



EASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

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GROUP SPONSORS SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL DISASTER SEMINAR September - 2001

The *Eastern Montgomery County Regional Emergency Management Group's* first effort to sponsor a world-class training symposium in the region for Emergency Managers and First Responders was a great success.

The Emergency Disaster Incident Training Symposium (**EDITS – 2001**) was a two-day event in September 2001 held at the Fort Washington EXPO Center and attended by approximately 300 emergency managers and first responders from the Delaware Valley and other parts of the State.

The format was a series of general sessions with expert speakers on a multitude of timely topics such as Incident Command, Disaster Recovery, Terrorism, Rapid Deployment of Tactical Teams, Safe Schools, Hazardous Materials Response, and Fast Water Rescue. In addition, recent regional disasters were discussed in a "lessons learned" format.

Speakers included: Michael Fagel, FEMA reservist working the World Trade Center Disaster; Former Philadelphia Fire Commissioner William Richmond who discussed the Mary Pang Fire; Former Deputy Chief Bernard Dyer who discussed the Pier 34 collapse; and after action reports on the Baltimore Tunnel Fire, and Concept Science explosion in Allentown were also presented.

The symposium also allowed attendees to visit exhibits displayed by over a dozen vendors, and an outside display of various special equipment available for disasters in the region.

The Group plans to sponsor this valuable and much needed regional training opportunity every two years.

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Partners In Planning, Response and Recovery