



The CENTER For DISASTER RESEARCH & EDUCATION Biannual Newsletter

Spring 2014

CDRE Selected as Partners for a National Transit Agency Emergency Management Project

Dr. Yalda and Dr. Hagelgans have been selected to be partners with the Dering Consultant Group. Through a competitive bid process, Dering Consulting Group, Inc. was awarded a contract to provide course design and development services for a course entitled, "Emergency Management for Vehicle Maintenance Facilities". As the primary consultant on the project, Dering has partnered with three other organizations to support the design effort; and a fourth to support development. The design partners include, Millersville University, TransPro Consulting and Michael Baker Jr., Inc. By leveraging the subject matter expertise of these three partners in various topics related to emergency management and vehicle maintenance facilities, Dering is extremely confident in providing a high quality adult-centered course for national use. JPL is providing development support.

This project involves the design, development and delivery of both e-learning and instructor-led course materials for exclusive use by NRTAP with its participating members. The initial design process will include requirements gathering and best practice research of the defined course topics.

As a final note, Millersville University will account for approximately 18% of the nearly 1,300 project task hours assigned to complete the project. This is the highest partner percentage in the project. The tasks appointed to Millersville University will include Course scope definition, Research, Technical content development and Quality Control/Quality Assurance.

Lancaster County Hosts the TRANSCAER Railroad Exercise

On Monday, May 19, the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center (LCPSTC) hosted the TRANSCAER Railroad Exercise simulating a railroad derailment in the nearby town of Marietta. There, numerous individuals from various firefighting, emergency management, and other related capacities worked together in a tabletop/functional exercise hybrid to determine best practices in such an event. Also in attendance were 6 of our MSEM students who contributed their time and energy to get hands-on experience with the actions pertaining to a railroad derailment.

At the exercise, the scenario consisted of a timetable 12-18 hours post-incident in which those at the mock Emergency Operations Center would figure out how to best handle the recovery and cleanup. In the EOC were all 15 of the Emergency Support Functions (ie. communications, long-term recovery, etc.) working together including participation from our MSEM students who worked side-by-side professionals to manage the ESFs and help in the “recovery and cleanup” operations.



CDRE Graduate Assistants Attend SCTF Mass Evacuation Workshop

On Monday, May 28th the South Central Task Force hosted a Mass Evacuation Workshop for citizens in the emergency management field for the area. The workshop consisted of a keynote speaker from Louisiana discussing the evacuation during Hurricane Katrina and additional guest speakers discussing programs used during mass evacuation incidents, traffic patterns, and sheltering. The workshop also included breakout sessions with topics such as considering animals during evacuations, state managed shelters, and information from the American Red Cross. We wrapped up the workshop with a presentation from the National Guard and a panel discussion from State representatives from PennDot, National Guard, PA Turnpike, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Welfare and a few others. CDRE graduate assistants Shauna Stoy and Daniel Berndt were joined by Professor Duane Hagelgans, MSEM student Ann Harach and MUPD personnel at the workshop.

6th Annual Public Weather Awareness Day

The 6th Annual Public Weather Awareness Day (PWAD) was held on Saturday, April 12 and the Center for Disaster Research and Education was yet again in attendance. Cleverly located in close proximity to the Lancaster Emergency Management Agency, the CDRE booth was stocked with information for adults and engaging activities for

the children there. Two of our Graduate Assistants Shauna Stoy and Daniel Berndt helped host these booths with Stoy representing the CDRE and Berndt with CERT, also hosted by the CDRE. It was a beautiful day outside, however, with plenty of refreshments, educational and fun activities to participate in, and lots of 'freebies' to get, many made the trek to the gymnasium and even Drs. Anderson and Breaux decided to stop by and learn about the weather.

2014 Peach Bottom Hostile Action Drill

On Tuesday, April 8, 2014 Exelon Generation in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State Police, FEMA, PEMA and emergency management agencies from Lancaster, Chester and York Counties, conducted a functional hostile action drill for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station. The scenario involved a radiological incident beginning as a site area emergency at 4:30pm and upgrading to a general emergency throughout the course of the exercise. Millersville University and the Center for Disaster Research and Education were represented at the drill, participating in the Lancaster County Emergency Management Agency (LEMA) Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Professor Duane Hagelgans was assigned as the Public Information Officer (PIO) through his role with the South Central Task Force. CDRE Graduate Assistant, Shauna Stoy, acted as his assistant PIO until halfway through the drill when she took over as PIO completely. This exercise allowed our graduate

assistant to gain hands on practical experience in an emergency operations center acting as part of the command staff. Her roles and responsibilities consisted of writing and submitting news releases, providing information to the general public, conducting a media briefing and managing rumor control phone lines. She also gained experience using WebEOC. Concerning her experience, Shauna stated, "This was absolutely one of the greatest experiences I have encountered in my professional emergency management career so far. It was amazing to



only be a year into the emergency management graduate program and to have been provided with such an incredible opportunity. The drill was extremely fun and informative. I am very grateful to have acted as part of a command staff in a fully functioning EOC, especially with the experienced and helpful individuals who acted with me during the drill. LEMA really knows what they are doing; it makes me proud to live in such a prepared area."

