

EMA Research & Innovation Program

The EMA Projects Program is aimed at fostering projects that help improve Australia's capabilities for preventing or dealing with natural or technological hazards and disasters.

Please be advised that the EMA Projects Program has now been replaced by the EMA Research and Innovation Program. Information on this new funding initiative is available on the EMA website www.ema.gov.au or by contacting Rheannon Nicholson, Coordinator Development Projects, (02) 6266 5497 or rheannon.nicholson@ema.gov.au

Do education strategies sink and communities swim? Evaluation of the Woronora preparedness strategy five years on

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Jessica Huybrechs – Environmental Scientist Pty Ltd*

Flood awareness education has been advocated by a variety of emergency services, government agencies and researchers, in Australia and overseas. However, there has been little hard evidence that pre-event education improves flood awareness, flood preparedness and damage reduction. Emergency Management Australia awarded Molino Stewart a grant to evaluate a recent flood preparedness program in the Woronora Valley, a narrow coastal floodplain in the Sutherland Shire in Sydney.

Implementation of the Woronora Flood Preparedness Program began in 1999. The program used standard and innovative techniques to communicate key flood preparedness messages to 500 flood-affected properties, including use of colour coding and property specific flood labels.

An evaluation framework was designed which established quantifiable evaluation criteria for assessing its effectiveness. In this study only performance against the pre-flood criteria were possible because there had been no floods since program implementation.

A telephone survey of 100 flood-affected residents assessed whether residents were aware of flooding in their community, had received and retained the various flood messages and were prepared for a flood. Sutherland Shire Council and State Emergency Service records were used to evaluate effectiveness against other criteria and some field work was undertaken to verify results.

The investigations found that:

Permanent signage:

- Was designed to deliver messages to 85% of residents
- Messages were received by 91% of residents
- At least one message was retained by 66% of residents.

A household kit that was personally delivered to residents by the SES between 1999 and 2002 was:

- Delivered to 69% of residents
- Received by 72% of residents delivered to

- Retained by 24% of those delivered to
- Had the most detailed information about what to do

A label placed in the electricity meter box by the SES with specific information on how that property would be affected by flooding was:

- Delivered to 69% of residents
- Received by 63% of residents
- Retained by 100% delivered to
- Had the most specific information about which floods affect the house

A brochure mailed out in 2003 was:

- Delivered to 100% of residents
- Received by 40% of residents
- Retained by 20% of residents

There was limited baseline information to assess the contribution the preparedness strategy made to community flood awareness and preparedness.

The following could be determined:

Awareness:

- 95% recall receiving information about flooding (20% pre-program)
- 90% believe they live in a flood prone area
- 45% believe their house is at risk of being flooded
- 37% know their house risk or know where to get that information

Preparedness:

- 80% believe being prepared reduces personal risk
- 62% believe being prepared reduces property risk
- 82% know at least one appropriate response
- 56% are prepared to self evacuate
- 51% know to call SES for more info (44% pre-program)
- 25% have detailed response guides (i.e. the brochures or household kit)
- 4% have prepared flood emergency response kits

The survey demonstrates that:

- A well designed strategy can significantly increase awareness
- Good quality baseline information should be gathered before designing and implementing a communication strategy so that the effectiveness of the strategy can be measured.

It has also provided useful information on the effectiveness and longevity of particular communication tools.

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.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS

Community Awareness Activities

Acceptance of an invitation from the New South Wales State Emergency Service (NSW SES) resulted in EMA's Manager Community Awareness Program visiting primary and secondary schools in outback New South Wales in early March. The purpose of the trip was to experience first hand the methods used by NSW SES in educating school aged children about natural hazards specific to their region as well as introducing them to the SES. Two schools and a preschool in the township of Brewarrina were visited. The children met members of the SES, watched videos, created their own emergency scenarios and finished the session with a visit from the SES mascot Paddy Platypus.

It was a great opportunity to strengthen the relationship between EMA and the NSW SES.

For further information contact Cate Moore
Phone 03 54 21 5296; email cate.moore@ema.gov.au

EMA hosts Australasian Libraries in the Emergency Sector (ALIES) 2004 Workshop

ALIES is a cooperative network of libraries which supports the information requirements of the Australasian emergency management community by promoting and facilitating the sharing of information across the diverse member agencies within Australia and New Zealand.

The workshop was held from 5-8 April, 2004 at Emergency Management Australia's Institute, Mt. Macedon, Victoria. The theme of the workshop was "Visioning and Viability" and the aim was to consolidate ALIES into a stronger network whilst encouraging innovation and co-operation in Australasian emergency sector libraries and information centres.

The workshop successfully achieved a number of outcomes including:

- Convening of the inaugural AGM at which the ALIES title was changed from Services to Sector to reflect the broader emergency management community focus. The ALIES Charter was presented and ratified by all members; and the Executive, Planning and WebIP committees were elected.
- Receiving the unanimous agreement of all members to participate in the AusDIN network and also to

seek out new members from all aspects of the emergency management community to form a stronger, more representative network.

- Producing a draft strategic plan for ALIES which can be used by member agencies to guide and instruct the strategic planning for their own libraries.
- Providing the opportunity for members to be exposed to knowledge management activities within the sector and also participate in informal presentations by ALIES members who shared their practical experiences with their peers.

