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contents

News	4	ON EXERCISE	
Comment	8	High-rise drill	26
		The City of White Plains recently held a high-rise emergency drill, writes Frank G Straub	
INCIDENT REPORTS			
Channel Tunnel vision	12	Preparing for the next quake	28
<i>CRJ</i> describes the firefighting response to September's Channel Tunnel fire, while David Lane debates how safety measures could be improved		A new training and experience programme in Turkey aims to improve how recipient countries can co-ordinate international assistance after a major earthquake	
Kauhajoki school shooting	16	SAFER SOCIETY	
Pentti Partanen examines the latest school shooting tragedy, at Kauhajoki, in Finland, where nine people died		A climate of change	30
		Emergency services across Europe have yet to take the appropriate measures to ensure they are prepared to face the effects of a climate stressed world, say Christ Abbott, Cleo Paskal and Thomas Phipps	
Sunrise propane blast	18	Societal continuity	34
Ten thousand residents were evacuated after a propane explosion in Toronto, writes William A Stewart, who outlines the response and clean-up operations		Brett Lovegrove argues that a more co-ordinated approach to information and resources by national and local government agencies, spanning the social spectrum, can help to increase a nation's resilience	
Cyber attack resilience	20	Asteroids: A new challenge	36
Even small scale cyber attacks can have a major impact on a country's national infrastructure, says Estonian MP Mati Raidma		Russell Schweickart and Paul Kovacs explain why the ability predict the impact of asteroids accurately signals a new era for emergency managers	
Bihar's flood relief	22	Improving Europe's 112 number	38
Paras Nath Rai describes efforts to help the 3.5 million people affected when the river Kosi in India breached its banks		Olivier Paul-Morandini discusses the importance of Europe's emergency 112 number and the initiatives that are being undertaken to publicise its existence and increase awareness among European citizens	
Hurricane Ike experience	24		
Jamell Robinson discusses the impact that Hurricane Ike had on the Turks and Caicos Islands earlier this year, and how rescuers responded to the destruction			



High-rise exercise p26



International help after a quake p28

Memet Güngör



Mountain rescue in France p46

SDIS 74



Wildfires in Sub-Sahara Africa p56

WoF / GFMC

cover story: Preparing for future earthquakes

Yildirim Güngör / Yannick Dissart / StockXchange.com / Don Davis: NASA

EMS

Pilgrims' progress in Spain 40

Francisco Javier Antonio Alonso Urbita describes the huge logistical challenge of ensuring the safety of more than a million people during the El Rocio pilgrimage

Command and control 42

Much has changed for Nottingham University Hospitals NHS trust since the opening of an emergency command suite, says Jonathan Lofthouse

PROFILE

Disaster management 44

Hilary Phillips checks the progress of South Africa's new Midrand Disaster Management Centre which is preparing for the 2010 Soccer World Cup

IN DEPTH

Mountain rescue 46

Yannick Dissart chronicles the organisation and development of mountain rescue

No-tech terror 48

Joseph Almog and Jay Levinson discuss the reasons why unsophisticated acts of terrorism are becoming more prevalent, and how difficult such acts are to prevent

Campus and workplace shootings 51

Hollis Stambaugh concludes her series on lessons from the Virginia Tech tragedy by looking at the investigative review into the shooting incident

Crisis management 54

Robert Jensen looks at how data management systems can help ease demands upon grieving families

Wildland fires 56

Alexander Held discusses the UNISDR Regional Sub-Sahara Wildland Fire network

PARTNERS

London's response to 7/7 15

David Donegan explains how well De Boer's mobile mortuary solution performed after the London bombings

Shoring and lifting 39

Brendon Morris introduces a new training book from Holmatro

Exercising emergency management 43

VectorCommand has been supporting a busy period of resilience exercising, says Stephen Prendergast

Rapid communication 55

Philippe Meleard of EADS discusses the REVERSE 911 system

Supporting the response 63

The British Red Cross describes how partnerships can ensure more people get the help they need in a crisis

REGULAR SECTIONS

Events and diary dates 58

Europe civil protection 65

Lessons Learned 66

comment

THE CURRENT GLOBAL financial crisis transcends all boundaries. It has – or will – affect us all; the nations in which we live, the institutions we work for and the fabric of our lives. Kevin Rudd, the Australian PM, likens the crisis to a series of 'Rolling national security crises.'

Patrick Lagadec, whose articles in *CRJ* have exhorted us to train ourselves to think creatively when reacting to hitherto unimaginable scenarios, warns the readers of *Le Figaro* and *The Financial Times* (as well as *CRJ* readers on page 8) that those in charge must not fall into the trap of saying everything is under control. Crises and events move too fast, are too erratic, chaotic and complex.

The crisis highlights our vulnerabilities, exposing the inherent dynamic instabilities of complex social and economic systems. Does this not sound rather familiar? According to Laurence Gray of World Vision: "Just as in the debate over the financial crisis, climate change too has been marked by warnings, denials, anger, blame, grandstanding, a questioning of the forces at work and demands that the system – or the ecosystem – be left to correct itself."

What is lacking from global leaders with regards to climate change is a sense of foreboding, urgency and action, he adds. Three trends of climate change which have particular significance for emergency responders are outlined on page 30. We cannot predict exactly where the world's economic situation, or the effects of climate change will lead us. But, to echo Dr Lagadec: Now is the time to start thinking creatively, to demonstrate individual and collective resourcefulness. We are truly in uncharted territory.

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