

# EMA Update

Emergency Management Australia provides national leadership in the development of measures to reduce risk to communities and manage the consequences of disasters. EMA Update keeps AJEM readers abreast of the courses and activities that assist in this aim.

## DEVELOPMENT GROUP

### **Safer Sustainable Communities – 2003 Australian Disaster Conference**

Emergency Management Australia (EMA) is planning for the Safer Sustainable Communities – 2003 Australian Disaster Conference to be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 10–12 September 2003.

The theme for the Conference is Community Safety is Everyone's Business and the Conference streams are:

- Working with Communities
- Understanding Risk and Uncertainty
- Consequence Management (Response and Recovery)
- Partnerships for Sustainability
- Business and Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Information and Communication
- Managing and Developing Our People

For further information contact: Einstein & Edison Event Management. Phone: +61 (0)2 6232 4240, Fax: +61 (0)2 6232 4245, Email: [disasterconference@einsteinandedison.com.au](mailto:disasterconference@einsteinandedison.com.au) or visit EMA's website: <http://www.ema.gov.au>

### **Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum (AEMVF)**

The AEMVF met in Sydney on 22 January 2003 and discussed a variety of issues. Including the Charities Definition Inquiry, insurance cover, legal risks faced by volunteers and funding for protective clothing. Volunteers are advised to contact their representative on the Forum for more details. The AEMVF web site is now open to the public and can be found at [www.emergencyvolunteersforum.org](http://www.emergencyvolunteersforum.org). The web site is still in its infancy and volunteers are encouraged to contribute information for inclusion on it.

The AEMVF now has an official logo and recently issued its first media release in support of the many volunteers who were involved in the recent bushfires.

For further information contact: David Winterburn  
Phone 02 6266 5009, email: [david.winterburn@ema.gov.au](mailto:david.winterburn@ema.gov.au)

### **'Management of Cyclone Risk' Project**

The aim of the project is to improve coordination between the cyclone risk management agencies and to produce Guidelines for the Management of Cyclone Risk in Australia. The report of the Darwin Workshop, held on 12–13 November 2002, has been completed and distributed to all participants. It includes the agreed project plan and the activities to be undertaken in the remainder of the financial year.

For further information contact: Peter Arnold  
Phone 02 6266 5496, email: [peter.arnold@ema.gov.au](mailto:peter.arnold@ema.gov.au)

### **'Planning Safer Communities: Land Use Planning for Natural Hazards' Guidelines and Associated Training Courses**

The Attorney-General will nationally launch the Guidelines in Perth on 27 February 2003. FESA and the Planning Institute of Australia's Western Australian Division (PIA-WA) supported the launch. The purpose of the Guidelines and associated training courses is to demonstrate how integrated land use planning can be used to reduce the impact of natural hazards and, where possible, avoid risk to life, property and environmental systems from natural hazards.

For further information contact: Peter Arnold  
Phone 02 6266 5496, email: [peter.arnold@ema.gov.au](mailto:peter.arnold@ema.gov.au)

### **'Review of Australian Experience in Emergency Risk Management' Workshop**

The purpose of the workshop is to review the Australian experience in undertaking emergency risk assessment in order to learn how to improve future work. The workshop is scheduled for 14–15 April 2003 and practitioners from a wide range of backgrounds in the application of risk assessment have been invited to participate.

For further information contact: Jonathan Abrahams  
Phone: 02 6266 5219, email: [jonathan.abrahams@ema.gov.au](mailto:jonathan.abrahams@ema.gov.au)

### **Funding for Emergency Management Capability Development Projects**

Applications for funding through the 2003/04 EMA Projects Program close on 14 March 2003. In 2003/04 the Projects program is aimed at enhancing national emergency management capability and prospective applicants are encouraged to consider the themes identified in the emergency management strategic research agenda:

- understanding communities
- emergency management capability
- mitigation
- information management and modern information technology
- volunteers
- value of emergency services, and
- economic costs of disasters.

Individuals, community groups, business, NGOs and agencies at all levels of government are encouraged to apply. EMA does not fund works or acquisitions.

## DEVELOPMENT GROUP *continued*

Project funding will be in the order of \$5,000 to \$100,000 per project. Proposals may be considered more favourably if a portion of the funds or resource requirements are provided by the originator of the proposal, stakeholders or by other sources.

Corporations and State/Territory agencies are expected to contribute cash or in-kind resources to at least match the EMA contribution. Where appropriate, projects can be completed over more than one financial year.

A multi-disciplinary selection committee will assess proposals on their:

- potential to improve emergency management capabilities;
- potential for application to other areas or communities;
- suitability of the proposed method and process;

- degree of innovation;
- appropriate skills and abilities of applicants to undertake the project and to complete within the specified time frame;
- financial and other support from relevant stakeholders and partners; and
- favourable referee reports, and value for money.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Commonwealth.

Application forms can be downloaded from the EMA website; [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au)

*For further information contact: Rheannon Nicholson or Rob Cameron, Phone: (02) 6266 5402, email: [rob.cameron@ema.gov.au](mailto:rob.cameron@ema.gov.au) or [rheannon.nicholson@ema.gov.au](mailto:rheannon.nicholson@ema.gov.au)*

## EDUCATION & TRAINING GROUP

### **Emergency Management Competency Standards Review**

EMA is currently working with state and territory emergency management representatives and the Public Safety Industry Training Advisory Body to revise the national emergency management competency standards to meet current and emerging needs in the industry.

