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A Guide to Federal Aid in
Disasters, July 1993

Disaster Assistance Programs

A Guide to Federal Aid in Disasters



advisory

Release: 9/12/95
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AMERICORPS, AMERICAN RED CROSS, FEMA TO JOIN HANDS

- * RED CROSS and AMERICORPS TO ANNOUNCE DISASTER RELIEF TEAM
- * FEMA TO CALL UP AMERICORPS MEMBERS TO PROVIDE DISASTER RELIEF

On Wednesday, September 13th, a day after the first anniversary of the launch of AmeriCorps and the afternoon the Senate Appropriations committee is expected to follow the House's lead in proposing to end the national service initiative, Corporation for National Service CEO Eli J. Segal, Red Cross Board of Governors chairman Norm Augustine, and FEMA's Richard Krimm will join key senators and AmeriCorps Members to announce a new partnership to improve the nation's ability to respond to disasters and emergencies. The news conference will be preceded by an Emergency Response demonstration for hill staff. Both events are open to press coverage.

WHO: Eli J. Segal, Assistant to the President and CEO, Corporation for National Service
Senator Barbara Boxer (CA)
Senator John Breaux (LA)

Norm Augustine, Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin Corp. & Chairman of the Board of Governors, American Red Cross
Richard Krimm, Deputy Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

AmeriCorps Members:
Carlos Carillo of Los Angeles,
Keith Greene of Georgia
Brent Bloom of Oklahoma

WHAT:

One of the seven challenges issued by Segal on Tuesday (the program's first anniversary) for AmeriCorps second year is to create more partnerships with the nation's great charities. The day after, the nation's leading emergency response teams join forces to improve the nation's ability to respond when disaster strikes. The partnership consists of two initiatives:

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1) AmeriCorps and the Red Cross will create a disaster Rapid Response team based in Los Angeles. Made up of 42 highly trained AmeriCorps members, the team will be ready to mobilize in response to floods, forest fires, earthquakes, etc. In addition, they will stay on the ground after the initial impact, helping victims recover their property and reclaim their lives. Two of the AmeriCorps* Rapid Response Team members will participate.

2) AmeriCorps and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will sign a Memorandum of Understanding cementing an already strong relationship in which FEMA calls up AmeriCorps members in response to disasters across America. For example, AmeriCorps members have fought forest fires in the midwest, floods in the heartland and out west, they've worked hand-in-hand with rescuers after the bombing in Oklahoma City, and are at this moment assisting victims of floods in Wisconsin. A Class of '95 AmeriCorps member who fought forest fires in Idaho and one who was one of the first rescuers into the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City during their year of service will participate.

WHERE: U.S. Capitol Senate Swamp (North east lawn)

WHEN: 2 p.m.: News conference begins, Wednesday, September 13th, 1995.

1:30 p.m.: The Emergency Response demonstration begins, Wednesday, September 13th, 1995.

WHY:

The event falls on the day after the first anniversary of the launch of AmeriCorps. The new conference falls the same day as the Senate appropriations committee is expected to follow the House's lead in proposing to end funding AmeriCorps. Key senators will be on-hand to comment.

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