

# AESAAlert



June 2008

AESA – Arizona Emergency Services Association

## AESA Elected Officers:

- *Pete Weaver*, President
- *John Padilla*, President-Elect
- *Pamela Lansbery*, Treasurer
- *Michelle Porter*, Secretary
- *Don Brazie*, Membership Chair
- *Karen Hauca*, Public Relations Chair
- *John Ford*, Sergeant at Arms
- *Holly Carpenter*, Member-at-Large
- *Sheri Gibbons*, Member-at-Large
- *Les Caid*, Past President

## Our Mission

AESA is a comprehensive statewide organization that promotes the development of collaboration and is proactive in emergency management activities, focused on establishing partnership and training opportunities that support the safety, security and preservation of life and property.

## **EBOARD ELECTIONS**

Dear Membership,  
Elections for the following positions will be held during the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: **President Elect, Secretary, Membership Chair, and Member-at-Large**. You must be a member in good standing and have been a member for at least one year. If you are interested in being added to the ballot see any of the Eboard members at the annual conference and an announcement will be made.

You'll be asked to provide a brief (a few minutes or less) speech on your background and interest at the conference during the election.

## **From the President**

It has been a busy and productive year working with the AESA Executive Board and Conference Committee. We are fortunate to be partnered with such dedicated folks that bring you the latest speakers/topics, state-of-the-art vendors, web-site improvements, public private partnerships and increased involvement with both the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and National Emergency Management Association. These truly have been positive successes for AESA during the 2007-08 association year.

I would like to personally thank those within and outside the Arizona Emergency Services Association that made this such a successful year. Members, please become involved with YOUR ASSOCIATION, and for those considering membership, join in on a tremendous opportunity to learn, network and progress - become a member and get involved!

The Association is in great hands with your incoming president Mr. John Padilla - once of the most professional, hard working and honest people I know. Please welcome John as your AESA President for association year 2008-09. Respectfully, Pete Weaver

**SAVE THE DATE**

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Emergency Services Association Conference**

**"Stepping Up and Reaching Out"  
June 10 & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Location: Hotel Valley Ho Scottsdale**

**Thank you to our conference Sponsors**



AESA is dedicated to providing our membership opportunities for professional growth. We strive to provide those opportunities through Annual and Mid-Year Conferences. Please join us June 10 & 11th, 2008 for an outstanding annual conference experience. We look forward to seeing you. Register at [www.azaesa.org](http://www.azaesa.org)

# Web Resources

Arizona Emergency Services Association:  
[www.azaesa.org](http://www.azaesa.org)

American Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Arizona Department of Health Services:  
[www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov)

Arizona Division of Emergency Management:  
[www.dem.state.az.us](http://www.dem.state.az.us)

Arizona Department of Homeland Security:  
[www.homelandsecurity.az.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.az.gov)

Arizona Voluntary Organizations Active in  
Disaster: <http://www.azvoad.org/>

Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council:  
[www.azsilc.org](http://www.azsilc.org)

Citizen Corps Council: [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency:  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

National Organization on Disability: [www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org)

National Incident Management System  
Integration Center:  
[www.fema.gov/emergency/nims](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims)

Arizona 2-1-1: [www.az211.gov](http://www.az211.gov)

## Upcoming Events

### Conferences

IAEM 56th Annual Conference  
Nov. 10-15, 2008  
"Putting a New Spin on  
Emergency Management"  
Kansas City, Kansas  
*For more information go to:*  
<http://www.iaem.com/events>

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Emergency  
Readiness Conference  
Sept. 12-13, 2008  
Sacramento, California  
*For more information go to:*  
[www.SRCCC.org](http://www.SRCCC.org)

## Announcements

### 35<sup>th</sup> Annual AESA Conference Speakers

Lou Trammell  
Arizona Division of Emergency Management

Leesa Morrison  
Arizona Department of Homeland Security

Jim Paxon  
Retired District Ranger, US Forest Service

Major General Tod Bunting  
Kansas Adjutant General

Chris Kramer  
Argonne National Laboratories

John Reynolds  
Maricopa County Animal Care & Control

## State Training at AESA Conference

**MAG191: ICS/EOC Interface**  
June 10<sup>th</sup> - June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**MAG 250.7: Local Situation  
(Rapid) Assessment**  
June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**MAAWR 160: WMD Awareness**  
June 12, 2008  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**MAAWR 132: Understanding &  
Planning for School Bomb  
Incidents**  
June 12, 2008  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

