



FEMORS NewsGram

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Commander's Message



Another hurricane season approaches. May we be blessed again this year will have failed expectations in that regard!

FEMORS expectations continue to grow. We are busy with final touches preparing for the Annual Training/Exercise in May. This will be our first at the new Dept. of Emergency Management State Logistics Warehouse, and a fine warehouse it is. (To get dirty, you might even have to bring your own dust!) But we are not there to admire its functionality; we are there to test ourselves.

Everyone realizes there is a great deal of artificiality in an exercise because of time. We will run the exercise for 1.5 days and assume a great deal. For example, we hit the ground running to retrieve remains in the field and get them started in the morgue in a matter of minutes. That often takes days in a real event. Be that as it may, we need to test the interoperability of our major functions of command, recovery, morgue processing, missing person management, and identification.

We only get one chance each year to practice what we have been planning for these past 6 years so we strive to maximize that effort in challenging ways.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Larry

TRAINING SESSIONS 2008

VIC TRAINING

Victim Information Center (VIC) Training was held Friday, March 28th at the Embassy Suites near the Orlando airport. Thirty-four members attended and received updates and practice on the networked server/client version of FRED as a refresher prior to this year's exercise.

ODONTOLOGY TRAINING

Odontology Training was held Saturday, March 29th at the Embassy Suites near the Orlando airport. Twenty members attended and received updates and practice on the networked server/client versions of FRED and WinID as a refresher prior to this year's exercise. They also finalized the Odontology Postmortem/Morgue Protocol for the FOG 4th Edition.

ANNUAL TRAINING/EXERCISE

The dates for Annual Training are Thursday, May 15th to noon on Saturday, May 17th. Registration closed last week and there are 114 members registered plus observers from Michigan, North Carolina, Alabama, and Dept. of Health.



DPMU Team going beyond the call of duty to add realism for this year's exercise.

Several previously inactive members have registered and will be able to resume active status by attending this year's exercise.

FOG REVISION (4TH EDITION)

The Field Operations Guide remains in revision with lessons learned from the 2007, and soon, the 2008 exercises.

The 4th Edition will likely be finished in January 2008 so there is still time for input. *Every member with a suggestion for improvement is encouraged to send it along forthwith to Commander Bedore at Bedore@pathology.ufl.edu.*

ICS TRAINING UPDATE

Once again there has been a tweaking of the ICS courses required for disaster responders. The significant change is that the old National Response Plan (NRP) has been revised and renamed into the National Response Framework (NRF).

Much of the FY07 NIMS Training Guidelines, released March 2007, remain the same except for responders who would assume Team Leader roles. This now requires completion of the National Response Framework, An Introduction IS-800B course (on-line version, 3 hours).

These are the revised baseline courses for response personnel under the state and federal systems:

- Entry level first responders & disaster workers:
 - ICS-100, and
 - ICS-700
- First line supervisors, single resource leaders, field supervisors, and other emergency management/response personnel that require a higher level of ICS/NIMS Training:
 - ICS-100,
 - ICS-200, and
 - ICS-700
- Mid-level management including strike team leaders, task force leaders, unit leaders, division/group supervisors, branch directors:
 - ICS-100,
 - ICS-200,
 - ICS 300,
 - ICS-700 and
 - **ICS-800B**
- Command and general staff:
 - ICS-100,
 - ICS-200,
 - ICS 300,
 - ICS-400,
 - ICS-700 and
 - **ICS-800B**

The core courses still available at the FEMA websites are:

- For on line training in IS-100,
<http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is100.asp>
- For on line training in IS-200,
<http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is200.asp>
- For on line training in IS-700 NIMS,
<http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp>
- For on line training in IS-800/B NRF,
<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS800b.asp>

FRED DEVELOPMENTS

As most members know by now, we have lost the services of the very talented Jonathan Scott. Jonathan has taken an Investigator position in another Medical Examiner office.

Jonathan was a brilliant pioneer in developing and programming our mass fatality database FRED. He saw the difficulties faced in Katrina with working two separate databases (one for missing persons and one for morgue processing) and melded them into a single program capable

of powerful searching to aid in finding potential matches for identification.

