



FEMORS NewsGram

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Summer 2008



Commander's Message



Congratulations, FEMORS Team!

On Thursday, August 14, 2008, Dr. Bruce Goldberger and I had the distinct honor and pleasure of accepting a special award from FAME on your behalf (details are below). What you have accomplished as a Team has been recognized for the hard work you have all put in since we first began planning in 2001. All of you have made us very proud to represent you across the state and the nation.

Keep up the great work!

Planning is already under way for next Spring's Annual Training and Exercise. We have learned valuable lessons from each of the past two and strive to continue that improvement process. Although we took a 15% budget cut, we do have enough funding to put on next year's exercise and training sessions. As soon as dates can be set (when the check is in the mail!), we'll get word to all to help with scheduling.

We are in the midst of the 2008 hurricane season which has been very active so far with Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike. Your response to calls for a Ready List have been outstanding and a tribute to your dedication. We all hope our services are never required but remain confident we can handle a mission when the need arises.

Larry

FAME OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Florida Association of Medical Examiners (FAME) hosted the 35th Annual Florida Medical Examiners Educational Conference, "I See Dead People", in Ponte Vedra Beach Aug 13-15, 2008.

FAME created a new Outstanding Achievement award to recognize contributions to the field of forensic sciences in Florida. At the Thursday evening awards ceremony, FAME made its presentation of the first such award to the FEMORS Team.



Dr. Bruce Goldberger and Commander Larry Bedore (obviously caught by surprise!) accept the FAME Outstanding Achievement award on behalf of the FEMORS family.

The award presentation included the following resolution, which was read aloud:

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes, Chapter 406, also known as "The Medical Examiners Act", created the District Medical Examiner Offices and,

WHEREAS, the District Medical Examiner Offices play a vital role in support of Florida's criminal justice system, in service to the families of the deceased by determining the cause and the manner of death, and by protecting the public health of the citizens of Florida and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Association of Medical Examiners strives to unify Florida's twenty-four medical examiner districts by providing networking opportunities, an atmosphere for professional development, a forum to discuss solutions to both professional and administrative issues that face each district office daily, and to recognize accomplishments made in the advancement or enrichment of Florida's practice of Forensic Pathology, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Association of Medical Examiners hereby recognizes the Florida Emergency Mortuary Operations Response System, which is also known as FEMORS, as the first recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award. This organization was created to assist and support the local Florida District Medical Examiner Offices, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and other responding agencies, in the event of a mass fatality incident, as directed by the Florida Department of Health.

NOW THEREFORE, be it declared that the Florida Association of Medical Examiners, on behalf of all the Florida District Medical Examiner Offices, does hereby recognize and commend the Director of FEMORS, Dr. Bruce Goldberger and the Commander of FEMORS, Mr. Larry Bedore, and the entire FEMORS team for their sincere dedication, exemplary service, and the invaluable resources and tools they have provided to Florida's District Medical Examiner Offices in their service fulfilling the needs of the public health and the citizens of our State.

Passed and recorded in the official minutes of the Florida Association of Medical Examiners Annual Meeting on this Thursday, the 14th day of August, 2008, in Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Johns County, Florida.

Marta U. Coburn, M.D., President

ANNUAL TRAINING/EXERCISE 2008

The Sixth Annual Training as held Thursday, May 15th to Saturday, May 17th at the Department of Emergency Management's State Logistics Response Center (SLRC) in Orlando. More than 100 members were on hand plus observers from Michigan, North Carolina, Alabama, Florida Dept. of Health and the District 9 Medical Examiner's Office.



Earl Hodges and other attendees enjoying field-realistic Meal Ready to Eat (MRE) lunch



DPMU set up in SLRC



FEMORS Exercise site visit by "Dr. G" (District 9 Medical Examiner, Jan Garavaglia, M.D.)