*For further information about this project and how you can participate, contact [margery.webster@ema.gov.au](mailto:margery.webster@ema.gov.au)*

### **Critical Infrastructure Emergency Risk Management Handbook**

The bushfires and terrorist activity have highlighted the importance of utility operators maintaining an adequate risk management regime for major service disruption. This disruption could be caused through damage to their own infrastructure and systems or that of key suppliers, and could just as easily result from the impact of a natural hazard. Stakeholders are keen to ensure the reliability of supply where utilities are critical to community or business functioning.

A workshop was conducted in early November with 48 representatives from utilities and emergency management. The objective of the activity was to:

- refine the Emergency Risk Management methodology so it readily meets the needs of the utility sector,
- develop national Emergency Risk Management Guidelines for Utilities,
- develop a benchmarking model for utility assurance based on Emergency Risk Management

The workshop outputs were compiled into a handbook and the draft was put through a thorough consultation process. The handbook will be available on the EMA website in March 2003.

### **Program of Activities for Financial Year 2003/2004**

The timetable for the programs that are being conducted at the EMA Institute and in the States/Territories is in the process of being drawn up. It will be available on the EMA website, [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au). In addition, a number of the programs being offered at the Institute have been reviewed. For up to date information please refer to this website.

#### **Prerequisites**

Some of the EMA education and training programs have prerequisites. Participants should please make sure that you have the prescribed prerequisite before you nominate.

Recovery Management modules

Context of Recovery Management (new 2 day module) or the Course in Recovery Management

ERM Phase 1

Course in Introduction to Emergency Risk Management.

Exercise Management Train-the-Trainer

Certificate IV in Assessment & Workplace Training and Course in Exercise Management

## EDUCATION & TRAINING GROUP *continued*

### **Recovery Management**

The Course in Recovery Management was reviewed and further developed in 2002. This work was undertaken with the guidance of state and territory recovery co-ordinators who, together with other specialists in the field, participated in a two-day workshop at the Institute. The draft document was circulated to stakeholders for comment and amended in line with feedback. The new program consists of a core (pre-requisite) module and a range of electives, two of which were piloted in December 2002. People who have already completed the previous Course in Recovery Management will be exempt from the new core module. The new structure provides flexibility for people who wish to study in more depth the specific issues in recovery management. In 2003 the program will be refined and mapped against national competency standards to provide for national recognition.

*For further information contact  
andrew.coghlan@ema.gov.au*

### **Risk Based Land Use Planning**

The new Risk Based Land Use Planning course was successfully piloted in December. This course trains participants in a risk management approach to dealing with the risks associated with natural hazards and land use planning. The program blends risk management, strategic planning and performance based development control with in the context of a series of practical exercises based on real-life case studies. Angus Witherby, consultant planner to both councils and developers, developed the overall course. The case studies have being developed by planners with specialist expertise in areas such as bushfires, flood plains and storm surge.

The target groups for this course are local government planners, consultant planners to local government, state planning departments and land use planners associated with emergency services. Interest in the course from the intended target group is very high.

*For further information contact cathy.phelps@ema.gov.au*

## PLANNING & OPERATIONS

### **United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Strengthening International Urban Search and Rescue Assistance**

In the August 2002 Edition of the Australian Journal of Emergency Management, reference was made to the significant role that EMA was playing in the development of a United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Strengthening International Urban Search and Rescue Assistance. The Resolution (No 57/150) was passed unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 2002.

A copy of the Resolution can be obtained by going to the United Nations website at [www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/r57.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/r57.htm) and then scrolling down the table to Resolution No 150.

*For further information contact: Rod McKinnon  
Ph: 02 6266 5328, Email: rod.mckinnon@ema.gov.au*

### **United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group Team Leaders Meeting**

EMA sponsored attendance at a United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Team Leaders meeting in Johannesburg in early December 2002 of representatives from the Australasian Fire Authorities Council and the Australian Council of State Emergency Services. The

purpose of the Team Leaders Group is to provide a forum to address technical and operational aspects of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and issues related to cooperation and coordination of international earthquake response operations involving collapsed structures.

*For further information contact: Trevor Haines  
Ph: 02 6266 5169, email: trevor.haines@ema.gov.au*

### **United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group Asia Pacific Regional Meeting**

An EMA representative participated in the annual International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Asia/Pacific Regional Meeting held in Shanghai, China in November 2002. The meeting was jointly hosted by the Chinese Seismological Bureau and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). It was attended by 50 participants from 18 countries representing Government coordination and emergency response agencies. The group provides a forum for the ongoing development of partnerships and interoperable procedures for the provision of Humanitarian Aid during disasters in the region.

