

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

EMA is undertaking a review of its Severe Storms brochure in response to stakeholder feedback. Assisting EMA in this review is the Bureau of Meteorology who has provided valuable information relating to storm development and the Bureau of Meteorology's warning service. Apart from general information on the atmospheric phenomena of storms the revised brochure will also contain advice on safety procedures before, during and after a storm. The new brochure will be available through State and Territory agencies by end April 2004.

*For further information contact Cate Moore
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Australian Disaster Information Network (AusDIN)

The first meeting of the AusDIN Steering Committee took place in Canberra in October 2003. Most states and Territories were represented along with Geoscience Australia, ANZLIC and the Information & Knowledge Services Group of the Attorney-General's Department with the meeting being chaired by the Director General EMA.

The meeting was a scene setter as it was the first exposure for many to the new AusDIN concept. The meeting outlined the governance structure and the relationships between AusDIN and other committees/organisations. Members adopted the draft terms of reference for the committee, confirming the need for a broad-based approach to meet the information and knowledge requirements of emergency managers across Australia. To more closely reflect this broad-based approach, suggested names have been sought for a new name for AusDIN and this is currently being considered out of session. Suggestions are being sought for a number of activities to demonstrate the outcomes that AusDIN can facilitate. A strategic context document is being developed that will be used to develop an AusDIN business plan.

The Australasian Libraries In Emergency Services (ALIES) were invited to attend the meeting. State/Territory representatives were requested to raise the issue of recognition of the ALIES network within their State or Territory and seek their jurisdiction's position on committing resources for the on-going support of ALIES.

The subordinate development of an AusDIN internet portal is being progressed by the AusDIN Portal Group which is chaired by the Assistant Secretary— Information Services from the Attorney-General's Information & Knowledge Services Group. The Portal group, made up of representatives from the States and Territories, ANZLIC, Bureau of Meteorology, ALIES and EMA recently convened for the first time in Canberra. Procedures and tools are being developed to facilitate the on-going development of the portal.

*For further information contact: John Laurie
Phone: 03 5421 5280 Email: john.laurie@ema.gov.au*

EMA Knowledge Networks

Over the past quarter, Stage 2 of the EMA Disasters Database has been completed and includes a multi-selection reporting function. Further development work will concentrate on enhancing the quality of, and adding to, the existing data and developing cost and loss assessment standards in partnership with other disasters database owners. EMA has endorsed the concept of a national disasters database network in line with recommendations in the COAG Review of Natural Disaster Relief and Mitigation Arrangements which has proposed the development of national data standards.

The EMA websites continue to grow and increase their audience with the addition of a USAR section and several Surveys. The recent new government branding requirements gave us the opportunity to freshen up the website design with a range of new templates.

The Christmas period was a quiet one for EMA website traffic as there were no major natural disasters and most people quietly enjoyed their holidays. January's stats reveal 248,000 hits for the month with 15,000 visits. This is a good result for the quietest month of the year.

*For further information contact: John Laurie
Phone: 03 5421 5280 Email: john.laurie@ema.gov.au*

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Library

EMA Library continues to enjoy an increase in the number of Australian researchers utilising the collection. In recognition of the changing world environment the library collection has recently been enhanced with new materials in the subject areas of CBR, disaster medicine, terrorism mitigation and response.

The annual ALIES (Australasian Libraries in Emergency Services) workshop will be held at EMA Mt Macedon from 5-8 April 2004. This group of emergency sector libraries provide a valuable resource as a key information network. The workshop will provide the opportunity for members to discuss and review the future strategic direction of ALIES.

*For further information contact: Linda Hansen
Phone: 03 5421 5224, Email: linda.hansen@ema.gov.au*

DISASTER RECOVERY & TRAINING

Community Services Minister's Advisory Council

Disaster Recovery Sub-committee

Review of community support and recovery arrangements following disasters

Australia's renowned Principles of Disaster Recovery Management originated in the late 1980's. Conceived with the aim of supporting individuals and communities in the management of their own recovery following natural disasters, they are now applied to an increasingly wide variety of both natural and non-natural events.

Their local application is flexible, in recognition of the different social support systems and structures in each State and Territory. However, recent local and global events have led to heightened levels of interest and involvement from a wide variety of Government and non-government organisations at both Commonwealth and State/Territory levels.

