

2016 Newsletter vol.2

OVERVIEW OF THIS NEWSLETTER

The first few pages of this newsletter are predominantly a repeat of the Year-end letter. We have done this for the benefit of new members. **We are growing!** In the future we will only provide introduction of our officers when there has been a change. Future issues will provide information on our Board of Directors and Advisory Board.

In addition to the "In This Edition" box we are detailing some additional general information on the types of disasters reported on in this issue and "lessons learned" from the event.

Earthquake in Alaska:

Earthquakes are a relatively frequent occurrence along the Circum Pacific and in islands associated with subducting plates. The western margin of the whole length of the American continents is earthquake prone.

Many factors influence the magnitude of damage from any earthquake greater than 4.5 on the Richter scale. The epicenter of this quake was over a hundred and fifty miles from the population centers with significant damage. Had the center been closer there would have been more damage. Considerable damage was related to fires resulting primarily from ruptured gas lines.

"Lessons Learned":

1. Anyone living along or near the continental margin adjacent to the Pacific Ocean or in island adjacent to subducting plates need to be prepared to survive seismic activity. Check for potential structural problems and take corrective action such as having frame type construction bolted to the foundation. Bookcases and cabinets should be anchored to walls.

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Earthquake in Alaska: continued . . .

"Lessons Learned" continued . . .

2. Fires occur in properties impacted by earthquakes. Examples of this association of fires with earthquakes includes:
 - a). San Francisco earthquake of 1906 where the resulting fire was responsible for most of the of the property damage and deaths.
 - b). Fires occurred in houses being rafted away by the Japanese tsunami probably from overturned cooking.
 - c). Fires from ruptured gas lines as in the Alaska case being reported. If you have natural gas or propane in your home and you smell gas leave the house immediately. Do not turn off lights or electric appliances. A small spark can result in an explosion.

Volcanoes:

"Lessons Learned":

1. Volcanic areas that have experienced eruptions in the past 500 to 600 years and have active thermal features should be considered potentially dangerous.
2. Volcanoes that have accumulated snow and or glaciers have the added potential of crating lahars (boiling hot, mud flows, that can travel at up to 60 miles per hour) during eruptions. Examples of this are past lahars related to Mount Rainier in Washington state. Added danger with lahar's is that they flow extremely rapidly and can slosh up and over low hill that lie in their path. This is a concern for one community in Washington state.

“Service to others in time of disasters is in our DNA!”

What is the DNA-RAG ?

The Disaster Network of Assistance is a Rotarian Action Group authorized by the Rotary International Board of Directors.

Mission

DNA RAG will work to develop an interactive network of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and their spouses, and affiliated Rotarian and other groups to assist with disaster preparedness, communication, and recovery on a worldwide basis. Its primary focus will be on disaster preparedness with an emphasis on communication between the affected area and potential assistance for long term recovery.

DNA RAG will develop an interactive network to assist with disaster preparedness, communication, and recovery at an international level. The group’s primary focus will be on disaster preparedness with an emphasis on communication between the affected area and potential assistance for long term recovery.

DNA RAG’s founders offer expertise and hands-on experience through their involvement with several Rotarian and non-Rotarian disaster relief initiatives such as Rotarian Emergency/ Disaster Initiative (REDI), Haiti Disaster Task Force, Caribbean Partnership, Rapid Disaster Response Task Force, Disaster Aid Australia, and ShelterBox.

The founding members have coordinated Rotarian efforts in support of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina (New Orleans, USA), Hurricane Sandy (Caribbean islands and North Eastern USA), the Haiti earthquake, and others.

The Disaster Network of Assistance Rotarian Action Group is not an agency of, nor controlled by,

Who is DNA-RAG ? - Our Officers

Chair: Barry Rassin

barry@rassin.org

Member: Rotary Club of East Nassau - Bahamas

Barry was born in London, England but moved to Nassau, Bahamas as an infant. He has a BBA from the University of Miami and an MBA in Healthcare from the University of Florida. He worked at The Miami Heart Institute and Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, Florida until he went home to Nassau in 1979 with the goal of bringing modern medicine to the country. Today he is the President and CEO of Doctors Hospital

