



FEMA *Forward*

June 2008 Volume 2, No. 6

HURRICANE SEASON

GET SERIOUS. BE PREPARED



Inside

Hurricane Awareness Day: *A First for FEMA*

2008 NOAA Hurricane Forecast: *Above the Norm*

Direct Deposit: *Going Direct to Get Prepared*

Administrator Paulison: *FEMA is Ready*

FEMA Staff Prepare: *Living In Glass Houses*

Less But More: *New Simulation Projects Fewer Hurricanes*

Apathy at the Point of Impact: *What? Me Worry?*

Retiring Storms: *Names Leave Official List*

And More —

NOAA image

"FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror."

A First for FEMA

It was a first for FEMA. A day-long event, held May 20 at FEMA headquarters, did more than simply launch the 2008 hurricane season. It demonstrated to the nation that FEMA and its partners were ready, and it helped send the message that it was time for citizens, also, to “Get Serious! Be Prepared!”

Throughout FEMA’s first-ever Hurricane Awareness Day, a consortium of federal, military, nonprofit and private sector organizations showcased a comprehensive array of preparedness programs, many of them debuting in just the last several years.

FEMA’s Geospatial Information Systems Solutions Branch demonstrated its risk mapping capabilities, the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System and National Emergency Child Locator Center provided information about their services to help locate family members after a disaster, and the Flood Smart booth handed out information about the National Flood Insurance Program.

FEMA erected a MERS – Mobile Emergency Response System, the Coast Guard showcased a rescue boat, and the Virginia Urban Search and Rescue Task Force had a rescue dog on hand.

Emphasizing that preparedness starts at home, FEMA and its partners also provided a wealth of information on how citizens can be better prepared for hurricanes and other disasters. *Ready.gov*, the Department of Homeland Security’s preparedness public education campaign, distributed literature urging

citizens to get a kit, make a plan, and be informed. Citizen Corps handed out its comprehensive citizen preparedness guide and other information encouraging citizens to get involved in local preparedness initiatives. FEMA and the Humane Society reminded everyone not to forget their pets in planning for a disaster.

Dozens of other exhibitors, including the Small Business Administration, U.S. Forest Service, NORTHCOM, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the American Red Cross, provided information on their role in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

At an afternoon press conference, DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff told reporters that, although the 2006 and 2007 Hurricane Seasons were quiet, the public should not think the country is immune to such disasters. “Our paramount objective at this point in the season is to get the message out and remind people that the time to get ready is now.” He said people should have emergency supply kits and evacuation plans, and listen to local officials if a hurricane is approaching.

FEMA Administrator David Paulison reiterated Chertoff’s individual preparedness message and noted the tremendous progress FEMA has made in building its preparedness and response capabilities and in forming partnerships to develop a comprehensive, coordinated response to disasters.

“We’ve been working very hard to rebuild this organization and provide this country the response system

that it should have,” he said. “And part of that is what you see up here on this dais -- a partnership. We worked very hard over the last two years to develop that engaged partnership with our federal partners that are sitting up here, our local partners – you see some of the people over here from the local level, and also the state level. We have to work in concert.

“And what the Secretary said about personal preparedness also fits in that. It takes all of us together. It takes the people at the personal level, at the local level, the state level and the federal level, all working as a team to make sure we can respond as a team.”

Secretary Chertoff and Administrator Paulison were joined at the press conference by Paul McHale, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense; Dr. Gerald Parker with the Department of Health and Human Services; Major General Guy Swan with NORTHCOM; Major General William Etter with the National Guard; James Madon, director of the DHS National Communications System; Lew Southard from the United States Forest Service, and Mary Elcano, acting president and CEO of the American Red Cross.



DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and FEMA Administrator David Paulison at Hurricane Awareness Day



FEMA Headquarters was surrounded by hurricane response and mitigation displays for the day.



For complete information on preparedness efforts for the 2008 Hurricane Season visit:
www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/hu_season08.shtm

Above the Norm

The National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center calls for considerable activity this hurricane season, with a 65 percent probability of an above-normal season and a 25 percent probability of a near-normal season. This means there is a 90 percent chance of a near- or above-normal season.

