

READY CSU E-NEWSLETTER

January/February 2021



Looking Forward

Welcome to 2021, a year that is sure to be better than the last year! As I've been a little limited in my activities since an early December surgery, this issue will be mainly drawn from FEMA, DHS and other resources, so this may be a "scan to pick the interesting items" issue. We've included an encouraging note from Chancellor Frank in closing this issue with some very good guidance about using a magic wand of listening, unity, and compromise to get us through this next year. Take a look!

The Ready CSU Training team wishes you the best in the New Year and we hope to be back to presenting trainings on a more regular basis soon.

Some of you new to proctoring have asked about classes and I have tried to track all those requests. As I may have lost a couple over the last two months, PLEASE LOOK AT THE TALENT DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALENDAR to be sure you don't miss a class!

On April 23 from 9am till noon, we will hold an Introduction to The Proctor Role class on-line (Zoom) for the Spring Semester if we can get a minimum of five persons registered.

Hope to see you soon! Till then, be safe, be ready, and be 'prepared, not scared'.



Items from Homeland Security

What's New with Blue?

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month is Here



On December 31, 2020, the White House proclaimed January National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This is a time dedicated to raising awareness, providing education, and taking action to combat this heinous crime. Read the full proclamation [here](#).

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is recognized each year on January 11th. In recognition of this important day, Blue Campaign hosts [#WearBlueDay](#). Anyone can join Blue Campaign in bringing awareness to human trafficking on [#WearBlueDay](#) by doing one (or more!) of the following:

- **Snap a selfie.** Have you picked your outfit yet? We encourage you to wear blue (whether that's a shirt, uniform, or hat), take a photo of yourself, and post it to social media using [#WearBlueDay](#). Encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to do the same.
- **Share a video.** Create a video message explaining why you are participating in [#WearBlueDay](#). Post it on social media with [#WearBlueDay](#) and encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to do the same.
- **Challenge your friends, family, or colleagues.** Encourage your friends, family, or colleagues to get creative with their [#WearBlueDay](#) photos – while practicing social distancing – and see who comes up with the best picture. Remember to share on social media with [#WearBlueDay](#)!
- **Light up a landmark.** In 2018, Los Angeles City Hall was lit blue and Mayor Eric Garcetti tweeted a photo of it with [#WearBlueDay](#). Work with your local government to light a capitol building, landmark, or bridge blue to raise awareness of human trafficking. Use social media to post photos of the landmark with [#WearBlueDay](#) and why it's lit in blue.

- **Host a virtual event.** Organize an online event, such as a panel discussion or documentary viewing, to foster discussion about human trafficking and how to recognize and report it. Encourage attendees and participants to wear blue and share photos on social media. Don't forget to use #WearBlueDay.
- **Follow Blue Campaign** (@DHSBlueCampaign) on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) where we will share more human trafficking awareness information in January.

Blue Campaign also has several social media graphics you can use when posting about #WearBlueDay available [here](#).

Individual & Community Preparedness Newsletter



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Ready Tips



Resolve to Be Ready

Happy New Year, preparedness community! With the start of a new year, now is the perfect time to [make resolutions that will help you prepare](#) for any curveballs 2021 throws your way. As 2020 showed us, disasters come in all forms, from [pandemics](#) to [hurricanes](#) to [floods](#), [earthquakes](#), [wildfires](#), [winter storms](#), and [more](#). **Resolve now to be ready for emergencies and take action with the right steps.**

Here are a few tips to get started:

1. Review your emergency kit. Check for expired food, water, or batteries in your emergency kit and replace if necessary. Look over this [checklist](#) of emergency supplies and add what you may be missing. Don't hesitate to add other supplies based on your individual needs.
2. Assess your finances to [maximize your resiliency](#). Consider making a budget and checking your credit score.
3. Get involved with your community. Participate in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on January 18 by joining a [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#) or taking a FEMA online course such as [You Are the Help Until Help Arrives](#). This year, communities are shifting to virtual volunteer opportunities online. To find one near you, check out this helpful [website](#) to look for volunteer opportunities in your community or learn more about ways to volunteer at [ready.gov/volunteer](#).

Starting with these simple steps can set you up for success this year and far into the future!



New ICPD Director Focuses on Ensuring Emergency Readiness

Aaron Levy is no newcomer to emergency preparedness. He was named Director of FEMA's [Individual and Community Preparedness Division \(ICPD\)](#) in December 2020 after a decade of service with the Agency. Aaron had served as Acting Director since September 2019. He has also worked as ICPD's Deputy Director and in other positions across FEMA.