For further information contact Linda Hansen
Phone 03 54 21 5224; email linda.hansen@ema.gov.au

Australian Disaster Information Network (AusDIN).

The second meeting of the AusDIN Steering Committee took place in Canberra on 31st March 2004.

The question of a name change was decided with AusDIN being the preferred name and the Steering Committee to be henceforth known as the AusDIN Working Group. The meeting was the first since the release of the COAG Report - "Natural Disasters in Australia - Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements", the inaugural meetings of the reconstituted AEMC, now chaired by the Secretary AGD, the augmented Australasian Police Minister's Council (APMC), and the National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC).

These changes were discussed within the context of the role of AusDIN as a subset of AEMC. The meeting was concerned with setting directions under the new arrangements. Other areas discussed were the AEMC-ANZLIC partnership and the need to develop some areas of endeavour for AusDIN. The meeting accepted the proposal by EMA to develop a map of all the players in the Australian emergency management environment. This project is to start immediately with EMA providing the Project Manager and AusDIN Working Group being the Project Management Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for early August 2004 at EMA's new offices at the University of Canberra Innovation Centre.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS CONTINUED

The next meeting of the AusDIN Portal Group is scheduled for mid-May 2004 and will further progress the development of the AusDIN Portal.

EMA Knowledge Networks

The EMA website recorded 487,000 hits and 28,000 visits for the month of March 2004. 9000 visits, about 30% of all visits, were from the US. There were 649 visits from Western Europe and 382 from Asia. Around 40% of all visits to the EMA websites come from overseas. These statistics indicate the EMA websites play a major role in presenting Australian emergency management to the world. Ongoing development of the websites will soon provide better linkages downwards to the States and Territories and Emergency Services websites and EMA are developing projects to provide language translations for key areas of the websites to increase our relevance in Asia and the Pacific.

ALGA-EMA emergency management resources for local government

Knowledge Management is currently working with other Groups in EMA and with the Australian Local Government Association to develop resources for

Emergency Planning aimed specifically at local government needs. These resources would be aimed at supporting the Prime Minister's commitment to ALGA for closer cooperation on emergency management planning including relationships to national security and counter terrorism issues.

EMA Disasters Database

Stage 2 of the EMA Disasters Database is now live on the web accessible from the EMA website and is due for minor modifications and updates shortly. The next stage will be to instigate development of the Database as a national disasters database network and support from jurisdictions and other stakeholders is currently being sought to provide linkages and sharing of disasters data with other existing Australian databases as well as better integration with the CRED EM-Dat International Disasters Database.

*For further information contact: John Laurie
email: john.laurie@ema.gov.au tel: 03 54 21 5280*

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Advanced Diploma in Public Safety (Emergency Management)

Consultation with stakeholders in the latter half of 2003 identified considerable demand for the revised Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Emergency Management). EMA is planning to pilot the Advanced Diploma in 2005 with a group of 25 people. It is proposed that the program (6 core and 5 elective units) will be delivered over a 2 year period, requiring 6 weeks attendance at the EMA Institute together with work based projects to demonstrate competence and assist with the transfer of learning. The nationally recognised Advanced Diploma will replace the non-accredited Emergency Management Officers Professional Development Program. More information will be posted on the Institute website and available to nominating authorities in the second half of 2004 (www.ema.gov.au)

Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management

Delivery of this program started in May 2004. Articulation arrangements are in place with RMIT and Charles Sturt universities and negotiations are continuing with other tertiary institutions. This four module Graduate Certificate is delivered over a 2 year period with a total of 4 weeks residential study at EMA Mt. Macedon and extensive off campus research. Information regarding the second intake will be posted on the Institute's website and be available to state and territory nominating authorities in the second half of 2004 (www.ema.gov.au).

Quality and Consistency in Assessment

In April/May 2004 EMA auspiced a series of workshops aimed at increasing the quality and consistency of assessment of emergency management competency standards. The workshops highlighted the issues involved in assessing competency standards in the higher levels of the Australian Qualifications Framework and in high risk industries such as public safety. Opportunities for maintaining networks were discussed. A report on the workshops will be available on the EMA website in July 2004 (www.ema.gov.au)

EDUCATION & TRAINING CONTINUED

Emergency Planning

After a significant national consultation program, the development of a new competency standard *Undertake Emergency Planning* is almost completed. A training program is being developed to support achievement of the competency, with the pilot course to be conducted at Mount Macedon starting 1 June 2004. For further information contact the course manager Cathy Phelps

(03 5421 5229) or Barry Dean (03 5421 5275).

At the same time, we conducted a review and major rewrite of the Australian Emergency Manual (AEM) *Emergency Planning*. It should be published before the end of 2004.

For further details, contact Barry Dean (03 5421 5275) or Cate Moore (03 5421 5296).

DEVELOPMENT

Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005

Planning is well underway for the *Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005* to be held 6–7 April 2005 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra. The Steering Committee, established to assist with planning for the Summit, met again on 26 May 2004. The Tender Evaluation Report for the appointment of a Summit Coordinator has been signed off by DGEMA. The successful tenderer is Conference Logistics and contract negotiations were conducted with them on Friday 23 April. EMA has written to the Attorney-General requesting he invite the Governor-General to open the Summit. Expressions of Interest are being sought from graphic design companies for the design of Summit promotional material.

