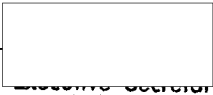


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Remarks:


 Executive Secretary
9/15/83
 Date

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Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

September 9, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Heads of Federal Departments and Agencies

FROM: Louis O. Giuffrida
Director

L. O. Giuffrida

SUBJECT: "Preparing for Disaster" Conference

Disabled and elderly persons are among the most vulnerable groups to the floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires and other hazards which plague the Nation each year. As a result, many of the disabled and aged have died in disasters or have suffered injuries and psychological traumas which could have been prevented had they been better prepared. How handicapped and elderly persons can prepare for and survive disasters will be the focus of a day-long conference sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Administration on Aging, and the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped on October 28, 1983, at the Washington-Hilton Hotel.

This conference is designed to help stop this needless personal loss by alerting the leadership of handicapped and elderly organizations to the need for disaster preparedness. It will provide information about technology and preparedness available to help in that effort and encourage the organizations to spread the word among their members.

Among the speakers at the conference, titled "Preparing for Disaster-Emergency Planning for Disabled and Elderly Persons," will be:

- o Jake Pauls, Research Officer of the National Research Council of Canada, who will describe human behavior in major disasters and evacuation techniques designed for disabled persons;
- o Dr. John Archea, College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology, who has extensive research experience with earthquakes;
- o Dr. Russell Dynes, Chairman of the Department of Sociology, and Dr. Dennis Wenger, Director of Graduate Studies, University of Delaware, two of the foremost authorities on human reaction to emergencies;
- o Dr. Harold Nelson of the Center for Fire Research, National Bureau of Standards, who will discuss developments in fire safety technology relating to disabled persons;
- o Edwinna Juillet, Co-Director of the Building Use and Safety Institute, and a founder of the National Task Force on Life Safety and the Handicapped;
- o Joseph L. Donovan, Superintendent of FEMA's National Fire Academy, who will focus on fire safety education for de-institutionalized individuals;

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- o Dr. Denise Decker, a staff member of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development, who will recount experiences in overseas disasters;
- o Gregory Wilder, Regional Aging Specialist, Administration on Aging, who will discuss that agency's activities to help elderly persons through the recovery phase of disaster;
- o William N. Whitehead, Regional Coordinator of the Virginia Office of Emergency and Energy Services, who will describe environmental and behavioral changes in disasters; and
- o Fred Johnson, Executive Director of the Institute for Fire and Burn Education, and a former member of the Las Vegas Fire Department, who will discuss the MGM Hotel fire, with particular emphasis on the need for warning devices for hearing-impaired persons.

A copy of the conference brochure is attached for your information. If you require further information or additional copies of the brochure, please contact Dr. Alan Clive at FTS 287-0416 or 287-0320.

Attachment