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*Affiliated with:* INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS AFL-CIO, SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES LABOR COUNCIL, CALIFORNIA LABOR FEDERATION, CALIFORNIA C.O.P.E., SAN DIEGO COUNTY C.O.P.E., CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTER'S / P.A.C. 

May 15, 2012

Craig Fugate  
Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Fugate,

I am writing this letter in support of the Burn Institute's recent proposal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Fire Prevention & Safety grant. I endorse the Institute's application to provide **The Red Guide to Recovery** to the entire state of California. This guide is a resource handbook for disaster survivors and provides essential resources to assist disaster survivors on their path to recovery, providing the tools they need to recover self-sufficiently. The handbook along with the Guide's supplemental website provides a complete road map of the steps survivors need to take to safely and seamlessly recover from natural or man-made disasters.

The California Emergency Management Agency has already agreed to partner with the Burn Institute on The Guide. Other endorsements have been received from the California Fire Chiefs' Association, the California State Fire Marshal, and the San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association.

The emotional, financial, and physical damage caused by natural disasters - both large and everyday - is often overwhelming. When a disaster strikes, many people do not know where to turn or are so overwhelmed they do not know where to start. **The Red Guide to Recovery** is the ultimate resource for these individuals, providing them with easy steps to put their lives back together. The Guide also provides individuals, in a simple, straightforward handbook, information they need to be self-sufficient, well-prepared, knowledgeable, and safer when disaster strikes.

The handbook is beneficial not only to the individuals who utilize it but also to their employers who may realize a more disaster resilient workforce, which will in turn help to reduce business interruption and financial loss. To address that, the Burn Institute's outreach will also target large organizations and businesses to provide The Guide to their employees.

The Burn Institute is a nonprofit agency dedicated to reducing the number of burn injuries and deaths in San Diego and Imperial counties. It has been nationally recognized as having some of the most effective fire and burn prevention education programs in the country. For 40 years now, the Burn Institute educates thousands of children and adults each year with lifesaving fire and burn prevention, funds vital burn research, and conducts burn survivor support programs to help burn survivors cope with the devastating psychological and physical effects of their injuries.

I cannot overstate the value of the services provided by the Burn Institute to the people in our region. **The Red Guide to Recovery** will save lives and property in times of disaster. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank De Clercq".

Frank De Clercq  
President  
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