



FEMORS NewsGram

Vol. 7, No. 1

Fall 2009



Commander's Message



Hurricane Season that wasn't!

We can all be thankful for another quiet year and that Florida was spared the effects of devastation. While it is true we were not called upon to respond to any disaster, it is also true that we were prepared and ready. The flooding threats of the spring had us on edge for potential cemetery washouts along several rivers in north and central Florida; thankfully, they remained intact.

Since the last NewsGram, many changes have taken place:

- Vickie Maloney took over for Tammy Grosskopf
- 2009 Annual Training Drill (FOG shakedown)
- DPMU upgraded and resupplied
- Budget for FY 09-10 Approved
- New DOH application procedures were implemented

While long silences between NewsGrams may lead one to think little is happening, rest assured that, much like a duck that appears serene on the surface but is pedaling madly below, a great deal of work continues to improve your program foundation.

Your dedication, and especially your patience in waiting for the "big one", are invaluable to maintaining our state of readiness. Florida's citizens' best interests may be the reason FEMORS exists, but *you* are still the only reason it remains the successful asset that so many have come to rely on.

Keep up the great work,
Larry

TAMMY DEPARTS FOR NEBRASKA

Tammy Grosskopf, an original Charter member who served as FEMORS Administrative Officer since 2006 when Kelly Lonesk departed for California, has also departed but this time for the hills and plains of Nebraska.

Tammy's husband, Kevin, a Construction Engineer Professor at UF, accepted a new position at Nebraska University. Tammy, with her FEMORS experiences in tow,

is seeking to help with the start up of fatality management disaster preparedness efforts for that region.



Tammy was recognized for her seven years of service at the 2009 Annual Training with the Exceptional Achievement Award.

VICKIE MALONEY APPOINTED ADMIN CHIEF

At the Seventh Annual Training held in Orlando in May, Vickie Maloney could be seen among the staff at the registration and check-in desk with Tammy.

Vickie officially joined FEMORS in 2009 but had been handling much of FEMORS purchasing efforts through UF since 2003. She brings more than 10 years of fiscal experience including a vast knowledge of the UF computer systems need to track funding.

ANNUAL TRAINING/EXERCISE 2009

The Seventh Annual Training was held Thursday, May 21st to Saturday, May 23rd once again at the Department of Emergency Management's State Logistics Response Center (SLRC) in Orlando.

This year's program was conducted under Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP, pronounced *H-Seeep*) compliance.

What that means is that the exercise process is a long range improvement cycle. There are several levels of review and approval for the design, execution, evaluation, follow-up (After Action), and re-design of the exercise. A team of evaluators was present during the drill to aid in identifying areas of improvement for future training programs.



This was clearly the most challenging and rewarding program attempted to date.



Admin Station (Check-In)



Admitting Station



Lecture/Briefing Sessions



Morgue in Full Swing



Recovery Team



Radiology Station



Remains Storage Station



Triage (Path, Photo, PE) Station



Pathology Station



Dr. G with Fingerprint Station



Photography Station



Dental Station



Personal Effects Station



VIC Team



MIC Team



Behind the Scenes (DPMU Standing Ready)



Behind the Scenes (DPMU Coordination)



Packing it All Away



Behind the Scenes (Getting IT to Work, #\$\$%^&!)



Behind the Scenes (Working on FRED)

The After Action Report /Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) is in its final draft review process and will be shared with the membership when it is complete.

The executive summary proposes:

Primary Areas for Improvement

Throughout the exercise, several opportunities for improvement in FEMORS’ ability to respond to the incident were identified. The primary areas for improvement, including recommendations, are as follows:

- Additional FEMORS specific organizational training needs to be provided beyond the required ICS training. Training for the 2010 session should focus on:
 - detailed sessions of ICS reporting and unique roles of the FM Branch leadership positions in that process,
 - overview training so that each functional area understands the impact of quality work on the other areas, and
 - team breakout, hands-on sessions concentrating on protocols and equipment usage in each station.
- DPMU equipment and supply cache needs to be enhanced and made more robust. This includes redistribution of certain equipment found to be excess in one area and lacking in another.

