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*A 60-Year Legacy of Training and Education in Emergency Management*

## **FEMA Training Center Celebrates a Significant Milestone in Emergency Training**

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is commemorating 60 years of emergency training in 2011. EMI is the largest training facility for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on the grounds of the National Emergency Training Center.

EMI traces its heritage from the former Civil Defense Staff College that was created to develop and conduct emergency training at all levels of government in response to the Cold War. To facilitate meeting this national threat, the federal government opened the training facility and rescue school in Olney, Maryland, in 1951. This tremendous task of conducting national civil defense training was later transferred to Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1954. In 1980, the Staff College moved to its current location and was renamed the “*Emergency Management Institute.*” The new name reflected a change in its training mission to that of a broader responsibility. EMI trains and educates emergency personnel to effectively and efficiently respond to disasters regardless if it is natural or manmade in origin.

The year 2011 represents another milestone of emergency training. This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of emergency training at EMI. For trivia fans, the very first course taught at EMI was a Radiological Emergency Planning course held January 12-16, 1981. There were 25 students who were the first of many thousands that have received nationally recognized emergency training at the Emergency Management Institute since then.

Emergency training by the numbers:

- *Nearly 22 million student course completions since the beginning of 1951.*
- *Nearly 73,000 classroom based training opportunities since 1981.*
- *Over 5 million individual active student accounts on the EMI database.*

- *15 million Independent Study online course completions – nearly 2 million during FY 2010 alone.*

### ***Exciting Past, Dynamic Future***

EMI possesses an exciting history of emergency training for state, local, tribal, territorial and international emergency personnel and its future is very bright too.

In addition to scores of existing training programs, there are a number of initiatives that support the dynamic and innovative nature of emergency management with new training opportunities for our nation's emergency response community.

A small representation of these innovative training initiatives include revisions to three of the four courses in the current EMI Tribal Curriculum and the development of a new emergency management seminar for tribal elected officials; position-specific training for Incident Command System (ICS) practitioners; exercise-based training that instructs state, local, tribal and territory Emergency Operation Center professionals on what role the Federal government will take during a presidentially declared disaster; and floodplain management training, all hazards emergency management planning for schools and higher education, and using geographical information systems in planning for disasters.

In addition, EMI develops and implements training curriculum for FEMA disaster workers who represent this agency's disaster response capability. These professionals take an active role in supporting state and territory governments during catastrophic events and help them assist the state's local communities in returning to normal as quickly as possible. This capability even extends to meeting the emergency response needs internationally, such as FEMA-trained disaster workers responding to the earthquake in Haiti and as far away as Indonesia with the Tsunami of 2004.

Whatever threat that has confronted the United States over the last 60 years, EMI possesses a legacy of developing and delivering the necessary all-hazards training that strengthens our nation's response community's ability to meet any challenge now and well into the future.

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The Emergency Management Institute is located in Emmitsburg, Maryland on the campus of the former St. Joseph's College, which is called the National Emergency Training Center (NETC). EMI is co-located on the NETC campus with the National Fire Academy. These two schools provide training opportunities for emergency responders at all levels of government. The United States Fire Administration is housed on the NETC campus as well.