



PRESSER



JULY ISSUE #16

"SAVING LIVES BY SAVING SYSTEMS"

UPCOMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING

TBA

PRESSER MEETING

TBA

All students and faculty interested in writing or contributing to the newsletter in anyway is encouraged to participate.

Remember, this is a way to become published and get your name out there!

This newsletter is not only seen by us here in the program, but is seen by many in the Emergency Management and Homeland Security field who have monthly subscriptions, other IAEM student chapters and is on FEMA's Higher Ed!

MCNY'S INAUGURAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

Mike Weber
EMHS Graduate Student

MCNY Team Echo, under advisement from Professor Robert Patterson and volunteers from Teams Foxtrot, Hotel and Golf, quite successfully conducted MCNY's inaugural emergency management symposium on campus, June 18, 2008. The theme of the symposium was: "We Know Where We Have Been, But Where Are We Headed." Ms. Basia Morofsky, member of Team Echo offered: "We wanted to supplement our graduate program education by having practitioners from public and private industry to give their experience and thoughts around our theme."

The conference was attended by approximately

100 people from all industries, students and faculty. New York City OEM Commissioner Mr. Joseph F. Bruno began the symposium as keynote speaker. An industry group panel, comprised of Ms. Pamela Mottice-Mueller, Director of OEM for Beverly Hills, California; Mr. Paul Butler, President of Magellan Engineering of Ottawa, Canada; and, Mr. Matthew Dimmick, Emergency Readiness Team, AIG Corporate Security, followed with a lively discussion of their perspectives on where we need to be heading as a profession. The afternoon portion of the symposium consisted of three discipline break-out tracks organized along the lines of: Health, Education and Special Needs. Nine speakers taught these sessions. Mr. Paul Malool, formerly of FEMA and now with the

commented: "This was truly an emergency management symposium the likes of which are missing from this region. MCNY needs to continue this worthwhile and obviously successful event."

Mr. John Rojas, also of Team Echo, commented that it was challenging to secure sponsors and exhibitors for an inaugural event. However, Team Echo decided to include exhibit space within the main traffic areas which resulted in sponsorship from 74⁹ West & Associates LLC, an MCNY student, faculty and industry professional consulting firm, L-3 Communications, the sixth largest defense contractor in the US and exhibitors from New York Disaster Interfaith Services and the New York DOT.

IEMSA-MCNY FUNDRAISER

Margaret Vazquez
Public Relations & editor, "Presser"

As many of you may know, since last semester I have been taking orders for short sleeve polos embroidered with our new IAEM-MCNY polos! So far we have raised over one hundred dollars for the chapter, which helps with various operating costs. The shirts are available in the colors below. Each cost \$25.00, which is far less than the going rate for other shirts on the market, and by purchasing one, you are not only buying a shirt but are showing your dedication and loyalty to the present and future of MCNY's local chapter of IAEM. To order your shirts, come see me any Friday or Saturday. If you are not in school but would still like to support our chapter, email me at publicrelations@iemsamcny.org and we'll set something up! Just click on the color swatch below to make larger!



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PROGRAM BITES



By David Longshore,
Executive Director,

MCNY MPA Program in Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Recently, the MPA program in Emergency and Disaster Management at Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY) was pleased to welcome Joseph F. Bruno, Commissioner of the New York City Office of Emergency Management (NYC OEM), as the keynote speaker for our first annual Emergency Management and Homeland Security Symposium.

Right now at *Disaster Central*, our blog, we're discussing numerous general topics relating to Emergency Management and Homeland Security, such as:

- Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Terrorism
- Maritime Domain Protection
- Intelligence and Information-Sharing
- Emergency Management Planning
- Airline and Transportation Security
- Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Public Sector Continuity
- Exercise Design
- Human Services
- Evacuation and Sheltering
- Emergency Preparedness

Within each of these topics, *Disaster Central* features themed discussions that draw upon historical, operational, cultural, economic, philosophical, technological, political, and other sources and examples to create an on-line forum for the advancement of knowledge, insights, and wisdom relating to insights, and wisdom relating to the Emergency Management and Homeland Security disciplines.