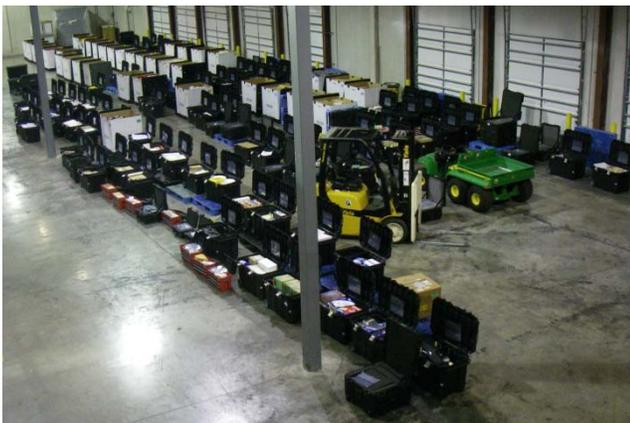
- Critical reevaluation of morgue flow needs to be undertaken by the advisory team. Station design and placement, as well as joint staffing assignments (e.g., pathology/photo/DNA) for economy of time and effort, may result in greater throughput of work in the morgue processing function.

Overall, the drill was very successful in two important areas. First, it demonstrated that the basics of the FOG protocol and position descriptions are sound and provide foundational guidance. Second, it revealed, thanks to the frank and constructive criticisms proffered, the many areas that can and will be improved.

DPMU UPDATED

One benefit of getting such good input on equipment needs during the 2009 Annual Training Drill resulted in adding over \$50,000 of equipment and supplies to the cache. This included extensive expansion of supplies for PPE, fingerprint, DNA, pathology, personal effects, VIC and MIC. Durable equipment items were also added to photography, pathology, and a few other areas. An additional 100 body bags were also donated by the FI-1 DMAT & SMRT Team (Pensacola area) bringing the total to over 700 body bags in the cache for response.

The DPMU team spent a few weekends over the summer to align the new additions (adding numerous containers to accommodate it all) and to do a complete reinventory of the cache.



Inventory in final stages.



Cache reloaded into storage at SLRC

In addition, the cache now contains a trailered 16 KW generator. This was provided by DOH with funds left over because the digital x-ray unit cost less than expected. With 67 amps of power, full morgue operations can operate now if necessary until stable power can be supplied.



DPMU 16KW Generator

Altogether, there are almost 140,000 items (each labeled so returning them to proper container can be streamlined) contained in the DPMU. Clearly, with the exception of a second digital x-ray unit, it is in the best state of readiness it has ever been. *“All dressed up and nowhere to go!”*

FY 09-10 BUDGET

The FEMORS budget for the next fiscal year was approved at the same level of funding as last year, \$307,500. Final contract negotiations are nearing the end and should be completed in the near future. Three training sessions will again be scheduled for 2010:

1. Victim Information Center Team
2. Odontology Team
3. Annual Training (Entire Team)

VIC TRAINING

The date and location for next year’s Victim Information Center (VIC) Training Year 7 will be Friday, March 19th most likely again at the Embassy Suites near the Orlando airport. Dental team members may also participate in VIC training. New members may also apply to join this specialized team.



2009 VIC Training

ODONTOLOGY TRAINING

The date and location for next year's Odontology Training Year 6 will be Saturday, March 20th most likely again at the Embassy Suites near the Orlando airport. VIC team members who are also in dental classifications may attend Odontology training.



2009 Odont Training

2010 ANNUAL TRAINING

The dates for next year's Annual Training, Year 8, will be Thursday, June 3rd to Saturday June 5th. The location will most likely be a combination of hotel (site to be determined) for Thursday and Saturday classroom sessions and at the warehouse for Friday, hands-on equipment training sessions.

(It was moved into June because the DMORT training sessions will be held the week of May 17 in Nashville.)

Registration will again be done on-line at the FEMORS website Events tab once the forms are ready. The registration forms, agendas, and maps will all be available at that location and members will be advised.



2009 Annual Training

NEW DOH APPLICATION PROCEDURES

DOH manages a variety of "volunteer" organizations including FEMORS, behavioral health, medical reserve corps, and others. In order to streamline the "activation" of members when a mission is issued in response to a declared emergency, DOH has standardized the application forms it will need to enter each responder into the DOH human resources payroll system.

Active members of FEMORS have already received notice of these changes and the need to resubmit fresh paperwork.