The climate patterns expected during this year's hurricane season have in past seasons produced a wide range of activity and have been associated with both near-normal and above-normal seasons.

For 2008, the outlook indicates a 60 to 70 percent chance of 12 to 16 named storms, including six to nine hurricanes and two to five major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Scale). An average season has 11 named storms, including six hurricanes for which two reach major status.

"The outlook is a general guide to the overall seasonal hurricane activity," NOAA Administrator Lautenbacher said at a May 22 press briefing. "It does not predict whether, where or when any of these storms may hit land. That is the job of the National Hurricane Center after a storm forms."

Bill Read, director of NOAA's National Hurricane Center said, "Our forecasters are

ready to track any tropical cyclone, from a depression to a hurricane, which forms in the Atlantic Basin. We urge coastal residents to have a hurricane plan in place before the season begins and NHC will continue to provide the best possible forecast to the public."

When a storm forms in the tropics – and even before that stage – NOAA forecasters at

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the Miami-based National Hurricane Center are in continuous monitoring mode – employing a dense network of satellites, land- and ocean-based sensors and aircraft reconnaissance missions operated by NOAA and its partners. This array of data supplies the information for complex computer modeling and human expertise that serves as the basis for the hurricane center's track and intensity forecasts that extend out five days in advance.

The science behind the outlook is rooted in the analysis and prediction of current and

future global climate patterns as compared to previous seasons with similar conditions.

"The main factors influencing this year's seasonal outlook are the continuing multi-decadal signal (the combination of ocean and atmospheric conditions that have spawned increased hurricane activity since 1995), and the anticipated lingering effects of La Niña," said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

"One of the expected oceanic conditions is a continuation since 1995 of warmer-than-normal temperatures in the eastern tropical Atlantic."

"Americans in hurricane-prone states must get serious and be prepared," said FEMA Administrator Paulison.

"Government—even with the federal, tribal, state and local governments working perfectly in sync—is not the entire answer. Everyone is part of the emergency management process. We must continue to develop a culture of preparedness in America in which every American takes personal responsibility for his or her own emergency preparedness."

NOAA's Atlantic hurricane season outlook will be updated on August 7, just prior to what is historically the peak period for hurricane activity.

Storm names for the 2008 Atlantic season

- Arthur
- Bertha
- Christobal
- Dolly
- Edouard
- Fay
- Gustav
- Hanna
- Ike
- Josephine
- Kyle
- Laura
- Marco
- Nana
- Omar
- Paloma
- Rene
- Sally
- Teddy
- Vicky
- Wilfred

Go Direct To Get Prepared

With the 2008 hurricane season in full swing, *Go Direct* is working with its partners to urge Social Security check recipients in hurricane-prone areas to safeguard their federal benefits payments by switching to direct deposit.

With direct deposit, people can protect themselves against disruptions in mail service and ensure seamless delivery of their federal benefit payments in the

days following a hurricane or other severe weather event.

Currently about 10.5 million people continue to receive their Social Security and SSI payments by paper check. While paper checks make up only 20 percent of the total number of Social Security payments, they account for more than 90 percent of reported problems.

Go Direct partners can make a difference by adding information about *Go Direct* to disaster preparedness programs and resources. Visit *Go Direct's Disaster Preparedness Program* for tools to download. To learn more about opportunities to support the campaign during the hurricane season, visit www.GoDirect.org, or call 952-346-6055.



The *Go Direct* campaign, sponsored by Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks, aims to motivate people who receive federal benefit checks to use direct deposit. Current benefit recipients can easily sign up for direct deposit of their Social Security or other federal benefits for free.

Administrator Touts FEMA's Readiness



Koplitz, FEMA

Administrator Paulison, Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness Dennis Schrader and other members of the FEMA

leadership team and staff represented the agency at the 2008 National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Fla., March 31-April 4.

The conference is held annually at the start of each hurricane season to share lessons learned.

In remarks at this year's conference, Administrator Paulison warned attendees not to be complacent after two relatively mild hurricane seasons. "We can't rely on luck every year," he said. "Another major hurricane might be just months away."