MCNY & EMHS NEWS

Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY) & Emergency Management & Homeland Security (EMHS) Program

Martin Voravibul
EMHS Graduate Student

Fall 2008 Registration

Avoid the **LATE REGISTRATION FEE**. Fall 2008 Registration has already begun. All students must meet with an academic advisor in the Office of Student Services in order to pre-register. The key to a successful registration is to start early to allow you to take care of stop(s), avoid a late fee, and more importantly ensure you are ready to begin classes on the first day.

Graduation Application

Are you in your final Purpose? If you're expecting to complete all of the requirements for your degree this semester, *Congratulations on your fine work and commitment!* If you have not already done so, it is important that you submit a completed "Application for Graduation" to the Registrar. This form is used to notify the Registrar that you will be ready to graduate at the end of the current semester, and it will initiate a final audit of your academic record. All students in their last Purpose need to file an application.

You will also need to complete an online Financial Aid exit interview.

Once you've completed the online interview, print a conformation page and bring it along with you Graduation Application to the Financial Aid Office (14th floor).

MCNY's 2008 Commencement Ceremony

Congratulations Class of 2008! Congratulations to the Class of 2008! In addition, all the best to our Crystal Award Winners Lorna Alexander, Rene Lugo and Jinx Roosevelt. Also, thanks to our honorary doctorate recipients Charles Warfield and Wendy Cohen (who was also our keynote speaker) for their wonderful messages. Special thanks to the student speakers for

sharing their wonderful stories! It was a terrific event and we wish each and every graduate the very best.

MCNY's 31st Commencement Saturday, June 14th, ²⁰⁰⁸ MCNY celebrated our 31st Commencement Ceremony. Over 400 graduating students participated in the event held at the Jacob Javits Center.

Lorna Alexander, Rene Lugo, and Jinx Roosevelt were honored as a recipient of the Crystal Award for his outstanding service to the College. This year the College bestowed

honorary doctoral degrees on Charles M. Warfield, Jr., a 31 year veteran of the broadcasting industry and Wendy A. Cohen daughter of Audrey Cohen, who founded MCNY and served as its President for over 30 years. . The highlight of Commencement continues to be the student speakers. Each academic program is represented by one student chosen to share their reflections on the MCNY experience. Their brief speeches show why students are the heart and soul of MCNY.

MCNY'S INAUGURAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM CONT.

Team Echo would like to thank Program Director David Longshore and the Administration of MCNY for providing the facilities, services, assistance and confidence in Team Echo to undertake this inaugural event.

I'd like to publicly thank members of Team Echo. We're a cohesive and focused group of individuals from diverse international backgrounds. The MCNY program has brought us together, reshaped our thinking. Collectively the entire faculty has prepared us for what we may face, in the discipline, in the future. The Team's abilities were exemplified in the attendance, quality of speakers, sponsors and continued positive feedback the school continues to receive.

This Month in History...

Margaret Vazquez
Public Relations & Editor, *Presser*

USS Forrestal Fire



July 29, 1967

The USS Forrestal caught fire after a Zuni rocket accidentally fired from an F-4 Phantom on the flight deck. The missile streaked across the deck into a 400 gallon belly fuel tank. The exploded tank spew highly flammable fuel onto the deck which ignited, spreading flames over the flight deck under other fully loaded aircraft ready for launch. The damage and loss of life was catastrophic.

Land Use Policies: A Tool to Mitigate Disasters

Tiffany Bailey
Secretary

Many areas throughout the world are prone to disasters; for example parts of New Orleans, LA are vulnerable to flooding. Due to this vulnerability, land use policies can be helpful in flood mitigation. Land use policies regulate the use of land in a productive and ethical manner. Raymond J. Burby states that, "land use regulations such as zoning set specific rules for the private sector about where development will be allowed and how development (and redevelopment) is to take place so that vulnerability from natural hazards is minimized." (Burby, 1998)

These policies can be utilized during the pre-planning and post-disaster recovery phases to ensure that the needs of the community and land developers are met.