We all benefited from Jonathan's fine work and how it helped FEMORS develop greater capabilities. On a personal level, as Commander, I will miss having Jonathan around on a personal level. We were more like brothers than co-workers over the past several years hashing out ideas and solutions to the myriad "what if..." scenarios.



We all wish Jonathan only the best of good fortune along his new path.

FRED, in the meantime, continues to be developed and improved. It will be the focal point of this year's exercise once again and is fully networked so it can be put to the test.

LOGISTICS CHIEF CHANGES

With Jonathan's departure, a good deal of Command Staff work has gone into figuring out a best strategy for a transition.

The basics of the changes are:

- Jason Byrd will serve as the Logistics Chief
- Vickie Bellino will serve as a Deputy Chief

Jason will bear the brunt of the responsibilities in planning, scheduling and project development (in addition to his full time job at the Dept of Agriculture).

Vickie, living closest to the warehouse, will oversee the equipment preventative maintenance schedule on monthly, quarterly or whatever other schedule is needed. She will also coordinate equipment repairs or servicing, manage receipt of supply ordering and keep the containers dusted nice and pretty! ☺

FEMORS WEBSITE

Jason Byrd has also stepped up to the challenge of getting the website back to a functional level for membership issues. Following this year's exercise, the repairs should be completed to the point where we can use it once again to permit members to update their profiles and life changes.

FY 07-08 BUDGET

The FEMORS budget was approved in January (providing sufficient time to secure hotel rooms for training sessions).

While the budget slashing across Florida should not impact FEMORS in FY 08-09, there is a significant possibility that dollar-matching changes at the federal level may make next year's budget process difficult. Time will tell.

FEMORS INTERACTIONSTarget Capability Team

Commander Bedore has been appointed by DOH to serve as the Fatality Management Target Capability Team Leader for an initiative to strengthen Florida's capability to respond to all hazards events.

In a nutshell, DOH has set an ambitious goal to implement the 2007-2010 Public Health and Medical Preparedness Strategic Plan

(<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/DEMO/php/phmprept8-07.pdf>) by aligning federal Target Capability tasks in terms of what they mean when applied to Florida. Fatality Management's Objective 16 is found on page 35.

The team includes several DOH internal partners and a number of Subject Matter Experts including FEMORS own Paul Taylor and Jay Rhodes, who serves as Co-Team Lead.

The long range goal is to clarify the capability, identify gaps in achieving it, and develop solutions to fill those gaps. The process should take until the end of 2008 at a minimum.

Pandemic Flu Preparedness

In another area, DOH has also been challenged to conform to federal "guidance" ("requirement" is probably more accurate) to demonstrate preparedness for a pandemic outbreak. Because the majority of naturally occurring pandemic deaths do not fall under Medical Examiner jurisdiction (unless due to an act of terrorism) a supplement to the Florida Mass Fatality Plan was needed.

FEMORS drafted the "Florida Natural Disease Outbreak and the Pandemic Influenza Fatality Management Response Plan". This plan addresses healthcare system deaths as well as Medical Examiner jurisdiction cases and issues related to dealing with an anticipated surge. It will undergo a review process including participation of the Medical Examiners Commission.

OTHER TRIVIA

Dr. Ken Cohrn passed his board exams in February and joins the elite few ABFO (American Board of Forensic Odontology) forensic dentists among FEMORS ranks. Congratulations, Ken!

Jason Byrd was the recipient of DMORT's Region IV 2008 Distinguished Member Award presented at the 2008 National Disaster Medical System Summit in Nashville, TN. Congratulations, Jason!

**COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS**

Member feedback and suggestions are always welcome and can be delivered to FEMORS staff at the following numbers:

Dr. Bruce Goldberger, Program Director
352-265-0680, Ext. 72001
888-443-2911 (pager)
bruce-goldberger@ufl.edu

Larry Bedore, Commander
727-560-3276 (Cell)
352-733-0340 (District 8 MEO)
161*31212*1 (NexTel Direct Connect)
bedore@pathology.ufl.edu

Tammy Grosskopf, Administrative Chief
352-265-0680, Ext. 72047
352-494-5114 (Cell)
160*128*12671 (NexTel Direct Connect)
GROSSKOP@pathology.ufl.edu

Jason Byrd, Logistics Chief
386-882-8222 (Cell)
jhbyrd@ufl.edu

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