



FEMA e-News: Preparedness for the Private Sector

March-April, 2017

REGION II - CARIBBEAN AREA DIVISION (CAD)

FEMA CAD Director meets with PR Governor



Governor of Puerto Rico Ricardo Rosselló Nevares received FEMA CAD Director Alejandro De La Campa in the Governor's House La Fortaleza on March 2, 2017. Also, participated of the meeting PREMA Director, the President of the Government Development Bank, the Director of the Office of Municipal Affairs and the Governor's Special Aide in Federal Affairs. Photo from Governor's Office.

The elected Governor of Puerto Rico Ricardo Rosselló Nevares met with FEMA Caribbean Area Division (CAD) Director Alejandro De La Campa at the Governor's House La Fortaleza on March 2, 2017. This first meeting provided a great opportunity to share important information, discuss FEMA and PR partnership and engagement in emergency management, prepared-

ness, response, recovery and mitigation.

During the meeting Governor Rosselló and De La Campa talked about the coordination for the Governors' Executive Education Seminar program that FEMA and the Mobile Education Team (MET) conducts.

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**April 30th is
National Day of Action**



**AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!**

Building community resiliency through emergency preparedness



Participants filled a room in the PR Convention Center to attend the Tropical Shipping 2017 Annual Disaster Management Workshop on March 29, 2017, to continue building Community Resiliency through strategic Private Public partnerships. FEMA photo by Delyris Aquino.

In a full room at the PR Convention Center, Tropical Shipping, along with TOTE Maritime and Caribbean-Central American Action (C-CAA) hosted its 2017 Annual Disaster Management Workshop on March 29, 2017, to continue building Community Resiliency through strategic Private Public partnerships.

Amid knowledgeable and experienced presenters, such as retired USVI Professor Roy Watlington, Earthquake and Tsunami expert Christa Von Hillebrandt and PR Emergency Management Agency Director Abner Gómez, the FEMA CAD Director, Alejandro De La Campa had an opportunity to describe to more than 150 participants, the emergency preparedness support and funds that FEMA consistently provides to the jurisdictions in the Caribbean. The presenters talked about natural and man-made hazards, vulnerability, and emergency preparedness tools available for the

community, including a presentation from TrueCourse Advisory Services CEO, James Dean on Cyber Security Business Continuity Planning.

Later on, the audience split in two workgroups to discuss, "The Economic Impact of Disasters" and

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Alejandro De La Campa, FEMA CAD Director, Omar Marrero, PR Port Authority Executive Director and Abner Gómez, PREMA Executive Director, were part of the State and Federal Partners that addressed the participants during the 2017 Annual Disaster Management Workshop in San Juan, PR. FEMA photo by Delyris Aquino.



Building community resiliency through preparedness... cont.

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"The Economic Impact and Reputational Damage of Cyber Security Breach" with participants representing pharmaceutical and manufacture industry, wholesalers, maritime and ground transportation companies, federal and state partners, among others. During the breakout sessions, the topics ranged from last year's PR Electric Power Outage to Continuity of Operations Planning, and others.

These discussions found fertile ground as Public and Private Partners shared insights, experiences and engaged in a very productive dialogue that will improve business emergency preparedness and continuity planning among the participating entities. As a result of the workshop, FEMA CAD is planning a series of trainings and exercises, in a whole community environment.

FEMA commends the leadership of these companies and any similar effort that will further strengthen this partnership that works in benefit of every member of the community.



Eileen Mejias, Sales Representative for Tropical Shipping Puerto Rico; Gordon Cole, AVP Tropical Shipping Hispaniola & USVI; Maria Del Mar Rodriguez, Tropical Shipping Regional Manager Hispaniola & PR; Rick Murrell, Tropical Shipping CEO; Clarivette Diaz, Tropical Shipping Sales Manager; Jennifer Nugent-Hill, Tropical Shipping Governmental & Community Affairs Director; and Bill Girard, VP & CFO Tropical Shipping. FEMA photo by Delyris Aquino.



