



# FEMA e-News: Preparedness Tips for the Private Sector

October, 2015

## REGION II - CARIBBEAN AREA DIVISION

### Mameyes: 30 years after the deadliest landslide in North American History



CAD Director Alejandro De La Campa listens to Mameyes' landslide survivors during a commemorative event celebrated on Oct. 7, 2015 at the Mameyes Museum in Ponce, Puerto Rico. FEMA Photo.

**E**arly in the morning of October 7, 1985, a stationary wave that left more than 23 inches of rain in a 24 hours, caused the greatest death toll from a single landslide in North American history. The event obliterated the Mameyes Ward in Ponce, where more than 100 persons perished among those ac-

counted. 30 years later, there are still lessons to be learned from this experience.

Unfortunately, there are still thousands of residents living in landslide prone areas, in similar conditions in Puerto Rico. The dwellings in

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# USVI 5th Annual All Hazards Preparedness Expo



During the USVI All Hazards Preparedness Expo representatives from local, territorial, federal and other partners provided educational information to the participants of the event. Left: VITEMA Director Mona Barnes, along with FEMA and PR Seismic Net staff. Right: Emergency vehicles, marching band and other participants of the motorcade and parade. VITEMA Photo.

The Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual All Hazards Preparedness Expo on October 23 in St. John and October 24 in St. Croix and St. Thomas, to provide the community an opportunity to learn about emergency preparedness directly from representatives from local, territorial and federal agencies, businesses and first responders.

"We titled it "Building Resiliency" since it was a call to action to be ready before a disaster strikes. The better prepared we are, the more resilient we are in the face of a disaster", said Mona Barnes, VITEMA Director. "We appreciate the local and federal government agencies, non-government organizations and private sector businesses that provided preparedness handouts, give-

aways and raffled prizes; and to our first responders who performed demonstrations and participated in our motorcade and parade on St. Croix and St. Thomas."

FEMA CAD personnel supported this event handing out emergency preparedness educational publications at the events.

*FEMA E-News is a newsletter produced by FEMA's Region II Caribbean Area Division External Affairs Division and includes information of available federal and state resources to assist businesses and employees in Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands in improving their preparedness when faced with any natural or man-made risk. To subscribe or cancel your subscription or send your comments, questions, or ideas for articles contact [Delyris.aquino-santiago@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Delyris.aquino-santiago@fema.dhs.gov) or call 787.296.3560.*



The FEMA App contains preparedness information for different types of disasters, an interactive checklist for emergency kits, information on how to stay safe and recover after a disaster, FEMA Disaster Recovery Center locations (one-stop centers where disaster survivors can access key relief services) and Shelters, general ways the public can get involved before and after a disaster, and the FEMA blog.

You can also download the app via text messaging:

- If you have an Apple device: Text APPLE to 43362 (4FEMA)
- If you have an Android device: Text ANDROID to 43362 (4FEMA)
- If you have a Blackberry device: Text BLACKBERRY to 43362 (4FEMA)

If you use text messaging, *standard message and data rates apply*. Learn more about [our text messages](#).

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## Port Disaster Response & Recovery: CAPECO Explosion



On October 23, of 2009, at 12:23 a.m., a massive explosion with a significant shock wave at the CAPECO oil storage facility set off a fire that burned for two and half days near San Juan, Puerto Rico. FEMA Photo.

With a presentation titled “Port Disaster Response & Recovery: Building resiliency for manmade and natural disasters” the CAD Director, Alejandro De La Campa participated on the third installment of the Maritime Security Caribbean program series, an event that brought together law enforcement agencies and maritime stakeholders from around the Caribbean Basin, in October 27-28.

The topics varied from combating maritime threats, to PR Fire Department capabilities, interagency collaboration for response operations, among others. Director De La Campa’s presentation also highlighted the emergency response and recovery operation due to the Caribbean Petroleum Corporation (CAPECO) explosion occurred in 2009.

On October 23, of 2009, at 12:23 a.m., a massive explosion with a significant shock wave at the CAPECO oil storage facility set off a fire that burned for two and half days near San Juan, Puerto Rico. Over 20 tanks were

engulfed in flames which produced a smoke plume and ash cloud that reached over 20,000 feet. A Presidential Emergency Declaration was issued in record time for Public Assistance Emergency Work which was approved for five (5) municipalities: Cataño, Bayamón, San Juan, Guaynabo, and Toa Baja

The emergency response operation required more than 600 federal,

state, local, and hired responders to contain, control, and mitigate the incident where over 60 million gallons of product became compromised in the facility. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and US Coast Guard (USCG) served as lead federal agencies to support the oil spill and fire contamination incident response. Federal Bureau of Information (FBI) was the lead law enforcement agency with support of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP).

The explosion and resulting fire adversely impacted local wildlife, as several surface water bodies and wetlands nearing CAPECO. A total of \$6,854,014.84 were disbursed for emergency work related to this operation.

Several lessons were learned during that operation that coincide with the objectives of the Maritime Security event were the need for collaboration, creativity, best practices, and sharing of efficient tools were highlighted as essential to enhance maritime security in Caribbean ports.



“Port Disaster Response & Recovery: Building resiliency for manmade and natural disasters” was the title of the presentation that CAD Director, De La Campa provided during the third installment of the Maritime Security Caribbean program event. FEMA Photo.



## Mameyes: 30 years after the deadliest landslide... Cont.

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Mameyes did not follow a construction code, and were not connected to the sewage and aqueduct system. To avoid this and safeguard life and property in any community, the implementation of strict building codes is critical.

