



# FEMORS NewsGram

## Vol. 8, No. 2

### Fall/Winter 2010



### Commander's Message



A season for giving thanks (*for the lack of hurricanes!*) and enjoying family and friends is upon us. May we all find time to savor the good things this season, and especially the freedoms we sometimes take for granted in this great country, provide.

Efforts like ours have become the new normal – preparing for challenges by dedication to a cause. Our basic mission is to respond in time of need for the sake of families who may never know we exist. Yet the goal of a *fully prepared team* capability is a lofty and elusive one that is ever changing as the full preparedness community continues to mature through collaboration.

I doubt that we will ever get to the point where our planning work is completed. There will always be new issues arising to which we need to adapt; and we have shown the capacity to do just that since we began in 2002. In the coming year we will again be challenged to adjust to new application requirements to comply with certain statutory changes (more on that later) and no one knows what may arise in the future.

Regardless of the hurdles ahead, I stand shoulder to shoulder with all of you who have committed yourselves to making FEMORS ready for anything because we all know that Hope is Not an Option!

Larry

### MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT

Since the last NewsGram, all members received information about some new rigid requirements contained in the DOH contract for the FY 2010-2011 cycle.

The most significant of these changes was the obligation of FEMORS to deliver to DOH a completed application package for each Active member at specific times. This is needed so that DOH's Human Resource division can immediately activate a member's payroll status (and coverage for worker's comp and liability) upon deployment.

To do this, FEMORS prepares a physical DVD with digital copies of all required forms and hand delivers it to DOH to safeguard members' personal information. (*The original signed forms are securely maintained by FEMORS in Gainesville by Vickie Maloney until DOH needs them.*)

Most Active members had completed the new sets of forms that were first itemized in the Fall 2009 NewsGram. However, many either did not get around to submitting new forms or sent in incomplete sets. This resulted in repeated phone and e-mail contacts to get forms completed before the first set had to be burned to the DVD that was due for the Nov 4, 2010 deliverable meeting. (The full 1<sup>st</sup> Deliverable Report can be found on the Events page of the website at: [http://femors.org/docs/FEMORS\\_Status\\_Report\\_2010.pdf](http://femors.org/docs/FEMORS_Status_Report_2010.pdf) . Appendix D is the roster of all current Active members.)

As a result, the Active membership roster for FEMORS now stands at 155 specialists capable of being deployed. *Those who are "Inactive" can no longer be deployed.*



There are a dozen or so members who are lacking only one or two forms and several dozen others who have yet not started the re-application process.

FEMORS must now deliver these digital rosters quarterly with the following due dates:

- January 10, 2011
- April 11, 2011
- June 30, 2011

Members can achieve a status change from Inactive to Active by simply delivering the package to Vickie Maloney by mail (with original signatures) in time for the next delivery. Details are at [http://femors.org/member\\_info.aspx](http://femors.org/member_info.aspx).

### **NIMS COMPLIANCE ICS TRAINING**

A related membership issue is the ICS minimum training requirements for responders. DOH implemented this as mandatory for all of its full-time employees. It is only a matter of time before they extend it as well to part-time responder teams.

ICS compliance for FEMORS' 155 Active members (see 1<sup>st</sup> Deliverable Report, Appendix D for your status) currently stands at:

137	IS-100
137	IS-200
131	IS-700a
104	IS-800b

These 4 courses are now a *prerequisite for attending* FEMORS training programs each year.

The on-line versions of these courses can be found at the [FEMA Independent Study Program \(ISP\) Course List: http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp](http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp)

- <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp>
- <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS200b.asp>
- <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700a.asp>
- <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is800b.asp>

Each of these courses takes about 1 hour to complete and a certificate is issued upon completion. Members are encouraged to save the certificate as a PDF file so they can always produce it again.

For those in command level or Go Team positions additional ICS courses (classroom settings only) are required including:

- ICS-300: Intermediate ICS
- ICS-400: Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff, Complex Incidents, and MACS

Copies of certificates in PDF format must be delivered by e-mail to Vickie Maloney in order for the FEMORS roster to be updated for the next deliverable report.

### **UPCOMING DOH REQUIREMENTS FOR 2011**

At the Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Deliverable meeting, FEMORS was informed of a few changes on the horizon for all response teams.

1. Background Checks
2. Fingerprinting of Medical and Dental licensees

Apparently there are certain statutes that now make these two procedures mandatory for all DOH employees (including part time responders). FEMORS has been asking for the background check service since its inception but it was always a back burner issue because funding was an unresolved challenge. It now appears DOH will be footing the bill to pay for the service.

For the fingerprinting of licensees, that appears to be a recent statutory change but licensed doctors who have been going through renewal have been facing this already.

Exact procedures and dates for these changes have not been announced yet. All members will be advised as soon as details are released.

### **2011 TRAINING PROGRAMS**

Registration forms for the 2011 programs will be coming out shortly. All members will receive notice and instructions for the registration process.

**Note Well:** the prerequisites for *registering* for FEMORS training are both the:

1. basic 4 NIMS courses, and
2. completed application package.