*For further information contact: Trevor Haines  
Ph: 02 6266 5169, email: trevor.haines@ema.gov.au*

## PLANNING & OPERATIONS *continued*

### **Pacific Cyclones**

Tropical Cyclone Zoe, a Category 5 cyclone, impacted on the Solomon Islands on 30 December 2002. The cyclone impacted on the isolated islands of Tikopia and Anuta causing catastrophic damage to houses, crops and the environment. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) sought EMA assistance with the provision of a reconnaissance aircraft to overfly the islands to carry out an initial damage assessment. This task was undertaken by the Australian Defence Force. EMA also deployed an officer to the Solomon Islands to assist the National Disaster Management Office in coordinating the relief effort. The Solomon Islands Government has accepted an offer by EMA to facilitate a debrief of the management of the operation. The debrief will be held in Honiara in late February 2003.

Tropical Cyclone Ami, a Category 4 cyclone, struck the islands of Vanua Levu and Taveuni in the Fiji Island Group on the morning of 14 January 2003. Following a request for international assistance from the Fiji Government, AusAID requested EMA to provide a quantity of water containers and tarpaulins from the EMA's Disaster Earmark Store. The stores were transported to Fiji by chartered aircraft.

*For further information contact: Steve Banks  
Ph: 02 6266 5505, email: steven.banks@ema.gov.au*

### **Commonwealth Assistance to Summer Bushfires**

During the recent Summer Australian bushfire season, New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory all sought assistance from the Commonwealth to combat the fires.

For New South Wales, support commenced as early as November 2002 with the provision of water and fuel tankers, helicopters, accommodation and meals for interstate personnel, and tarmac space and refuelling facilities for aircraft. Support to Victoria consisted of bulldozers, graders, fuel tankers, helicopters and personnel to clear and construct fire breaks in remote hilly terrain. The Australian Capital Territory was assisted with helicopters, bulldozers, water and fuel tankers, generators, buses, accommodation for interstate fire fighters, chainsaw operators and planning and logistics officers. The Australian Defence Force provided all support.

EMA Liaison Officers were deployed to the operations centres in each of the three locations to facilitate the timely sharing of information.

*For further information contact: Joanne Laurence  
Ph: 02 6266 5618, email: joanne.laurence@ema.gov.au*

## KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS

### **Australian Disaster Information Network**

The AusDIN initiative was endorsed by the Australian Emergency Management Committee (AEMC) in December 2002. Over the next few months a national steering committee will be convened to direct the ongoing development of AusDIN.

It is envisaged that AusDIN will develop into an initiative capable of maximising the benefits of information available to the emergency management sector and promoting the exchange and utilisation of knowledge from a range of disciplines.

*For further information contact Rob Lee 03 5421 5245  
or rob.lee@ema.gov.au*

### **Community Awareness Program**

EMA has provided support and assistance to The Royal Society for the Blind in South Australia during the conversion of a number of EMA community awareness printed materials into formats suitable for visually impaired members of the community. These formats include large print, audio, braille and E-text.

*For further information on this initiative contact  
Christine Jenkinson 03 5421 5241 or  
christine.jenkinson@ema.gov.au*

# CONFERENCE DIARY

## INTERNATIONAL

**Date:** March 3–6, 2003

**Location:** Rotterdam, the Netherlands

**Title:** International Conference on Advances in Flood Forecasting in Europe

**Enquiries:** Bob van Kappel; email: bob.vankappel@wldelft.nl

**Sponsor:** WL/Delft Hydraulics and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

**Date:** March 4–8, 2003

**Location:** New Orleans, Louisiana

**Title:** Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, North America

**Detail:** Includes a session on hazards-related issues.

**Enquiries:** Jayajit Chakraborty, Department of Geography, University of South Florida, 4202 East Fowler Ave, SOC 107, Tampa, FL 33620 email: jchakrab@chuma1.cas.usf.edu

**Date:** 8–12 March, 2003

**Location:** Reno, Nevada, North America

**Title:** 2003 National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Conference

**Enquiries:** Contact NDMS. Tel: 0011/0018 1800–USA–NDMS, and press the 'star' key. email: ndms@usa.net.

**Host:** National Disaster Medical System

**Date:** 10–15 March, 2003

**Location:** Puerto Rico

**Title:** Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS) Symposium – South America

**Detail:** To register with DISCCRS, or for complete symposia information including eligibility, deadlines and how to apply, contact C. Susan Weiler (509) 527-5948;

**Enquiries:** Email: weiler@whitman.edu; or see the website: <http://aslo.org/disccrs/disccresposter.pdf>

**Sponsor:** American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Ecological Society of America and Whitman College

**Date:** 12–21 March, 2003

**Location:** Madison, Wisconsin, North America

**Title:** Disaster Management Workshops

**Sponsor:** University of Wisconsin – Madison, Department of Engineering Professional Development

**Enquiries:** Don Schramm, email: schramm@epd.engr.wisc.edu; or Jennifer Oster, Department of Engineering Professional Development, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 432 Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706; 1-800-462-0876 or (608) 262-4468; fax: (608) 263-3160; email: oster@epd.engr.wisc.edu.

**Date:** 16–23 March, 2003

**Location:** Kyoto, Shiga & Osaka, Japan

**Title:** Third World Water Forum

**Sponsor:** World Water Council.

**Enquiries:** Secretariat of the 3rd World Water Forum, 5th Floor 2-2-4 Kojimachi Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083, Japan; tel: +81-3-5212-1645; fax: +81-3-5212 1649

**Date:** 2–6 April, 2003

**Location:** League City, Texas

**Title:** The 11th Annual Conference on Traumatic Stress – North America

**Detail:** This year's conference will focus on self-care for the trauma work provider as well as traditional workshops that cover a variety of trauma-related topics.