Regular updates on the Summit will be provided through the AJEM.

For further information contact: Justine Rixon, Assistant Director Development Projects, phone: 02 6256 4612 email: justine.rixon@ema.gov.au

Emergency Management 'Volunteers in Action' Photographic Competition

During 2002 EMA conducted a photographic competition to recognise emergency management volunteers in action. To recognise the work and value of volunteers in Australia's emergency management and service organisations EMA is conducting another nation-wide photographic competition in 2004 with prizes being awarded at the *Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2004* to be held 6 to 7 April 2005 in Canberra. Details are provided on the inside back cover of this issue of AJEM.

For further information contact: Justine Rixon, Assistant Director Development Projects, phone: 02 6256 4612, email: justine.rixon@ema.gov.au

2004 Australian Safer Communities Awards

The Australian Safer Communities Awards recognise best practice and innovation by organisations and individuals that help to build safer communities across Australia. The Awards work on two levels, State and Territory winners are decided first and become finalists for the national awards.

To date, the State and Territory brochures containing information and entry forms have been designed and printed copies have been dispatched to State and Territory coordinators. The brochures have also been uploaded onto EMA's website.

Entries are encouraged for projects undertaken between January 2003 and the end of April 2004. The closing date for entries is 20 August 2004. State and Territory winners are expected to be announced in September 2004 and the National Awards will be announced on 10 November 2004 at a ceremony in Parliament House, Canberra.

For more information, please contact Li Peng Monroe or Alastair Wilson, phone: 02 6256 4610 or 6256 4630, email: lipeng.monroe@ema.gov.au or alastair.wilson@ema.gov.au or visit the website: www.ema.gov.au

PLANNING & OPERATIONS

Multi-Jurisdictional Counter-Terrorism Exercise Mercury 04

EMA participated in the multi-jurisdictional counter-terrorism exercise (Mercury 04 during March 2004). The exercise, billed as the largest of its kind yet held in Australia, was designed to test Australia's counter-terrorism arrangements and involved police and emergency service organisations from four States & Territories, as well as a number of Australian Government departments.

EMA played an active part in the exercise with the National Emergency Management Coordination Centre (NEMCC) activated during the deployment phase of the exercise to monitor events and to coordinate requests for Australian Government assistance. In addition, EMA liaison staff were deployed to the Protective Security Coordination Centre (PSCC) Watch Office to provide the NEMCC with timely information received by participating agencies. A number of EMA staff also deployed as umpires and observers.

A feature of EMA's involvement in the exercise was the two consequence management focused Specialist Incident Task Force meetings held the exercise and chaired by the Director General of EMA, David Templeman. The meetings provided an opportunity for agencies involved in managing the consequences of the acts of terrorism in the exercise scenario to share information and collaborate on inter-jurisdictional and inter-sector planning, response and recovery.

For further information contact Trevor Jenner, Acting Assistant Director Emergency Coordination, phone: 02 6256 4626, email: Trevor.Jenner@ema.gov.au

Emergency Services Sector Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group (IAAG)

An Emergency Services Sector Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group (IAAG) has been established under the aegis of the national Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN) to facilitate the sharing of generic security threat and vulnerability information within the emergency services sector.

A meeting, sponsored by EMA, was conducted in Melbourne on 10 March 04 to discuss the structure and composition of the group and to consider its forward work program. The meeting was attended by emergency services and emergency management representatives from States and Territories, emergency services peak bodies, the Australian Red Cross and relevant Australian Government representatives.

The approach adopted by the meeting was that, in the first instance, the IAAG should confine its scope to consideration of the emergency services sector as an element of the national critical infrastructure and to defer consideration of the broader issue of emergency management. It was appreciated that at some later date it may be appropriate to form an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) to address the provision of emergency management advice

The general outcomes of the March meeting were that the IAAG confirmed its membership and Terms of Reference and jurisdictions agreed to provide progress reports in relation to work carried out to date to ensure continuity of delivery by emergency services. This information would be shared with other jurisdictions at the next meeting of the IAAG scheduled for 28 May 2004 in Melbourne.

For further information contact: David Morton, Assistant Director Civil Defence and National Support, phone: 02 6256 4617, email david.morton@ema.gov.au