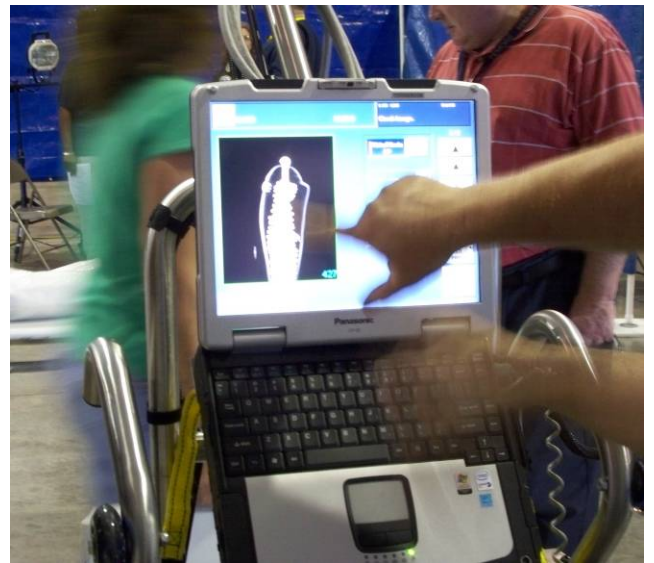
"Victims" (145 lb manikins) strewn about the "disaster site"



DPMU Radiology Station



Search and Recovery Branch



DPMU Radiology Station new digital X-Ray unit



DPMU Admitting Station



DPMU Photography Station (with Pathology)



DPMU Pathology Station



DPMU Odontology (Post Mortem) Station



DPMU Personal Effects Station



DPMU DNA Station



DPMU Fingerprints Station





Victim Information Center (VIC) Office



VIC DNA Team Interviewing of "family"



VIC Interviewing of "family" (observers)



VIC Records Management



VIC Interviewing of "family" (observers)



VIC data entry and records management



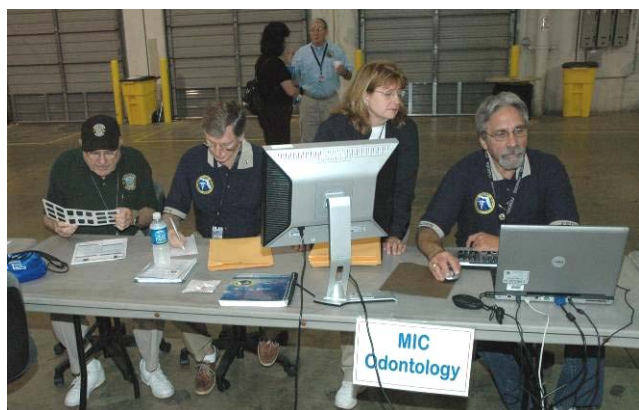
MIC Fingerprints (Ante Mortem) Team



Morgue Identification Center (MIC)



Command -Check-In Desk



MIC Odontology (Ante Mortem) Team



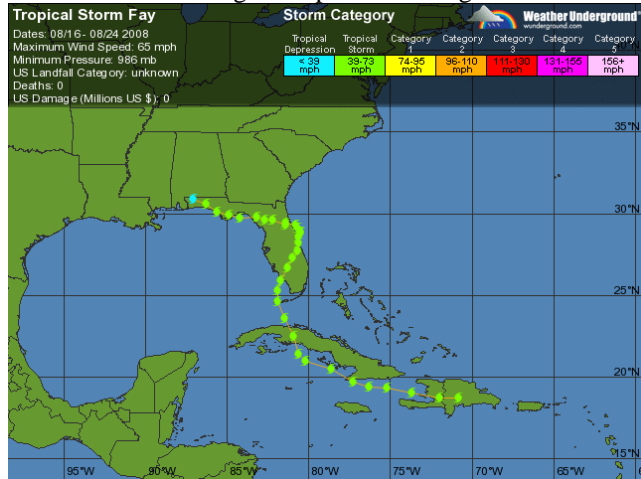
No one said doing an exercise was easy!

