disaster Field Office opened over \$1,434,715.59 in checks have been distributed to applicants under the Individual Assistance Program for Temporary Housing Assistance, or for Individual and Family Grants.

(more)

On September 23, 1993 an Amendment to the disaster declaration was made to include Public Assistance for Cape Hatteras School in Dare County. Based on current Damage Survey Reports, the Federal Government will provide \$173,167 for restoration of the school and grounds. This is based on a 75%/25% cost share basis between the Federal Government and the State and local governments provided for by law. When final figures for supplemental Damage Survey Reports are in, the Federal share may approach one-half million dollars.

In addition to the assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration has also been providing assistance in the form of low-interest loans to Dare County disaster victims. To date they have approved loans totalling \$2,106,300 for homes, businesses, and economic injury and disaster loans. Their office at the Pamlico Station Building in Rodanthe will remain open indefinitely. The SBA phone number is (919)-987-2113. SBA also maintains a toll-free SBA Disaster Information Hotline number: 1-800-359-2227.

Credle commented that "Our experiences here in the Outer Banks have been very positive. I and my staff have been appreciative of the cooperation given by local communities, and especially the local citizens, many of which have suffered serious losses. It was a pleasure to provide what assistance we could under the circumstances, and that assistance will continue until the last applicant has received assistance provided in the Disaster Act as administered by FEMA."



FEDERAL/STATE COORDINATING OFFICE



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For Further Information:

Jeffrey Jellets - FEMA
(908) 477-4252 Ext. 22
John Hagerty - NJSPOEM
(609) 882-2000 Ext. 2323

FEMA-DR-973-NJ-53
October 20, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE DECEMBER 1992 NOR'EASTER DRAWING TO A CLOSE

BRICK, N.J. -- As federal disaster assistance figures topped \$263 million, officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that the disaster recovery operation for the December Nor'easter of 1992 was drawing to a close. FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Ihor W. Husar and Deputy State Director Major Carl A. Williams of the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management (NJSPOEM) made the decision after noting that all applications for the Individual and Public Assistance programs had been processed by FEMA and the majority of grants transmitted to the State.

"There are still appeals and some residual work that needs to be completed," Husar said. "But both FEMA and the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management are satisfied that we've accomplished the job we set out to do in December. I think the success of this disaster assistance operation has proven that FEMA is an agency that can be depended upon to get results in a timely and efficient fashion."

FEMA Region II personnel earned commendations from the New Jersey State Senate, Assembly, and New Jersey Governor Florio for their efforts during the disaster relief operation. A break-down of federal aid is as follows:

The Individual Assistance Program:

Following the Nor'easter, FEMA accepted 11,509 applications for disaster assistance from storm victims in Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, Somerset and Union counties. A breakdown of Individual Assistance to New Jersey residents follows:

- 3,662 Disaster Housing grants totalling over \$5.2 million. The Disaster Housing program furnished temporary accommodations for victims whose homes were destroyed by the Nor'easter or provided money for emergency repairs to disaster-damaged houses.

- 2,258 Individual & Family Grants totalling \$5.3 million. IFG provides eligible applicants with up to \$11,900 to cover essential needs and expenses not covered by other disaster assistance programs or insurance.

- See Attachment for Breakdown of Disaster Housing and IFG Aid By County -

- 118 claims were approved under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program totalling \$236,155. DUA provides assistance for those individuals who lost work as a direct result of the Nor'easter. The most affected industries were: Restaurants (41 apps.); Fishing & Boating (35 apps.); and Construction (25 apps.).

- \$19,333 were obligated to the Crisis Counseling program which provides psychological counseling and support groups for those suffering severe emotional trauma or depression due to the effects of a disaster.

The SBA Disaster Loan Program:

The United States Small Business Administration (SBA) provided low-interest homeowner, business, and economic injury loans to help individuals and private businesses rebuild in the wake of the Nor'easter. The chart below illustrates SBA assistance to the State of New Jersey:

Small Business Administration Disaster Loans by Type:	Apps. Issued	Apps. Received	Apps. Approved	Total \$ Approved
Home Disaster Loans	4,916	2,451	1,456	\$22,491,900.00
Business Physical Disaster Loans	1,506	732	460	\$23,551,500.00
Economic Injury Disaster Loans	281	80	31	\$ 1,154,400.00
TOTAL:	6,703	3,263	1,947	\$47,197,800.00

The Public Assistance Program:

- The Public Assistance program is designed to reimburse state and local government entities and certain private nonprofit organizations for damages suffered in the wake of a presidentially declared disaster.
- Public Assistance grants are made available on a cost sharing basis. In the case of the Nor'easter, 75% of the costs were borne by FEMA and 25% by the State of New Jersey.
- Eligible applicants for the Public Assistance program may seek reimbursement for several different types of disaster-related expenses. The following chart illustrates the seven categories of eligible public assistance work along with the 75% federal share obligated for the Nor'easter.