"Initially, what drew me to [FEMA] was an opportunity to be part of a team that was rethinking emergency management in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It was an exciting time. I quickly realized that the Agency's mission, 'helping people before, during and after disasters,' gave me a sense of purpose that I was lacking in my professional life."

Aaron says he is particularly drawn to ICPD because "it is the only team in FEMA focused on preparing individuals and community organizations, rather than FEMA's traditional state, local, tribal and territorial partners, for disasters. It's a dream job for someone who loves their country, believes in FEMA's mission, and appreciates the opportunity to work alongside the most talented, focused, and dedicated staff in the entire U.S. Government."

Aaron counts the creation of a research program that focuses on human behavior as one of ICPD's most important recent achievements. An increased focus on research helps ICPD understand what programs and tools help prepare people. The annual [National Household Survey](#) shows the public continues to be better prepared for disasters, he notes.

Aaron attributes some of these improvements to FEMA laying the groundwork for emergency readiness. He sees other factors as well.

"I think the increase in the number and type of disasters has made preparedness a 'kitchen table' issue for many ... families," he says. "Second, organizations ranging from Silicon Valley startups to small, local [nonprofits] are focused on developing cutting-edge resources to help people be better prepared."

ICPD focused on a new reason to prepare in 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic swept through the country, ICPD stepped up to assist. Several staff members deployed to FEMA's National Response Coordination Center to support the Agency's response. Remaining staff members "led a Herculean effort to revamp our [protective action guidance for pandemic preparedness.](#)" Aaron says.

Aaron notes that staff also worked to ensure FEMA's new [Organizations Preparing for Emergency Needs \(OPEN\)](#) training addresses pandemic hazards. The training focuses on 10 key actions that nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and small businesses can take to be prepared to operate during disasters.

Promoting OPEN is just one of several goals Aaron has for 2021. The release of an updated [Student Tools for Emergency Planning \(STEP\)](#) curriculum is another. STEP, which is aimed at students in grades four and up, teaches youth about preparing for disasters and emergencies. The curriculum engages them in activities like making emergency kits and family communication plans. STEP is part of a [broader youth program](#) that is "a priority because building a culture of preparedness starts with our Nation's youth," Aaron says.

Aaron places a high value on activities that engage kids throughout FEMA's 10 regions. "The [Youth Preparedness Council](#) and tools such as the [Prepare with Pedro](#) coloring book and [Ready 2 Help](#) card game are the gold standard in terms of youth preparedness," he notes.

The work to refocus on financial resilience, which teaches and informs individuals how to save money to prepare for disasters, will also continue in 2021.

"Encouraging [people] to set aside money for a disaster is a noble objective that our team has been working toward over the last two years. However, many Americans are struggling to put food on the table during this difficult time."

Aaron has asked ICPD "to work with our partners to figure out how we can encourage [folks] to take steps, such as buying insurance and ensuring that their financial information is organized before a disaster hits." He also wants the Division to engage with FEMA's Office of Response and Recovery so that FEMA can better educate people about the limitations of [the Agency's] assistance programs.

Aaron asks people to email ICPD at FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov if they have suggestions or ideas that can help the Agency achieve these goals.

Like everyone, ICPD's Director is looking forward to a healthier 2021 and a resumption of in-person activities.

"In 2020, we did our best to leverage Zoom and other online platforms to stay in touch with and build connections with new stakeholders" he says. Once a majority of Americans receive the COVID vaccine, I hope to get back on the road again and meet in person with our partners across the country!

CERT & Communities



Collaborating to Respond to Health Needs

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to surge across the country, two volunteer groups are teaming up to help. [Community Emergency Response Teams \(CERTs\)](#), sponsored by FEMA, and the [Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\)](#), organized by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, are working together to tackle a range of health needs. Some partnerships are new and formed during the pandemic, while others have existed for years.

The CERT Program educates volunteers about preparing for hazards that may affect their area. It also trains members in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, search and rescue, and helping with medical needs. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals, as well as other community members without healthcare backgrounds. MRC units engage these volunteers to strengthen public health, improve emergency response capabilities, and build community resiliency. [Read more...](#)

CBOs: Determine Essential Activities Now to Ensure Smoother Sailing During a Disaster



Determine Essential Activities

Have you ever thought about how your organization would stay operational during a disaster or unplanned incident? Whether your community-based organization is a nonprofit, small business, or faith-based organization, a key part of preparedness planning is determining the activities you need to do to stay open. Taking the time to map out your basic functions now will be helpful when rushing to maintain services during an emergency.

