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Announcements: Summer 2000

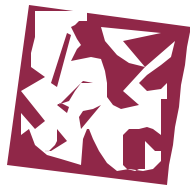
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Announcements

Disaster Management Workshops

The University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of Engineering Professional Development, will offer a seminar series, Disaster Management Workshops, September 18–22, 2000, in Madison, Wisconsin. Participants may enroll for 1–5 days.

The program will benefit emergency managers from business, industry, government, service, and community organizations. During the workshops, participants will learn about emergency information management; disaster communications; response planning; damage, needs, and resources assessment; and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

For more information, contact Katie Peterson, Department of Engineering Professional Development, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 432 North Lake Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706; telephone: (800) 462–0876; fax (608) 263–3160; e-mail: custserv@epd.engr.wisc.edu; www: <http://epd.engr.wisc.edu/>.

Fifth Annual Conference on Crises and Disasters Management

The Fifth Annual Conference on Crises and Disasters Management will be held October 28–29, 2000, in Cairo, Egypt. The conference is being organized by the Crisis Research Unit in Cairo.

Conference participants will discuss a wide range of crises and disasters, both natural and manmade, that threaten the continuity of society and its organizations. Major issues of the conference will include natural and environmental disasters; marketing, financial, technological, and production crises in business and governmental organizations; disasters in public facilities; crises caused by globalization, and its regional impacts; technical, social, political, legal, and international impacts of crises and disasters; the role of executive, legislative, and judicial institutions in crisis management; testimonies from real experiences and case studies; information and communications technology and their role in crisis management; and scenarios for crises and disasters in the third millennium.

For more information, contact Prof. Mohamed Rashad Elhamalawy, Director of Crisis Research Unit, Faculty of Commerce, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt; postal code: 11566; fax: (202) 4049259; e-mail: cruegypt@hotmail.com.

DROUGHT 2000 Conference: Impacts, Policy, and Technology

DROUGHT 2000 Conference: Impacts, Policy, and Technology will be held October 11–12, 2000, in Des Moines, Iowa. The conference is sponsored by the National Drought Mitigation Center, National Ground Water Association, U.S. Department of Agriculture–ARS, U.S. Geological Survey, and Ameri-

can Water Resources Association. Topics will include economic impacts and drought relief; short- and long-term planning; hydrologic impacts; wells and drought; well deepening, development, and rehabilitation; groundwater modeling; groundwater/surface interactions; weather forecasting; climate change; artificial recharge of groundwater; drought-resistant crops; fire protection; the National Drought Policy Act; and new technologies.

For more information, visit the National Ground Water Association's website at <http://www.ngwa.org/education/drought.html>, or contact Bob Masters of the National Ground Water Association at (800) 551-7379, ext. 527; e-mail: rmaste@ngwa.org.

16th Annual International Conference on Contaminated Soils, Sediments and Water

The 16th Annual International Conference on Contaminated Soils, Sediments and Water will be held October 16–19, 2000, at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Platform and poster sessions will cover the following topics: Analysis, Arsenic Background Definition, Bioremediation, Brownfields, Chemical Oxidation, Environmental Fate, Environmental Forensics, Federal, Heavy Metals, Indoor Air, Mercury, MTBE/Oxygenates, Natural Attenuation, Phytoremediation, Radionuclides, RBCA, Remediation, Regulatory, Risk, Sediments, Site Assessment, UXO. Exhibits will bring real world application of technical theory and case studies. Focused workshops will provide attendees applicable practical information. For information, contact Denise Leonard at (413) 545-1239 or dleonard@schoolph.umass.edu.

Talking Imperative . . . *(continued from p. 12)*

and silent. But they need to let it out, he said, or they can get in serious trouble, possibly hurting themselves and others.

Every person who is suffering needs to have three or four good listeners so no one listener gets worn out, DeFrain said. Reach out to family, friends, clergy, counselors or crisis hotlines. In Nebraska, the toll-free number for the Nebraska Farm/Rural Response Hotline is (800)464-025.

In addition to talking to people, those suffering a loss should find some emotional space that is socially acceptable and positive. Exercise, go for quiet walks or drives, appreciate others, and remember there's always someone worse off. Avoid destructive behavior, such as alcohol abuse.

Remember that everyone suffers and suffering can be a catalyst for growth, DeFrain said.

"People often don't share their problems with others, and so we're often unaware of how much pain other people really are going through as they suffer in silence," DeFrain said. Although it's hard

to look forward when there is uncertainty and you don't know where you're going, he said, there's really no choice but to move forward. Sometimes a crisis in life leads people down a new road that turns out to hold exciting new possibilities.

Human emotions are universal, DeFrain said. That is, everyone suffers and everyone experiences joy.

"The biggest fear is to be alone or disconnected because we're social beings," he said. Even though we have the need to be social, people in our culture often distance themselves from each other, particularly when they're in emotional trouble, he said.

And don't be afraid to cry.

"There's nothing wrong with crying. It's a good thing." He said crying cleanses the body because stress-related chemicals come out in the tears.

Cheryl Alberts
IANR news writer
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

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Drought Network News encourages readers to submit information on current episodes of drought and its impacts; timely reports of response, mitigation, and planning actions of governments and international organizations (successes *and* failures); recent research results and new technologies that may advance the science of drought planning and management; recent publications; conference reports and news of forthcoming meetings; and editorials. If references accompany articles, please provide *full bibliographic citations*. All artwork *must* be *camera-ready*—please provide clear, sharp copies (in black/gray and white only—we are unable to reproduce color artwork) that can be photocopied/reduced without losing any detail. Correspondence should be addressed to

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