The principle of individual States/Territories retaining the primary role in recovery coordination, supported by the Commonwealth, has not changed. However, to ensure that coordination arrangements are effective and well understood by all organisations the Disaster Recovery Sub-committee of the Community Services Ministerial Advisory Council (CSMAC) proposed that a national review be undertaken. The review began in late November 2003 and will report in April this year. The Committee is considering a broad range of issues in the Review.

The Committee has adopted a multi-faceted consultative approach to the Review to ensure adequate opportunity for broad stakeholder input. To date, the process has included:

- distribution of a discussion paper

- a workshop considering issues identified in the discussion paper
- a series of discussions, forums and meetings

The Committee has also considered other reviews and reports currently being undertaken into a range of facets of emergency management, both nationally and within specific jurisdictions.

*For further information or input contact:
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CSMAC Community Support and Recovery Review
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Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Emergency Management)—Your Feedback

During the period October to December 2003, EMA sponsored a survey devised by the Emergency Management Sector Working Group, to determine the likely demand for the Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Emergency Management). The survey was distributed to on-campus participants in EMA programs aligned to the units of competency for emergency management and was also placed on the EMA web site.

The results

173 replies were received from across Australia (plus five from overseas). 114 stated that they were likely or very likely to enrol in the Advanced Diploma and 30 indicated that they would possibly enrol, most expressed cost, mode of delivery and time as factors they would need to consider. Only 16 responded that they were unlikely to commit and 18 considered that they were very unlikely to enrol in the Advanced Diploma.

Respondents preferred mode of delivery is consistent with current research into flexible learning generally (Peters and Lloyd, 2003:NCVER 2002). While 62 respondents expressed a preference for distance

EDUCATION & TRAINING CONTINUED

education, 83 preferred a combination of face to face and off-campus study. Only 3 respondents opted for total on-line delivery.

The motivation for people wishing to access the Advanced Diploma was professional development/increasing knowledge and skills (180) and career progression and job requirement (37).

In an occupation developed through on-the-job training it is not surprising that formal skills recognition through RPL was cited as a requirement for many experienced workers. A number of people on the verge of retirement stated that they were unlikely to enrol in the course but commended it for others working in the field of emergency management.

It appears that there is an unmet demand from emergency managers to achieve this qualification through formal study or skills recognition.

Where to from here?

The Emergency Management Sector Working Group is currently analysing the results of this survey and will make recommendations on the way forward. Further updates will be posted to the EMA website.

Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management

The process to select students for the first intake of the EMA Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management was completed and all applicants notified by November 14 2003. EMA is currently evaluating the selection process to identify improvement opportunities. Information about the program can be

found in the Institute Handbook located on the EMA web site www.ema.gov.au

The Institute has negotiated pathways from the EMA Graduate Certificate into Masters programs at both RMIT and Charles Sturt Universities.

Negotiations are taking place with a number of other tertiary institutions.

Emergency Management Competency Standards

During 2003 EMA worked with the Emergency Management Sector Working Group to review the national industry competency standards for emergency management. The new and revised competency standards and qualification will be presented to the March meeting of the National Training Quality Council of ANTA for endorsement. The extensive consultation and validation process with the emergency management sector produced quality standards for emergency management which can be used to inform education and training programs and assist with workforce planning.

EMA is currently working with stakeholders to design programs to support achievement of two new units of competency Undertake emergency planning and Contribute to an emergency risk management process. It is anticipated that these programs will be piloted in mid 2004. For further information consult the EMA website www.ema.gov.au

DEVELOPMENT

Volunteers

The Federal Treasurer recently announced that the government will amend the *Income Taxation Assessment Act 1997* to ensure that coordinating bodies of emergency management volunteers in States and Territories will benefit from being able to receive tax deductible gifts.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed in principle to the Report *Natural Disasters in Australia – Reforming Mitigation, Relief and Recovery Arrangements*. The report can be viewed on the DOTARS website at www.dotars.gov.au. There is a section in the Report on Volunteers in the Emergency Management Sector and Recommendation 58 specifically addresses volunteer issues.

The Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum (AEMVF) met in Sydney on 22 January 2004. Agenda items included the Charities Legislation, tax incentives for volunteers, the COAG Review, research into the cost of being a volunteer, the Bushfire Inquiries and AEMVF involvement in National Volunteers Week and World Volunteer Day. The Forum website address is www.emergencyvolunteersforum.org

Planning has commenced for the *Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005* to be held 6 to 7 April 2005 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra. The first meeting of the Steering Committee established to assist with planning for the Summit was held in Canberra on 19 February 2004.

EMA is planning to conduct a photographic competition to recognise emergency management volunteers in action with awards being presented to winners at an Awards Ceremony to be held during the *Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005*. Further details will be included in the next edition of AJEM.

For further information contact David Winterburn
Phone: 02 6266 5009
Email: david.winterburn@ema.gov.au

2004 Safer Communities Awards

Planning has commenced for the 2004 Safer Communities Awards. In early February 2004, a meeting was organised to bring together State and Territory coordinators and EMA organisers to review the 2003 and plan the 2004 Awards.

The annual Awards recognise best practice and innovation that help to build safer communities. They cover organisations and individuals working in risk assessment, research, education and training, information and knowledge management, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Production of information booklets and registration forms for the 2004 Awards is currently in progress. These will be available from State and Territories coordinators by the end of April 2004.

For more information, please contact Li Peng Monroe or Alastair Wilson

Phone: 02 6266 5408 or 6266 5223

Email: lipeng.monroe@ema.gov.au or alastair.wilson@ema.gov.au

Or visit the website: www.ema.gov.au

EMA Projects Program 2003

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. 10 applications for financial year 2003–04 were approved and are due for completion in July 2004. A list of the approved projects is available on the EMA website and the completed projects will be disseminated and available from the EMA Library at Mt Macedon in early August 2004.

The EMA Projects Program will not be running in 2004 but we have an exciting new program called the EMA Research and Innovation Program.

For information on either of these programs please go to the EMA website www.ema.gov.au or call Rheannon Nicholson, Coordinator Development Projects, (02) 6266 5497 or rheannon.nicholson@ema.gov.au

PLANNING & OPERATIONS GROUP

Emergency Services/Emergency Management Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group (IAAG)

EMA conducted a critical infrastructure protection workshop in Canberra on 19–20 November 2003 involving Australian Government, State and Territory and Industry representatives. The workshop was aimed at sharing information in relation to risk management and risk assessment tools and methodologies for use in the context of protection of critical infrastructure and also to scope the requirement for the development of an emergency services/emergency management focussed Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group (IAAG) as part of the national Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN). The workshop agreed to the establishment of such a group and the first meeting was scheduled for 10 March 2004.

The purpose of the emergency services/emergency management IAAG is to facilitate the sharing of generic security threat and vulnerability information between elements of the emergency management sector and those entities upon which it relies. The group will report to the Critical Infrastructure Advisory Council and will be chaired by the Director General of Emergency Management Australia who is a member of the Council.

For further information contact:

David Morton

Assistant Director Civil Defence and National Support

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Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Exercise in the Philippines

In late January 2004, the Philippines Government hosted an Urban Search and Rescue exercise in Manila for Asia-Pacific countries. Australia was one of 10 participating countries with a three person delegation representing a skeletal USAR team. Five local teams from the Manila region also participated which allowed for a greater integration and understanding of local coordination activities. The exercise was very successful and has engendered a greater understanding of cooperation between participating countries. The outcomes of the exercise will benefit Australia's ongoing development of USAR capabilities and ensure the further development of a standardised approach to international response in the region.

For further information contact:

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Acting Assistant Director Capability Development

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Radioactive Space Debris Trial

EMA sponsored a trial during 25–28 November 2003 to test arrangements to be used by the Australian Space Debris Emergency Search Team (ASDEST) that would be deployed in support of the Australian Contingency Plan for Radioactive Space Debris Re-entry—AUSCONPLAN SPRED. The trial took place at the Military Operations In Urban Terrain training facility in the High Range Training Area, Townsville, Queensland. Agencies that participated in the trial included, the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO); Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA); Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO); 5 Aviation Regiment; and the Incident Response Regiment from the Australian Defence Force.

The trial focused on drills and operating procedures that would be used in the search for and recovery of radioactive materials using aerial and ground search techniques in urban areas and bush terrain.