Health System in Nassau, is the only Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives in his country and continues to challenge the organization to enhance the quality of care provided. Barry has been a Rotarian since 1980 during which time he served as Club Director, Secretary, President in 1987-1988, and is currently the Chairman of the DNA-RAG and Aide (2015-16) to R.I. President Ravi Ravindran at Rotary International . Barry has received the Service Above Self Award from the Board of Directors of Rotary International and was given the Charlie Braham Achievement Award in Jamaica for his Rotary involvement. He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Major Donor, Benefactor, and Bequest Society member. He was also given the National Award of Health Hero by the Bahamas Ministry of Health and PAHO. Barry and his wife Esther live in Nassau, Bahamas. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Vice Chair: Leigh A. Readdy

readdy@aol.com

Member: Rotary Club of Northshore - Bothell, Wa., USA

Dr. Readdy is a geologist/mining engineer with degrees from the University of Arizona College of Mines, and a PhD from the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, and a DIC. He has worked all over the world in this field for over 40 years. He and his wife Pam live in Kirkland, Washington. Leigh's first experience with disasters was in 1955 when as an Assistant Scoutmaster he assisted with material support to the Yuba City flood. He joined Rotary in 1998 and has maintained more than a perfect attendance and has visited over 100

Rotary clubs around the world, including being President, RC of Northshore 2001-2002, District 5030 Youth Exchange 2006-2009, District 5030 Rotaract Chair 2009-2012, Member of the Rotary on Stamps Fellowship and Paul Harris Fellow+7 . He has assisted with coordination with disaster support for the Indonesian Tsunami, and also in Haiti. He is currently an adviser to the RI Nepal Direct Assistance Fund. Leigh is also currently the Disaster Coordinator for Rotary District 5030, the District 5030 Disaster Relief Chair and Vice Chair of Disaster Network of Assistance RAG.

Who is DNA-RAG ? - Our Officers



Secretary: Lara Quentrall-Thomas

lara@regencytrinidad.com

Member: Rotary Club of Central Port of Spain - Trinidad and Tobago.

Lara Quentrall-Thomas is the founder and CEO of Regency Recruitment and Resources Limited, the leading human resource and recruitment management consultancy in Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to founding Regency 20 years ago, Lara worked in the UK as a Recruitment Consultant and Human Resources Manager. She has an MBA from Henley College, UK. Lara is Founder and 1st President of the Association of Female Executives of T&T (AFETT). She is a Director of the American Chamber of

Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago (AMCHAM), Economic Development Board, Youth Business Trust of Trinidad and Tobago, British Caribbean Chamber of Commerce, and the Trinidad and Tobago Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Advisory Board. Lara joined the Rotary Club of Central Port of Spain in 1999 and was the District Governor for the Southern Caribbean from 2011-2012, a Group Study Exchange Team Leader, District Chair for various areas of focus including Grants, Rotaract, Website, Literacy, Alumni and Public Relations, and Rotary Leadership Institute Faculty and Administration.

Treasurer: Philip H. Lustig III

phil.lustig3@gmail.com

Member: Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunset, Florida USA



Phil is an experienced General Manager with almost 20 years in the courier, air freight and trucking industry, as well as owning a guard and undercover agency, in Florida. Phil has had experience in the Marine manufacturing industry as a general manager of heavy accessory segment for large motor yachts and was a former Vice President for the Southeastern US with a national marine telecommunications company. Phil currently works as owner/head coach with Florida Atlantic Masters at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. PDG Phil joined Rotary in 1978, at the RC of Harrisburg, PA.

Phil moved to FL in 1981 and then joined the RC Ft Lauderdale South and served as Club President from 1986-1987, and was Club President of Boca Sunset in 2004-2005. Phil was also a Member of 4 other Rotary Clubs prior to joining the present club. Phil served as District Governor Rotary International District 6930 (2007-2008), then Rotary District Foundation Chair 2013-2016. Phil is currently President and Director Rotary Gift of Life East Florida, Inc, Current Treasurer Caribbean Partnership, Inc. a coalition of Rotary Districts in Zones 33 & 34 (Southeastern US and the Caribbean), 2009-2010 District Foundation Permanent Fund Chair, Rotary District Disaster Chair 2008-2014, and a member of the Rotary Leadership Institute Faculty. Phil and his wife are Major Donors, Bequest Society Members and Benefactors. He has a BA from Hobart College and did his graduate work in Business at the A. T. Roth School of Business (Long Island University)

Where is DNA-RAG ?

If you wish to be regularly updated and informed about Disasters, Preparation, Training and Communication, please follow us online:

Website: go to <http://www.dna-rag.com/>

Facebook: ‘Like’ us at <https://www.facebook.com/DNA.RAG>

LinkedIn: ‘Join’ us at: <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=8383737>

Twitter: ‘Follow’ us at: https://twitter.com/DNA_RAG

If you want to help, please join the DNA-RAG!