All Inactive members are strongly encouraged to complete the prerequisites early so that they may register to attend and regain Active status.

### **ANNUAL TRAINING/DRILL 2011 - ORLAQ**

The Ninth Annual Training and Drill will be held Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> once again at the Department of Emergency Management's State Logistics Response Center (SLRC) in Orlando.

The scenario will be an Orlando earthquake (hence OrLaQ, pronounced "oar lack") that will again test all 5 major functions:

1. Command and Control,
2. Field Recovery,
3. Morgue Processing,
4. Victim Information Center, and
5. Morgue Identification Center.

This is the continuation of the new biennial cycle of alternating HSEEP training sessions with operational drills:

- 2009 Drill
- 2010 Training
- 2011 Drill
- 2012 Training
- 2013 Drill, etc



2010 Annual Training provided instruction on the many improvements made as a result of the 2009 Drill. Now those updates will be tested in the OrLaQ Drill.

For those who were unable to attend the 2010 session, the classroom handout material is posted on the website at: [http://femors.org/docs/FEMORS\\_Annual\\_Training\\_2010\\_Handout.pdf](http://femors.org/docs/FEMORS_Annual_Training_2010_Handout.pdf).

The overview of the 2011 Drill schedule includes:

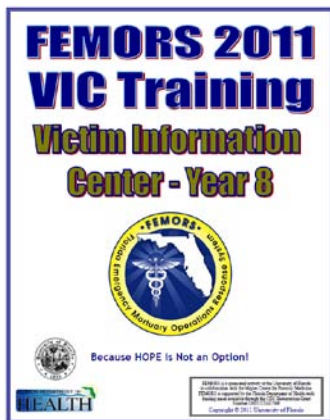
- Check-In Wednesday Jun 1<sup>st</sup> (afternoon)
- Exercise Start at SLRC, Thursday Jun 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Exercise End at SLRC, Friday Jun 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Wrap-up Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> (noon)

Space usage at the SLRC is tighter than ever with a radical realignment of the racking system and loss of the use of the upstairs office areas previously used for VIC staff. So the drill must be made to fit the space available – a real life factor for Command and Control in every deployment.

Once again this will be a joint drill with the Regional Disaster Behavioral Health Assessment Team (RDBHAT) serving as actors, players, and (on Saturday) instructors.

**VIC TRAINING 2011- SAVE THE DATE**

The Eighth annual Victim Information Center (VIC) Training will be held Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> probably at the Doubletree Hotel once again in Orlando.

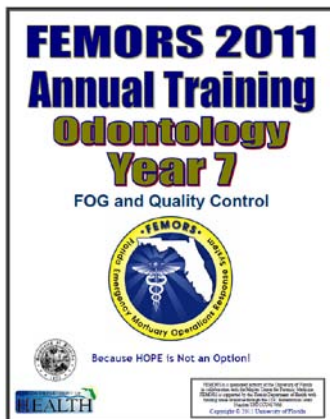


Members interested in joining the VIC Team are welcome to participate. Both procedure refresher training and practical hands-on use of the computer systems including the Victim Identification Program (VIP) will be among the major goals.

The same prerequisites for **registering** apply.

**ODONT TRAINING 2011- SAVE THE DATE**

The Seventh annual Odontology Training will be held Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> probably at the Doubletree Hotel once again in Orlando.



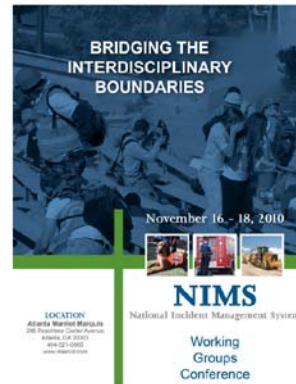
This session is open to all odontologists and dental assistants. Both procedure refresher training and practical hands-on use of the computer systems including the DEXIS/WinID and the Victim Identification Program (VIP) will be among the major goals.

The same prerequisites for **registering** apply.

**FEMORS INTERACTIONS**

**NIMS FM TEAM TYPING DEVELOPMENTS**

FEMORS continues to participate on the federal NIMS Medical & Public Health Working Group (MPHWG) and attended the November Summit - Bridging the Interdisciplinary Boundaries: NIMS Working Groups Conference in Atlanta, GA. This was an opportunity for each of the Working Groups to interact with the eleven others to achieve collaboration of effort.



As previously reported in the NewsGram, Typing and Credentialing of state-level response Fatality Management teams, and the 100 individual positions identified, had been drafted. (Actual adoption by the NIMS Integration Center of FEMA is still a soft distant target.) The MPHWG is now making a welcome expansion of FM representation from 1 to 3 subject matter experts to assist with review of the drafts in hopes of getting them finalized.

Just when everyone thought they were getting close to their original "Target Capability" (the original reason for the working groups) the feds appear to be on the verge of revising all of them. The old "one-size-fits-all" mentality has proven unworkable.