CONFERENCE DIARY

<p>INTERNATIONAL June</p> <p>2-3 June Location: Melville, New York—Long Island/ New York City Title: Emergency Management Conference Emergency Preparedness Planning: Public/Private Initiatives Details: This conference will focus on public and private sector emergency preparedness, and will showcase emergency preparedness and planning initiatives that stress the importance of coordination and cooperation. Hurricane preparedness will be a central theme. Enquiries: For more information contact Catherine Lowenski, State Emergency Management Office, 1220 Washington Avenue Suite 101, Building 22, Albany, NY 12226-2251; (518) 457-9986; Email: catherine.lowenski@semo.state.ny.us; http://www.linycemconference.com/. Sponsors: Long Island Power Authority, New York State Emergency Management Office, New York City Office of Emergency Management, Nassau County Office of Emergency Management, and Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management</p>	<p>role. The Centre for Advanced Engineering (CAE) is providing a rare opportunity for you to learn from some of the best in this field. In a series of three half-day workshops, they will show you how effective risk communication will improve the way you manage risk. At the end of the workshop you will understand: how effective risk communication affects your organisation's relationships with key stakeholders; how good risk communication can preserve your reputation; why risk communication is different to other forms of communication; how you can minimise the impact of possible crises through effective risk communication.</p> <p>Enquiries: For more information, please go to http://www.caenz.com/risk/workshop/RiskComm.html, or call us on +61 3 364 2478. The website has a downloadable flyer and offers a registration/enquiry facility.</p>
<p>3-4 June Location: Bangkok, Thailand Title: The Media and Climate: Building Partnerships Workshop Details: This workshop aims to strengthen and sustain partnerships between the media and climate communities in Southeast Asia to foster accurate and effective communication about the nature and implications of climate variability and change. Enquiries: Workshop details can be obtained from Lolita Bildan, ADCP, P.O.Box 4, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand; tel:(66-2) 516-5900-10; Email: lolita@adpc.net; http://www.adpc.net. Sponsor: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADCP)</p>	<p>17 June Location: Christchurch, New Zealand Title: Risk Communication Workshop Details: In today's world, good business doesn't leave anything to chance. Most organisations are attuned to risk and its management and risk communication is an integral part of effective risk management. If you are a senior manager, risk manager or PR/communication manager, risk communication is vital to your role. The Centre for Advanced Engineering (CAE) is providing a rare opportunity for you to learn from some of the best in this field. In a series of three half-day workshops, they will show you how effective risk communication will improve the way you manage risk. At the end of the workshop you will understand: how effective risk communication affects your organisation's relationships with key stakeholders; how good risk communication can preserve your reputation; why risk communication is different to other forms of communication; how you can minimise the impact of possible crises through effective risk communication. Enquiries: For more information, please go to http://www.caenz.com/risk/workshop/RiskComm.html, or call us on +61 3 364 2478. The website has a downloadable flyer and offers a registration/enquiry facility.</p>
<p>10 June Location: Christchurch, New Zealand Title: Risk Communication Workshop Details: In today's world, good business doesn't leave anything to chance. Most organisations are attuned to risk and its management and risk communication is an integral part of effective risk management. If you are a senior manager, risk manager or PR/communication manager, risk communication is vital to your</p>	<p>20-23 June Location: Toronto, Canada Title: 14th World Conference on Disaster Management. Details: The conference will address issues common to all aspects of disasters and emergency management. Abstracts are due December 12, 2003.</p>

Enquiries: For detailed information contact CCEP, 1005 Skyview Drive, Suite 323, Burlington, Ontario L7P 5B1 Canada; (905) 331 2552; <http://www.wcdm.org>. WCDM features exciting outdoor demos by Toronto's CBRN & HUSAR teams and by Vanguard Response Systems. Indoor displays include Ontario's Emergency Medical Assistance Team (EMAT) – a new portable hospital. Learn when and how it can be used in your community.

Sponsor: Canadian Center for Emergency Preparedness (CCEP)

21–25 June

Location: Baltimore, Maryland

Title: The 1st International CLIVAR (Climate Variability and Predictability) Science Conference

Details: The international CLIVAR program, under the auspices of the World Climate Research Program (WCRP), focuses on describing and understanding variability and change of the physical climate system on time scales from months to centuries and beyond. This conference will focus on CLIVAR's successes and future challenges. These include consideration of the broader climate research environment and how best to contribute the knowledge, products, and information brought about by CLIVAR to those who could best use it in decision and policy making.

Enquiries: Registration information and additional details may be obtained from the Conference Secretariat, UCAR/JOSS/PSO, 3300 Mitchell Lane, Room 1112, Boulder CO 80301; (303) 497-8667; <http://www.clivar2004.org/>.

Sponsor: CLIVAR.

24–25 June

Location: Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

Title: 2nd Annual Conference: Risk Management (ETR2A).

Details: This conference brings together business, the public sector, and academia to address issues surrounding business, telecommunications, and public life in preparing for and responding to emergencies.

Enquiries: Abstract guidelines and conference information is available from the ETR2A Conference Office, Benchmark Communications, 63 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SG, UK; tel: 0191 241 4523; <http://www.etr2a.org/>.

Sponsors: European Telecommunications Resilience and Recovery Association, Northeast Development Agency and Northumbria University.

24 June

Location: 4 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Title: IX International Symposium on Landslides.

Details: Practicing and consulting engineers, geologists, researchers, construction managers, government officials, product suppliers, and others are invited to attend and present their recent experiences and

developments in the field of landslide hazards.

Enquiries: Detailed information is available by contacting Secretariat 9 ISL-Rio 2004, Programa de Engenharia Civil COPPE-UFRJ, P.O. Box 68506, CEP 21.945-970, Rio de Janeiro RJ Brazil; tel: 55 21 562-7200; Email: 9isl@geotec.coppe.ufrj.br; <http://www.quattri.com.br/isl/interior.html>.

Sponsors: International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), International Society of Engineering Geology (IAEG), and International Society of Rock Mechanics (ISRM).

28–30 June

Location: Orlando, Florida

Title: The 2004 Government Symposium on Information Sharing and Homeland Security.