1. To join go to: <http://www.dna-rag.com/membership>

2. To pay dues go to: <https://dna-ragstore.ecwid.com/>

Membership dues are \$25.00 USD per year or sign up for five years for only \$100.00 USD.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

The Disaster Network of Assistance Rotarian Action Group is not an agency of,
nor controlled by, Rotary International.



Extended Power Outages

Earthquake & Power Outage in Alaska, USA January 24, 2016

An earthquake with initial magnitude of about 7.1 hit at about 1:30 a.m. in Pedro Bay, about 162 miles southwest of Anchorage according the U.S. Geological Survey website. The quake hammered South Central homes with thousands of people losing power.

The Valley power utility reported about 4,900 customers without power as of 2:43 a.m. The Nancy Lakes/Willow/Caswell area was among the hardest hit, with 1,820 customers losing power. In the Trunk/Palmer-Wasilla Highway area, about 1,300 people lost power. The quake "caused several outages including our entire Douglass substation in Willow and Hospital substation impacting portions of Palmer and Wasilla," the utility writes. "Crews have been called in from home to assess the situation and restore power." "We have roughly about 4,600 customers being affected by outages right now," said Chugach spokeswoman Sarah Wiggers. "We have about 3,000 being affected in LaTouche, we have about 1,500 affected in Klatt and another 150 out in Portage," she said. ML and P reports an outage in Downtown Anchorage affecting 159 customers.

Situation Update No. 2 on January 25, 2016

Four homes were destroyed in natural gas explosions or fire following a magnitude 7.1 earthquake in southern Alaska. Kenai (KEY'-nigh) Fire Department battalion chief Tony Prior says explosions from a natural gas leak destroyed two of the homes. The other two were fully engulfed in flames by the time firefighters determined it was safe enough from gas for them to enter.

>>> About 30 homes total were evacuated in the Kenai neighborhood. Some people are staying at a shelter at the Kenai National Guard Armory. <<<

Alaska Gov. Bill Walker says he's relieved there wasn't more damage given the severity of Sunday's magnitude 7.1 earthquake. Walker also says the quake serves as a reminder for people to be prepared for a natural disaster... There was a gas leak that apparently led to the explosion of one home in Kenai (KEY'-nigh), where there was also some road damage in one area. Walker says a shelter has been set up for those in need. He urges all Alaskans to have a response plan in place in case of an emergency.



Cyclones/Hurricanes

Hurricane Joaquin

October 1, 2015 saw Category 4 Hurricane Joaquin pummeling southern and central Bahamas with 130 mile per hour winds and torrential rain.

Completely destroying Long Island, Rum Cay, Crooked Island, San Salvador and Acklins among others, Bahamas now battles an enormous humanitarian crisis.

Rotary Clubs of The Bahamas with members of the Bahamian community joined hands to work on ground providing emergency supplies and support to the devastated people. The rapid provision of vital aid is crucial in saving lives.

However, this is only a part of Rotary's larger vision of helping people in central and southern Bahamas rebuild itself. After the initial needs are met, then comes the long, hard road to recovery.

The focus for Rotary rebuilding efforts will be schools and livelihoods:

- a. Quotes are being sought for cranes to move boats from inland back into the water
- b. A donation of a large truck is being sought to assist in the removal of debris and other clean-up efforts as well as transportation of supplies
- c. Assistance will be provided to repair an R.O. plant and water tanks from the Freeport Emergency water plant will be delivered.
- d. Shelterbox will be contacted to acquire only tents as opposed to the usual package, as per NEMA's request.
- e. GBI Rotary will send tarpaulins and possibly water filtration systems (i.e. Brita)
- f. PRID Barry and his wife Esther have "adopted" the Mangrove Bush Primary School. Volunteers should contact PAG Murray.

Additional information on needs and how to help will be provided in a future issue of the DNA-RAG newsletter.



Fire

Wildfire in Yarloop Australia devastates town with 'one fireball after another'

- By Jonathan Pearlman, Sydney / Richard Moroney - 08 Jan 2016

A wildfire described as a "tumbling wave" has torn through south-west Australia, devastating a small town and razing more than 58,000 hectares of bushland.

The fire, which reportedly had flames 160ft high, forced the evacuation of the town of Yarloop, south of Perth, where terrified residents described seeing "one fireball after another".