He also outlined FEMA's efforts to improve its disaster operations, planning and preparedness. "We haven't

just been sitting around waiting for the next hurricane; we have spent the time getting better at what we do," Paulison said.

Administrator Paulison pointed to the agency's new emphasis on Pre-Scripted Mission Assignments. In 2006, FEMA started with 44 Pre-Scripted Mission Assignments with two federal agencies. Today, that number is 223 with 31 agencies.

He also described the many other new initiatives underway at FEMA, including the Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs); efforts to improve the delivery of

supplies and services before, during, and after a disaster; FEMA's 60 Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers; work with the American Red Cross on the National Shelter System; the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System and National Emergency Child Locator Center; and a new policy to help those with pets.

"No one really knows what this hurricane season will bring," Paulison said. "But we have to assume that we won't be lucky and that we will indeed have to respond to one if not more storms. I think we're ready."

Living in Glass Houses

As representatives of the nation's preeminent emergency preparedness and response agency, FEMA employees should make sure they and their families are prepared for emergencies, whether a hurricane, a tornado, a terrorist attack or other disaster.

As we enter Hurricane Season 2008, you should remember that coastal regions are not the only areas that can be affected by hurricanes. As they move ashore, hurricanes can bring high winds and flooding hundreds of miles inland as well. Following are some specific tips for preparing for a hurricane:

Prepare for Hurricanes

- Get a kit of emergency supplies and prepare a portable kit in case you have to evacuate.
- Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a hurricane.
- A hurricane watch means

a hurricane is possible in your area. Be prepared to evacuate. Monitor local radio and listen to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest developments.

• A hurricane warning is when a hurricane is expected in your area. If local authorities advise you to evacuate, leave immediately.

- Prepare to secure your property.
- Cover all of your home's windows with pre-cut plywood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows from high winds.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.

• Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed.

• If you have a car, fill the gas tank in case you have to evacuate.

Plan to Evacuate

- Plan how you will leave

and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate.

- If you do not have a car, plan alternate means of evacuating.
- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood.
- Identify several places you could go in an emergency: a friend's home in another town, a motel or public shelter.

• If you have a car, keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case you need to evacuate.

• Become familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.

• Take your emergency supply kit.

• Lock the door behind you.

• Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters.

- Plan how you will care

for your pets in an emergency.

If Time Allows

• Call or e-mail the "out-of-state" contact in your family communications plan.

• Tell them where you are going.

• Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.

• Check with neighbors who may need a ride.

• If you are not able to evacuate, stay indoors away from all windows. Take shelter in an interior room with no windows if possible. Be aware that there may be a sudden lull in the storm as the eye of the hurricane moves over. Stay in your shelter until local authorities say it is safe.

For more information, see FEMA's new *Are You Ready? Guide to Hurricane Preparedness* at www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/hu_season08.shtm.

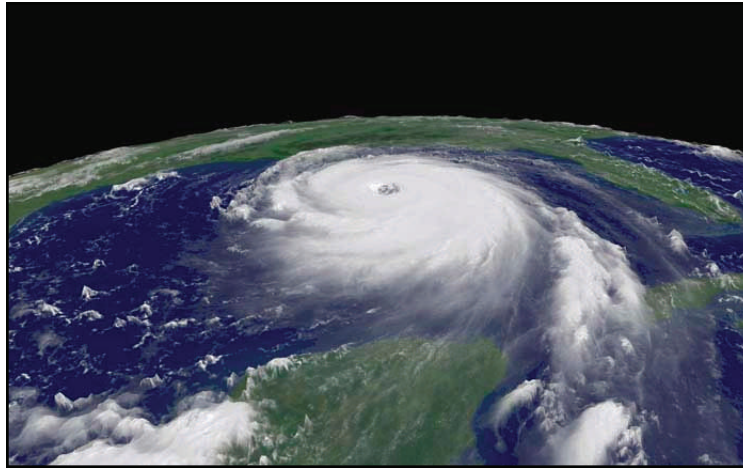
New Simulation Projects Fewer Hurricanes

A new model simulation of Atlantic hurricane activity for the last two decades of this century projects fewer hurricanes overall, but a slight increase in intensity for hurricanes that do occur.