**Enquiries:** Jo Halligan (512) 868-3677

**Sponsor:** Association of Traumatic Stress Specialists (ATSS)

**Date:** 21–23 April, 2003

**Location:** San Jose, California

**Title:** Disaster Resistant California Conference – North America

**Detail:** This statewide conference will promote partnerships among public and private sectors to reduce state vulnerability to natural disasters.

**Enquiries:** Disaster Resistant California (916) 845-8263

**Sponsor:** Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Collaborative Centre for Disaster Mitigation.

**Date:** 26–29 April, 2003

**Location:** Moscow, Russia

**Title:** First World Forum on Children in Complex Emergencies – Asia

**Detail:** The forum will discuss and adopt a model for national and regional plans to assist children in emergencies through 2010 as requested by the 27th United National Special Session Resolution, "A World Fit for Children".

**Enquiries:** World Forum Organizing Committee, Children's Hospital #20B, Polyanka Str.20, Moscow, Russia 119180; email: roshal@lampport.ru

**Date:** 30 April – 2 May, 2003

**Location:** San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Title:** Seismological Society of America (SSA) 98th Annual Meeting – South America

**Enquiries:** www: <http://ce.uprm.edu/SSA-2003>; email: christa@rmsismo.uprm.edu

**Sponsor:** University of Puerto Rico

## INTERNATIONAL *continued*

<b>Date:</b> 5-7 April, 2003 <b>Location:</b> Outrigger Reef Resort, Fiji <b>Title:</b> Public Safety and Risk Management Conference, 2003 - Australasia <b>Detail:</b> International Conference on "Community Safety and Sustainability in the Pacific" in conjunction with the 11th Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting
<b>Date:</b> 8-10 April, 2003 <b>Location:</b> Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia <b>Title:</b> Strategies for Performance in the Aftermath of the World Trade Center - Asia <b>Detail:</b> This international conference will provide the opportunity for authorities and stakeholders to discuss and exchange information on performance issues and strategies for enhancing the performance of tall buildings during emergencies. <b>Enquiries:</b> cibkl@cibklutm.com <b>Sponsor:</b> International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) and the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH).
<b>Date:</b> 11-16 April, 2003 <b>Location:</b> St Louis, Missouri <b>Title:</b> Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Annual Conference - North America <b>Enquiries:</b> Trisha Nelson, ASFPM, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Suite 204, Madison, WI 53713; (608) 274-0123; Fax: (608) 274-0696; email: asfpm@floods.org.
<b>Date:</b> 12-14 April, 2003 <b>Location:</b> Tehran, Iran <b>Title:</b> Fourth International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (SEE4) - Asia <b>Contacts:</b> Professor Mohsen Ghafory-Ashtiany, Tel: 98-21-229-4932; Fax: 98-21-229-9479; Email: ashtiany@dena.iiees.ac.ir
<b>Date:</b> 12-15 April, 2003 <b>Location:</b> Phoenix, Arizona <b>Title:</b> Second International Conference on Irrigation and Drainage - <i>Water for a Sustainable World - Limited Supplies and Expanding Demand</i> - North America <b>Enquiries:</b> U.S. Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, 1616 17 St., Suite 483, Denver, CO 80202; (303) 628-5431; email: stephens@uscid.org.
<b>Date:</b> 22-25 April, 2003 <b>Location:</b> Berlin, Germany <b>Title:</b> VIII European Conference on Traumatic Stress (ECOTS) - Europe <b>Enquiries:</b> www.trauma-conference-berlin.de <b>Sponsor:</b> Catholic University of Applied Sciences, Berlin and the German-speaking Society for Psychotraumatology

