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For Details, Contact:

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Red River Basin Disaster Information Network Launched with Interactive Tools

First Virtual Forum: February 25, 12:00 p.m. (CST)

The topic is the results of the "Information User Needs" workshops held July '98.

The virtual tools you asked for are ready to make interaction easy!

Warren, MN, February 19, 1999: The International Joint Commission (IJC) Red River Basin Task Force and the Red River Basin Board, with support from the Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership (EIIP) and the Global Disaster Information Infrastructure (GDIN) Transition Team, are pleased to announce the launch of the **Red River Basin Disaster Information Network** with a virtual forum for sharing information on the results of the Information User Needs workshops held last July. The purpose of the Network is to be a venue for further discussion of sharing disaster-related information between those with responsibilities for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Forum will occur on line and will be accessible to Network members from <http://www.emforum.org/redriver/>, the new Web site and focal point for the Network. The first interactive, 'live chat' Forum is scheduled for February 25, 12:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

If you attended any one of the summer workshops, and you'd like to know what the findings were, or have viewpoints you'd like to share, you need to become a member today, so you can participate in the Forum. Free membership benefits include: live chat conferencing, mailing list, file

**For Release 10 a.m. CST
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repository, member directory, events calendar, user support, and the chance to network with disaster specialists from the United States, Canada, and beyond.

Initial planning for the Network has been conducted by an ad hoc Steering Group, who are listed in the Member Directory. Nearly 600 letters of invitation to participate have been mailed to regional stakeholders, including a survey questionnaire pertaining to user capabilities.

- An email address is all that is required for membership, however, Internet access and browser software are recommended for full participation. Visit the Web site for an on line application.
- For user support, contact Amy Sebring, EIIP Technical Projects Coordinator, via email at asebring@emforum.org.