

## NOTES

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The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston, Texas, has received a three year grant from the United States National Aeronautical and Space Agency Office of University Affairs.

The purpose of the grant is to explore and present ways that remote sensing can contribute to solutions of urban public health problems in times of natural disasters. The research project will attempt to determine and describe remote sensing standard operating procedures for public health assistance during disaster relief operations which will aid the agencies and organizations involved in disaster intervention. A manual will be written for agency personnel. It will outline, by public health problem area, the functions and tasks involved in disaster relief and which will suggest ways to incorporate remote sensing technology in the process of disaster management.

The research is now in its second year. Co-principal investigators are Marjorie Rush, Ph.D. and Alfonso Holguin, M.D., M.P.H. with Sally Vernon, M.A., Research Associate. Further information about the study can be obtained from Prof. Rush at P.O. Box 20186, School of Public Health, University of Texas, Houston, Texas 77025.

### **NEW MASTER'S DEGREE IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ADMINISTRATION**

The University of Southern California School of Public Administration is now offering a Master's of Public Administration in Disaster Preparedness Administration. The degree program consists of nine graduate level courses, (four in core subjects in Public Administration, two in optional subjects and three in Disaster Preparedness courses). The core and optional courses may be taken at university centers in

Southern California, Sacramento and Washington, D.C. During academic years 1975 and 1976 the Disaster Preparedness courses will be conducted only at the Institute for Disaster Preparedness on the Los Angeles Civic Center Campus. Students not interested in the Master's degree, but otherwise qualified for graduate level work may earn a professional certificate in Disaster Preparedness Administration by completing the three specialized courses. For further information and class schedules write to: Coordinator, MPA Program, Institute for Disaster Preparedness, 311 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

### **EMERGENCY PLANNING CANADA: SEMINAR ON INTERAGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS IN MAJOR DISASTERS**

This seminar was conducted in two parts; the purpose of the first part was to deal with inter-agency responsibilities and relationships in major disasters, the second part featured a working group comprised of selected federal, provincial and municipal representatives. The function of the working group was to study the views, information and problems presented during the seminar and to prepare a report suggesting guidelines and procedures for handling major disasters and to recommend methods of obtaining early coordination and control through the recognition of basic planning principles.

The theme of the seminar was set in the opening address by Mr. W.M.L. McLeish, Director General, Civil Aeronautics, Ministry of Transport (MOT), who discussed the responsibilities of the Ministry in relation to major air crashes. This was followed by a study scenario which depicted the crash of a large passenger

aircraft into a complex of high-rise office buildings in downtown Ottawa. This scenario was to serve as a starting point for discussions on problems common to major disasters in built up areas.

Following the scenario, representatives of federal, provincial and municipal levels of government, addressed separate and particular aspect of a major air crash or major disasters. Speakers, were selected because of their expertise in a given area and/or their positions of authority.

The federal representatives covered areas of federal planning activities in air crashes, such as the Ministry of Transport's pre-event planning for initial warning and dissemination of information regarding a potential air emergency or actual crash. Other topics discussed by the federal speakers were: the role of the Canadian armed forces; customs implications; manpower and immigration implications; legal implications; and the management and coordination of the disaster scene.

The provincial representatives discussed some of the more operation-oriented aspects of major disasters. The Ontario Provincial Police presented a film on the 1970 crash of Flight 621 at Toronto International Airport and discussed their involvement in on-site security, traffic control and the recovery of bodies and personal property.

Other topics discussed by the provincial representative included: the role of the Coroner, medical problems, triage, hospital and ambulance requirements; and the establishment of a "Command Post" including the public information function.

The presentations by the municipal officials were also closely related to the operational aspects of major disaster. Mr. F.F. Holcombe, EMO Coordinator for Ottawa-Carleton spoke on the communications aspects of major disasters at the municipal level, and Mr. M. Vine, Fire Service Adviser for the same area, spoke on firefighting and related rescue operations.

In the second part of the seminar a working group of selected federal, provincial and

municipal officials discussed and evaluated the information and problems presented in each of the presentations. Prior to their deliberations, the working group was addressed by Dr. Russell Dynes, Co-Director of the Disaster Research Center, Ohio State University, who cited the traditional assumptions about emergency planning and urged the working group to keep them in mind during their deliberations.

The general recommendations of the working group indicated the need for methods or systems by which disaster plans can be reviewed and tested and the need for greater exchange of information and opportunity for discussion regarding disaster planning and response. A more detailed seminar report is available from: Emergency Planning Canada, Lester B. Pearson Building, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0W6.

## **EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute is a national professional association devoted to finding better ways to protect people and property from the effects of earthquakes.

The Institute was founded as a non-profit corporation in California in 1949 as an outgrowth of the Advisory Committee on Engineering Seismology to the US Coast and Geodetic Survey. The current membership of approximately 375 persons includes engineers, earth scientists, architects, social scientists and representatives of several other related fields.

The work of the Institute includes investigating destructive earthquakes, holding conferences, publishing earthquake engineering reports, and advising government agencies. EERI is probably best known for its field investigations and reporting of the effects of destructive earthquakes, and more recently for its coordination of the investigative efforts of other organizations. Applications for membership and additional information may be obtained from: E.E.R.I., 424 40th Street, Oakland, California 94609.