Details: This symposium will identify the challenges with integrating information and intelligence, and will focus on solutions using case studies and best practices from Chicago, New York, Florida, and California. The intent of this conference is to find solutions that help to close the gaps existing between federal agencies and those found between the federal level and the state and local level.

Enquiries: For more information contact National Conference Services, Inc. (NCSI), 6440-C Dobbin Road, Columbia, MD 21045; (888) 603-8899; <http://federalevents.com/ishs/>.

Sponsor: Government Emerging Technology Alliance (GETA).

July

6–9 July

Location: Osaka, Japan

Title: Smart Structures Technology and Earthquake Engineering

Details: Earthquake engineering has undergone a transformation from discipline-oriented investigations to centre and network-based efforts that rely on cross-cutting solutions. This symposium is dedicated to facilitating that shift.

Enquiries: Further information is available from Ma Hua, Osaka University, Osaka Japan; Email: mahua@arch.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp; <http://www.nees.org/info/SE041119.pdf>.

Sponsors: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the National Science Foundation, and the Asia-Pacific Network of Earthquake Engineering Research.

12–13 July

Location: Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

Title: Recovery Symposium

Details: As part of the 4R's approach to Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) comprising Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management is committed to

the development of concepts, processes, plans and capability for the fourth R of Recovery. As part of this focus, the Ministry is organising a New Zealand Recovery Symposium from 12–13 July 2004. The Symposium will focus on five key aspects of recovery: economic; reconstruction; environmental; psychosocial; and community. A session will also be provided on the professional development aspects of recovery.

Enquiries: Further details on the symposium will be made available on the Ministry website: www.civildefence.govt.nz. For further information, contact: sarah.norman@dia.govt.nz

12–15 July

Location: Vienna, Austria

Title: Third European Conference on Structural Control (3ECSC).

Details: This conference will foster interactions among the community of researchers contributing to structural control among the European research and professional community. Cross-fertilization between different scientific disciplines and professions is encouraged.

Enquiries: More information is available from Susanne Halbkram, VCE, Hadikgasse 60, A-1140 Vienna, Austria; tel: 43-1-894-60-21, ext. 144; Email: halbkram@vce.at; <http://www.samco.org/3ecsc/index.htm>.

Sponsor: Vienna Consulting Engineers (VCE)

20–22 July

Location: Miami Beach Florida

Title: America's Fire Expo 2004.

Details: This conference is directed toward those involved with fire protection systems and equipment, special hazards, chemical and hazardous material storage and handling, building fire protection, life safety and electrical installations.

Enquiries: For more information contact ROC Exhibitions, Inc., 1963 University Lane, Lisle, IL 60532; (630) 271-8210; Email: fire@rocexhibitions.com; <http://www.nfpa.org>.

Sponsor: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

26–27 July

Location: Karlsruhe, Germany

Title: Disasters and Society: From Hazard Assessment to Risk Reduction

Details: This conference will provide a forum to present and discuss research results in the following areas: understanding and modeling hazards, hazard and risk assessment, forecasting and early warning, information and communication, disaster management, and risk reduction in industrialized societies.

Enquiries: For more information contact Karlsruhe University, Kaiserstrasse 12, D-76 131 Karlsruhe, Germany; Email: disasterandsociety@uka.de;

<http://www.disasterandsociety.uni-karlsruhe.de/default-en.html>.

Sponsor: University of Karlsruhe Program in Natural Disasters, Collaborative Research Center, and Center for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology.

26–28 July

Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Title: Joint Specialty Conference on Probabilistic Mechanics and Structural Reliability

Details: Probabilistic mechanics and reliability analysis are valuable and powerful tools in many engineering disciplines. As uncertainties in design parameters and behaviours are increasingly considered in the design of engineering systems, both applied and basic research in the area of stochastic mechanics will continue to grow. This conference will bring together researchers and scientists from around the world. Engineers, researchers, and scientists involved in reliability of structural, mechanical, marine, aerospace, geotechnical, and environmental systems are invited to participate.

Enquiries: Conference details are available from Steve Wojtkiewicz, Sandia National Laboratories, P.O. Box 5800, MS0847, Albuquerque, NM 87185; (505) 284-5482; Email: sfwojtk@sandia.gov; <http://www.esc.sandia.gov/PMCconferenceinfo.html>.

Sponsors: American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI), and the Geo-Institute.

27–31 July

Location: Los Angeles, California

Title: Geo-Trans 2004

Details: This conference will focus on geotechnical engineering for transportation projects such as bridges, tunnels, underground structures, rail and highway corridors, and systems engineering. Seismic design, risk assessment, geographic information systems, and retaining structures are among the topics to be presented.

Enquiries: Complete information is available from ASCE, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191; (703) 295-6350; Email: conf@asce.org; <http://www.asce.org/conferences/geotrans04/>.