Above: FEMA COOP Manager Orlando Olivera, Tropical Shipping Sales Manager Clarivette Diaz, TOTE Maritime Iván Burgos, PREMA Preparedness Director Jorge Ortiz, and FEMA External Affairs Specialist Delyris Aquino led the breakout session that discussed the economic impact of disasters. FEMA photo by Delyris Aquino.

Left: Presenters ranged from Cyber Security Expert James Dean, FEMA CAD Director Alejandro De La Campa, Tropical Shipping Governmental & Community Affairs Jennifer Nugent-Hill, Disaster Recovery Institute AnneMarie Staley, and retired USVI Professor Roy Watlington. FEMA photo by Delyris Aquino.

USVI hosts Senior Officials All Hazards Preparedness Workshops

On March 22 and 23, the US Virgin Islands Government hosted, in St. Croix and St. Thomas respectively, All Hazards Preparedness Workshops for Senior Officials which integrated Government, Non-Government Organizations, and Private sector representatives, to offer them basic knowledge on strategies and coordination planning for emergency preparedness and response.

This workshop provided groundwork for participants of the upcoming Vigilant Guard exercise scheduled for May.

These workshops delivered relevant information on how community leaders can develop and/or strengthen their capabilities to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to,

and recover from all hazards incidents. It offered an opportunity for leaders to discuss their roles, responsibilities and preparedness challenges; and confer about domestic preparedness resources and how to adjust these considering local community needs.

Through work group discussions and practical exercises, leaders also brought attention to topics on prevention and protection, preparedness, response and recovery, incident management, private sector collaboration, crisis communication, public health and medical challenges and continuity of operations.

A training team from the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, which is part of the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center joined efforts with VITEMA officials to lead these workshops in the territory.



Thomas Panther, TEEX adjunct instructor, opens the discussion on roles of senators and elected officials in a disaster. VITEMA photo by Christine Lett.



Around 30 Senior Officials, representatives from Non Government Organizations, Private Sector and others participated of the All Hazard Preparedness Workshop in St. Croix. VITEMA photo by Christine Lett.



FEMA Discusses Emergency Management Funds with PR Mayors' Association



During the meeting, FEMA Director De La Campa explained how FEMA has worked to support PR and its municipalities for the last 30 years. FEMA photo by Sonny Beauchamp.

FEMA Region II Caribbean Area Division (CAD) Director Alejandro de La Campa met with the Mayors comprised in the PR Mayors Association (PRMA) to talk about emergency, disasters and non-disasters assistance programs and

funds that FEMA has available for municipal governments. De La Campa also offered additional information about the mission and functions of the FEMA CAD and how it has worked along with the PR Government for close to 30 years.

Among the topics discussed were the National Preparedness Program, 2016 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) information, Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program, Public Assistance Program and State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). They also talked about the current situation of on-going and completed projects with their municipalities and/or state government agencies projects that impact their municipalities.

This invitation from the Mayor of Cayey Rolando Ortiz-Velazquez, who chairs the PRMA, let De La Campa exchange information, answer questions and also emphasize the importance of all hazard preparedness efforts to ensure efficient response, recovery and mitigation efforts before and after emergencies.

Updating and Strengthening ICS Awareness

During the week of March 6 - 10, employees of the FEMA CAD, and officials from other local and state government agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector participated of courses Incident Command System (ICS) 300 and 400 that took place at FEMA's Caribbean Distribution Center in San Juan. Iris Santoni, Situation Unit Leader of the Region II Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) and Bryan Krane, IMAT Planning Section Chief provided this training.

ICS-300 and 400 are intermediate courses that provide training and resources for personnel who require advanced knowledge and application of the ICS.

During the training the participants shared their experience and knowledge through dynamics where they discussed a scenario as it developed, which gave them several opportunities to analyze and clarify concepts.

Some of the participants alongside FEMA CAD personnel, were: Puerto Rico Medical Emergency Corps, the American Red Cross, PREMA, Ponce Mu-

nicipal Emergency Office, Atlantis Health Care Group from the private sector, and representatives from the PR Voluntary Agencies Active in Disasters (VOAD).



Iris Santoni, Situation Unit Leader of the Region II IMAT addresses the participants during the ICS 300 training. FEMA photo by Delyris Aquino.