<b>Date:</b> 6-10 May, 2003 <b>Location:</b> Melbourne, Australia. <b>Title:</b> WADEM's 13th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine. <b>Enquiries:</b> www.wcedem2003.com
<b>Date:</b> 29 May - 1 June, 2003 <b>Location:</b> Washington, U.S.A. <b>Title:</b> 2003 Structures Congress and Exhibition <i>Engineering Smarter</i> - North America <b>Detail:</b> The congress will engage engineers and researchers in discussions on how to make better use of existing materials and structural concepts as well as developing new methods and materials. <b>Enquiries:</b> Charles W. Roeder, Structures Congress 2003, University of Washington, 233B More Hall, Seattle, WA 98195-2700; (206) 543-6199; email: croeder@u.washington.edu
<b>Date:</b> 2-3 June, 2003 <b>Location:</b> Lubbock, Texas <b>Title:</b> Eleventh International Conference on Wind Engineering - North America <b>Enquiries:</b> The Wind Engineering Research Center, Box 41023, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-1023; Tel: (806) 742-3479; Fax: (806) 742-3446; toll free: (888) 9463287; email: webmaster@wind.ttu.edu.
<b>Date:</b> 10-20 June, 2003 <b>Location:</b> Montreal, Canada <b>Title:</b> ICOLD 71st Annual Meeting and 21st Congress - North America <b>Details:</b> Initial bulletin now available from the ANCOLD <b>Contacts:</b> Lise Pinsonneault, Executive Director, Communications Centre, CIGB-ICOLD Montreal 2003. <a href="http://pinsonneault.lise@hydro.qc.ca">http://pinsonneault.lise@hydro.qc.ca</a> , <a href="http://www.cigb-icold.org">http://www.cigb-icold.org</a> . <b>Sponsor:</b> CIGB, ICOLD Montreal 2003
<b>Date:</b> 16-20 June, 2003 <b>Location:</b> Montreal, Quebec, Canada <b>Title:</b> International Congress on Large Dams (ICOLD) 21st Congress - North America <b>Enquiries:</b> <a href="http://www.cigb-icold.org">www.cigb-icold.org</a>
<b>Date:</b> Post July 2003 (rescheduled from September 16-19, 2002) <b>Location:</b> Beijing, China <b>Title:</b> Third International Conference on Continental Earthquakes (ICCE) - Asia <b>Detail:</b> The Conference is postponed until after the Saporro 2003 IUGG Assembly, June 30-July 11, 2003) (see <a href="http://www.jamstec.go.jp/jamstec-e/iugg/">http://www.jamstec.go.jp/jamstec-e/iugg/</a> ) to make it more convenient for participants from outside eastern Asia. <b>Enquiries:</b> Wang Ahiqui, Organizing Secretary, III ICCE, China Seismological Bureau (CSB), No. 63, Fuxing Avenue, 100036, Beijing, China; Tel: 86-10-8801-5514; Fax: 86-10-6821-0995; email: icce@peoplemail.com.cn

**Date:** 7–11 July, 2003  
**Location:** Beijing, China  
**Title:** 36th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology – Asia  
**Detail:** Includes a session currently being organized on The Sociology of Disasters: Theory and Research.  
**Enquiries:** Prof. Henry Quarantelli, Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, USA; email: elqdr@udel.edu; Fax: (302) 831-2091.

**Date:** 13–17 July, 2003  
**Location:** Baltimore, Maryland  
**Title:** Coastal Zone Management Through Time – North America  
**Detail:** Management Responses to Coastal Hazards is one of four major conference themes.  
**Enquiries:** Jan Kucklick, NOAA Coastal Services Centre, 2234 South Hobson Ave, Charleston, SC 29405-2413; (843) 740-1279; email: Jan.Kucklick@noaa.gov  
**Sponsor:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Coastal Services Center (CSC).

**Date:** 14–18 July, 2003  
**Location:** Hilo, Hawaii  
**Title:** Cities on Volcanoes 3 Conference – Pacific (North America)  
**Detail:** This is the third international meeting to bring together emergency managers, volcanologists, educators, sociologists, psychologists, economists and city planners to re-evaluate volcanic crisis preparedness and management in cities and densely populated areas.  
**Enquiries:** Andrea Furuli (808) 974-7555; email cov3@hawaii.edu or www.uhh.hawaii.edu  
**Sponsor:** County and State of Hawaii and the International Association of Vulcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior

**Date:** 7–10 September 2003  
**Location:** Minneapolis, Minnesota  
**Title:** Dam Safety 2003 – North America  
**Enquiries:** ASDSO, 450 Old Vine Street, 2nd Floor, Lexington, KY 40507; (859) 257-5140; Fax: (859) 323-1958; email: info@damsafety.org. Website: www.damsafety.org/conferences.cfm?content=annual  
**Sponsor:** Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO).

**Date:** 10–12 September, 2003  
**Location:** Davos, Switzerland  
**Title:** Third International Conference on Debris-Flow Hazards Mitigation, Mechanics, Prediction and Assessment – Europe  
**Enquiries:** Dieter Rickenmann, Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Z=Forcherstrasse 111, CH-8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland; Tel: +41 17 39 24 42; Fax +41 17 39 24 88 Email: rickenmann@wsl.ch. For general conference information: email: DFC3\_Inf@wsl.ch.

**Date:** 16–18 September, 2003  
**Location:** Karlsruhe University, Germany  
**Title:** International Workshop on Wind Effect on Trees – Europe  
**Detail:** The workshop will provide a forum for physicists, foresters, engineers, physiologists and ecologists to examine new developments in the field of wind storm damage.  
**Enquiries:** Mrs. Dipling C. Frank, Institut für Hydromechanik, Universität Karlsruhe, Kaiserstr.12, 76128 Karlsruhe, Germany; email: wind2003@uka.de;  
**Sponsor:** Institut für Hydromechanik

**Date:** 22–24 September, 2003  
**Location:** Ancona, Italy  
**Title:** ERES Fourth International Conference on Earthquake Resistant Engineering Structure – Europe  
**Enquiries:** Conference Secretariat, ERES 2003, Wessex Institute of Technology, Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst Southampton, SO40 7AA, U.K.; Tel: 44(0) 238 029 3223; Fax: 44(0) 238 029 2853; email: gcosutta@wessex.ac.uk.