Sponsor: Geo-Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

August

1–6 August

Location: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Title: 13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (13WCEE)

Details: Refer to: <http://www.13wcee.com/>, or <http://venuewest.com/13wcee>

Enquiries: Contact: 13th WCEE Secretariat, c/o Venue West Conference Services Ltd., #645-375

<p>Water Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 5C6, Canada; (604) 681-5226; fax: (604) 681-2503; Email: congress@venuewest.com.</p> <p>Sponsor: Canadian Association for Earthquake Engineering.</p>	<p>10-11 August</p> <p>Location: Baycourt, Tauranga, New Zealand</p> <p>Title: 6th New Zealand Natural Hazards Management Conference 2004</p> <p>Enquiries: For further information email: d.tilyard@gns.cri.nz or visit http://www.gns.cri.nz/news/conferences/hazmanconf04.html</p>
<p>10-12 August</p> <p>Location: Honolulu, Hawaii</p> <p>Title: Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop</p> <p>Details: This will be an action-oriented meeting for women and men working toward gender equity in all dimensions of disaster risk and response. This international meeting of practitioners, policy makers, planners, academics, activists and community members will focus on practical and feasible strategies for gendering the risk reduction agenda.</p> <p>Enquiries: Information is available from Elaine Enarson, 33174 Bergen Mountain Road, Evergreen, CO 80439; (303) 670-1834; Email: genderdisaster@yahoo.com; http://www.ssri.hawaii.edu/research/GDWwebs/ite/index.html.</p> <p>Sponsors: US Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, the US Department of Agriculture, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the University of Hawaii, and members of the Gender and Disaster Network.</p>	<p>15-20 August</p> <p>Location: Glasgow, Scotland</p> <p>Title: 30th Congress of the International Geographical Union: One Earth, Many Worlds.</p> <p>Details: The extensive and varied program includes topics of special interest to hazards researchers, including: desertification, coastal systems geomorphology, changing demographics, health and environment, population, flooding, and more.</p> <p>Enquiries: Registration information can be obtained from Meeting Makers, Jordanhill Campus, 76 Southbrae Drive, Glasgow G13 1PP, Scotland, UK; tel: +44 (0) 141 434 1500; Email: igc2004@meetingmakers.co.uk; http://www.meetingmakers.co.uk/igc-uk2004/index.html.</p>
<p>15-22 August</p> <p>Location: Florence, Italy</p> <p>Title: 32nd International Geological Congress (IGC)</p> <p>Enquiries: For a conference circular, Email: 32igc@32igc.org; or contact: Chiara</p>	<p>20-28 August</p> <p>Location: Florence, Italy</p> <p>Title: The 32nd Session of the International Geological Congress</p> <p>Details: The conference has been designed as a forum for a broad debate of the most significant advances in the geological sciences, as well as to promote discussion of the congress theme: "from the Mediterranean area toward a global geological renaissance—geology, natural hazards and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Enquiries: For more details, contact Chiara Manetti, Borgo Albizi, 28, 50121 Firenze, Italy; tel: +39 055 2382146; Email: casaitalia@geo.unifi.it; http://www.32igc.org/default1.htm.</p> <p>Sponsors: International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), and various member countries of the Mediterranean Consortium.</p>
<p>31 August-2 September</p> <p>Location: London, England</p> <p>Title: Mitigating Volcanic Crises: Practical Solutions for the 21st Century</p> <p>Details: This three-day conference will address practical strategies for responding to volcanic crises. Sessions will combine scientific, social and management criteria to identify new methods for making short-term forecasts of eruptions and of types of volcanic hazards, communicating the hazard to non-specialists, and designing appropriate response plans, from defense measures to evacuation.</p> <p>Enquiries: Conference information is available from the Benfield Hazard Research Center, Department of Earth Sciences, UCL, 136 Gower Street (Lewis Building), London, WC1E 6BT UK; tel: +44 (0)20 7679 3449/3637 http://www.benfieldhrc.org/SiteRoot/activities/events/chris_2004.htm.</p> <p>Sponsor: University College, London</p>	<p>Manetti, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Via La Pira, 4 50121 Firenze, Italy; tel/fax: +39 055 2382146; Email: cmanetti@geo.unifi.it; WWW: http://www.iugs.org/iugs/news/igc32-02.htm. Note: The 32nd IGC includes a Topical Symposium on "Natural Hazards and Mitigation of Geological Risks"; for more information, contact Tina Nunziata, Email: conunzia@unina.it, or Attia El-Sayed, Email: elsayedat@mans.edu.eg. There will also be a session on "Geological Data and Seismic Hazard Maps"; for details, see http://www.bghrc.com/Geolhaz/Syposium/info.htm, or contact Ioannis Papanikolaou, Email: i.papanikolaou@ucl.ac.uk.</p>

Australia—Brisbane July

5–9 July

Location: Brisbane, Australia

Title: International Conference on Storms

Details: This conference is multi-disciplinary. It adopts an end-to-end approach, from storms science through risk assessment, and forecasting, to disaster mitigation and response. It will deal with storms of all kinds including severe thunderstorms and frontal wind storms, tropical cyclones, frontal and cyclonic storms of higher latitudes. Topics include storm rainfall and flooding, and storms at sea. Key presentations will be provided by internationally recognised speakers.

Enquiries: For further information visit the conference website <http://www.stormsconf.org.au/>

Sponsors: The Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, co-sponsors are the World Meteorological Organisation, Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology (Australia), Emergency Management Australia, Queensland Emergency Services—Counter Disaster and Rescue Services, the American Meteorological Society and the Meteorological Society of New Zealand.

Australia—Melbourne June

2–4 June

Location: Melbourne, Australia

Title: 10th National Conference on Volunteering evolution: Evolution, Devolution, or Revolution?