Sixth Annual Training Attendees 2008

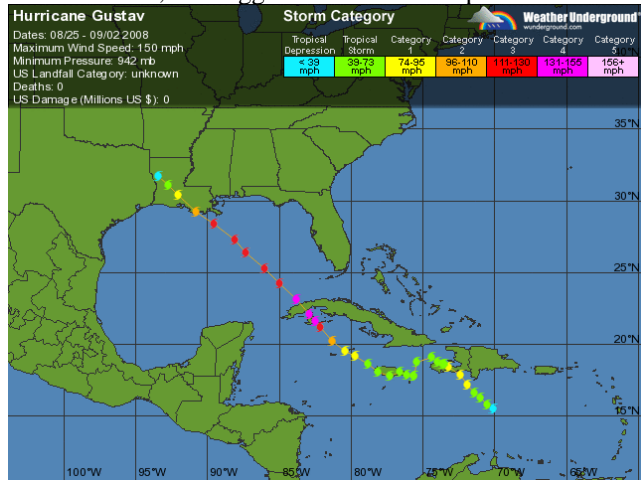


HURRICANE SEASON 2008

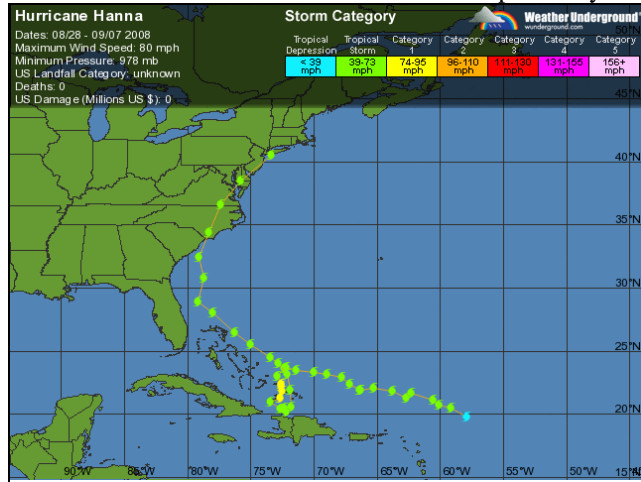
Tropical Storm Fay set a record with 4 separate landfalls across Florida causing widespread flooding.



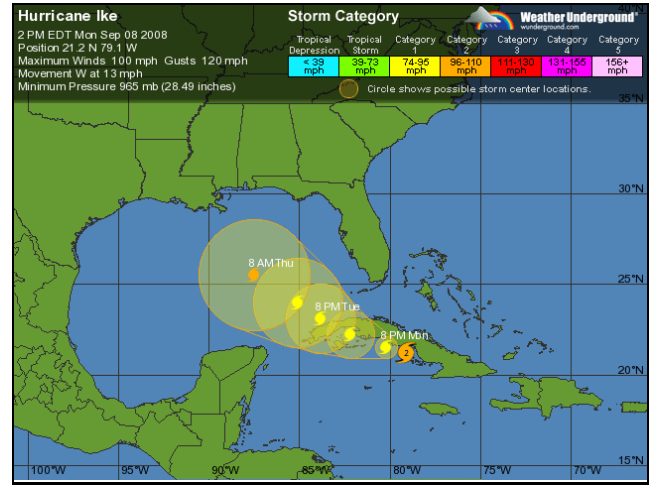
Before Fickle Fay had faded away, Hurricane Gustav took aim at Florida, bootlegged south and walloped Louisiana.



Hurricane Hanna also flirted with Florida but passed by.



Currently Hurricane Ike is swinging south of the Keys and remains headed west.



While Ike was still posing a threat to the Florida Keys, ESF8 of the State Emergency Operations Center contacted FEMORS to explore a potential re-entry plan for the Keys to recover bodies.

FEMORS put together a plan for such an event and identified a 21 person team that could be pre-staged for assessment and recovery. This plan provides for

- 1 Command/assessment team,
- 2 body recovery teams and
- 2 transportation teams.

Pre-Staged Staffing:

1. Commander
2. Deputy Commander
3. Admin Chief
4. Planning Chief
5. Logistics/Operations Chief
6. Log computer IT
7. Log computer (FRED)
8. Search team 1 Leader/Recorder
9. Search team 1 Photographer/Computer
10. Search team 1 Body Bagger
11. Search team 1 Body Bagger
12. Search team 1 Body Bagger
13. Search team 2 Leader/Recorder
14. Search team 2 Photographer/Computer
15. Search team 2 Body Bagger
16. Search team 2 Body Bagger
17. Search team 2 Body Bagger
18. Transport team 1 Driver/Loader
19. Transport team 1 Driver/Loader
20. Transport team 2 Driver/Loader
21. Transport team 2 Driver/Loader

Because FEMORS does NOT have transport vehicles in its cache to accomplish all these tasks, ESF8 would need to procure box trucks, vans, or SUVs on-site. The command post trailer (with full computer and radio systems active) would be used as the base of operations while the full DPMU cache would stay in Orlando unless the assessment indicated it would be needed.

