

Talking Points for call to James Lee Witt

- We really need you to get engaged on this climate change issue. As you know, one of the consequences of climate change is expected to be an increase in severe weather events, so FEMA has an important role in speaking out about it.
- We're asking every Member of the Cabinet with a stake in this issue to do at least one public event that features climate change before the White House Conference [Oct. 6]. Some are doing more than that. It's important to project a unified image and to show that this is a major priority for the President and to underscore that the President is going to handle this in a balanced, measured, responsible way.
- [NB: Secretaries Daley and Pena are teaming up for a series of events in Pittsburgh on September 15, capped off by a CEO dinner in Washington that night. Secretaries Browner and Babbitt are each doing a series of speeches on climate change. Secretary Rubin is meeting with the BRT on September 10.]

Todd Stern
→ Mike Spensky
try to follow up with you
James Lee will do this
just over to Mike
→



Federal Emergency Management Agency
Mitigation Directorate

FEMA

Date: 8/25/97

To: Todd Stern, Asst. to the Dir. Fax: (202) 456-2702

Office: and Staff Secretary Phone: _____

From: Mike Armstrong, Associate Dir. Fax: _____

Office: For Mitigation; FEMA; MT-AD Phone: (202) 646-3003

Number of pages, including this page: 3

Comments:

1. A copy was faxed to Steve Liberman.
2. Original memo is being mailed.

Every Year millions of Americans face the terrifying consequences of natural disasters. While disasters cannot be avoided, there are ways to reduce the risk of property loss and injuries — through hazard mitigation.

Mitigation is defined as steps you can take to reduce or eliminate your long-term risk from natural disasters. It means taking action now to reduce future losses and injuries caused by disasters. It also means building stronger, safer and smarter protect the communities in which we all live.

FEMA offers free educational and instructional publications outlining ways to mitigate your risk. To order call 1-800-480-2520.

Some important publications include:

- *Reduce Your Risk From Natural Disasters*
- *National Mitigation Strategy: Partnerships for Building Safer Communities (0-0404)*

Reach us on the Internet at <http://www.fema.gov>



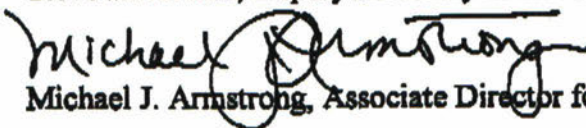
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

August 22, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: Todd Stern, Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary

THROUGH: Steve Silverman, Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet

FROM: 
Michael J. Armstrong, Associate Director for Mitigation

SUBJECT: Global Climate Change

This memorandum is a written confirmation of proposals, forwarded at last week's meeting, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist in the Administration's efforts to promote public awareness of the impact of global climate change upon the lives of Americans. Specifically, it is FEMA's intent to highlight concerns that global climate change has contributed to an increase in weather-related natural disasters. The documented rise in sea level, and in the frequency and intensity of flood, drought, tornado and hurricane events, makes the agency's top priority of mitigation through risk reduction and prevention even more expedient.

As a first step, FEMA's senior officials will utilize key upcoming events and the introduction of its new Disaster Resistant Communities Initiative as opportunities to reference global climate change in the context of promoting mitigation. Also, the agency's ongoing support of research projects by various academic, scientific and other non-profit organizations will be reviewed to create additional resource material for FEMA and the Administration to utilize in furthering public education on the effects of global climate change.

Specific upcoming events include:

August 25, 1997: Director James Lee Witt addresses a plenary session of the National Emergency Management Association Annual Conference, Boston

August 25, 1997: Director James Lee Witt addresses the annual United States/Canada Emergency Management Consultative Meeting, Boston

September 1997 (date to be determined): Associate Director Michael J. Armstrong guest column on mitigation in the Sunday Denver Post

October 7, 1997: Annual World Disaster Awareness Day Commemoration – various outreach activities

Autumn 1997: Community Forums at the designated first-year pilot Disaster Resistant Community sites. Dates to be announced pending final agreement between FEMA and nominated communities. The nominees are: City of Oakland, California; City of Deerfield Beach, Florida; Allegany County, Maryland; City of Pascagoula, Mississippi; City of Wilmington and New Hanover County, North Carolina; City of Seattle and King County, Washington; and Randolph County, Tucker County and City of Parsons, West Virginia. Upon acceptance of the nomination, the community forums will highlight public/private partnerships and community support of pursuing significant mitigation initiatives, with participation from the FEMA Director, elected officials and key members of the business community.

As Associate Director for Mitigation, I will also commence participation in monthly meetings hosted by Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth to review global climate change issues with other federal agency representatives. As a newly confirmed appointee of the Administration, I am anxious to work with other federal representatives on this important issue.

While FEMA has only recently been asked to participate in this initiative, we are eager to lend our support to the efforts to spotlight the impact of global climate change in the context of our Agency's mission, and in consort with the entire federal family. We expect to forward further information on our activities to you in the near future.

Copies: James Lee Witt, Director
Jane Bullock, Chief of Staff
Craig Wingo, Deputy Associate Director for Mitigation
Richard Krimm, Senior Policy Advisor to the Associate Director for Mitigation



Federal Emergency Management Agency

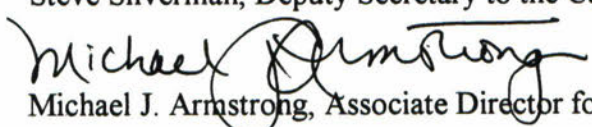
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Cabinet-FEMA

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