

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

GUAM, AMERICAN SAMOA, THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)

On March 1, 2012, FEMA Region IX, Regional Administrator Nancy Ward, attended a Federal Regional Council (FRC) meeting of the Pacific territorial governors in San Francisco. The FRC is comprised of Federal agency regional administrators, and Ms. Ward met with the governors to specifically discuss/coordinate issues of collaboration in the Pacific territories.

On September 18-20, 2012, the FEMA Region IX National Preparedness Division staff held a Pacific Preparedness Partnership Meeting, co-hosted by Hawaii Civil Defense. Attendees included FEMA Region IX, Regional Administrator Nancy Ward, Deputy Regional Administrator Karen Armes, Senior Policy Advisor Patty Kalla, and the Directors of Civil Defense/Homeland Security/Emergency Management from American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii. Discussions on grants, cyber security and Pacific-area logistical concerns were included along with jurisdiction-specific presentations on previous years' successes and challenges.

In FY12, roll-out sessions were held in each of the Pacific territories to introduce the National Disaster Recovery Framework, with attendance by representatives from throughout the community, including the private sector and not-for-profits, as well as all levels of government.

AMERICAN SAMOA

FEMA is currently enhancing American Samoa's Emergency Alert System through the implementation of an auxiliary Primary Entry Point station in the territory. Primary Entry Point Stations are private or commercial radio broadcast stations that cooperatively participate with FEMA to provide emergency alert and warning information to the public prior to, during, and after incidents and disasters. The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is a national public alert and warning "system of systems" under development by FEMA in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service, the Federal Communications Commission, and the DHS Science and Technology Directorate. FEMA and radio station WVUV-FM in American Samoa have implemented an agreement under which the radio station will act as an auxiliary Emergency Alert System Primary Entry Point station. The FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Program Office is improving the radio station's capabilities through contracts and through coordination with Federal partners, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. With these upgrades, WVUV-FM now has robust backup power, backup program origination facilities and multiple communications pathways to the FEMA Operations Center. Additional work is planned to accommodate an orderly Continuity of Operations plan for WVUV-FM. These enhancements will improve Emergency Alert System capabilities for the territory as a whole.

COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)

FEMA is currently coordinating with territorial representatives to enhance CNMI's Emergency Alert System through the implementation of a Primary Entry Point Station in the territory. FEMA and CNMI-broadcaster Sorensen Media have executed an agreement bringing station KPXP on Saipan into the Primary Entry Point program. Station KPXP has received FEMA primary entry point encoder/decoder equipment. The installation of a FEMA circuit to the transmitter site is underway. Once this circuit is in place, station KPXP can serve as an active Primary Entry Point station.

On January 28, 2013, FEMA Region IX and FEMA HQ Individual and Community Preparedness (ICP), co-hosted by CNMI Civil Defense, held a Youth Preparedness Workshop. Attendees included local and territorial representatives from schools, community based-organizations, Community Emergency Response Teams and Emergency Management. The workshop walked attendees through the development and implementation of FEMA's Youth Preparedness Program. The program allows a select group of youth leaders to serve on a highly distinguished national council and to voice their opinions, experiences, ideas and solutions to help strengthen the nation's resiliency for a broad range of disasters.

Governor Fitial signed an Executive Order establishing a Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Task Force. The FEMA Pacific Area Office, CNMI Office of Homeland Security, and CNMI Emergency Management Office have worked closely in order to support their goal of creating a Mass Care/Emergency Assistance plan. In 2010, FEMA Region IX conducted a week-long Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Training Summit for CNMI in an effort to enhance and strengthen the community's ability to prepare for and implement the Mass Care/Emergency Assistance activities of mass evacuation/sheltering/feeding and the bulk distribution of emergency supplies. The FEMA Pacific Area Office has continued to meet via conference calls and in-person meetings with the Task Force in order to strengthen the Mass Care/Emergency Assistance draft.

GUAM

FEMA, in coordination with territorial representatives, selected station KTWG as a Primary Entry Point Station to enhance Guam's Emergency Alert System. The FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Program Office is in negotiation with the owner of a candidate Primary Entry Point station. Station KTWG has received and installed a primary entry point encoder/decoder and is working with the local telephone provider to make operational FEMA provided phone line.

In 2012, the FEMA Pacific Area Office partnered with Guam to provide technical assistance in the development of their Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Annex. The FEMA Pacific Area Office worked closely with Guam to support its Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Task Force, resulting in the successful completion of a draft Mass Care/Emergency Assistance annex.

In June 2012, Guam held their annual typhoon exercise, Typhoon Pakyo. Participants included a FEMA Region IX Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) and other federal, military and territorial representatives. Prior to the start of the exercise, FEMA hosted training on Mission Assignments and the Incident Action Planning process. The functional exercise was the first major functional exercise that FEMA has participated in with Guam since the TOPOFF 4 exercise in 2007. The exercise produced positive outcomes for both territorial and federal participants. Awareness of critical response and recovery issues, specifically those related to mass care, was improved at the highest levels of territorial government due to the participation and support of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and multiple agency and department directors. It provided a successful format for a test of the territory's mass care and emergency assistance plan. Plans are in place for the FEMA Region IX IMAT to conduct training with Guam on lessons learned from the exercise later in 2013.

In August of 2012, Guam held its Training and Exercise Planning Workshop with support from the FEMA Region IX Pacific Area Office. This workshop is one of the requirements for eligibility for the receipt of 2013 Emergency Management Performance Grant funds. On January 29-31, 2013, FEMA hosted a Continuity Planners Train the Trainer Workshop at the Guam Office of Homeland Security. Twenty-five territorial and federal attendees successfully completed the course and were certified as Continuity of Operations (COOP) instructors. This was the first time this COOP course was taught in Guam.

On January 28, 2013, the FEMA Region IX Office and Guam Civil Defense cohosted a Youth Preparedness Workshop. Attendees included local and territorial representatives from faith-based organizations, AmeriCorps, community based-organizations, Department of Defense, US Coast Guard, Law Enforcement, Guam Memorial Hospital, Emergency Management, and Guam Department of Education. The workshop walked attendees through the development and implementation of Youth Preparedness Program. The program allows a select group of youth leaders to serve on a highly distinguished national council and to voice their opinions, experiences, ideas and solutions to help strengthen the nation's resiliency for all types of disasters.