Hurricanes are also projected to have more intense rainfall, on average, in the future. These findings are reported in a study by scientists at NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, N.J.

"This study adds more support to the consensus finding of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other reports that it is likely that hurricanes will gradually become more intense as the climate continues to warm," said Tom Knutson, research meteorologist and lead author of the report. "It's a bit of a mixed picture in the Atlantic, because we're projecting fewer hurricanes overall."

The scientists performed hurricane simulations using a new regional model that offers both higher resolution and an improved ability to simulate past observed changes in



Atlantic hurricane activity. In a preliminary study published last October in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, the new model was shown to successfully reproduce Atlantic hurricane counts year-by-year from 1980 to 2006, including the observed increasing trend.

In the new study, the model was used to test the influence of greenhouse gas warming on Atlantic hurricane activity through the end of the 21st century. Simulations reveal higher levels of wind shear and other changes, which act to reduce the overall number of hurricanes in the model.

Tropical Atlantic sea surface temperatures have increased over the past century, and several studies have reported strong correlations between increasing tropical Atlantic sea surface temperatures and measures of hurricane activity since at least 1950. Although it is widely accepted in the climate change research community that increases in greenhouse gases have caused most of the global warming of the last half century, the link between increasing greenhouse gases and hurricane activity has been a topic of wide debate and of little consensus.

This new study suggests that, in the Atlantic basin, global warming from increasing green-

house gases will have little impact, or perhaps cause some decrease, in tropical storm and hurricane numbers.

"We'll need to keep an eye on upcoming model studies to see how robust the projected increase in wind shear over the Atlantic turns out to be," said Knutson.

Large-scale environmental changes in circulation, such as wind shear, as well as possibly moisture, are likely the dominant factors producing the reduced storm frequency.

These results support recent research showing that the primary driver of the recent increase in Atlantic hurricane numbers was the warming of the tropical Atlantic relative to the other tropical basins.

These results are also consistent with a number of previous modeling and theoretical studies that have examined the influence of global warming from increasing greenhouse gases on hurricane intensity.

An increase in hurricane intensities globally is assessed as "likely" in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report issued in 2007.

What? Me Worry?

A recent poll found an alarming number of people living in hurricane-prone states aren't ready for hurricane season. The poll indicated many residents haven't prepared survival kits or plans to get through a hurricane, and that has officials sounding the alarm.

At the National Hurricane Center in Miami, a group of public and private officials, including Florida Governor Charlie Crist, released the results of the poll of residents in hurricane-prone states from Texas to Maine.

The poll found two-thirds of people surveyed have no

supply kit, and more than half have no disaster plan for their families.

Emergency officials said the poll's findings have them concerned, and Crist pleaded with Florida residents to make preparations now.

Here are some other findings from the poll:

- One in six people said they would leave only 24 hours before a major storm hits land.
- One in eight residents said they would not evacuate if ordered to do so.
- One in five people won't prepare until the storm is actually coming their way.

FOR SOME — NO WORRIES

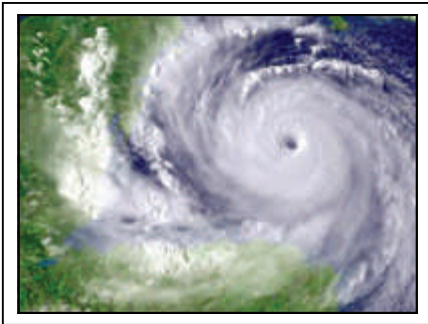
Forecasters and emergency responders fear that coastal residents will be apathetic this year after the United States escaped the past two storm seasons virtually unscathed. A recent survey reflected that sense.

- Thirty-nine percent of Houston-area residents surveyed for the Allstate Insurance Company said they would not evacuate and instead would stay home if a major hurricane was heading for the area.
- Of those who vowed to stay, 52 percent cited massive traffic jams as a reason for riding out a big storm, and 40 percent said they would want to protect their home from possible looting.
- Seventy-nine percent cited a sense that they'd be safe at home as another reason for not evacuating.