Several firefighters were injured...Jesse Puccio, a volunteer firefighter, said the blaze hit the town about 6.30pm on Thursday and was unstoppable. "It just ripped through, it was quite scary," he said. "It's like when you see in the war when the napalm bombers go through."

A group of residents who remained in the town to try to save their homes were forced to take refuge at a football field. Some wrote their phone numbers on notes attached to their horses and then set them free. "We have been told to sit tight so we cannot see the exact damage yet, but it looks like most of the town has gone," said Carmel Hill, who lost her home.

>>>The town has lost about 95 homes, as well as damage to the pub, school and shops. Only about 30 homes were left standing in the town, which has a population of about 545. A nearby vineyard and bridge were also destroyed.

Residents were evacuated to a community centre and were ordered to remain inside after a 75-year-old man at the centre was hit by lightning. No residents are believed to have been injured.

The fire, started by a lightning strike, is now threatening other communities south of Perth, including the beef and dairy town of Harvey.<<<

Authorities said the conditions were unpredictable and "extremely difficult", with hot temperatures and strong winds causing sudden shifts in the direction of the blaze.



Volcanoes

Volcano Activity in Mexico on January 23

The world's most dangerous volcanoes of Popocatepetl located 35 miles from Mexico City were billowing vast clouds of black smoke and ash - possible before a catastrophic eruption on Saturday.

>>> Thousands of people living near the killer peak are on evacuation alert after the mile high plume began. <<<

...People within 10 miles of the mountain have been placed on yellow alert, ready to escape immediately if activity increases.

Mexico City located 35 miles from the volcano, is the world's fourth biggest city, with 20 million people. Chances are that the eruption will not affect Mexico City.

Another Mexican volcano, Colima, could be about to blow for the first time in 100 years after expelling a 1.8 mile high cloud of smoke and ash. Mexico's Disaster Prevention Centre said during the past 24 hours the volcano has emitted 16 "low intensity exhalations" and three explosions, according to El Universal.

They urge people not to approach the peak, particularly the crater, due to the risk of "ballistic fragments." The Ministry of the Interior expects continued "low explosive activity on an intermediate scale", mild to moderate ash falls in nearby town and the possibility of a fast-moving currents of hot gas and rock.



Rain / Flooding

South Carolina Flooding update with information from the D7770 DG:

Rotary District 7770 experienced severe flooding the weekend of October 3-4, 2015. **1,000+ homes were damaged.** Most people affected by the flood lost everything inside their homes.

We believe the immediate needs of food and water have been covered; but the next phase, which involves getting people back into housing, will be a longer-term effort.

We are focusing donated funds and manpower to this effort. District 7770 has formed partnerships with **three groups on multiple projects that involve hands-on Rotarian involvement.** These partnerships focus on rebuilding houses, repairing homes and apartments, and providing the things necessary for living in a home.

Our goal is to help people get back into housing after their homes were destroyed. There are multiple projects involved with each partnership which will require a huge amount of manpower and funding.

While a number of clubs in District 7770 have 501(c)3 foundations the district itself does not have a 501(c)3 Foundation. However, for those who want to donate directly to the district, we are suggesting the **checks be made out to Rotary District 7770 and mailed to our district treasurer: Larry Montague, PO Box 2044, West Columbia, SC 29171.**

Disaster Aid USA has sent DART teams to help. Disaster Aid USA is a 501(c)3. **For those who need to use a 501c3 for donations,** we are suggesting the checks be made out to Disaster Aid USA. Designate the gift to Rotary District 7770 and mail to Bob Grill, 9817 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham, MD 20706.

Both Disaster Aid USA (a Rotary club based organization) and ShelterBox have offered assistance. Unfortunately ShelterBox was not considered appropriate because of lack of suitable dry areas for tent placement.



Rain / Flooding (continued)

Rotarians and others providing aid South Carolina Flood Victims:

Home Works: A non-profit that repairs homes using volunteer labor, Home Works has received funds from the District 7770 to use as seed money to buy materials to do a repair blitz, to repair 10 flood-damaged homes.

A majority of the labor is being provided by District 7770 Rotarians.

Palmetto Project Food Hub: Also a non-profit that provides inside-the-home types of supplies to flood victims. Palmetto has received funds to buy mattresses that they have given out to flood victims. District 7770 Rotarians helped unload the mattresses when they arrived at the Flood Hub facility and provided labor to get the mattresses to the people once they were vetted by the Flood Hub organization. At the Flood Hub, flood victims can receive counseling as well as cleaning supplies, clothing, cooking utensils, linens, furniture, etc.