Determining essential activities is the fourth of 10 actions that organizations can take to help ensure they are able to run as smoothly as possible during a disaster. These actions are outlined in FEMA's new [Organizations Preparing for Emergency Needs \(OPEN\) training](#). [Read more...](#)

Children & Disasters



YPC Alum Mathew Mayfield Puts Preparedness to Work

Matthew Mayfield may have finished his work with FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) in 2015, but his zeal for emergency readiness and response continues. Since participating in the YPC, he has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in public health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He has also obtained his emergency medical technician (EMT) license.

"The YPC definitely set me on a good track and has actually opened a few doors for me. It gave me another passion—for not only the first response side of emergency services but the preparedness portion. Teaching is now one of my favorite things," he says.

"It also gave me a better grasp on how to look at the bigger picture and be two steps ahead of any possible issue when problem solving."

While in the YPC, Mayfield was part of a group of 15 teens from across the country working on national and local projects. [Read more...](#)

Apply for the Youth Preparedness Council Starting on January 18

Do you know a teen who has a passion for preparedness? FEMA will soon begin accepting applications for its 2021 [Youth Preparedness Council \(YPC\)](#) from youth in grades 8-11. Since 2012, FEMA has brought youth from across the Nation together. Each year, teens apply to the YPC for an opportunity to join FEMA in encouraging emergency preparedness. Teens serve on the YPC for two years.

As part of the YPC, members can build leadership skills and represent their schools and communities. They also share their perspectives, feedback, and opinions with FEMA. The YPC gives youth the chance to meet peers from across the country and work on projects, such as preparedness fairs for their communities. A virtual summit in July gives members a chance to meet each other and hear from FEMA experts. [Read more...](#)



YPC Member Featured on School System Website

Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) member [Devangana Rana's](#) work on the council and in her community recently caught the attention of her Illinois school district. She was featured in an [article](#) and [video](#) which was posted on the website of her school district. Rana, who was born in India, discusses how she uses FEMA materials to inform international students about disasters that they may face in the Midwest that they may not have experienced in their home countries. She also talks about being named a winner of the National Call for Kindness Contest. With this award, she received a \$1,000 grant to help host events that celebrate different cultures and assist international students and their families new to the United States.

A New Year for Financial Resilience



Out with the old and in with new habits! On this new year, make a plan to put your finances on the right footing. We've listed some actions you can take for the first few months of the year to help you get started.

FEMA's [Emergency First Aid Kit \(EFFAK\)](#)

offers guidance on organizing and securing important documents. It also provides advice on managing finances, offers insights on credit scores, and describes what to expect should a disaster strike your community. All of this can help you prepare for both big incidents and minor emergencies.

Fillable forms and checklists allow you to organize your documents and contacts in PDF form. The EFFAK is available in English, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, and large print versions. [Read more...](#)

Important Dates

- **February 3: Webinar – [10 Ready-Made Tips You Can Use to Prepare for Disasters](#) (12 p.m. ET)**

Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services, or products. Please let us know about other events and services for individual and community preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting FEMA-prepare@fema.dhs.gov.

From Chancellor Tony Frank

Over the years, I've written many long email messages, but never, to my increasingly leaky memory, a New Year's Eve message. And to my colleagues at CSU Pueblo and CSU Global, here's a hint from your colleagues at CSU Fort Collins – there's nothing in here you have to read; no work-related announcements. Some would probably tell you the use of the 'Delete' key is a good choice here.....

Back on New Year's Eve 1989, my first year as a faculty member, we gathered with some friends for New Year's Eve. We wrote our hopes for 25 years later – 2015. We sealed them in envelopes in the piano bench that sat in front of my grandmother's huge upright piano in the living room of the first home we ever purchased (at 16% interest and at what we were sure was the top of the real estate market – ever). Well, time passed, as it tends to do. Careers shifted, two of those university colleagues have since passed away, we moved, and somewhere along the way those envelopes were lost. I haven't actually thought about them much, but I find my mind drifting back to them as I reflect on the impending end of 2020. I know my wishes then have little to do with my wishes in 2020. As Sam Sifton said in his column last week, we still stare at the lights on the tree, but we see more than we did before. And, as my mind is wont to do, I am tempted to look ahead and wonder what we'll learn from this year. What will those of us who are still here think about a quarter century from now when we look back on 2020? Our children and grandchildren will have some amazing stories. Some of what is recounted will, I imagine, seem hard to believe. And yet we'll believe it – because we lived it. We'll recall the fear, the relief, the sense of anxiety, the smell of change in the air – in many ways. Too many of us will remember loss.