USACE and partners Get Better Prepared for Power Outages

Early in March, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) led an electric power outage exercise which provided an ideal opportunity for the FEMA CAD Logistic team, and other federal and state partners, to practice their supportive response procedures and plans. The exercise took place in several locations including Fort Buchanan and FEMA's Caribbean Distribution Center.

The FEMA team was able to support the loading process of generators into platforms, to deploy the FEMA



FEMA CAD Logistics staff was able to deploy the FEMA CAD DTOS (Deployable Tactical Operating System), and to stand up a "Western Shelter" as a fully operational office. FEMA photo by Omar Rodriguez.



CAD DTOS (Deployable Tactical Operating System), and to stand up a "Western Shelter" as a fully operational office.

The PR Department of Health (PRDoH) provided training, guidance, and help in the installation of the shelter tents to FEMA and PR National Guard staff. The personnel that completed the training and practice of the shelter installation received a certification from the PRDoH.

During an all-hazard response situation, a Western Shelter can provide first responders a "shelter" site solution for several emergency services, such as: emergency healthcare, law enforcement, disaster medicine, urban search & rescue, disaster mortuary, disaster veterinary, and more.



Left up: Inside this type of tent, any responding agency may conduct its operation. In this situation, USACE set up their Emergency Operation Center.

Left down: The teams worked together to stand up the tents inside the premises of the FEMA Caribbean Distribution Center. FEMA Photos by Omar Rodriguez.



FEMA CAD Director meets with PR Governor... cont.

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This is an intensive half-day seminar on Homeland Security designed to help strengthen U.S. capability to prevent, deter, and respond to domestic terrorist attacks, and to build the intergovernmental, interagency, and civil-military cooperation that Homeland Security requires.

As part of the meeting CAD Director highlighted the importance of emergency preparedness and the Catastrophic Plans in place for PR. He also emphasized the benefits of participating in upcoming training and exercises.

De La Campa provided information about FEMA's emergency management grants program, pre-disaster funds, FEMA Public Assistance and

Mitigation projects, among other topics.

Officials from other key government agencies were present as: the PREMA Director, the President of the Government Development Bank, the Director of the Office of Municipal Affairs and the Governor's Special Aide in Federal Affairs.



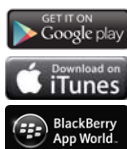
In an amicable first meeting, FEMA CAD Director Alejandro De La Campa shared important information with Governor of Puerto Rico Ricardo Rosselló Nevares, about FEMA continuous support to PR Government. FEMA Photo by Orlando Olivera.

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 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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Tax Time Guide: Get an Automatic Six More Months to File; Free File Now Available for Extensions

The Internal Revenue Service reminded taxpayers that if they are unable to file their tax returns by this year's April 18 deadline there is an easy, online option to get more time to complete their return.

The advice for those who cannot complete their tax return by April 18: Do not panic. Taxpayers who need more time to complete their return can request an automatic six-month extension. An extension allows for extra time to gather, prepare and file paperwork with the IRS, however, it does not extend the time to pay any tax due.

The fastest and easiest way to get an extension is through [Free File](#) on IRS.gov. Taxpayers can electronically request an extension on Form 4868. This service is free for everyone, regardless of income and give taxpayers until Oct. 16 to file their tax return. To get the extension, taxpayers must estimate their tax liability on this form and should pay any amount due.

Other fast, free and easy ways to get an extension include using IRS [Direct Pay](#), the [Electronic Federal Tax Payment System](#) or by paying with a [credit or debit card](#). There is no need to file a separate Form 4868 extension request when making an electronic payment and indicating it is for an extension. The IRS will automatically count it as an extension.

Direct Pay is available online and on the IRS2Go app. It's free, does not require preregistration and gives instant confirmation when taxpayers submit a payment. It also provides the option of scheduling a payment up to 30 days in advance. Taxpayers using a credit or debit card can pay



online, by phone or with the IRS2Go app. The card processor charges a fee, but the IRS does not charge any fees for this service.

Besides Free File and electronic payments, taxpayers can request an extension through a paid tax preparer, by using tax-preparation software or by mailing in a paper [Form 4868](#). Tax forms can be downloaded from [IRS.gov/forms](#).