"A good example was the recent earthquake in Chile, where despite having an 8.6 degrees magnitude quake, the loss of life was minimal. In comparison, the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that occurred in Haiti in 2010, resulted in over 200,000 fatalities and 1.5 million homeless," said CAD Director, Alejandro De La Campa. "Consequently, FEMA and its State and local partners recommend to build following construction codes, outside high-risk such as flood, landslides or other risks prone areas."

The strategic education of the population and the implementation of risk



Representatives from local, state, federal and other agencies that participated on the response and recovery operations for Mameyes joined a group of survivors during a commemorative event held in Ponce, 30 years after the landslide. PREMA photo.

reduction projects, contribute to building disaster resilient communities that become role models. Thus, in a joint effort between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State government, Puerto Rico adopted its building codes in March 2011.

These very strict building codes take into consideration natural hazards, such as flood, strong wind and earthquakes and includes cutting-edge techniques and procedures, with modern materials to make buildings more efficient without the need for a dramatic increase in construction costs. They also promote conservation and sustainable use of energy.

The incident in Mameyes, as well as the torrential rain, flooding and other landslides associated with Tropical Storm Isabel, resulted in a Presidential disaster declaration which made FEMA disaster assistance programs available for 47 municipalities in Puerto Rico. Around \$111 million were approved in FEMA assistance, \$47 million for Individual and Family Grant Program, \$20 million for Infrastructure for affected municipalities and \$44 million in mission assignments to other federal agencies that supported the disaster response and recovery operation.



PREMA Director Miguel Ríos, during his visit to the Museum exhibition. Ríos, at the time was Civil Defense deputy director and was part of the coordination team for the response and recovery operation in Mameyes. PREMA photo.



## Emergency Planning for VOADs in Puerto Rico



Federal partners such as Laura Rivera and Magaly Méndez from Housing Urban Development presented the Continuum of Care and HUD programs for non-profits. FEMA Photo.

As part of the Annual workshop that the FEMA organizes in collaboration with the Puerto Rico Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (PR VOAD) for their member agencies, FEMA Voluntary Agencies Liaison (VAL) staff provided technical support and assistance to PR VOAD in organizing and coordinating their activities, from October 27 - 29, 2015 at the American University (AUPR) Campus in Bayamon, PR.

The 2015 Fall Seminar was comprised of six topics focused on disaster and voluntary agency engagement, which included FEMA National Response Frameworks, R2 Catastrophic Planning Efforts, ICS Planning Forms and Guidance in terms of Developing Emergency Response Plans, among others. The participants included state local, faith based, private and non-profit representatives.

Marie González, FEMA CAD Emergency Operation Planner presented

the latest planning resources such as: "Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans CPG-101", "Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship", and the "Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Institutions of Higher Education".

She also guided a session that divided the participants in small groups to develop outlines for their

organizations' Emergency Response Plans for Hurricane, Floods, Earthquake, "Active Shooter", and Fire incidents.

Prof. Miguel A. Santini from the AUPR further discussed the Good Samaritan's Law, as Dr. Aida Garcia from Pedro Albizu Campo University presented the Principles of Ethics in response to situations in disaster and catastrophic events. Iris Quiñones and Vivian Godoy talked about Animals in Disaster and PR Law #154.

Federal partners such as Laura Rivera and Magaly Méndez from Housing Urban Development presented the Continuum of Care and HUD programs for non-profits. While Miguel A. Ramirez from USDA Rural Development Program talked about the RH-502 for non-profits organization program.

Among the participants were PR VOAD member agencies United Way, Episcopal Social Services, Long Term Recovery Groups, Presbyterian Disaster Services, United States Volunteer of Homeland Security Services Command Unit 51, Disciples of Christ, ADRA, PR Food Bank, and FEMA.



Marie Gonzalez, guided a session that divided the participants in small groups to develop outlines for their organizations' Emergency Response Plans for Hurricane, Floods, Earthquake, "Active Shooter", and Fire incidents. A similar event is being coordinated to take place with the VOADs in the USVI in the near future. FEMA Photo.



# Information Regarding Insulin Storage and Switching Between Products in an Emergency

## Insulin Storage and Effectiveness

### Insulin for Injection

**I**nsulin from various manufacturers is often made available to patients in an emergency and may be different from a patient's usual insulin. After a disaster, patients in the affected area may not have access to refrigeration. According to the product labels from all three U.S. insulin manufacturers, it is recommended that insulin be stored in a refrigerator at approximately 36°F to 46°F. Unopened and stored in this manner, these products maintain potency until the expiration date on the package.

Insulin products contained in vials or cartridges supplied by the manufacturers (opened or unopened) may be left unrefrigerated at a temperature between 59°F and 86°F for up to 28 days and continue to work. However, an insulin product that has been altered for the purpose of dilution or by removal from the manufacturer's original vial should be discarded within two weeks.

**Note:** Insulin loses some effectiveness when exposed to extreme tem-



peratures. The longer the exposure to extreme temperatures, the less effective the insulin becomes. This can result in loss of blood glucose control over time. Under emergency conditions, you might still need to use insulin that has been stored above 86°F.

You should try to keep insulin as cool as possible. If you are using ice, avoid freezing the insulin. **Do not use** insulin that has been frozen. Keep insulin away from direct heat and out of direct sunlight.

When properly stored insulin becomes available again, the insulin vials that have been exposed to these extreme conditions should be discarded and replaced as soon as possible. If patients or healthcare providers have specific questions about the suitability of their insulin, they may call the respective manufacturer at the following numbers:

Lilly: 1-800-545-5979  
 Sanofi-Aventis: 1-800-633-1610  
 Novo Nordisk: 1-800-727-6500



U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
 Protecting and Promoting Your Health

If you need additional information contact:

Toll Free

(855) 543-3784, or

(301) 796-3400

[druginfo@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:druginfo@fda.hhs.gov)

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