I wish you could see the faces that I see as I imagine the Zoom screen gallery view that I am writing to: I see educators, scientists, artists, mentors, administrators, advocates and people who have been going about their jobs – despite the disruption – doing what must be done to keep our campuses open and running. I see people near the end of their professional journey – and I think how nearly impossible it must be for our students to imagine what it was like to walk in their shoes. I see people just starting their journey – filled with possibility, ready for their time, ready – as each generation before them – to make improvements to the society we all share with each other in this increasingly small and interconnected world.

And I see people who are under stress – personal, financial, professional. The world around us is an uncertain place these days, for all of us. As I think about the mail that hit the Chancellor's inbox in 2020, there are people who think “we” (the CSU System and its member campuses) are too fill-in-the-blank: liberal, conservative, elite, egalitarian. If I'm honest, most of the labels that others apply to us are, from their point of view, negative. Maybe that speaks to our emotional state these days, that the energy required to reach out is more easily found behind the fast burning fuse of anger. Maybe it speaks to the frustration all around us, an outlet for our uncertainty. At best, these messages are a call to improve. At worst, they're a shouted indictment whose black-and-white truth appears self-evident to the shouter.

In a box in my office (My office! There's something I haven't seen for a while....) I have a box of plastic magic wands. I bought them for \$1.99 on eBay many years ago. I have tended to give them out to people working on committees dealing with challenging issues that faced the university. The wands always came with the same instructions: These cannot make money, but they can allow you to see the future you would wish. In other words, tell us what you think the right answer to this challenge is, unconstrained from what “can't” be done. Then let's join efforts around seeing what progress we can make. The wands were a gimmick, a device to reframe the question outside the existing mindset. But I realize many years later that I should have included another caveat: The wands don't work unless most of the people involved agree – at least to some degree – on the future that is envisioned. Me with one wand? Not so effective. A house divided imagining widely divergent futures focused on our differences? Not effective at all. A community coming together around compromise, change, and collective

improvement (“this solution may not be perfect, but it’s an improvement”)? In that case, these darn things actually work!

And that leads me to my point in writing (finally). If I could use one of those wands now, and it actually worked just on my own wishes, I’d wish for a 2021 characterized by each of us assuming good intent from those around us – and receiving the same in return. Someone advised me once to hear the most bitter criticisms as if they were genuinely and unthreateningly asked to us in a private conversation with someone we loved ... and then answer *that* question, not the one that had been asked. Defensiveness, anger – all the things we respond with when we perceive ill intent around us – dissipate, and this allows us the gift of self-reflection. Perhaps sometimes the certainty we feel about our relatively absolutist positions exists because it was forged in a furnace of fear and frustration, and we don’t really wish to face those. What if our conversations were gently sculpted from trust and self-confidence, with the knowledge of respect from those around us? What would that change? Could we listen? And hear? Could we converse? That would mean we could learn. And that would mean we could improve.

Could we do that in 2021? For ourselves and for each other? Could we back off the articulation of our beliefs just enough to turn down the noise of rhetoric and hear each other’s voices?

It’s true that in all of our fields and endeavors in academia, we build upon the work of those who came before us, adding a new layer of understanding, a new way of thinking about an issue. In many cases, to paraphrase Newton, we walk in the footsteps of those we see, through the lens of history, as giants. But because it is our training and proclivity to look at things beyond their first appearance, we know these are always deeply flawed giants – history marks this without exception, and we confirm it with our own humanity, our own frailties, our own mistakes. But the flaws of the giants we follow do not mean they are not giants. Mistakes do not invalidate progress. As Frederick Douglass mused from various viewpoints around the issue over time, Lincoln was simultaneously deeply flawed - and the right human for that moment in history. Would seeking perfection have prevented attaining improvement? Does it for us, today, in our own interactions?

However you wish to improve yourself and your world in 2021, I wish you success. It is my hope that we will do that together, that we will listen more, compromise more, find more common ground. And that our generally aligned hopes will pull together our unaligned approaches, and we’ll be bound together by simple grace that we can extend to each other. Then, I think, those magic wands could do some amazing things - and I’d love to be here to see what they’ve produced a quarter century from now.

Be well, CSU, and welcome 2021!
– tony

Dr. Tony Frank
Chancellor, Colorado State University System

For more resources visit the Talent Development Website and click on Emergency Readiness Training

training.colostate.edu/emergency-readiness-trainings

or

<https://safety.colostate.edu/>



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Check with your proctor to see what's up in readiness here at CSU! Better yet, tell coworkers they can also subscribe to the newsletter at:

https://lists.colostate.edu/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/ready_csu_newsletter

This publication is intended to serve YOU, the folks who serve our students: if you have information that may be included here for the benefit of your colleagues, please send it to Bob Chaffee at Talent Development at this email address:

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