- For example, Frostproof, Florida does not need to build the same Haz-Mat capability as Jacksonville with its huge seaport receiving shipments of hazardous materials.
- The new "Response Capability" guides are intended to recognize the risk level to which a community should prepare itself.
- This may well involve developing smaller sized FM teams to the typing list so that Governors could request only the parts needed (i.e., dentists, pathologists, DNA, etc.) instead of the full blown response of 100+ members of a Type I team.

Interestingly, at the November summit a question was posed to the Fire and Haz-Mat Working Group – *What steps have been taken for handling the deceased in a CBRN incident?* (CBRN is Chemical, Biological, Radiological, or Nuclear.) Forgive the pun but the response was dead silence.



It appears that not even the DMORT WMD team has been asked for input on this issue! Private conversations between members of Fire and Haz-Mat and Fatality Management (as part of the MPH WG) revealed several difficult issues to be resolved not the least of which were:

- How do responders who are accustomed to dealing with the dead achieve and *maintain* haz-mat certification necessary to don Level A or B protective equipment in order to recover bodies at a CBRN incident?
- Who provides worker’s comp and liability coverage for responders?

**DOH PROJECT - CBRN TEAM PLAN**

The CBRN response team issue is important in Florida because the Florida Department of Health’s Strategic Plan Strategy 16.5 is: Develop a plan for state level CBRN Human Remains Team. FEMORS is coordinating efforts to bring all the relevant stakeholders together in January to face the challenge by asking:

- **Why are we doing this?**
  - Decontamination of deceased victims in a CBRN event is a gap in the Fatality Management Target Capability
- **What do we hope to accomplish?**
  - To develop a plan (strategy) to fill the CBRN gap for Florida.
- **How are we going to accomplish this?**
  - Stakeholders reach consensus on which agency should take ownership of assembling (coordinating) and maintaining a CBRN FM Team.
  - Perhaps Dept of Environmental Protection already has the nucleus of such a team in place that can be build upon.
  - Identify funding needs and potential grant based sources to propose projects to fill the gap.

The expectation is that a concept of operations can be developed by June 30, 2011

**DOH PROJECT – HEALTHCARE MODULE**

FEMORS continues to coordinate efforts to develop an awareness level on-line training module primarily for hospital staff on how Fatality Management might impact them.

While most disaster deaths fall to medical examiner jurisdiction, those of apparent natural disease (pandemic outbreaks, for example) remain mostly a hospital responsibility. Thus the need to help hospitals.

The process of doing this has led to an observation that a set of training modules could also be developed over the next few years especially for new members to orient them to:

1. Command and Control,
2. Field Recovery,
3. Morgue Processing,
4. Victim Information Center, and
5. Morgue Identification Center.

**"TOUCH-A-TRUCK" EXPO ALACHUA COUNTY**

FEMORS took part in the August 14th - Public Awareness "Touch-A-Truck" expo for children at the Gainesville Fair Grounds.



Nice HOT August day – note the fan placements!

- This was a first ever public awareness event for the public to get up close and personal with all sorts of public response vehicles including police, fire, medical, public works, the FEMORS BAT mobile and Medical Examiner vehicle.
- Over 2,500 citizens visited the expo to look, ask questions and learn.
- FEMORS members donating their time for the Saturday event were:
  - Cathy Weldon
  - Mike Goodman
  - Peggy Mann
  - Larry Bedore



Children visiting Peggy and Cathy seemed more interested in the body part shaped silly bands but some also tested the lights and sirens.

**GAINESVILLE AIRPORT FTX**

On Oct 21<sup>st</sup> FEMORS took part in a plane crash Field Exercise at the Gainesville International Airport. This is a triennial FAA requirement for the airport.

FEMORS' roles were limited to victim field recovery and setting up the Victim Information Center in conjunction with the NTSB's Family Assistance Center. The accelerated time jumps prevented complete utilization of all assets and testing of the interview process at the VIC. Nonetheless, coordination with the local Command Post and other players proved to be a most useful training tool.

Along with staff from the local Medical Examiner's Office, 16 local FEMORS members (primarily from Alachua County) took part.



Setting up the Transportation Staging tent at the field command post



Recovery Team documenting victim location



Transfer from field to the Transportation Staging

Overall, the exercise was successful in two important areas.

- First, it demonstrated that the field recovery basics of the FOG protocol and position descriptions are sound and provide foundational guidance.
- Second, it demonstrated that FEMORS can participate in local exercises more frequently with the deployment of the command trailer and field recovery element (even if the full morgue capability cannot be exercised due to time and funding).

**COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS**

Member feedback and suggestions are always welcome and can be delivered to FEMORS staff via any of the following contact methods:

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FEMORS is a sponsored activity of the University of Florida in collaboration with the Maples Center for Forensic Medicine.

FEMORS is supported by the Florida Department of Health with funding provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Bioterrorism Grant Number U90/CCU417006) and by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Preparedness Directorate, Homeland Security Grant Program (Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance [CFDA] Number 97.067).

**SMILE FOR THE DAY!**