The outcomes of the trial will go to development of Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) that would be employed by the ASDEST. An initial draft of the SOPs should be completed by October 2004.

For further information contact:

Don Patterson

Assistant Director Special Capabilities

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Chemical, Biological and Radiological Enhancement Program (CBREP)

In December CBREP successfully negotiated contracts for the purchase of decontamination systems.

The contracts provide for the delivery of two hospital decontamination systems, two rapid response systems and two bulk, (mass casualty decontamination) systems for each State and Territory.

Procurement of equipment for casualty management, casualty extraction, and other CBR support equipment has progressed and will be distributed to the States and Territories between March and June.

For further information contact:

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Email: matthew.smith@ema.gov.au

CONFERENCE DIARY

March

March 28–31

Location: Toronto, Canada
Title: The GeoTec Event—Pathways to Integration.
Details: With a theme of "Navigating Pathways to Integration," the conference will explore the adoption of geotechnology into mainstream information technology. Of special interest to natural hazards researchers is the emphasis on providing a broad overview of geospatial technology applications.
Enquiries: Matt Ball, GeoTec Media, 6666 Gunpark Drive, Suite 102, Boulder, CO 80301; (303)544-0594; email: EventInfo@GEOtecEvent.com; <http://www.geoplace.com/gt/callforpapers/default.asp>.

March 29–31

Location: Crete, Greece
Title: SUSI (Structures Under Shock and Impact) 2004.
Details: Conference topics include Air craft and missile crash against high-rise buildings, Seismic engineering applications, and Software for shock and impact.
Enquiries: Contact the Conference Secretariat Rachel Green, Conference Secretaria SUSI 2004, Wessex Institute of Technology, Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton SO40 7AA, UK; tel: +44 (0) 238 029 3223; fax +44 (0) 238 029 2853; email: rgreen@wessex.ac.uk; <http://www.wessex.ac.uk>.

March 30–April 1

Location: Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Title: Safety in Action 2004.
Details: Streams include OHS Professionals and Engineers, Human Error in Occupational Safety, Chemical Management, the Next Step, and Rail Safety.
Enquiries: Contact Safety in Action 2004 Organiser, Australian Exhibitions & Conferences Pty Ltd, PO Box 82, Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 8009; tel: +61 3 9654 7773; fax: +61 3 9654 5596; email: safety@aec.net.au; <http://www.safetyinaction.net.au>.

March 31–April 1

Location: Washington, DC.
Title: The 2004 Homeland and Global Security Summit.
Details: This summit will provide the latest information on spending and programs, including sessions on funding and agency priorities, new grants for emergency management, public safety, disaster response, and more.
Enquiries: Center for Homeland and Global Security, a division of Equity International, Inc., 1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20004; (202) 756-2244; <http://www.globalsecurity.bz>.

March 31–April 2

Location: Crete, Greece
Title: Damage and Fracture Mechanics 2004.
Details: The purpose of this meeting is to promote further international cooperation amongst researchers and engineers from different disciplines involved in the study and assessment of damage and fracture mechanics, with special emphasis on computer aided assessment and control. Conference topics include Failure analysis, Environmental effects, Advanced analysis methods, and Behaviour at high temperature.
Enquiries: Conference Secretariat Rachel Green, Conference Secretaria Damage & Fracture 2004, Wessex Institute of Technology, Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton SO40 7AA, UK; tel: +44 (0) 238 029 3223; fax +44 (0) 238 029 2853; email: rgreen@wessex.ac.uk; <http://www.wessex.ac.uk>.

April

April 13–17

Location: New York, New York
Title: Fifth International Conference on Case Histories on Geotechnical Engineering.
Details: This meeting will provide a forum for geotechnical professionals from around the world to present their research findings.
Enquiries: <http://web.umn.edu/~eqconf/5thCHConf/>.

April

April 15-18

Location: Kansas City, Missouri
Title: Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting.
Details: The theme for this meeting is "the discipline of sociology in a post-disciplinary age: developing strategies for dialogue with fields near and far." There will be a special session on the sociology of disasters at this conference.
Enquiries: Department of Sociology, Drake University, 2507 University, Des Moines, IA 50311; (515) 271-4108; email: mss@drake.edu; <http://www.themss.org/>.