Details: Volunteering Australia will be hosting the 10th National Conference on Volunteering at the Hilton on the Park, East Melbourne from 2–4 June 2004. The deadline for abstracts has now passed and the program is currently being developed.

Enquiries: The registration brochure is expected to be available by late February / early March, and will contain full details, including cost. To go on the mailing list to receive a registration brochure, email The Conference Organiser on info@conorg.com.au

August

17–18 AUGUST

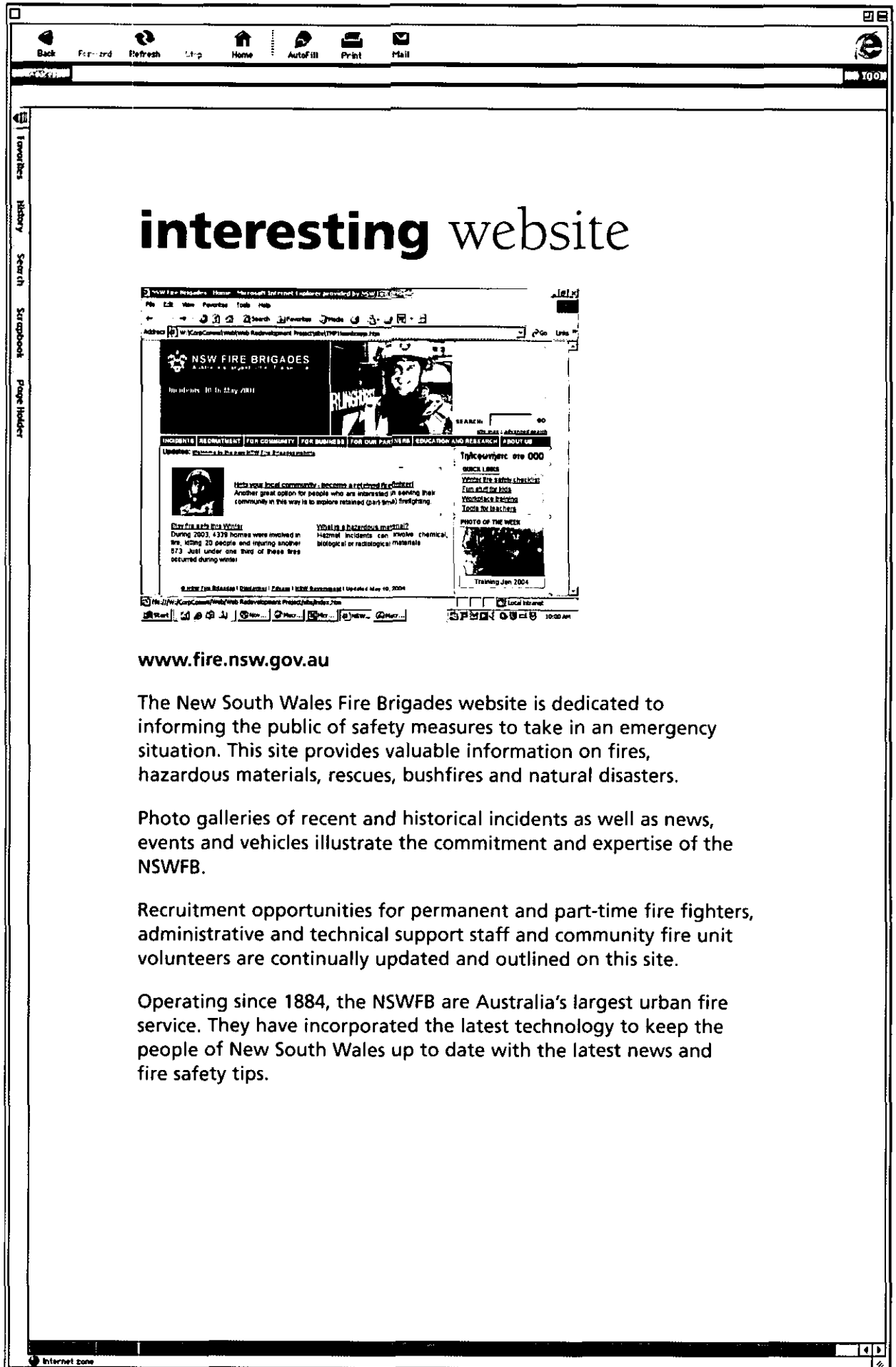
Location: Melbourne Convention Centre, Australia

Title: Vulnerable Communities and Emergencies Emergency Management Conference 2004

Details: The Emergency Management Conference (EMC), now in its 4 year, has become one of Australia's pre-eminent annual emergency services forums. It brings together emergency management professionals from ESOs, local, state and federal governments, community groups and industry. Papers will be presented by Australian and international emergency management professionals, local, state and federal governments and authorities, academics and research organisations, community and special interest groups, aviation and transport industry, heavy and hazardous materials industries and other interested parties.

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interesting website

www.fire.nsw.gov.au

The New South Wales Fire Brigades website is dedicated to informing the public of safety measures to take in an emergency situation. This site provides valuable information on fires, hazardous materials, rescues, bushfires and natural disasters.