## State Training

**MAG300/400:  
Intermediate/Advanced ICS**  
June 16-20, 2008  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Pima College Public  
Safety, Tucson

**MAG290: Basic Public  
Information Officer**  
June 16-17, 2008  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Dept of Emergency  
& Military Affairs, Phoenix

**\*Register On-Line in STARS  
[www.azgov.gov/](http://www.azgov.gov/)**





# National Shelter System

The National Shelter System (NSS) is a coordinated nationwide database of emergency shelter information. It is a secure, internet based, system created by the American Red Cross and FEMA to support government agencies and non governmental organizations responsible for elements of shelter management. The NSS allows users to identify, track, analyze, and report on shelter data in a consistent and reliable manner. Individual shelter listings include information on capacity, available facilities, site locations, contact information, and more. During disaster response activity these records are updated by field personnel to provide current operation information.

Shelter Name	Shelter Status	Shelter Zip	Shelter Capacity	Current Population	ADA Compliant	Pet Facilities	Hurricane Standards	Food Preparation
Brogan Elementary School	Open	33602	125	113	y	y	y	None on Site
Gainesville Elementry	Open	33955	175	134	n	y	n	Central Kitchen
Cook Town Baptist Church	Open	33602	175	134	partial	n	y	None on Site
Cook Town Civic Center	Open	33602	185	144	y	y	y	Full Service Kitchen

*Shelter data such as this can be quickly imported into Excel to create current reports.*

The NSS assists users in:

- ✓ managing the shelter process through: planning, alert, stand-by, opening and closure;
- ✓ matching available shelter facility locations with affected geographical areas to aid coordination of evacuation and temporary relocation efforts;
- ✓ determining the number of evacuees that can be sheltered in a specific locale;
- ✓ gather information to support the declaration process; and
- ✓ speed the process of recovery by identifying areas of need.



System access is determined by the Arizona Division of Emergency Management and FEMA. Training, and an application process, is required for access determination. For additional information, visit the Statewide Training and Registration System (STARS) by going to [www.azgu.gov](http://www.azgu.gov). Search for the following event: **MAADEM108: National Shelter System (NSS)**.

State Administrators: Dan Varner / Anthony Cox - (800) 411-2336

## Sun Lakes Fire District gets new monitoring equipment through Maricopa County LEPC Grant

Sun Lakes Fire District, Deputy Chief Daniel Guerra displays the two gas monitors that they purchased with grant funds from the Maricopa County Local Emergency Planning Committee (MCLEPC). These new monitors will replace two old monitors that continually had required maintenance.

These grant funds were passed through by the Arizona Emergency Response Commission and are used for the purchase of hazardous materials response equipment. The MCLEPC applies for these funds on behalf of the fire agencies who submit proposals. A request for proposals will be announced in early fall.



Other recipients purchasing equipment with grant funds from the MCLEPC are: Tolleson Fire Department, Gilbert Fire Department and Surprise Fire Department. For more grant information contact Cristina Herrera, Executive Director for the MCLEPC and emergency services planner at Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management (602) 273-1411.

## Disaster fatigue leads to drop in giving

May 16, 2008 retrieved from

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5qswBRTjuCUzisdb0yHO306EmoDuAD90OSC000>

NEW YORK (AP) — The numbers are almost too large to fathom, so many Americans stop trying. As bodies pile up in disaster after global disaster, even the most sympathetic souls can turn away.

Charities know this as "donor fatigue," but it might be more accurately described as disaster fatigue — the sense that these events are never-ending, uncontrollable and overwhelming. Experts say it is one reason Americans have contributed relatively little so far to victims of the Myanmar cyclone and China's earthquake.

Ironically, the more bad news there is, the less likely people may be to give.

"Hearing about too many disasters makes some

people not give at all, when they would have if it had been just one disaster," says Michal Ann Strahilevitz, who teaches marketing at Golden Gate University and specializes in the factors at play in charitable giving.

Compared with disasters like the Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, those in China and Myanmar have generated just a trickle of aid. As of Friday, Americans had given about \$12.1 million to charities for Myanmar, according to the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. The group said on Monday that it was too soon to count contributions to China.

A number of factors may be at play in the slow American response, including a lack of sympathy for the repressive governments involved, doubts about whether aid will get through, and an inclination to save

# Disaster fatigue leads to drop in giving

*Continued from page 4...*

pennies because of shaky economic times at home.