Public Assistance By Category	Amount Obligated (Federal Share)
A. Debris Removal	\$ 8,548,860.05
B. Protective Measures	\$ 6,231,677.00
C. Roads & Bridges	\$ 1,012,380.00
D. Water Control Facilities	\$ 3,702,750.00
E. Public Buildings	\$ 3,309,417.00
F. Public Utilities	\$ 1,758,584.00
G. Other (Parks & Rec.)	\$ 9,674,227.00
<i>Eligible Admin. Costs</i>	<i>\$ 1,161,470.00</i>
TOTAL:	\$35,399,365.05

- As of this date, not all the federal funds shown above have been disbursed by the State. Public assistance grants are administered through reimbursement and, since some municipalities are still in the process of repairing damage caused by the Nor'easter, not all have received their full reimbursement. The State of New Jersey and the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management are responsible for disbursing all public assistance grants to the appropriate applicants.

The Public Assistance Program and Eligible Beach Work:

Through coordination with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy (NJ DEP&E), FEMA approved approximately \$3.5 million in Public Assistance grants for disaster-related repairs to New Jersey's beaches. Eligible beach work included emergency dune repairs, replacement of sand fencing, and dune grass replanting.

Unfortunately, for the majority of the State's beaches, this has been the legal limit of federal disaster assistance as permanent replacement of sand on an unimproved natural beach is not eligible. To qualify as an improved beach, it must have been designed and constructed using an analysis of sand grain size to determine the elevation and the width of the berm. The beach must also have an established maintenance program with sand renourishment at a minimum interval of five years.

The purpose of this criteria is not to impose a specific design upon all beaches. Since all beaches vary in size, shape, and composition, FEMA encourages State and local officials to study each beach individually and to adopt a design tailored to each location. However, once a design is approved, it must be strictly adhered to and the beach regularly maintained. If a disaster strikes, FEMA will use the improved beach criteria outlined above to verify whether the beach is eligible for grant monies to cover permanent restorative work. If a beach has no specific design or is not maintained to a specific design, permanent sand replacement is ineligible for coverage under the federal disaster assistance program.

Federal law requires that State and local officials take the initiative and make an investment in a facility they are the direct beneficiaries of and whose condition is of distinct importance to the community. Beaches are not just a source of economic revenue but also act as natural barriers, protecting human lives and property from flooding. The improved beach criteria forces municipalities to combat erosion by regularly renourishing their beaches and in doing so, seeks to maintain the beach at its maximum size and therefore minimize potential damages from future coastal storms.

At the time of the Nor'easter, only two beaches, one in the Borough of Avalon and another in Sea Isle City, met the criteria and were eligible to receive federal funding for sand renourishment. Avalon received \$426,000 to replace 88,000 cubic yards of sand and Sea Isle City \$83,000 to replace 7,600 cubic yards of sand.

The National Flood Insurance Program:

At the time of the Nor'easter, there were approximately 124,331 flood insurance policies in effect within the State of New Jersey with coverage totalling over \$13.6 billion. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is designed to protect homeowners from severe financial loss due to flooding and provides flood insurance at a reasonable cost in exchange for the careful management of flood prone areas by the community. Since nine out of ten presidentially-declared disasters involve flooding, NFIP also benefits the taxpayers. As floods occur, the insurance mechanism pays for covered losses, rather than U.S. Treasury funds for federal disaster assistance.

- 16,304 flood insurance claims were filed as a result of the Nor'easter. As of July 31, 1993, approximately 96% of these claims have been closed for a total of \$169,823,499.97. The average flood insurance settlement was approximately \$12,800.00.

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

December 1992 Nor'easter
*** FEMA DR-973-NJ ***

Individual Assistance:
New Jersey State Totals

Registrations – 11,509

Disaster Housing
Applications Approved – 3,662
Amount Approved – \$5,205,479.00

Individual & Family Grants
Applications Approved – 2,260
Amount Approved – \$5,365,265.28

