



# FEMORS NewsGram

## Vol. 6, No. 1

### Winter 2008



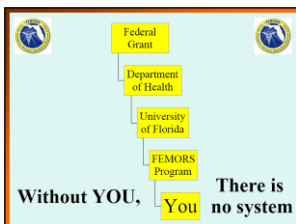
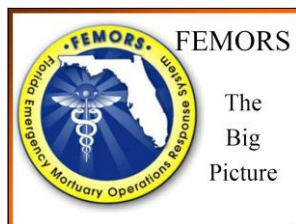
### Commander's Message



### The New Year approaches.

Onward we go with our efforts to maintain Florida's capability to respond should the unthinkable happen. By now, many have observed that we labor over and practice preparedness with a dual expectation of being capable and ready while also hoping that no event ever results in loss of life that would require our service.

The personal time that you, our army of "volunteers", collectively sacrifice away from family and career to work on our mission is a tribute to the selfless dedication that has come to reflect the quality reputation FEMORS enjoys. We have more than 75 members who have been with this program since its first meeting on March 27, 2003. For those who remember, we started with the very simple premise that FEMORS is YOU!



That is more true today than ever. Every member can be justly proud that even small sacrifices made have paid off.

Thank you again for being FEMORS, *Larry*

### FOG FOURTH EDITION COMPLETED

The revised Field Operations Guide, Fourth Edition has been completed and posted in the library of the FEMORS website at:

[http://femors.org/docs/FEMORS\\_FOG\\_4th\\_edition\\_20081215b.pdf](http://femors.org/docs/FEMORS_FOG_4th_edition_20081215b.pdf)

It is a large volume (8 MB in PDF format) covering 324 pages. Bound and printed copies will be distributed at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Training/Exercise.

### DOH PUBLIC SERVICE VIDEO OF AT 2008

At the Sixth Annual Training held in Orlando in May, the Florida Department of Health commissioned videographer Beau Hester to record the event. Beau captured a great deal of footage and has compiled a short and concise (2.5 minute) overview of the FEMORS program for those interested in knowing what Fatality Management is all about in Florida. DOH will eventually post it at their website.

The target audience is the disaster manager and responder community at all levels that often participates in mock exercises focused on saving the living. The *dead* are normally assigned to the "Morgue" but few players have any real grasp of what happens after that. This, then, is a way to show the rest of the story encapsulated for busy schedules and short attention spans.

The [FEMORS Overview Video](#) (100 MB) has been posted at the bottom of the FEMORS website Home Page as a streaming video so it is more responsive to view.

DOH may also produce a longer version of perhaps 15 minutes to permit greater detail of the various functions involved for a wider audience.

### ANNUAL TRAINING/EXERCISE 2009

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

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

For more information about HSEEP visit [https://hseep.dhs.gov/page/s/1001\\_HSEEP7.aspx](https://hseep.dhs.gov/page/s/1001_HSEEP7.aspx)

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 will be present during the drill to aid in identifying areas of improvement for future training programs.



In HSEEP-speak, the FEMORS Annual Training/Exercise program for 2009 is technically a "drill" because it is

exercising a single function instead of integrating multiple agencies for a response. Those are more accurately called Functional Exercises or Full Scale Exercises.



The Annual Training/Exercise will, however, involve some outside agency interaction. Specifically, Dr. Jan Garavaglia, the District 9 Medical Examiner in Orlando, will participate as the Medical Examiner in charge.

Another group will also take part both as actors (VIC families reporting missing loved ones) and specialized responders. This is the Disaster Behavioral Health Team (DBHT) formed in May 2005 under DOH through the Florida Crisis Consortium (FCC). Although its primary focus is on community victims of disaster events, it also has a mission to serve the needs of responders. Regional DBH Teams are eager to participate in the FEMORS drill to bring some practical exposure to its members who may have no inkling of what dealing with the dead really involves or what fatality management responders face.

The group of evaluators invited to assist this year include:

- District 5 (Leesburg) Medical Examiner Dr. Barbara Wolf
- District 9 (Orlando) Forensic Coordinator Sheri Blanton (an original FEMORS member)
- District 11 (Miami) Director of Operations Larry Cameron
- DOH HSEEP Staff, Jack Pittman
- DOH HSEEP Staff, Kelly Nelson
- DOH SEOC ESF-8, Mike MacDonald

This will be the most challenging and rewarding program attempted to date.