Names Retired from Hurricane List

According to the Session of the World Meteorological Organization's Regional Association IV Hurricane Committee, the names Dean, Felix and Noel, three of the most devastating storms of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season, were retired by members during its annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Members of the committee can remove names associated with storms



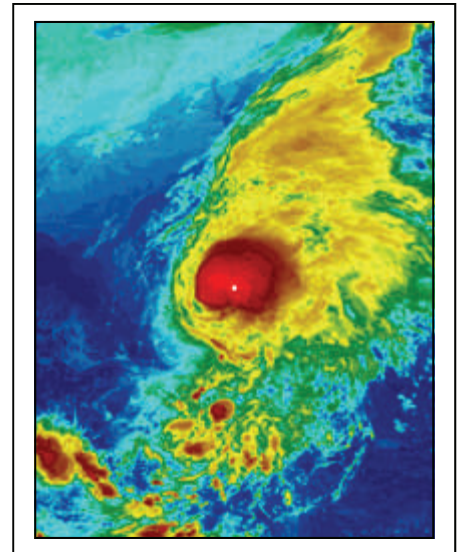
Hurricane Dean was a Category 5 storm as it hit the Mexican coast. NOAA image

that cause significant loss of life and property. These names will not be used again because of the wide-spread destruction caused by these storms.

The committee issues a list of potential names for tropical cyclones every six years. For 2013, Dean, Felix and Noel have been replaced with Dorian, Fernand and Nestor. Since tropical cyclones were first named in 1953, 70 names have been retired, the first two being Carol and Hazel in 1954.

Details of the newly retired 2007 named storms are shown below:

- Dean passed between St. Lucia and Martinique on Aug. 17 on a remarkably constant heading across the Caribbean Sea, passing just south of Jamaica with Category 4 winds of 145 mph. Over the warm waters of the northwestern Caribbean Sea, Dean reached Category 5 strength of 165 mph just before landfall on Aug. 21 near Costa Maya on the Yucatan Peninsula. It weakened over land but emerged into the Bay of Campeche, strengthening to Category 2 status just before landfall the next day south of Tuxpan, Mexico. Dean is directly responsible for 32 deaths across the Caribbean, with the largest tolls in Mexico and Haiti.
- Felix was the second hurricane of the 2007 season to make landfall as a Category 5 hurricane, a feat never seen before in records dating back to 1851. Felix became a hurricane on Sept. 1 over the southwestern Caribbean Sea. It rapidly intensified, and Felix became a Category 5 hurricane about 400 miles southeast of Jamaica. The storm weakened to Category 3 but re-intensified to Category 5 status just before landfall on Sept. 4 at Punta Gorda, Nicaragua. Felix was responsible for 130 deaths in Nicaragua and Honduras, causing major damage in northeastern Nicaragua and inland flooding over portions of Central America.
- Noel was a slow-moving tropical storm from Oct. 25 to Oct. 31 while over the Dominican Republic, Haiti, eastern Cuba and the lower Bahamas before reaching Category 1 hurricane strength on Nov. 1 in the northwestern Bahamas. As it accelerated northeast over the western Atlantic waters near Nantucket Island, Mass., it was no longer classified as a tropical system but packed 75 mph winds as it came ashore near Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Noel was responsible for at least 160 deaths across the Caribbean and Bahamas. The system produced hurricane force winds over portions of the northeast U.S. and Canada, producing widespread power outages. It also produced significant coastal flooding and wave action that washed out coastal roads in portions of Nova Scotia.



Infrared satellite image of Hurricane Noel on November 1, 2007. NOAA image

FEMA Forward

FEMA Forward is the official employee newsletter of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, published by the Office of External Affairs.

FEMA Forward

FEEDBACK

Please feel free to contact us with stories, news and items of interest to FEMA employees as well as your comments, ideas, suggestions or questions.

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This edition, along with printer friendly versions of previous FEMA Forward issues, are available online at <http://online.fema.net>.