The forms now required to be maintained at FEMORS (and provided on a quarterly basis to DOH in digital form) include:

1. State of Florida Employment Application (requires signature)
2. DOH Oath of Loyalty (requires notarized signature)
3. I-9 Form (Employment Eligibility Verification) with legible copy of EITHER:
 - a. US Passport (current or expired), or
 - b. Social security card AND Driver's license (see back of I-9 form)
4. Social security card copy (if not included in I-9)
5. W-4 (Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate)
6. State of Florida Dual Employment and Compensation Request (applies *only* to those already working for other *State* agencies - requires multiple signatures)
7. DOH Employee-Acknowledgements (requires initials in several areas and signature)
8. Emergency Contact Information

Because these forms require original signatures, the packages must be mailed to FEMORS at:

Vickie Maloney

Director of Business & Finance

University of Florida

William R. Maples Center for Forensic
Medicine

4800 S.W. 35th Drive

Gainesville, FL 32608

The new procedures can be found at the FEMORS website at: http://femors.com/member_info.aspx

The PDF files posted there include:

1. FEMORS Application Procedures 20090818.pdf (*instructions*)
2. FEMORS Application Portfolio Oct 2009.pdf (*application forms*)
3. Policies DOH Portfolio Aug 2009.pdf (*reference materials*)

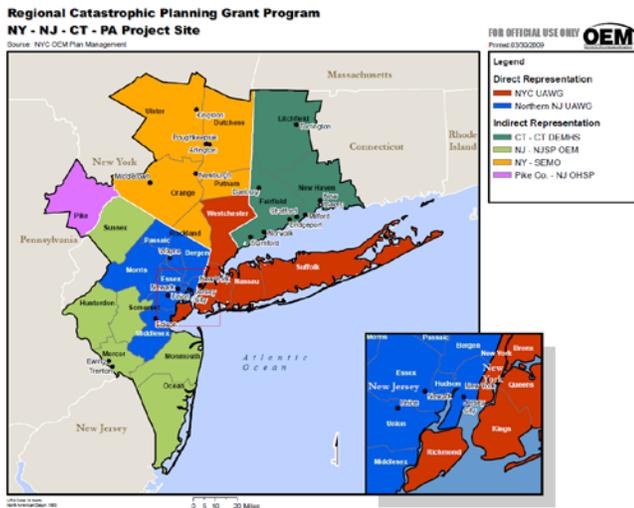
All inactive members who plan on reactivating by attending at least one of the 2010 training programs will also need to complete the new package.

Likewise, anyone interested in joining the FEMORS team may do so by obtaining the proper materials from the web site. FEMORS now has 207 Active members and over 300 Inactives.

FEMORS INTERACTIONS

In June FEMORS was invited to participate and share its development history at the North East Regional Mass Fatality Management System Kickoff Planning Meeting.

This is a grant funded regional effort to create a Fatality Management response team for a multi-state area including agencies from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



FEMORS continued to assist the Florida Department of Emergency Management by teaching the FEMA Mass Fatalities Incident Response (G-386) course.

- June 9-10 in Sumter County
- August 19-20 in Marion County

FEMORS will be providing lectures at the National Transportation Safety Board's course TDA 403: Mass Fatality Incidents for Medicolegal Professionals, November 3-5, 2009, in Washington, D.C.

FEMORS has been a member of the Medical and Public Health Working Group on NIMS integration for the past few years. This is a joint DHS/FEMA/DHHS collaboration of ESF-8 assets.

A major part of that effort has been the "Typing" of Fatality Management teams so that states can request assistance from other states for resources as needed. The near final draft of that work is going to be presented in May at the 2010 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit in Nashville, TN.

The abstract for the Summit is:

Resource typing of Fatality Management teams benefits EMAC participants by identifying elements required to respond to a surge of deaths. The Fatality Management capability is responsible for 5 main functions:

1. Command and Control (assisting a Medical Examiner/Coroner Jurisdiction) (This includes Behavioral Health specialists under the Safety Officer for addressing responder needs.)
2. Disaster Site Recovery Center (DSRC for body documentation and transport)
3. Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU for body storage and processing)
4. Victim Information Center (VIC for missing person report tracking)
5. Morgue Identification Center (MIC for positive identification of victims)

This results in 7 teams:

1. Assessment Strike Team
2. Incident Management Team
3. Remains Recovery Team
4. Victim Information Center (VIC) Team
5. Morgue Processing (Total) Team
6. Morgue Identification Center (MIC) Team
7. Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU) Team and Equipment Cache

The full Morgue team is subdivided into numerous specialty teams such as pathology, odontology, anthropology, DNA, fingerprints, etc.

