



FEMA LAW ASSOCIATES, PLLC  
Latest FEMA Law Developments At a Glance

## Message From the President

We are sending out this issue of our Newsletter to alert you to a significant Legal Table Top Exercise Program in Alexandria, VA, which will focus on the legal challenges faced by a wide range of governmental and non-governmental entities impacted by a catastrophic disaster. It is being held in a little over 3 weeks – so I recommend registering now.

-Ernest Abbott

## The Law and Catastrophic Disasters Program

FEMA Law Associates is pleased to be participating in an upcoming Legal Preparedness Table Top Exercise, *The Law and Catastrophic Disasters: Legal Issues in the Aftermath*. The program will be held March 5-6, 2009 in conjunction with the NEMA Mid-Year Meeting in Alexandria, VA. This intense, one and one-half day interactive conference will use a mock catastrophic scenario to stimulate discussion by participants about the legal challenges that they actually faced while responding to a particular catastrophic event. Recognizing that legal issues during the height of emergency response differ dramatically from those that emerge as conditions stabilize and recovery begins (frequently accompanied by investigations and litigation), the Exercise will have three distinct phases: the first 30 days (response), the following 60 days (stabilization/reentry), and the period from 90 days to a year or more after the disaster (recovery and potential litigation).

The exercise features over 30 invited participants with recent experience representing clients on issues raised by recent major disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, the September 11 attacks, and Hurricane Ike, and we anticipate attracting many other attorneys and experts with similar experience. These participants have represented a wide variety of different public, private, non-profit sector organizations – and the Exercise will draw upon their separate legal specialties, such as housing law, education law, health/public health law, electric utility law, public contract law, environmental law, insurance law, and emergency management law. Working with a mock catastrophe, this project will identify legal requirements, restrictions, liabilities, risks, and best practices which officials and organizations will face when trying to maintain or reestablish services following a natural or man-made disaster.

The results of the Exercise will be documented in a Report that will assist the development of national legal preparedness training materials.

The event is supported by the National Legal Preparedness Training Program of the Institute for Public Justice of the University of the District of Columbia, administered by the Center for American and International Law, and co-sponsored by the Center for Homeland Defense and Security of the Naval Postgraduate School, the International Municipal Lawyers Association, and the following entities of the American Bar Association: the Special Committee on Disaster Response and Preparedness, the Standing Committee on National Security Law, the Section of State and Local Government Law, the Section on Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, the Section of Health Law, and the Young Lawyers Division.

For more information, or to register visit: [The Law and Catastrophic Disasters](http://www.cailaw.org/ilgs/Details_09/DisasterMang.html) or at [http://www.cailaw.org/ilgs/Details\\_09/DisasterMang.html](http://www.cailaw.org/ilgs/Details_09/DisasterMang.html)

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