Hazard mitigation is a difficult task for vulnerable communities. New Orleans provides an excellent model of how mitigation efforts sometimes fall short of their expectations. There is a common belief that the failure of the levee system in the city was due to poor construction and maintenance of the levees. (Grunwald and Glasser, 2005)

Land use policies may help meet these shortcomings by preventing housing development or building critical infrastructure in areas that are prone to flooding. Infrastructures, such as schools, offer shelter during coastal flooding and therefore should not be built in flood zones. Also, hospitals should not be built in flood zones either. If people get injured how are they going to be cared for if the hospital is accessible? Instead, the land could be used to build parks and cultural sites. If parks or cultural sites are destroyed due to flooding they can be rebuilt at a low cost; saving the city thousands of dollars. In addition, loss of life will be significantly minimized because people will have little problems evacuating these areas.

If housing communities must be built on this land then land use policies should require that they be built higher than the average level of previous flood water. A case study in Katherine, Australia, examined how land

use planning would affect the impact of a severe flood. In 1980, the North Territory Government approved a floodplain policy that required the floors of houses in flood prone land to be at least 350 millimeters above the level of the flood used to define land predisposed to flooding. The flood of 1998, in Katherine, showed that land use planning to reduce the exposure to flooding was an effective mitigation measure. (Australia, 2002)

Florida provides another example in which land use policies can be tools for the mitigation process. In 1992 Hurricane Andrew became one of the costliest disasters in U.S. history. According to the National Climatic Center, the hurricane caused an estimated twenty six billion dollars in damage when it hit Dade County, Florida, on August 24. (Hurricane Andrew, 2004) If the local government in the county had instituted stricter land use policies, perhaps the damage to homes would have not been so extensive.

Prior to hurricane Andrew the Department of Housing and Urban Development adopted wind zones throughout the country; where homebuilders must follow certain criteria in order to build in the zones. Unfortunately, reports indicated these zones did not offer much protection to home owners during Andrew's reign of destruction probably because the materials were not strong enough to sustain the winds. Due to this lack of

IAEM GRAPEVINE



Margaret Vazquez
Public Relations & editor, *"Presser"*

IAEM-USA Members Asked to Review the National Disaster Housing Strategy

On July 21, FEMA released a Fact Sheet on the National Disaster Housing Strategy. The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act called for a National Disaster Housing Strategy and provided FEMA with the opportunity to describe how the Nation provides housing to those affected by disasters and chart a new direction to better meet the needs of disaster victims and communities. A draft version of the Strategy is available for public comment and is being reviewed by key partners, including FEMA's National Advisory Committee, the National Council on Disabilities, Federal Departments and Agencies, the American Red Cross and organizations representing tribal, state and local governments for review and comment. IAEM members are asked to send their comments to Steve Detwiler at steveorange2003@yahoo.com by September 1, 2008.

IAEM has posted the information and comment form on their website:
(<http://www.iaem.com/publications/news/news.htm#fema072308>)
For you to download.

Con't Page

Land Use Policies: A Tool to Mitigate Disasters (Cont.)

protection, codes for building within wind zones were significantly amended, making the homes more durable. It is heartrending to know that disastrous events must occur for locals to realize that mitigating hazards is important.

In the pre-planning phase of disaster management, land use policies have the potential to protect lives and property. One way this can be done is through mandates, where developers must build homes and infrastructures that can withstand damaging winds. These mandates could help many communities minimize the effects of hurricane and tornado winds.

An article in *The New York Times* by Joseph Treaster, discusses how cottages are being built near Orlando, Florida with safe rooms and nylon shutters. He goes on to say that a developer in the Florida Panhandle is building a village of mansions with eight-inch concrete walls and firm concrete roofs. (Treaster, 2006) Although, these houses are probably more expensive than homes without hurricane proofing, the decrease in property damage to the home outweighs the added cost.

The Reality Times published an article which talks about the Federal Emergency Management Agency's recommended safe rooms. Broderick Perkins says that,

While you can't actually tornado-proof your home, the safe rooms are designed to remain standing to protect you and your family from injury caused by severe winds and life-threatening flying debris even if the rest of the home is severely damaged. (Perkins, 1999)
The point is that when

developers want to use land that has hazards, they need to make sure what is being built on the land can hold up against the effects of the hazards.