The Medical and Public Health Working Group has been developing the state-to-state level FM Team Typing matrix over the past 2 years. This is being done in an effort to aid jurisdictions 1) that may need to request resources or 2) that desire to develop some or all elements of a Fatality Management program.

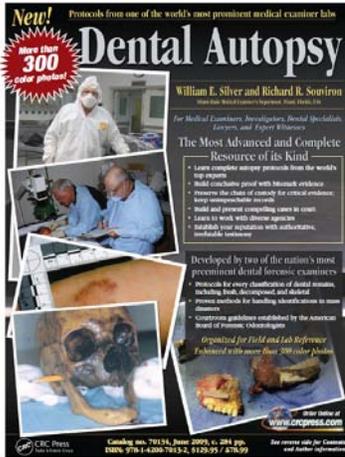
The next step is to create the "credentialing" requirements for each of the 100+ response roles identified in each of the teams.

FEMORS continues to participate in the Fatality Management Interagency Steering Committee (FMISC) as it works to ensure the FM issues are properly addressed in NIMS and ICS plans at all levels.

FMISC is currently providing stakeholder input to a national law enforcement effort that is attempting to place *management* of FM response under a new Intelligence/Information *Section* in NIMS. This conflicts with past and current ESF-8 practice of keeping FM as a tactical Branch under the Operations Section.

MEMBER KUDOS

FEMORS (and DMORT) member **Dr. William Silver** has co-authored a new book, *Dental Autopsy*, with Dr. Richard Souviron on Forensic Odontology.



Congratulations, Bill!

FEMORS member, **Pat Brewer** has had a hobby (*obsession?*) of restoring classic hearses for years. His story has now been chronicled in the August 1st Hernando edition of Tampa Tribune.

End of the road rides



Hernando Today photos by BOB EAST III

[\(http://www2.hernandotoday.com/content/2009/jul/31/311759/end-road-rides/news/\)](http://www2.hernandotoday.com/content/2009/jul/31/311759/end-road-rides/news/)

Pat actually uses these vehicles for current funeral services!

Keep up the great work, Pat!

FEMORS member **Bonnie Tanous**, despite significant personal physical challenges, participated in the Denver Breast Cancer 3-Day from August 28-30, 2009. This was a 60 mile walk to raise money for breast cancer. She started her walk at Colorado Mills on Day 1 and ended at City Park in Denver on Day 3.

She is now preparing for her 4th 3-Day in 2010 in the Twin Cities and details can be found at: www.the3day.org/goto/BonnieT.



Congratulations, Bonnie, on raising \$11,000 for such a worthy cause!

FEMORS (and DMORT) member **Dr. William Bell**, was inducted into the American College of Dentists on October 2nd at its 2009 Annual Meeting and Convocation in Honolulu.



Fellowship in the American College of Dentists is a distinct honor conferred by invitation only and it is often the high point in a dental career. Only about 3.5% of dentists in the United States have been granted Fellowship in the College. Fellows of the American College of Dentists truly are an elite group. Fellowship is bestowed only if the accomplishments of the nominee are truly outstanding and epitomize excellence.

Congratulations, Bill!

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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888-443-2911 (pager)
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SMILES FOR THE DAY!

(Actual newspaper headlines!)

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter
This one was caught in the SGV Tribune the other day, someone called the Editorial Room and asked who wrote this.

It took two or three readings before the editor realized that what he was reading was impossible!!!
There was a correction the next day.....

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
No crap, really? Ya think?

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
Now that's taking things a bit far!

Miners Refuse to Work after Death
No-good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's!

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
See if that works any better than a fair trial!

War Dims Hope for Peace
I can see where it might have that effect!

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
Ya think?!

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
Who would have thought!

Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
They may be on to something!

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?

Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge
He probably IS the battery charge!

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
Weren't they fat enough?!

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
That's what he gets for eating those beans!

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
Chainsaw Massacre all over again!

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
Boy, are they tall!

And the winner is.....

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery;
Hundreds Dead

Did I read that right?