Photo galleries of recent and historical incidents as well as news, events and vehicles illustrate the commitment and expertise of the NSWFB.

Recruitment opportunities for permanent and part-time fire fighters, administrative and technical support staff and community fire unit volunteers are continually updated and outlined on this site.

Operating since 1884, the NSWFB are Australia's largest urban fire service. They have incorporated the latest technology to keep the people of New South Wales up to date with the latest news and fire safety tips.

Photo Competition

EMA

'safer sustainable communities'

EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

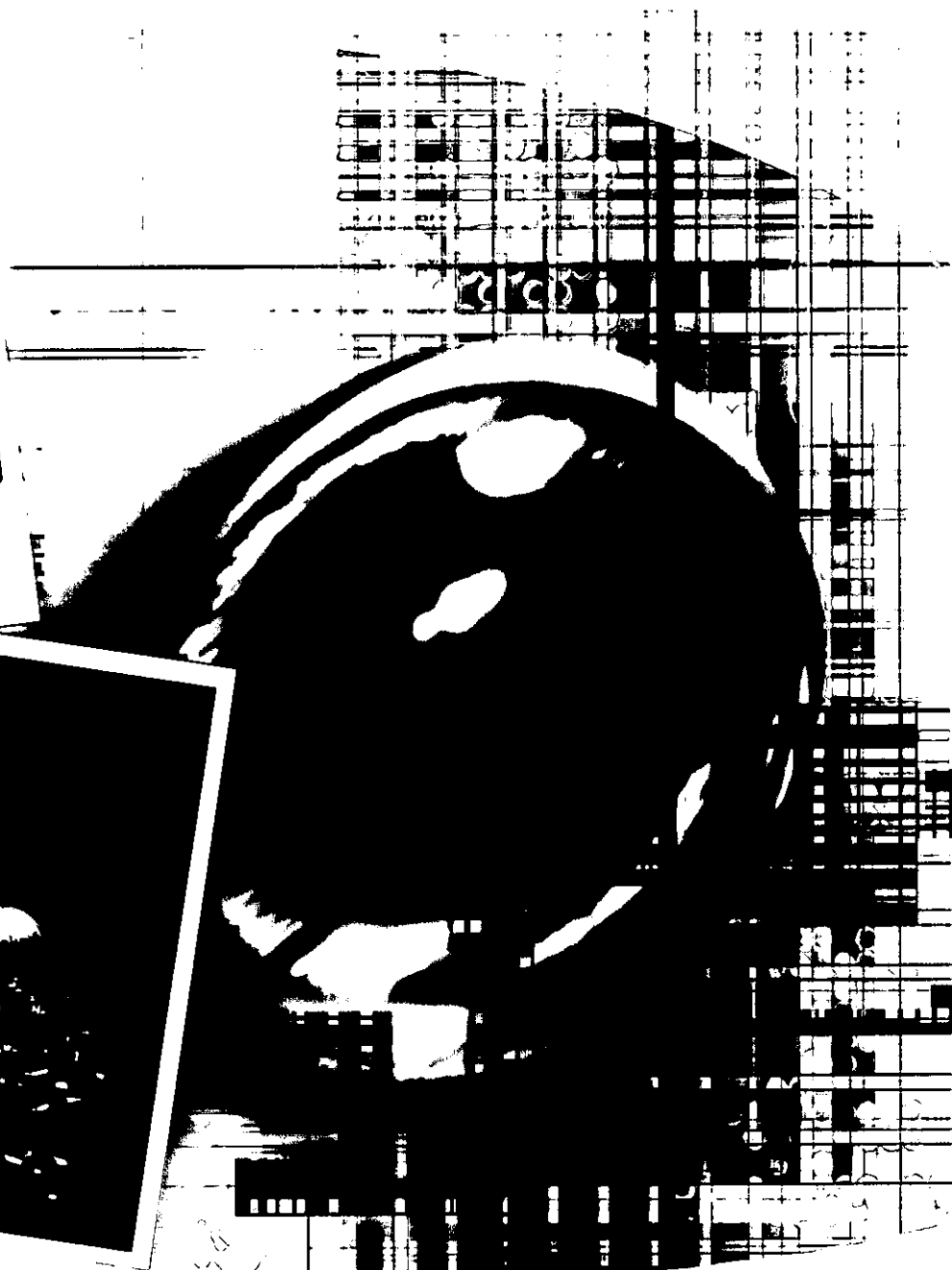
Do you take photographs of emergency service volunteers doing what they love to do?

Emergency Management Australia will be conducting another Photographic Competition to recognise the work and value of emergency service volunteers and their organisations.

Start collecting your best images now to enter into this unique Volunteers In Action photo competition.

It will be open to both amateur and professional photographers in two separate streams, with prizes in each category. The professionals can be freelance, with a media organisation or paid by an emergency service organisation. The amateur photographers can be freelance or with an emergency service organisation.

PERIOD OF IMAGE: July 2003 – January 2005. Winners will be announced and their entries displayed, at the Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005, to be held in Canberra, 6–7 April 2005.



Further information on the Photographic Competition and the Volunteers Summit will be provided in future editions of the Australian Journal of Emergency Management and is available on the EMA website www.ema.gov.au



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
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Entries close Friday 20 August 2004.

"safer sustainable communities"