

Master class in rescue action!

Another all-action Master Class is being held in Charlotte, NC (USA), October 2-9 this year, where we always receive the warmest of welcomes from Charlotte FD Chief Jon Hannan and Charlotte City Manager Kurt Walton, writes David Lane of fire, water rescue and marine safety consultants Lane, Jefferies & Associates.

Global response to major disasters that require specialist rescue resources on a vast scale will be one of the key themes of the event.



This workshop is one of a series facilitated over the years between the UK's Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) and the fire and rescue services that work with emergency management professionals from Charlotte and North Carolina to develop flood response and major incident management principles.

Last year's event, which included the first World Floodfighters Conference, focused on strategic incident management principles, with delegates from the UK, EU, Australia and USA representing all the disciplines interested in major flood and incident response.

Global response to major disasters that require very specialist rescue resources on a vast scale (but happen infrequently), will be a key theme of the event, with the outcome of the collaboration shared. Whether there is greater scope for international sharing of experience and resources will also be explored.

In considering these issues we might also reflect on the different practical and political issues surrounding international aid, such as the recent international response to the Haiti earthquake, and the potential for specialist mutual aid and sharing of expertise between developed countries, such as is currently being developed by the EU through project Watersave.

For the UK the strategies and tactics developed through the partnership have been already put into practical effect with great success. Many of the principles developed in the 2006 UK's CFOA report *Management of Major Flood Emergencies* (and put into practice to save over 7,000 lives during the UK's devastating summer floods of 2007) emanated directly from these events.

The USA/UK partnership has developed at the same time as world climate change is bringing flooding and major weather-related event issues to the fore. As a result great international interest has been generated for these events at Charlotte Fire Department's superb Academy, as well as outdoor venues across North Carolina (including the US National Olympic Whitewater Centre).

2010's event will concentrate on the tactical and equipment challenges arising from major water related and flood incidents; the challenges of co-coordinating mutual aid across borders (including international borders); and the opportunities for the use of helicopters in support of civil emergency response. This is an area where the rescue services in North Carolina have made significant progress, especially in response to hurricanes and major flood events.

Much interest is generated in the event, particularly in the EU, UK and USA, especially from stakeholders, broadcast and first responder media – this year has a fresh perspective in that "blogs" and articles directly from the event will be featured on *Fire and Rescue* magazine's website, www.hemmingfire.com.

World Rescue Challenge



**IRELAND
CORK - 2010**

Dúshlán na Laoi, Corcaí
Lee Challenge, Cork

Rescue Organisation Ireland

in conjunction with

World Rescue Organisation

are hosting the

Annual World Rescue Challenge

In Cork from 2nd to 5th Sept 2010

Details from www.rescue-org-ireland.com

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Lane – a fire, water and marine safety consultant and film producer – was formerly a UK Senior Fire Officer and is the Managing Director of Lane, Jefferies & Associates, a small specialist fire, water and marine safety consultancy. Highly experienced, Lane has been working within Europe, USA and further afield in all fire, water and marine-related matters including training resource provision.