April 17-21

Location: Dallas, Texas
Title: Disaster Response Conference 2004.
Details: The conference will promote interaction between local, state, and federal public health practitioners and policy makers. Practitioners from a variety of agencies as well as volunteer and academic entities will present on key topics such as counter-terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, clinical medicine, mental health, response teams, and international coordination.
Enquiries: CHEP/NDMS Headquarters, 11E Building 82H, Perry Point, MD 21902; (410) 642-1857; <http://www.ndms.chepinc.org/>.

April 21-24

Location: Casper, Wyoming
Title: Symposium on Rural Crisis Intervention.
Details: The purpose of this national-level symposium is to advance understanding of the context of rural America and provide a forum for presentation of research results in crisis intervention, critical incident stress management and debriefing, disaster mental health services, advances in service delivery, discussion and sharing of information, ideas and plans, development of research and service delivery networks, and presentation of continuing education training in these areas with special consideration of rural American communities. Enquires: George Doherty, Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Institute, Box 786, Laramie, WY 82073.

April 23-25

Location: Colorado Springs, Colorado
Title: Colorado Mitigation and Wildfire Conference (CMWC).
Details: This conference focuses on managing and preparing for fire-related issues in the wildland-urban interface. Firefighters, planners, policy makers, public groups, and private industry discuss and develop ideas to help reduce the loss of life, property, and natural resources in these areas.
Enquiries: CMWC, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 4550, Golden, CO 80419; (303) 271-8217; <http://www.wildfirecolorado.org>.

April 28-30

Location: Alicante, Spain
Title: Oil Spill 2004 Fourth International Conference on Hydrocarbon Spills, Modelling, Analysis & Control.
Details: The conference will gather researchers, engineers and managers from all over the world to discuss state-of-the-art techniques to model, prevent and control oil spills on land and in water bodies.
Enquiries: Rachel Green, Senior Conference Co-ordinator, OIL SPILL 2004, WESSEX INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7AA
 Tel: 44 (0) 238 029 3223;
 Fax: 44 (0) 238 029 2853;
 Email: rgreen@wessex.ac.uk.

May

May 3-4

Location: Brussels, Belgium
Title: International Workshop on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM2004).
Details: This workshop is designed for information systems researchers who are working in the areas of crisis planning, response, and management, along with emergency response personnel and national and international policy makers in emergency response.
Enquiries: Tilburg University, Warandelaan 2, PO Box 90153, 5000 LE Tilburg, The Netherlands, tel: +31 (0) 13 466 91 11; <http://www.tilburguniversity.nl/isgram2004>.

May 16-19

Location: Reno, Nevada
Title: Basin and Range Province Seismic Hazards Summit II: Evaluating Approaches, Techniques, and Policies for Seismic Hazard Characterization in Extensional Regions.
Details: The summit will be a sequence of summary talks given on specific topics relevant to seismic hazards in the Basin and Range Province.
Enquiries: Terri Garside, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, 89557; email: tgarside@unr.edu; <http://www.unr.edu/content/>.

May 16-21

Location: Biloxi, Mississippi
Title: Lighting the Way to Floodplain Management.
Details: This conference will showcase the state-of-the-art techniques, programs, resources, materials, equipment, accessories, and services to accomplish flood mitigation and other community goals. Non-profit, government, business and academic sectors will share how they successfully integrate engineering, planning, open space, and environmental protection. Enquiries: ASFM, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road Madison, WI 53713; (608) 274-0123; email: asfpm@floods.org; <http://www.floods.org>.

June

June 20-23

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.
Enquiries: CCEP, 1005 Skyview Drive, Suite 323, Burlington, Ontario L7P 5B1 Canada; (905) 331 2552; <http://www.wcdm.org>.

June 24-25

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: ETR2A Conference Office, Benchmark Communications, 63 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SG, UK; tel: 0191 241 4523; <http://www.etr2a.org/>.

June 24-July 4

Location: 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: 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>.