FEMA

FEMA HQ News You Can Use

Information from the Office of Management and the FEMA Regions

Spanish Language Journalists Tour FEMA

Fourteen Spanish-language journalists visited FEMA's headquarters and New Orleans offices as part of a program sponsored by the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) to improve media coverage of disasters.

At FEMA HQ on May 12, Multilingual Public Affairs Officer Mayra Lopez-de-Victoria briefed the group on the life cycle of a disaster and its different phases, while FEMA External Affairs

Director Jonathan Thompson discussed how National Response Framework ESF-15 (external affairs) functions during a disaster.

The journalists also visited FEMA's Transitional Recovery Office in New Orleans, where Multilingual Field Public Affairs Officer Gina Cortez, Individual Assistance Group Supervisor Judith Garza and Public Assistance Coordinator Joe Young

provided a presentation on FEMA's Disaster Assistance programs in Louisiana and how the agency is helping the area recover through its programs.

After the presentation and a follow-up discussion, Gina and Legislative Affairs Officer Ronnie Simpson escorted the group on a "recovery tour" of Orleans and St. Bernard parishes, including the Lower 9th Ward, one of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina.

COTR Contest Opens

FEMA's Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR) Program and the Office of Acquisition Management (OAM) are sponsoring the agency's first annual COTR of the Year Award.

This prestigious recognition includes a monetary award for COTRs who have demonstrated outstanding performance and

dedication to the mission of FEMA over the past year.

FEMA employees are encouraged to nominate a COTR they think is worthy of this distinction. Nomination forms and instructions are available on the COTR Community Web site at http://mwei3w2/dept/acquisitionbusinessoffice/COTR/COTR_

[Community_Site/default.aspx](#).

All nomination forms must be received by July 15. The awards ceremony will be held in Washington, DC in early November. Questions, comments and completed nomination forms may be sent directly to the COTR Program at FEMA-COTR-Certification@fema.gov.

The Good Earth

FEMA celebrated the 38th Earth Day with an exhibit at headquarters April 22 featuring interactive displays, free fluorescent light bulbs and tips on protecting the environment.

The Occupational Safety and Health Office and the Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation sponsored the day's activities, which included exhibits of "green" cleaning products and energy-saving modes of transportation such as the Segway and the Zipcar auto-sharing service. Here are some suggestions on saving resources and energy while at work:

- Turn off office equipment, such as computers and printers, when leaving the office for the day – or for an extended time.
- Turn off lights in common areas when not in use.
- Make sure your thermostat is set right.
- Avoid printing when not necessary, particularly e-mails and drafts.
- Participate in office recycling programs for paper, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, toner and print cartridges.
- Use a reusable coffee mug or bottle brought from home instead of using disposable items.
- Carpool, take public transit or bike to work – or purchase a fuel-efficient vehicle like a hybrid. FEMA offers mass transit subsidies.
- Use recycled paper, envelopes, paper clips and other office supplies.

Washington State EMD Web Site Wins Internet Award

The Washington Emergency Management Division's Web site - www.emd.wa.gov - received a 2008 Gold Award of Excellence in May for its usability, design and content. The EMD site was revamped in 2007 following an extensive review of its content and design.

The successful new EMD Web site, which receives more than 500,000 hits per month, was the product of much hard work and effort by the staff in all of EMD's units. "This is a great accomplishment, especially as we have a fairly new Web site and the competition is worldwide," said EMD Webmaster Kim Michel.

"Under Kim Michel's direction, thousands of Web site pages were reorganized into a format that was easy to understand and informative to the public," said Jim Mullen, EMD director. "Her work has given EMD a Web site of excellence on the Internet."

The judging agency completes a usability test on applicant sites and provides feedback. The agency wrote of the EMD Web site: "We see all the hard work and dedication that you have put into constructing your Web site and your efforts are well deserved. Your site displays a clean and organized design, user friendliness, quality content and informative information for your visitors."

Criteria for a World Wide Web Gold Award included: A site free from broken links and error messages, with advanced features, scripts and coding, and with graphic design is of the highest quality. The Gold Award site has at least 95 percent original content and creativity, provides outstanding design and layout, and will interest any and all visitors who visit the site.