The IRS reminds taxpayers that a request for an extension provides extra time to *file* a tax return, but not extra time to *pay* any taxes owed. Payments are still due by the original deadline. Taxpayers should file even if they can't pay the full amount. By filing either a regular return or requesting an extension by the April 18 filing deadline, they will avoid the late-filing penalty, which can be 10 times as costly as the penalty for not paying.

Taxpayers who pay as much as they can by the due date reduce the overall amount subject to penalty and interest charges. The interest rate is currently four percent per year, compounded daily. The late-filing penalty is generally five percent per month and the late-payment penalty is normally 0.5 percent per month.

The IRS will work with taxpayers who cannot pay the full amount of tax they owe. Other options to pay, such as getting a loan or paying by credit card may help resolve a tax debt. Most people can set up an installment agreement with the IRS using the [Online Payment Agree-](#)

[ment tool](#) on IRS.gov.

When the President makes a disaster area declaration, the IRS can postpone certain taxpayer deadlines for residents and businesses in the [affected area](#). Taxpayers who are victims of a [natural disaster](#) may apply for automatic filing and payment relief. Taxpayers outside the covered disaster area but whose tax records required for filing or payment are located in a covered disaster area may also be eligible for this tax relief. Taxpayers who have been affected by recent severe weather should check [Around the Nation](#) on IRS.gov for disaster tax relief for their state.

Other taxpayers who get more time to file without having to ask for extensions include:

- [U.S. citizens and resident aliens](#) who live and work outside of the United States and Puerto Rico get an automatic two-month extension to file their tax returns. They have until June 15 to file. However, tax payments are still due April 18.
- Members of the military on duty outside the United States and Puerto Rico also receive an automatic two-month extension to file. Those serving in [combat zones](#) have up to 180 days after they leave the combat zone to file returns and pay any taxes due. Details are available in the Armed Forces' Tax Guide [Publication 3](#).

This is the 10th in a series of 10 IRS tips called the [Tax Time Guide](#). The tips are intended to help taxpayers as they get closer to the April 18 income tax filing deadline.



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Take your 1st step into action. Download FEMA's App Today

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.

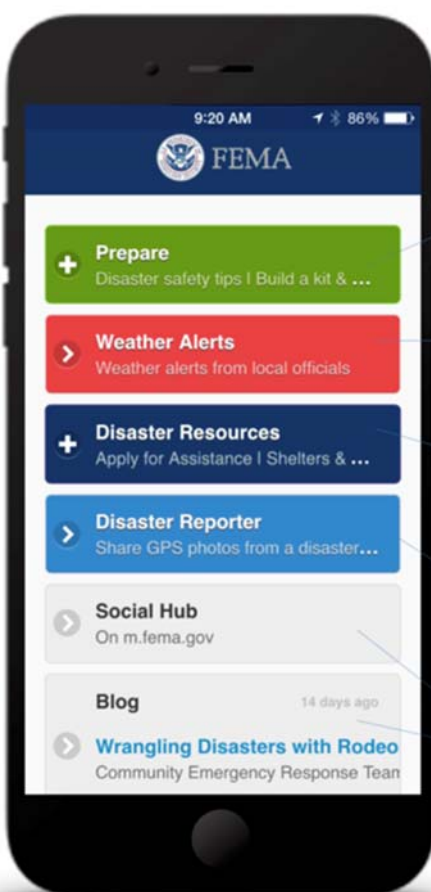
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If you use text messaging, *standard message and data rates apply*. Learn more about [our text messages](#).

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Get tips to survive natural disasters, customize your emergency checklist, and save meeting locations



Receive alerts from the National Weather Service



Locate open shelters and Disaster Recovery Centers, and apply for assistance



Upload and share your disaster photos



Stay connected on social media and the FEMA blog

REGISTER YOUR EVENT AND BE COUNTED

Register your preparedness event on www.ready.gov/prepare and join other organizations across the country in an effort to improve our nation's preparedness and resiliency. Registration is quick and easy. Simply select your state, your type of participation, and the estimated number of people participating. You can also choose to have your organization's name listed on the America's PrepareAthon! website in recognition of your commitment.

