

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 2009

During the current economic downswing the need for trained, professional emergency responders hasn't diminished one bit, according to the leaders of the New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association.

While other sectors of the economy suffer from the national recession, those charged with protecting lives and property have seen no cutback in calls for help from disaster victims.

"Our annual training conference, which runs from May 4 to May 8 at the Tropicana Casino Hotel & Resort, becomes an even more vital activity in times like these," explained Michal Caffrey, president of the Association. "Our gathering allows those in the emergency disciplines to establish lines of communication with their counterparts and learn which agencies can share scarce critical skills and resources. Like everyone else, emergency responders must find ways to perform their essential duties with fewer dollars."

Caffrey continued, "Training opportunities abound in the areas of Hospital/Medical, Preparedness, Response, and Weather. We anticipate 2,000 full-time professionals and volunteers, from both the public and private sectors, will gather at this premier training event on the East Coast."

Specialized courses are offered Monday through Wednesday, with a general session and seminars presented Thursday and Friday of conference week. A full schedule of offerings can be viewed at NJEPA's web page, www.njepa.org/

Conference registration is also available through the web page. Costs are kept at a minimum with advance registration only \$100 through April 29 when on-line registration closes. On-site registration is \$125. Participants can obtain special Tropicana room rates through the NJEPA web site.