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**MULTHAZARD RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND
MITIGATION PROGRAM**

March 2, 2004

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[As Amended Through P.L. 108–204, March 2, 2004]

(Title III of Public Law 96–472)

SEC. 301. It is recognized that natural and manmade hazards may not be independent of one another in any given disaster, and it is also recognized that emergency personnel are often called upon to meet emergencies outside of their primary field of service. Furthermore, planning for and responding to different hazards have certain common elements. To make maximum use of these commonalities, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (hereinafter referred to as the “Director”) is authorized and directed to:

(1) initiate, within one year after the date of enactment of this Act, studies with the objective of defining and developing a multihazard research, planning, and implementation process within the Agency;

(2) develop, within one year after the date of enactment of this Act, in cooperation with State and local governments, prototypical multihazard mitigation projects which can be used to evaluate several approaches to the varying hazard mitigation needs of State and local governments and to assess the applicability of these prototypes to other jurisdictions with similar needs;

(3) investigate and evaluate, within one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the effectiveness of a range of incentives for hazard reduction that can be applied at the State and local government levels;

(4) prepare recommendations as to the need for legislation that will limit the legal liability of those third party persons or groups which are called upon to provide technical assistance and advice to public employees, including policemen, firemen, and transportation employees, who are generally the first to respond to a hazardous incident; which recommendation shall be provided to the appropriate committees of Congress within one hundred and eighty days after the date of enactment of this Act;

(5) prepare, within one hundred and eighty days after the date of enactment of this Act, a report on the status of the Agency’s emergency information and communications systems which will provide recommendation on—

(A) the advisability of developing a single, unified emergency information and communication system for use

by the Agency in carrying out its emergency management activities;

(B) the potential for using communication and remote sensing satellites as part of the Agency's emergency information and communication system; and

(C) the type of system to be developed, if needed, including the relationship of the proposed system and its needs to the existing and emerging information and communication systems in other Federal agencies;

(6) conduct a program of multihazard research, planning, and mitigation in coordination with those studies and evaluations authorized in paragraphs (1) through (5), as well as other hazard research, planning, and mitigation deemed necessary by the Director;

(7) conduct emergency first response programs so as to better train and prepare emergency personnel to meet emergencies outside of their primary field of service; and

(8) conduct a program of planning, preparedness, and mitigation related to the multiple direct and indirect hazards resulting from the occurrence of large earthquakes.

(50 U.S.C. App 2251 nt)

SEC. 302. (a) For the fiscal year ending September 30, 1981, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Director \$1,000,000 to carry out paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 301 and such sums as may be necessary to carry out paragraph (6) of such section.

(b) For the fiscal year ending September 30, 1982, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Director—

(1) \$4,939,000 to carry out section 301, which amount shall include—

(A) not less than \$700,000 to carry out the purposes of paragraphs (1) through (6) of such section;

(B) such sums as may be necessary, but in any case not less than \$939,000 for use by the United States Fire Administration in carrying out paragraph (7) of such section; and

(C) not less than \$3,300,000 to carry out paragraph (8) of such section with respect to those large California earthquakes which were identified by the National Security Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Assessment of Consequences and Preparations for a Major California Earthquake; and

(2) such further sums as may be necessary for adjustments required by law in salaries, pay, retirement, and employee benefits incurred in the conduct of activities for which funds are authorized by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(c) For the fiscal year ending September 30, 1983, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Director—

(1) \$2,774,000 to carry out section 301, which amount shall include—

(A) not less than \$300,000 to carry out the purposes of paragraphs (1) through (6) of such section;

(B) such sums as may be necessary, but in any case not less than \$939,000, for use by the United States Fire Administration in carrying out paragraph (7) of such section; and

(C) not less than \$1,535,000 to carry out paragraph (8) of such section with respect to those large California earthquakes which were identified by the National Security Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Assessment of Consequences and Preparations for a Major California Earthquake and with respect to other high seismic risk areas in the United States; and

(2) such further sums as may be necessary for adjustments required by law in salaries, pay, retirement, and employee benefits incurred in the conduct of activities for which funds are authorized by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(50 U.S.C. App 2251 nt)