But Americans may have also been influenced by the quick succession of monumental catastrophes in two distant lands. At least 130,000 people are dead or missing in the Myanmar cyclone, and more than 34,000 in China's earthquake.

"For the vast number of Americans, if they just gave to some disaster far away and then another disaster happens, in their mind that's clumped as 'faraway disaster,'" Strahilevitz says. "So they will feel, 'I just gave to a faraway disaster.'"

This problem came up after the 2004 Asian tsunami, an event that brought an avalanche of \$1.92 billion in charity from the United States, according to the Giving USA Foundation. Hurricane Katrina eight months later generated even more, \$5.3 billion.

But then fatigue seemed to set in. The earthquake in Pakistan that killed nearly 80,000 people generated just \$150 million from Americans. And the Guatemala mudslide shortly thereafter that killed at least 800 was virtually forgotten.

If one disaster can be galvanizing, several in a row can be paralyzing.

"It's too much pain, too much tragedy for someone to process, and so we tend to pull ourselves away from it and either close off from it out of psychological defense, or it overwhelms us," says Cynthia Edwards, a professor of psychology at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C.

A string of tragedies can also make potential donors feel nervous about their own safety, making them less likely to give. That could be especially troubling now for Americans, many of whom are worried about their jobs and rising food and gas prices.

It's too soon to judge the effects of the economic downturn on giving, says Del Martin, chair of the Giving USA Foundation, although early figures show that donations rose in 2007. In general, people tend to give to causes closer to home. In 2006, Americans gave more than \$295 billion to charity, but less than 4 percent of that went overseas.

One thing that may make people give to foreign causes is their personal connection to a region, either by knowing someone there or hearing an individual's story,

Strahilevitz says. That's something that's difficult when unpopular governments are involved, or media access is restricted, as in Myanmar.

Lurma Rackley, spokeswoman for CARE USA, is heartened that Americans are giving to Myanmar at all, considering the lack of images from the disaster. "There's always concern that the tragedy is going to be forgotten," Rackley says.

CARE USA, World Vision and Mercy Corps all say giving for Myanmar is on pace to match the amount given after the Pakistan earthquake, although the Myanmar death toll appears to be far bigger. That's partly because of concerns about whether aid will reach the intended recipients, with reports that Myanmar's military government may be confiscating the aid or diverting it away from those most in need.

That's part of why Dave Morris, 34, has yet to open his checkbook — he's not sure he could really help.

Morris aims to give 10 percent of his income to causes such as public radio, the Red Cross and breast cancer. But the engineer from Ypsilanti, Mich., hasn't given to the relief efforts in Myanmar and China, in part because the world's problems seem impossibly large.

"If you thought about at this very second the number of people who were suffering and dying, I could dedicate all my resources to that and yet it would be a drop in the bucket," he says.

Still, experts in the field are optimistic that Americans may still come through for victims of these disasters. The Giving USA Foundation says companies are pledging relief funds for China, perhaps because so many do business there.

"I think we may also see a surge of donations for the China relief effort because of people's frustrations with the Myanmar government's resistance to the aid effort there," says Gerard Jacobs, director of the Disaster Mental Health Institute at University of South Dakota.

Jacobs was in Bangkok working with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center when the cyclone struck Myanmar, and he got word of the earthquake while in a meeting about helping governments in the region to respond to victims' psychological needs.

"People may feel a sense of relief that the China earthquake presents a situation where the public can genuinely make a difference," he says.

# Maricopa County tests new technology during annual flood exercise

Once a year the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and the Department of Emergency Management conduct a flood exercise. Participation in this simulated event assists the District in exhibiting its commitment to flood preparedness under the Community Rating System and Arizona Department of Water Resources Emergency Action Plan Program. Every year the scenario involves flood activities at one or more county dams.