**Date:** 27 September, 2003  
**Location:** London, Ontario  
**Title:** Dealing with Disaster – North America  
**Details:** Emphasis will be placed on the understanding of the interaction between social and environmental factors  
**Enquiries:** Tel: 0011/0018 519 661 3234 or email: ssdoyle@uwco.ca

**Date:** 29 October 2003  
**Location:** Columbus, Ohio  
**Title:** Contingency Planners of Ohio 2002 Annual Business Survival and Recovery Seminar – North America  
**Details:** The meeting will be preceded by an informal networking session and vendor exhibit on October 28 and followed by a Disaster Recovery Planning Review  
**Enquiries:** Joni McLean, President, Contingency Planners of Ohio; email: cphio@geocities.com; Tel: (614) 249-0397. For information about the disaster recovery course, contact: Disaster Recovery Institute international. www.dr.org or call (703) 538-1792.

**Date:** 10–12 September, 2003  
**Location:** Canberra, Australia  
**Title:** Safer Sustainable Communities – 2003 Australian Disaster Conference  
**Detail:** The theme for the Conference is 'Community Safety is Everyone's Business'.  
**Enquiries:** Einstein & Edison Event Management, PO Box 42, Yarralumla ACT 2600. Tel: +61 (0)2 6232 4240, Fax: +61 (0)2 6232 4245, email: disasterconference@einsteinandedison.com.au  
**Host:** Emergency Management Australia (EMA). Visit EMA's website: http://www.ema.gov.au

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Date:** 27–28 March, 2003  
**Location:** Perth, Western Australia  
**Title:** Demystifying Emergency Management: wars and all  
**Enquiries:** Scott-Andrew Smith, email [ssmith@fesa.wa.gov.au](mailto:ssmith@fesa.wa.gov.au)

## A.C.T.

**Date:** 10–12 September 2003  
**Location:** Canberra, Australia  
**Title:** Safer Sustainable Communities – 2003 Australian Disaster Conference – Australasia  
**Detail:** This year's theme is Community Safety is Everyone's Business  
**Enquiries:** Conference Secretariat, Einstein & Edison, PO Box 42, Yarralumla ACT 2600; email: [enquiry@einsteinandedison.com.au](mailto:enquiry@einsteinandedison.com.au)  
**Sponsor:** Emergency Management Australia

## CALL FOR PAPERS – INTERNATIONAL

**Date:** 4–8 March, 2003  
**Location:** New Orleans, Louisiana, North America  
**Title:** Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting  
**Details:** Includes a session on hazards-related issues. Deadline for submissions is September 25, 2002.  
**Enquiries:** Jayajit Chakraborty, Department of Geography, University of South Florida, 4202 East Fowler Avenue, SOC 107, Tampa, FL 33620; email: [jchakrab@chuma1.cas.usf.edu](mailto:jchakrab@chuma1.cas.usf.edu)

**Date:** 10–15 March, 2003  
**Location:** Puerto Rico, South America  
**Title:** Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS) Symposium  
**Sponsors:** American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Ecological Society of America and Whitman College  
**Enquiries:** To register with DISCCRS, or for complete symposia information including eligibility, deadlines and how to apply contact C Susan Weiler; (509) 627-5948; email: [weiler@whitman.edu](mailto:weiler@whitman.edu); or see the following web site: <http://aslo.org/discrs/discrsposter.pdf>.

## CALL FOR PAPERS – AUSTRALIA

**Date:** 19–20 September, 2003  
**Location:** Hobart, Tasmania, Australia  
**Title:** National Pre-Hospital Conference (ACAP2003) Fresh Perspectives; Expanding Horizons  
**Description:** Sub-themes for the conference include: Technology in the Pre-Hospital environment; Expansion of the role of the paramedic; Health care in the rural environment: What is our role? and Where does paramedic education go from here?  
The Australian College of Ambulance Professionals (ACAP) Tasmanian Branch invites submissions. There are two categories of papers – major presentations (up to 30 minutes) or free papers (up to 15 minutes). The due date for major presentations is April 30th, 2003 and for free papers is May 30th, 2003. Papers that do not tie in with the theme of the conference will also be considered on their merits. Please feel free to submit more than one paper.  
**Enquiries:** Dale Edwards, [Dale.Edwards@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:Dale.Edwards@dhhs.tas.gov.au); Phone (03) 6434 6876 (W); Mobile: (0418) 736 986.



# VIDEO REVIEW

## *Playing It Safe*

Natural Hazards Awareness and Prevention Video for Communities in the Top End of Australia.  
[Duration 23.5 minutes]

By Northern Territory Emergency Service, Publisher: Burrundi Pictures, Darwin 2001.

*Playing It Safe* is a fine example of a contemporary user-friendly counter-disaster emergency management resource that deserves widespread dissemination and utilization in applicable communities. Released in late 2001, it is characterized by a grassroots approach to proactive awareness and preparations about what to do to counteract the effects of severe natural hazards such as severe tropical cyclones, inundative floods, and bush and grass fires.

The straightforward, simple and direct, messages are delivered *in situ* by a representative sample of community emergency workers and volunteers themselves, thus much enhancing their acceptance by other community members. The principle thrust, within the overall counter-disaster ethos of saving life and protecting property, is to advance awareness of local hazards and to facilitate planning and preparations, in advance, for timely remedial actions when the need arises.