**VIC TRAINING**

The date and location for next year’s Victim Information Center (VIC) Training Year 6 will be Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ODONTOLOGY TRAINING**

The date and location for next year’s Odontology Training Year 5 will be Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites near the Orlando airport. VIC team members who are also in dental classifications may attend Odontology training.

**2009 TRAINING SESSION REGISTRATIONS**

Registration will be done on-line this year at the FEMORS website Events tab (<http://femors.org/events.aspx>). The registration forms, agendas, and maps are all available at that location. Those registering for both VIC and Odont sessions need to complete both registration forms.

**FY 09-10 BUDGET**

The FEMORS budget for the next fiscal year is being prepared assuming the same level of current funding at \$307,500. However, with the Florida legislature going into special session in early January, coupled with the dire forecasts of multi-billion dollar shortfalls across all state programs, only time will tell if the FEMORS program will be forced to reduce expectations. Last year a 15% cut was imposed across the board, and that was *before* the September-October national financial crisis occurred.

A worst-case scenario might result in cessation of funding entirely. Anything less severe than that would be a blessing but might still require eliminating some or all training programs for 2010. The prospect of loss of training funds heightens the importance of this year’s session especially for those who have not been able to attend in the past two years.

**FEMORS INTERACTIONS**

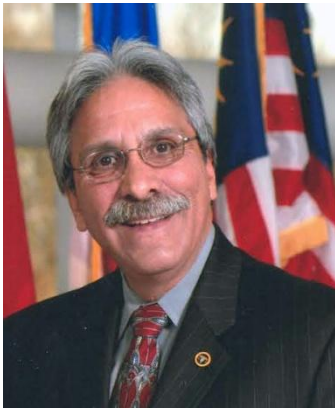
FEMORS has been invited to participate by sharing state (Province) level Fatality Management (FM) team formation experiences, and limitations, at the Defence Research and Development Canada Centre for Security Science (DRDC CSS). They are hosting a Chemical, Biological, Radiological-Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) Coroners Workshop in Burnaby, British Columbia from January 6-8, 2009. Commander Bedore will join with DMORT-WMD Commander Dale Downey to make presentations and serve as subject matter experts on various panels as DRDCCSS explores ways to address FM and CBRNE preparedness across Canada

FEMORS had been prepared to assist the Florida Department of Emergency Management by teaching the FEMA Mass Fatalities Incident Response (G-386) course in Ft. Myers, September 18-19. However the approach of Hurricane Ike disrupted those plans. Upcoming FEMORS presentations of the FEMA G-386 course are scheduled for:

- February 9-10 at the 2009 Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Annual Conference in Orlando
- February 24-25 in Tallahassee
- June 9-10 in Sumter County

**MEMBER KUDOS**

FEMORS (and DMORT) member Dr. Barry Lipton who maintains a private practice in general dentistry in Largo, Florida and also serves as the Chief Forensic Odontologist, Office of the Medical Examiner, for the Sixth, Tenth and Thirteenth Judicial Districts, State of Florida was recently recognized for his public service efforts related to missing and unidentified persons, both locally and nationally.



Dr. Lipton was awarded the FBI's Assistant Director's Award for "Exceptional Public Service"; The U.S. Attorney General's Award for "Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety" in Washington, D.C.; and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Commissioner's Award for "Valuable Contributions and Commitment to the Safety of Florida's Children".

**MEMBER IN MEMORIAM**

FEMORS mourns the loss of FDLE Fingerprint Specialist Christina Barber.



Christina Barber, 36, was found dead in her DeBary home Christmas Eve.

The suspect in her murder - her boyfriend, Robert Deo - was found dead in St. Johns County two days later of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. (December 27, 2008).

Christina joined FEMORS in 2004 and participated in training sessions in 2005 and 2006. She is fondly remembered for her spirit and kindness.

The condolences, thoughts and prayers of Christina's FEMORS friends go out to her family.

**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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