2014 South Central Task Force Homeland Security Conference

This year, the annual South Central Task Force Homeland Security Conference was held at Central Penn College in Harrisburg from March 25 to March 28. The Conference included outstanding sessions regarding emerging topics in the field of emergency management including preparing for active shooter, proper usage of social media, WebEOC, response to crude oil spills and train derailment issues, and much more. The Center for Disaster Research and Education had a strong presence at the conference with Graduate Assistants Shauna Stoy and Daniel Berndt in

attendance. Professor Duane Hagelgans was also present at the conference, introducing presenters on behalf of the South Central Task Force. In addition, many current MSEM students and alumni attended the conference. The Homeland Security Conference is offered every year. Please visit the South Central Task Force website at <https://www.sctfpa.org/> for additional information on the conference.

Graduate Assistant Presents at STEM Camp at Landisville Middle School

This spring, Landisville Middle School launched their first year of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Camp for Women. On March 11th, 2014, CDRE Graduate Assistant Shauna Stoy participated in this Camp on behalf of the Center for Disaster Research and Education and Millersville University. Shauna presented on the topic of Emergency Management and Emergency Preparedness. She explained how she first became interested in science, discussed her goals, objectives and experiences throughout college, and described some of the career options in the emergency management field. At the end of the presentation the students created their very own disaster go-kits. Shauna Stoy was also joined by two meteorology students from Millersville University, Jimmy and Megan, who discussed the topic of Meteorology, how they became interested in the field and potential career options in meteorology. The middle school students were extremely enthusiastic during the presentations and said they had learned a lot. The teacher who lead the camp was Mr. Stephen Sharp. When the event had concluded, Mr. Sharp stated that, "In addition to comments such as "fun" and "interesting" here was some of my favorite comments: "Very interesting, learned some things I never knew about meteorology." "I used to think of the only thing in forecasting was broadcasting ("being on TV") but there is MUCH more." One students responses were summarized by "I learned so much about FEMA, more FEMA please, I want to learn more about FEMA." Landisville Middle School plans on making this STEM Camp an annual opportunity for their students and the CDRE could not have been more pleased to have participated in such a wonderful opportunity.

94th Annual AMS Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

The 2014 American Meteorological Society (AMS) Conference took place February 1 – 7 in Atlanta, Georgia and our Research Assistant Daniel Berndt had the opportunity to attend. He represented the CDRE and Masters of Science Emergency Management (MSEM) program at the Student Conference's Career Fair both Saturday and Sunday. Also in attendance was Millersville University's newest graduate degree program, the Masters of Science in Integrated Scientific Applications (MSISA). The fair was a tremendous opportunity for undergraduates, graduates and post-graduates alike to immerse themselves and explore future opportunities. Countless Graduate Schools and



job opportunities ranging from NASA to Accuweather were represented offering individuals a chance to speak with those at the respective company or school, discuss resumes, and possibly even be offered a job.

MSEM Graduate Troy NeVille Presents at DRJ Workshop

On Sunday, March 30th, Troy NeVille presented at a DRJ Workshop in Orlando, Florida on "The Future of Business Resilience Testing." The past decade has seen huge changes in the technology business continuity professionals use to enhance business unit resiliency, create plans, and manage the organization response to a crisis, disaster or emergency. These changes include data center virtualization, mass notification systems, integration of mobile technologies for disaster response and recovery, and social media. However, the testing methods used by most organizations have changed little: boring and unrealistic tabletop exercises or costly and disruptive full-scale exercises. This is especially true for testing a response to an emergency such as a fire, hazardous materials incident, industrial accident, active shooter incident or bomb threat. With all of these changes and difficulties, we should not be surprised to learn that many organizations feel the emergency response plans and exercises in their Business Continuity Program do not adequately prepare them for an actual emergency.

This presentation reviewed the current state of business resilience testing, the challenges organizations have in conducting realistic exercises, and the role virtual reality simulation can have now – and will have in the future - to provide the next generation of testing and validation for organizations and their planning efforts. The session explored the weaknesses in current exercises, demonstrate the potential of this technology, and examine the future potential of virtual reality in other aspects of testing.

The key component of the workshop was the live virtual reality simulation of two emergencies. Collectively, the attendees acted as the Incident/Crisis Management Team leader. Key decisions made by the group played out in the simulator. At the conclusion of each emergency, there was a hot wash to review the strengths and weaknesses of the selected strategy and tactics.

© Center for Disaster Research and Education
cdre@millersville.edu
(717) 871-7549
Luzerne Building, 8 High School Avenue, Millersville, PA 17551