By filming in actual communities that have already experienced the kinds of disasters covered, and hearing from fellow community members, the video builds upon existing local experiences and understanding and so maximizes the effectiveness of its communicative powers. This approach is highly commended.

Cyclone risks in Top End coastal communities are becoming increasingly severe, and the video focuses on actions that need to be taken prior to each cyclone season to assure the maximum safety of these communities. With a considerable cyclone-robust domestic housing shortage in most remote communities, when a severe, say Category 5 cyclone strikes, it is necessary for many residents to take shelter in community halls or other safe government buildings. So plans need to be made, as they do for stockpiling the emergency resources necessary to tide people over in the period just after a 'big blow', before external assistance is possible.

Severe Floods are a periodic occurrence in many communities, and over time, well-orchestrated Counter Disaster Plans have been formulated to cope with them. *Playing It Safe* takes us into the backyards of a number of flood-prone communities and recounts some of the actions that can help to mitigate the adverse effects of 'rivers flooding and changing landscapes into inland seas'. When evacuation is needed, it is necessary to prepare well ahead, issue timely warnings as to actions required

to ensure the safety of people, and to manage any movements of displaced people in the most equitable and cost-effective manner.

The dangers of uncontrolled bush and grass Fires are well known to most of us. So advance actions such as clearing up volatile materials, cutting clear spaces and fire breaks are paramount. In many communities, traditional methods of fire control, which have been in place for 60,000 years, are combined with new approaches, to bring about the best possible protective precautionary actions. Again the importance of learning from experience, of pro-active preparations, and dissemination of remedial action awareness and behaviours throughout the whole community is highlighted.

Unfortunately, fires are also an area of very high interest to human arsonists, so it is a hazard domain where the highest possible levels of community vigilance and precautionary behaviours is required.

*Playing It Safe* is an important and timely human well-being and safety resource that warrants a central place in the emergency management resources of all remote communities exposed to the hazards it covers. By raising general levels of awareness of major natural hazard threats that face many people we foster enhanced sustainable safety. 'Knowing what's going on in your community, and being prepared, is very important'.

Those that contributed to its creation are to be congratulated for their fine efforts. *Playing It Safe* is a four-star video production! It is highly commended.

Copies of the video may be obtained from NTES.  
Phone: (08) 8922 3630.

*Reviewed by Dr Allan Skertchly, S.M.I.L.E.  
Success Management International  
Learning Enterprises*

# BOOK REVIEW

*Last Man Down: The Fireman's Story*

By Richard 'Pitch' Picciotto with Daniel Paisner. Publisher: 2002 by Orion Books, London

The traumatic events on September 11th 2001, when the massive towers of the World Trade Centre collapsed as the result of meticulously planned terrorist actions, are indelibly etched upon the minds of most of humankind. The catastrophic loss of these erstwhile quintessential, commercial and iconic behemoths, has caused global ructions at many levels of civilization, not least of which have been to those dedicated and highly competent officers and staff, and their families, of the New York City Fire Department, the subject of *Last Man Down: The Fireman's Story*.

Battalion Commander Richard 'Pitch' Picciotto, leading a company of firefighters up stairway B of the North Tower, was the highest-ranking Fire Department Commander in the building when it fell and 'Pitch and a handful of survivors woke to find themselves buried on a landing between the second and fourth floors'.

*Last Man Down*, is the personal, enthralling, detailed, and soul-searching account, of the exacting ingress and final, 'miraculous', exit, from where Picciotto and a few others, were nearly buried alive. They were initially in the dark covered in fine choking ash, entombed beneath a man-made mountain of steel and concrete and the unimaginable chaos and debris of the WTC's 100 floors. At its core is a compelling, consummate study of Pitch's personally inspired successful emergency management leadership under seemingly intractable difficulties.

But 15 people survived the final collapse. Some 343 other brave firefighters were killed or died in attempting to save the lives and property of others. "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his fellow man".

On the morning of the monumental catastrophe, Pitch had just come on duty for the 9 am to 6 pm shift at the Firehouse on West 100th Street, some 130 blocks away from the World Trade Centre. He'd been a Fire Chief for about nine years of his 28 years in with NYFS and was a most capable and conscientious fireman, as well as being thoroughly experienced and acclaimed as a leader of his team of 'brothers'. Like the rest of us, he was apprised of the attack on the WTC through TV at the Firehouse. Within minutes he was speeding towards Ground Zero in a red and white Chevy Suburban with an 'old pro' mate as aide and driver at his side, lights flashing and siren shrieking. Just recently he had written an article about non-routine, high rise fires for the WNYF Journal and he had been down at the WTC for the bombing on

26th February 1993. He knew the building. Of all people 'wanting in on such as this it would have been me. At around 9:45 am here I was, finally getting to work'.

By 10 am, with an ad hoc crew, Pitch was on the 35th floor of the North Tower where 'we were all standing, there like stones, waiting for the roar to reach us. A thousand trains. A thousand rushing beasts. A thousand inconceivable terrors ... a couple of dozen firefighters, spent and anxious and filthy with sweat and smoke and adrenaline, frozen like statues in the corridors ... eyes skyward waiting for some unknowable end to burst through the ceiling and overcome us. From faint rumbling to deafening roar to fading, the entire episode was only ten seconds'. The South Tower. Tower Two of the World Trade Centre, had just fallen.