Although Ike's threat diminished to the point where ESF8 did not implement the plan, the structure presents a model for future planning on short notice.

Throughout the weeks of waiting and watching, FEMORS has maintained a Ready List of members willing to respond should the call come for help. To date, more than 90 members have offered their services and the season will not end until November!

FEMORS WEBSITE

Jason Byrd has been polishing the final steps for making the Ready List member controlled at the website.



THIS FORM IS TO NOTIFY THE FEMORS COMMAND STAFF OF YOUR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT STATUS.

Check one of the boxes below:

- I am able to deploy within the next 24 hours
- I am NOT able to deploy within the next 24 hours

FEMORS Specialization:

How soon can you deploy?

Do you have any special conditions we need to know about in reference to this deployment?

Please provide information for immediate contact:

Name

E-mail

Tel

FAX

BE PREPARED FOR DEPLOYMENT ON SHORT NOTICE.
"PLEASE DO NOT TAKE ANY ACTION UNTIL ADVISED TO DO SO BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMAND STAFF."

When FEMORS is in an alert mode, members will be asked to submit their availability status on a daily basis until stand down occurs.

Likewise, Jason is working to reestablish the secure members' area of the FEMORS website. When this is up, members can use that option to update personal information changes such as home or work address changes, phone and e-mail updates.

All members will be advised when these changes are ready.

FY 08-09 BUDGET

The FEMORS budget, at 15% less than the FY 07-08 year, was included in the DOH submission for CDC funding. Work on preparing the actual contract will commence once the hurricane season subsides. Release of the funds will be made upon delivery of the year end report, probably in the December-January time frame. Once funds are released, a contract hotel can be arranged and dates set for next year's training sessions.

MEMBER KUDOS

Deputy Commander Paul Taylor generously donated a Ford F350 diesel truck to serve as the Disaster Site Response Unit. Also, it will be used to tow the Command Trailer on deployments.



Disaster Site Response Vehicle



Deputy Commander Paul Taylor presented with the FEMORS Humanitarian Award at Annual Training



With additional donations, a utility body will be added and equipped so it can serve as a mini-command post at the site.

MEMBER KUDOS

FEMORS (and DMORT) members Dr. Barry Lipton and Dr. Chuck Berner were honored on April 17, 2008 at the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) headquarters in Clarksburg, WV.



Dr. Barry Lipton (2nd from right) and Dr. Chuck Berner (right) "Exceptional Public Service" Award recipients.

Barry and Chuck were part of a team that received the FBI's 2008 Assistant Director's Award for "Exceptional Public Service" related to their contributions to CJIS, NCIC and the National Dental Image Repository Review Panel.

FEMORS INTERACTIONS

FEMORS has assisted the Florida Department of Emergency Management by teaching the FEMA **Mass Fatalities Incident Response (G-386)** course throughout Florida:

- Commander Bedore and Deputy Commander Taylor taught the course in Fernadina Beach April 28-30.
- Commander Bedore and Logistics Chief Byrd taught the course in Pinellas County, June 17-19.
- Commander Bedore and Deputy Commander Taylor will teach the course in Ft. Myers, September 18-19.

DIGITAL BODY X-RAY UNIT RECEIVED

The Florida Department of Health completed the grant acquisition of the MinXray portable X-Ray unit in July. Training was held at the District 8 Medical Examiners office where it will be used on a regular basis (preferable to having it sit on a pallet in a warehouse) until needed for a deployment.

Portable lead shielding walls (8 units) have also been purchased by DOH for FEMORS and are now a part of the cache.

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

Member feedback and suggestions are always welcome and can be delivered to FEMORS staff via any of the following contact methods:

Dr. Bruce Goldberger, Program Director
352-265-0680, Ext. 72001
888-443-2911 (pager)
bruce-goldberger@ufl.edu

Larry Bedore, Commander
727-560-3276 (Cell)
352-733-0340 (District 8 MEO)
161*31212*1 (NexTel Direct Connect)
bedore@pathology.ufl.edu

Tammy Grosskopf, Administrative Chief
352-265-0680, Ext. 72047
352-494-5114 (Cell)
160*128*12671 (NexTel Direct Connect)
GROSSKOP@pathology.ufl.edu

Jason Byrd, Logistics Chief
386-882-8222 (Cell)
jhbyrd@ufl.edu

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