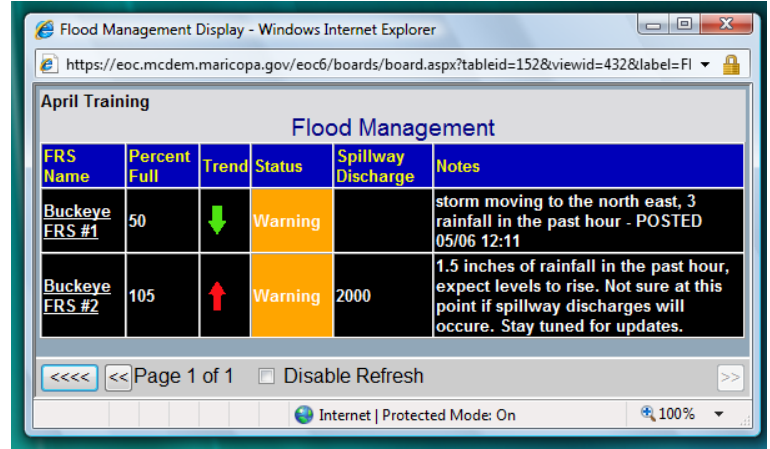
On May 6<sup>th</sup>, the 2008 exercise was conducted. Participants included the National Weather Service, Central Arizona Project, Maricopa Water District, Luke Air Force Base, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa, Pinal County Emergency Management, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Surprise, Glendale, and Peoria. As part of exercise play Maricopa County Emergency Management tested two of its latest technologies, Communicator!NXT and WebEOC. For this exercise or for that matter any real-life event, these systems can enhance the way we communicate, both the dissemination and management of information.

## Communicator!NXT

Communicator!NXT is an emergency notification system that can perform rapid alerting to critical points of contact during a disaster or impending event. It can be activated by the Internet or telephone, and can send messages to phone, pda, email, pager, and fax devices. During the flood exercise, Emergency Management used the system to perform recall to the EOC and alert notifications for triggers as they are tasked in the Emergency Action Plans for Maricopa County dams. Automated messages regarding the status of dams, be it significant impoundment in a reservoir, spillway discharge, and/or failure, were sent out in real-time as part of the simulated response.

From exercise start to end, Emergency Management performed a total of 10 activations to 450 contacts, sending out 945 messages in roughly eight minutes. Those notified included affected jurisdictions and emergency management agencies, school districts, businesses, hospitals, county departments (transportation and sheriff's office) and other response agencies.

By testing the system, the department was able to identify areas to improve upon. The predominant theme expressed by participant feedback was the need to add additional points of contact into the Communicator system as backup. Also, many exercise participants asked to be added to system activations (notification lists) that they had never previously added to.



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Flood Management Display - Windows Internet Explorer" with the URL "https://eoc.mcdem.maricopa.gov/eoc6/boards/board.aspx?tableid=152&viewid=432&label=FI". The page content is titled "April Training Flood Management" and displays a table with the following data:

FRS Name	Percent Full	Trend	Status	Spillway Discharge	Notes
Buckeye FRS #1	50	↓	Warning		storm moving to the north east, 3 rainfall in the past hour - POSTED 05/06 12:11
Buckeye FRS #2	105	↑	Warning	2000	1.5 inches of rainfall in the past hour, expect levels to rise. Not sure at this point if spillway discharges will occur. Stay tuned for updates.

Below the table, the browser shows "Page 1 of 1" and "Disable Refresh" options. The status bar at the bottom indicates "Internet | Protected Mode: On" and "100%" zoom level.

## Screenshot of WebEOC status board

Here we learned the dual value of testing our new emergency notification technology. Does it work, yes, but does it reach out to our best points of contact? This will be our struggle now as it always has been. Data management is one of our biggest hurdles and through testing events, like the flood exercise, we can identify our weaknesses and our strengths.

## WebEOC

First used during TopOff IV, the Web-based emergency management system was used during the flood exercise to share information among EOCs. Internal to the county, WebEOC is used to manage information. It is organized by a position logs, messaging, and informational boards represented in a simple, easy to use interface.

For the flood exercise viewing permissions were granted to all players, including agencies and jurisdictions outside of the County EOC. They viewed the *Significant Events Board* – a running log used for tracking critical events and the *Flood Management Board* – a display of the current status of dams.

Having a common digital place for everyone (EOC to EOC) to get information proved to be successful in helping affected communities get an idea of the simulated floods impact. Being able to display information in a real-time, user friendly format is critical. For this exercise, WebEOC provides not only a flexible interface but a way to bridge the gap in passing critical information in a timely manner. The exercise after action meeting highlighted areas for further development and enhancement of the system.

Through tools like Communicator!NXT and WebEOC we can communicate and share information better. Future training and exercising will surely include the expansion of these systems.