District 7770: Rotary Clubs have been encouraged to “adopt” a family whose home was damaged by the flood to help them get back on their feet. The

Flood Hub vets the families, and the clubs reach out to them to ascertain what the individual family might need. \$1,000 is donated to each club that has “adopted” a family with the expectation that the club would more than match this amount to help the family. Rotary’s District 7770’s Governor Rod Funderburk said “Our clubs are finding that every family is different and one size does not fit all.” They are working to have additional families “adopted” and to get as many of the District clubs and individual Rotarians involved as is practical. This is a long-term project.

District 7770 continues to focus on helping flood victims. **The St Bernard Parrish organization** is now in South Carolina with a long-term commitment to help in the repair of homes. They are initially partnering with Home Works; Rotary’s District Governor Rod said “We as a district will be supporting that effort. Our goal is also to have our clubs adopt more families, so that we help as many people as possible with the limited funds available.”



Earthquakes

More Than 85,000 Haitians Are Still Homeless From The 2010 Earthquake

- The Huffington Post | By Robbie Couch - 01/12/2015

Five years ago, an earthquake killed more than 200,000 people and left unprecedented damage to Haiti's housing infrastructure -- damage that the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere is still struggling to reverse.

According to a new report by Amnesty International, there are 85,432 people in Haiti (comprising 22,741 households) who remain homeless because of the 2010 earthquake. As the report explains, the natural disaster exposed the dire state of housing in Haiti, where a large portion of people had lived in substandard homes that were built by residents using inadequate materials and poor construction techniques.

"Five years ago, the eyes of the world were on Haiti after the devastating earthquake tore lives apart and left more than 2 million people homeless," Chiara Liguori, Caribbean researcher at Amnesty International, said. "Sadly, since then, the world's interest has waned while tens of thousands of people remain destitute and homeless."

Although the number of people living in displacement camps has dropped over 90 percent since July 2010, the majority of those who left are still not living in durable housing, the report notes -- many have moved back into unsafe structures or began construction on their own homes without expert assistance.

As NBC News reported, at least 200,000 people reside in slums known as Canaan-Jerusalem, where there's no electricity, running water or sanitation system in place. The situation -- which could "[recreate] and [intensify] the pre-earthquake housing crisis" if another disaster strikes -- doesn't hold up to the Haitian government's "build back better" slogan often touted by aid organizations in the months following the earthquake...

Although a housing crisis remains, the country has made significant progress on several fronts since the earthquake: There's been a substantial growth in GDP, dozens of health centers have opened throughout the country and Haiti has experienced success combating the cholera outbreak that ensued in the earthquake's aftermath. The country also saw a 20 percent spike in tourism in 2014 from the year before, as perceptions continue to change about Haiti and what it has to offer international travelers.



Drought

South Africa: Crops fail and people die from heatstroke as worst drought on record continues -By David Sim January 18, 2016

South Africa is in the grips of a severe drought that shows no sign of abating. 2015 was the country's driest year since records began in 1904. At least 11 people died of heatstroke as temperatures in North West province exceeded 40C during a week-long heatwave in January 2016...Weeks of extreme heat have scorched crops and grazing land, forcing livestock owners to kill or sell their animals.

Many farmers in the northern Free State province, a key maize growing area, have not planted as they were waiting for the rains, which didn't come. **Maize is a staple food in southern Africa, particularly among lower income households.** South Africa is usually a maize exporter, but it may need to import as much as five million metric tons this year, roughly half of its requirements.

Analysts say the cost of maize imports will be a big burden on a country already facing a weak currency. "We will have to import about R12bn (£500m, \$710m) worth of maize," said agricultural economist Ernst Janovsky.

People living in rural drought-affected areas are suffering acute water shortages. Many women walk long distances to collect drinking water, and do their laundry in puddles or stagnant drying-out ponds. Residents of Senekal, a small town in the rural Free State province, queue overnight as they wait for their daily water ration to be brought in by trucks. Those who can't wait up to ten hours in a line, however, are forced to buy water at premium prices. In some areas, children are drinking sewerage water out of desperation.

The drought is a sign of a changing climate that the whole region must prepare for, say experts. The El Nino weather phenomenon has returned to southern Africa, marked by delayed rainfall and unusually high temperatures. **The environmental effects of El Nino are expected to last until at least 2017, affecting the food security of 29 million people due to poor harvests,** according to a World Food Programme report.