Chili and a Movie — and a Plan

An employee event in Region V demonstrates that old adage, “There’s no such thing as a free lunch.” Jim Duncan, Region V Federal Preparedness Coordinator and director the region’s National Preparedness Division, and Region V Citizen Corps Director Jim Opoka invited regional staff to a chili cook-off and luncheon in late April.

Though they charged no money for the feast, employees wanting to participate in the lunch of chili, toppings and sides had to bring along a copy of their completed *Family Emergency Plan*.

Employees, with their plan in hand, dined on several varieties of chili, including buffalo chili, venison chili, a veggie version and the traditional beef and bean. While dining, employees watched the latest preparedness public service announcements from *Ready.gov* and learned more about personal preparedness.

For more information about making a Family Emergency Plan and other readiness information, see the *Ready.gov* Web site.

Region V Pilots Military Citizen Corps Prototype

Preparedness is the goal of a new Citizen Corps Council at Great Lakes Naval Training Station near Chicago and development of a military proto-type of the civilian Citizen Corps Program (CCP) is now underway.

“This is a pilot program for FEMA,” said Robert Cohen Emergency Management Coordinator, Navy Region Midwest, along with MCC Rhonda Burke. Bob Cohen is a contractor with Halfaker & Associates at Great Lakes Naval Station and he also serves as a director of the Maine Township Emergency Management Agency and Citizen Corps Council, which was organized in 2003. Cohen noted that his council has deployed to Utica, Ill. and to the Florida hurricanes in 2004 where he assisted with the deployment of almost 3,000 volunteers to the stricken area.

The pilot is being coordinated through FEMA Region V’s FEMA Community Preparedness Officer Jim Opoka and Federal Preparedness Coordinator Jim Duncan. The program embraces the core values of the National Citizen Corps Program with a focus on preparing military families, retirees, reserve components, as well as contractors and their families, through partnerships and collaboration with local communities and stakeholders. The effort is intended to enhance and complement existing base emergency management systems and family service programs, and these components will play a key role in the pilot program implementation.

“It will be a potential template for military branches all across the country. It will help the communities and military families be better prepared for acts of terror and other emergencies before the professionals arrive. FEMA suggested reaching out to military bases,” Cohen noted.

Twelve individuals currently serve as the governing body of the Great Lakes Citizen Corps Council (CCC). They include representatives from police and fire departments, legal, emergency management, medical, Fleet and Family Support Center and the NAVSTA Public Affairs Office. One of the group’s goals is to develop a program that can be utilized on any military base in the country and can provide an even greater resource to the communities that surround those bases.

The four programs under the Great Lakes Citizen Corps umbrella include: the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps, USA on Watch (Neighborhood Watch) and a VMST (Volunteer Management Support Team), which is not a Citizen Corps partner, but which complements its efforts.

The Naval Station was selected for the Citizen Corps pilot program because it is one of the largest military installations in the region, and because Cohen is well versed in the program due to his prior experience with a citizen council in his area.

The Naval Station Great Lakes has some unique attributes. It currently houses the only Recruit Training Command Boot Camp in the Navy. It is also home to the only remaining Hospital Corpsman School and a large Training Command, as well as other entities. At any given time, there may be as many as 35,000 military personnel, dependents, students, civilians and retired personnel in and around the base.

The program being developed aims to become a key part of disaster preparedness plans of military installations worldwide.

DHS Fifth Anniversary Fast Fact



2008 marks the fifth anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security and the merging of 30 separate programs and agencies into a single, unified, Cabinet-level department charged with protecting the American people from terrorist attacks and major disasters while preserving our freedoms. As part of a year-long anniversary celebration, we present this DHS Fifth Anniversary “Fast Fact.”

Fact: DHS Mission Statement

We will lead the unified national effort to secure America. We will prevent and deter terrorist attacks and protect against and respond to threats and hazards to the nation. We will ensure safe and secure borders, welcome lawful immigrants and visitors, and promote the free-flow of commerce.

Question: What is the DHS Mission



FEMA