Clearing and marshalling all survivors on each floor of the North Tower, Pitch and his crew of firefighters fought the acrid particle-laden air, fatigue and congestion, as they began the tortuous, demanding descent by the narrow stairwells to evacuate the building as quickly as they could. By about 10:29, most people had got to the lobby floor where Pitch wished he was. 'But then there was more to come. Much more. As I raced through the stairwell, between the seventh floor and the sixth, I heard that noise again. That same sick, killing rumble from just 29 minutes earlier. It was loud the first time, but this time it was ear-splitting, bone-chilling, knee-trembling ... every-damn-body-part-shaking, all multiplied by about a million. There was no mistaking the roar, and as it quickly approached I knew what it meant. We all knew what it meant. In an instant, the whole of my life washed over me'.

Pitch fell four floors to find himself lying in the dark on his back covered in ash, dust and powder and not knowing exactly where he was. 'I couldn't catch up with my thoughts and the slow realization that the collapse hadn't killed me'.

In tough economic times, the NYFD, like so many similar bodies, had suffered financial stringencies, which did not allow for fireman to operate with the best available equipment. Sometimes these deficiencies were made up by individual provision of private gear. But, whatever the circumstances, the fireman themselves were never found wanting. They are men of exceptional quality.

## BOOK REVIEW *continued*

The account presented here portrays an ably lead body of disciplined firemen absolutely committed to and giving of their all in their chosen profession, and willing to die in the call of duty, as we have seen too, in and on the media.

*I want to fill my calling,  
And give the best in me;  
To guard my every neighbour,  
And protect his property.  
  
'When I am called to duty, God,  
Wherever flames may rage;  
Give me the strength to save some life,  
Whatever be its age'.*

Pitch Picciotto appreciates fully the dependence upon so many other talented people for his survival and those of the small group, including a 59-year old grandmother, whom he also brought out safely, who survived, saying

finally 'that all of you in the NYFD had a hand in hauling my ass out of that stairwell and down to safety. Without you, I'm nothing'.

Successful emergency management is totally dependent, inter alia, upon the expert leadership of capable, well trained, and disciplined people, using adequate resources.

*Last Man Out* is a book that all concerned with emergency management and catastrophes should read. It is not just an emotional tale of human survival against great odds. It is a salutary account of NYFD fireman and their training and resources as the protective agents for a major modern conurbation. It conveys much of importance to those concerned with safer sustainable communities.

*Reviewed by Dr Allan Skertchly, S.M.I.L.E.  
Success Management International  
Learning Enterprises*

## Do you want to continue receiving AJEM?

EMA is currently updating the mailing list for *The Australian Journal of Emergency Management*. On the mailing label of the last edition we asked subscribers to return the mailing label indicating whether you wish to remain on our mailing list.

We acknowledge the holiday season was not the ideal time to send our request so – if you have not already done so – could you please send your full mailing details to:

email: [ajem@ema.gov.au](mailto:ajem@ema.gov.au);

OR

return the mailing label by fax to (03) 5421 5273

by no later than 1 May 2003

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

# Safer Sustainable Communities – 2003 Australian Disaster Conference

Emergency Management Australia (EMA) is planning for the Safer Sustainable Communities – 2003 Australian Disaster Conference. The theme for the Conference is *Community Safety is Everyone's Business* and it will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 10-12 September 2003.

### Conference Streams

- Working with Communities
- Understanding Risk and Uncertainty
- Consequence Management (Response and Recovery)
- Partnerships for Sustainability
- Business and Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Information and Communication
- Managing and Developing our People

### Key Objectives

- Share information on recent developments and research in emergency management.
- Highlight successful initiatives in community safety and sustainability.
- Explore common issues, emerging trends and approaches to emergency management.
- Build partnerships between government, private, non-government and community sectors and expand professional networks.
- Work together on achieving safer, sustainable communities.

### Who should attend?

The conference will interest anyone who deals with hazards, risk or disaster management in:

- Commonwealth, State/Territory & Local Government
- Non-Government Organisations
- Private Enterprise & Corporations
- Professional Institutes
- Research Institutions
- The General Community

### Invited Keynote Speakers

- Mr Salvano Briceno, Director, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- General Peter Cosgrove AC MC, Chief of the Defence Force
- Mr Michael Hawker, Chief Executive Officer, Insurance Australia Group
- Mr Ken Matthews, Secretary, Department of Transport and Regional Services
- Dr Dale Spender AM, Educational and Learning Services Consultant
- Professor Peter McDonald, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University
- Mr John Murray, Chief Police Officer for the ACT

For more information about the Safer Sustainable Communities – 2003 Australian Disaster Conference, contact Einstein & Edison Event Management.

Phone: +61 (0)2 6232 4240, Fax: +61 (0)2 6232 4245,  
Email: [disasterconference@einsteinandedison.com.au](mailto:disasterconference@einsteinandedison.com.au)  
Or visit EMA's website: <http://www.ema.gov.au>



*"safer sustainable communities"*