Furthermore, land use policies are most important in the post-disaster recovery phase. They are important for several reasons. First, after a disaster has occurred in a particular area, consideration must be made as to whether this area should be rebuilt in the same fashion as before. For example, if wildfires destroyed property in Southern California, should communities be reconstructed in the same location? The answer is simple. Do not build in an area where wild fires are a hazard. Forest fires are a natural process and are needed for forest regeneration, without the forest many of the products that we use would not be available.

Additionally, land use policies might give direction as to how land can be utilized after a disaster. The land that was once home to the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building is now to the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. This was an excellent use of the land. It gives the family of victims lost a place to go and remember their loved ones. Though, this use of land was a good idea it is not applicable in all situations. Thousands of lives were lost on September 11, 2001, and a memorial remembering those who will be placed somewhere on the property of the new World Trade Center, but only a portion of the land will be used for the memorial. Larry Silverstien,

purchased the lease of the old World Trade Center property from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and as a result has control over the rebuilding of the site.

Moreover, land use policies present a good way for developers to make more productive use of land and also help fuel the region's economy. Using New Orleans once again as an example, rebuilding in the place that flooded during Hurricane Katrina is not a wise choice. These areas are below sea level and when the ocean rises during storms; they will flood again. Better use of land would be to build a memorial park similar to the memorial in Oklahoma. Louisiana is one of the poorest states in this country and could use some help in bringing in money to the state. The memorial park would bring tourism to the locality and provide a source of resource of revenue to the New Orleans economy.

In conclusion, land use policies are a good tool in disaster management. They can help communities to mitigate, prepare, and recovery from disasters. Today, there is still room for improvement in using policies for land development. A collaborative effort between land use planners and emergency managers can assist in determining how land will be utilized, based on the hazards and vulnerability that exists in the region. Hurricane Katrina is a prime example of the need for local, state and federal governments to tighten their land use policies. How many more lives and property must be lost before people open their eyes and see that urbanization is destroying this world?

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QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM ISRAEL TRAINING

Mike Weber
EMHS Graduate Student

As part of the program's training, in May 2008 Teams Echo and Foxtrot attended training in Israel at the Israel Military Industries Academy for Advanced Security & Anti-Terror Training. This training included such topics as: first response in counter-terrorism, mental health in terror events, emergency preparedness, the global jihad and updates on threats, suicide bombers, security of public installations and events, bomb security, how to build security systems and identifying suspicious people. Below are some noteworthy quotes I have paraphrased from recorded notes. I've left them un-attributed for the anonymity of the presenter. These quotes show the Israeli approach and perspective to these topics. It is apparent that the Israeli's have a more immediate perspective, and I believe there are valuable lessons to be learned in such a perspective.

On Planning: "In the US you plan as though something is never going to happen. In Israel, we plan as though something is going to happen in two weeks."

On Panic or Chaos: "What happens to panic stricken civilians is nothing other than unorganized information."

On Training of Security Personnel: "If nothing on the safety check list is out of order, but your gut tells you something different, go with your gut."

On Responding to an Attacker/Suspect: "Identifying a suspect means now there is going to be an attack – this person drew your attention. Forget about your colleagues, it is your job and mission to neutralize the suspect on your own. You need to eliminate the threat on your own."

On the Security Person: "Attack is against me, not against a government, not against a group, not against a facility, and it is my job to neutralize or end."

On Security: "Israeli Security Systems are to save lives and save assets. Insurance is the enemy of security."

On Security Personnel: "Need to get the words, 'Every Hour on the Hour' out of their vocabulary. This breeds routine and routine is the death of the security process."

On Suicide Bombers: "These are the smartest bombs, they are bombs attached to a decision-maker."

On Security Plans: "Starts with logic, not a gun." "The single core of the security system is the security person"

I found these to be noteworthy as critical elements to be cognizant of in the field of Emergency Management.

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