# AZGS Announces Release of First Detailed Earth Fissure Maps

by Mimi Diaz and Bryan MacFarlane, AZGS

On 23 April 2008, the Arizona Geological Survey (AZGS) released new detailed maps that show locations of earth fissures in Maricopa and Pinal Counties. As a result of an earth fissure that catastrophically re-opened during a storm in August 2005, the state legislature charged AZGS with mapping earth fissures throughout Arizona for the purpose of disclosure in real estate transactions.

Prior to this statute, there was a lack of information available to the public about earth fissure locations, and many property owners were unaware of the presence of earth fissures and their impacts. Now, armed with the new maps from AZGS, stakeholders have increased ability to make informed decisions about land use.

Earth fissures are linear cracks in the ground that form at depth and work their way up to the surface as a result of the lowering of the ground due to over-pumping of groundwater. Fissures often make their first appearance as a narrow crack in the surface that can drastically widen into gully proportions in a short amount of time (even as short as a single storm event) with the addition of water, thus they are constantly changing. Earth fissures range in width from less than an inch to several feet, and in length from tens of feet to miles.

Earth fissures have been reported in four counties: Pinal, Maricopa, Cochise, and Pima. AZGS divided the fissure locations into 23 study areas and prioritized the mapping order by likelihood of development. The first two of these individual study area maps, which contain the locations of earth fissures that AZGS geologists have identified, measured, and recorded, are the Chandler Heights and Apache Junction study areas. These new maps

display street-level detail locations of earth fissures, accurate to within twelve feet.

The new earth fissure maps are available as free, downloadable PDFs and GIS shapefiles on the AZGS website ([www.azgs.az.gov](http://www.azgs.az.gov)), and a searchable interactive map (hosted by the Arizona Department of Real Estate) is available online as well (<http://azmap.org/fissures>).

Public response to the new maps has been staggering, with over 20 television and newspaper interviews and news articles carried by local and national networks. Additionally, more than 2600 downloads of the Chandler Heights and Apache Junction maps and 4100 downloads of the new earth fissure brochure occurred during the first week of publication! Public inquiry remains strong, with both the Tucson and Phoenix branch offices of AZGS fielding phone and email inquiries on a daily basis.

AZGS is currently completing mapping in the Luke, Toltec, and Picacho study areas, which are slated to be released next. The websites will be continuously updated as the individual study areas are completed and released.

Since the legislation was passed in September 2006, in addition to mapping the earth fissures, AZGS has been working closely with stakeholders and state and local agencies by serving as an information resource, distributing educational materials, providing public outreach, and by helping other agencies address concerns about the societal impacts of earth fissures as they crop up. If your agency has questions, ideas, or concerns, please feel free to contact Todd Shipman in Tucson ([todd.shipman@azgs.az.gov](mailto:todd.shipman@azgs.az.gov)) or Mimi Diaz in Phoenix ([mimi.diaz@azgs.az.gov](mailto:mimi.diaz@azgs.az.gov)).

***It is not too late to register for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual AESA Conference***  
**Go to <https://www.aesa.org/web/register.php>**



# Historic Agreement Signed Between State of Arizona and Gila River Indian Community

## News Release

*By Greg Roybal,  
Arizona Division of Emergency Management  
602-509-9679*

**Compact to share hazardous material information is believed to be first in the nation.**



(PHOENIX) The Arizona State Emergency Response Commission, the state agency responsible for implementing the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, has signed a historic agreement with the Gila River Indian Community.

The Memorandum of Agreement, signed by the Tribal Governor William R. Rhodes, was entered into by the Arizona State Emergency Response Commission (AZSERC) and the Gila River Indian Community's Chemical Tribal Emergency Response Commission/Local Emergency Planning Committee (CTERC) officially on February 25, 2008.

This is believed to be the first such agreement in the country between a state and a tribal emergency response commission.

The agreement allows the two commissions to share hazardous chemical inventory reports that are compiled electronically by AZSERC, which documents inventories of hazardous chemicals on an industrial property or business site. Exchange of such information is important for emergency planners and first responders that may have to deal with a hazardous chemical emergency.

AZSERC and the Gila River Indian Community have forged a partnership over two decades, culminating in this agreement.

"The Gila River Indian Community is a model tribal community to enter into this agreement with. It demonstrates a willingness to share information between governments, especially when it comes to protecting our communities. CTERC Chairman Beverly Gerlaugh was instrumental in making this agreement happen," said AZSERC Chairman Lou Trammell.