July

July 6-9

Location: Osaka, Japan
Title: Smart Structures Technology and Earthquake Engineering.
Details: Earthquake engineering has undergone a transformation from discipline-oriented investigations to center and network-based efforts that rely on cross-cutting solutions. This symposium is dedicated to facilitating that shift.
Enquiries: Ma Hua, Osaka University, Osaka Japan; email: mahua@arch.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp; <http://www.nees.org/info/SE041119.pdf>.

July 12-13

Location: Hawkes Bay, New Zealand
Title: New Zealand Recovery Symposium
Details: See advert on the inside back cover of this issue
Enquiries: Sarah Norman
 email: sarah.norman@dia.govt.nz

July 27-31

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: ASCE, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191; (703) 295-6350; email: conf@asce.org; <http://www.asce.org/conferences/geotrans04/>.

August

August 1-6

Location: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Title: 13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (13WCEE).
Enquiries: <http://www.13wcee.com/>, or <http://venuewest.com/13wcee>; or contact: 13th WCEE Secretariat, c/o Venue West Conference Services Ltd., #645-375 Water Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 5C6, Canada; (604) 681-5226; fax: (604) 681-2503; email: congress@venuewest.com.

10-11 August 2004

Location: Tauranga, New Zealand
Title: 6th New Zealand Natural Hazards Management Conference
Details: The conference will provide a forum to discuss the integration of hazard information into effective risk management, including:

- Applying hazard information to best practice planning
- Exploring new technologies—advances in science application
- Natural hazard mitigation for industry
- Creating resilient communities through integrating science and practice

Enquiries: www.gns.cri.nz/news/conferences/hazmanconf04.html or email: d.tilyard@gns.cri.nz

August 15-22

Location: Florence, Italy
Title: 32nd International Geological Congress (IGC).
Enquiries: <http://www.bghrc.com/Geolhaz/Syposium/info.htm>, or contact Ioannis Papanikolaou, email: i.papanikolaou@ucl.ac.uk.

17-18 August 2004

Location: Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, Australia
Title: Vulnerable Communities and Emergencies Emergency Management Conference 2004 Presented by The Emergency Services Foundation
Details: The Emergency Management Conference (EMC), now in its 4th 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.
Enquiries: The Secretariat, c/o High Profile Exhibitions Pty Ltd, Ph: (03) 9633 1000; Fax: (03) 9533 1035; email: info@hpe.com.au

August 20-28

Location: Florence, Italy
Title: The 32nd Session of the International Geological Congress.
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."
Enquiries: Chiara Manetti, Borgo Albizi, 28, 50121 Firenze, Italy; tel: +39 055 2382146; email: casaitalia@geo.unifi.it; <http://www.32igc.org/default1.htm>.

September

September 13-15

Location: Malaga, Spain
Title: Fourth International Conference on Management Information Systems incorporating GIS and Remote Sensing.
Details: The conference aims to bring together researchers in academia and industry as well as land use planners and technology network managers, who are concerned with the study of MIS problems and its applications.
Enquiries: Amy D'Arcy-Burt, Conference Secretariat, Wessex Institute of Technology, Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7AA, UK. tel: 44 (0) 238 029 3223; fax: 44 (0) 238 029 2853; email: adarcy-burt@wessex.ac.uk.

September 19-24

Location: Jackson Hole, Wyoming
Title: International Snow Science Workshop 2004.
Details: Snow scientist and avalanche practitioners from many nations will meet to present papers and exchange information. The meeting will continue the theme of past workshops on merging theory and practice.
Enquiries: International Snow Science Workshop, American Avalanche Institute, P.O. Box 308, Wilson, WY 83014; (307) 733-3315; email: Issw@aol.com; <http://www.issw.net>.

Call for Papers

11-15 October 2004

Location: Perth, Australia
Title: inFIRE CONFERENCE: international network for Fire Information and Reference Exchange Conference.
Details: A safe community: the information network
This annual international workshop will present the most recent innovations relating to information in the fire and emergency community. Papers are invited from, but not limited to, the following areas:

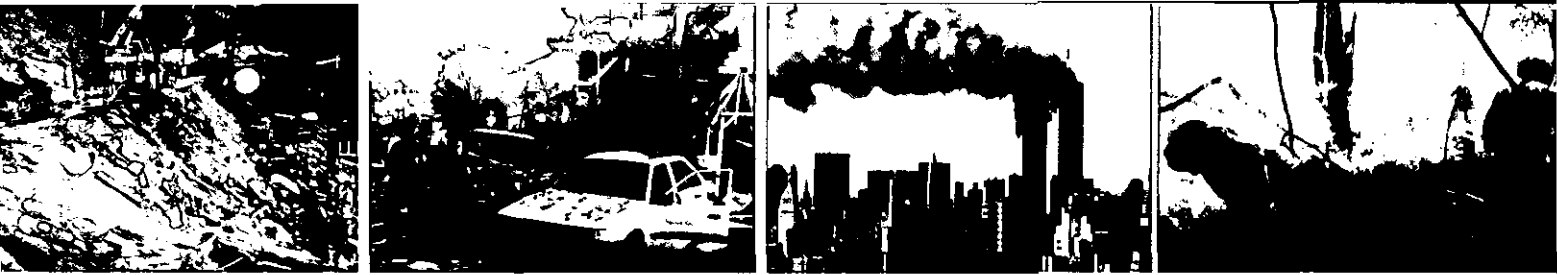
- Accountability systems, monitoring, tracking and telemetry systems
- Data, statistics
- Fire fighter education and training
- Fire occurrence and prediction
- GIS, imaging, satellite and aerial data
- Information sharing by librarians, building partnerships, mentor programs
- Intellectual property
- Learning outcomes from incidents
- Local government, community and educational initiatives
- Preservation of information, including anecdotal information
- Web publishing implications for the fire and emergency community

Enquiries: Jill Don, Department of Emergency Services, GPO Box 1245, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001 email: jdon@emergency.qld.gov.au or fax (07) 3247 8668. Abstracts required by 16 April 2004.
<http://www.infire.org/index.html>

April 2005

April 6-7

Location: Canberra, Australia
Title: Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005
Details: See advert on back cover of this issue
Enquiries: Justine Rixon, Emergency Management Australia, Ph: (02) 6266 5616



Recovery Symposium

12–13 July 2004

As part of its commitment to developing concepts, processes, plans and capability for recovery, the New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management will be hosting the New Zealand Recovery Symposium in 2004. The Symposium will be held at the Napier War Memorial Conference Centre in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand on 12–13 July.

The symposium will focus on five key aspects of recovery:

- Economic
- Environmental
- Community
- Reconstruction
- Psychosocial

A session will also be provided on the professional development aspects of recovery. The symposium is aimed at senior central government managers, Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups and emergency managers, recovery coordinators and practitioners, and academics. It is also open to members from agencies such as insurance, construction, lifeline utilities, and non-governmental agencies who will be involved in recovery following a disaster.

Early Bird registration – Received before 1st May 2004	NZ\$250.00
Full Registration – Received after 1st May 2004	NZ\$350.00
Late Registration – Received after 1st July 2004	NZ\$500.00

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

AJEM Recovery Edition

November 2004

Recent events both in Australia and internationally highlighted the importance of effective recovery from emergencies and disasters.

Consequently, a special edition of the AJEM, featuring a range of articles focusing on all aspects of recovery, is to be produced in November 2004.

A number of the articles will be drawn from papers presented at the Recovery Symposium, to be held in New Zealand in July 2004. However, it is also hoped to include a wide variety of other articles on recovery. If you are interested in submitting an article for this special edition or would like more information, please contact the guest editor for this edition, Andrew Coghlan.

Andrew can be contacted on 03 5421 5240 or andrew.coghlan@ema.gov.au

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005

Following the success of the "Value Your Volunteers or Lose Them—National Summit for Volunteer Leaders and Managers of Volunteers", Emergency Management Australia is planning a Second Summit.

DATE: 6-7 April 2005

VENUE: National Convention Centre, Canberra

DRAFT OBJECTIVES:

- To evaluate progress made towards implementing the recommendations that arose during the First Summit.
- To identify and discuss current issues related to volunteers from within the emergency management sector.
- To develop recommendations and strategies to address the major issues identified.

As with the First Summit, it is likely that registrants will be nominated by their organisation and that no registration fee will be charged.

A Steering Committee based on a recommendation of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum, has been established to guide the Summit planning process.

Updates and further details will be provided in future editions of the Australian Journal of Emergency Management and the EMA website at: www.ema.gov.au