



# homefront

Wisconsin Homeland Security Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2008

## Thanking flood responders

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As tornadoes touched down and rain began to fall, the evening of June 7 marked the beginning of what would become the largest natural disaster to strike Wisconsin in the last twenty years. For days, downpours soaked communities throughout southern Wisconsin, from the Fox Valley to towns and villages near the Mississippi River still reeling from disastrous 2007 flooding.

But as the flood waters rose and remained above record levels, thousands of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, public works and emergency management officials dedicated themselves to preserving the lives, homes and possessions of their neighbors. As I toured flood-ravaged communities, I saw men and women young and old working days-long shifts to keep the flood waters at bay.

In the face of such a wide-spread disaster, our emergency responders reacted with precision and dedication. Local crews sandbagged businesses and homes, highway officials worked to reopen critical roads and interstates and relief stations were opened across the region.

On behalf of the thousands of citizens affected by the record-breaking flooding, I thank our emergency responders for your sacrifice and service to the state. You worked long hours in challenging conditions and helped thousands of families and communities overcome disaster.

While the rain may have stopped weeks ago, there is still work to be done. In some areas, flood waters remain. Many homes will need significant repairs or will have to be replaced.



**Governor Doyle and Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar discuss the flood response with Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator Johnny Smith, State Patrol Superintendent Dave Collins and Wisconsin Emergency Management Southeast Regional Director Paul France.**

My administration continues to work with federal officials to secure financial aid and assistance. To date, over \$60 million has been awarded to communities and individuals whose homes were damaged.

As we continue to recover from this disaster, we should all take a moment to thank our first-class emergency responders and local and state officials who have worked so hard to respond to and recover from the flooding. ■

*Jim Doyle*  
Governor Jim Doyle



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# From the Chair

Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar

As my first year serving as Wisconsin's Adjutant General and Governor Doyle's Homeland Security Advisor draws to a close, I'm mindful of what a year it has been. The year has gone by fast and was punctuated with many emergencies and disasters. I literally began my new positions serving in the State Emergency Operations Center and touring flood-damaged communities in Southern Wisconsin in August 2007. I was amazed at the damage caused by the floodwaters and impressed by the response of local first responders, National Guard, state agencies, FEMA, and volunteer agencies who came together to coordinate and help those in need.

The winter months were just as busy with a rare January tornado in Kenosha, blizzards and major snowstorms including the Interstate 39/90 backup in February and record snow fall amounts for many Wisconsin communities.

Clearly, the lessons learned from these past disasters and emergencies prepared us for what was to come this summer. The torrential rains in June shattered flood damage records for many Wisconsin communities, many of which (such as Gays Mills and Viola) were still recovering from last year's flooding. This emergency was very serious and set record flood levels for many Wisconsin rivers. Over 38,000 families across southern Wisconsin were impacted by the storms.

Under the excellent leadership of Johnnie Smith and Wisconsin Emergency Management, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Madison was activated on June 7 when there was a threat of severe weather and remained open until June 24. This early activation was part of a new procedure developed in the wake of the winter interstate back-up. Wisconsin state agencies worked closely with their counterparts at the local and federal level to coordinate assistance.



*Donald P. Dunbar*  
**Brig. Gen. Donald P. Dunbar**  
Homeland Security Advisor

Some highlights included:

■ State correctional inmates worked thousands of hours in assisting with filling sandbags and removing debris.

■ The Wisconsin National Guard provided aerial assessments, delivered sandbags and water, assisted with evacuations, conducted engineering assessments, and assisted local law enforcement in flood ridden communities.

■ The Wisconsin National Guard Joint Force Headquarters activated on June 7 and coordinated all guard operations, which included both Army and Air National Guard Forces.

■ Department of Natural Resources provided boats and wardens to assist with evacuations, monitored dams and provided pumps.

■ Department of Transportation and Wisconsin State Patrol provided additional security and assistance, monitored bridges and closed roads including several sections of interstates due to flood waters.

■ Department of Health & Family Services provided tetanus vaccinations and well testing kits.

■ Red Cross, Salvation Army and other volunteer groups

# Terrorism liaison officers opening lines of communication

FBI Director Robert Mueller has called local law enforcement officers “the first line of defense against crime and terrorism” and the Wisconsin Statewide Information Center (WSIC) and Milwaukee-area Southeast Terrorism Alert Center (STAC) are working to ensure that intelligence critical to public safety is quickly and efficiently shared between the front-lines and decision-makers and analysts at the state and federal levels.



Local law enforcement officers, fire, EMS, emergency management, health care and agriculture personnel are being trained as Terrorism Liaison Officers (TLO) to spot suspicious, terrorism-related activity and to help state and federal analysts root out potentially dangerous criminal operations. TLO's will also receive the latest intelligence on crime and terrorism-related trends so that officers at the local level can be vigilant against potential threats.

“Terrorism Liaison Officers act as our conduits for information to and from the state and federal levels and function as the eyes and ears of information fusion centers across the country,” said WSIC Special Agent in Charge Ed Wall. “This program is designed to ensure that information on illegal and potentially dangerous activity is shared quickly and effectively.”

Initial training for TLO's took place at Volk Field with

provided thousands of hours of assistance to flood victims which included providing cleanup kits, counseling services, emergency sheltering and meals.

I also have to thank our friends from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). FEMA officials were in the State EOC before the emergency was declared and remained with us during the response to the flooding. FEMA Administrator David Paulison and SBA acting administrator Jovita Carranza arrived in Wisconsin to view the damage with Governor Doyle on June 14 and announced a federal disaster declaration to begin the process of providing help to those in need.

So far Wisconsin disaster victims have received more \$60 million in grants and low interest loans.

While the cleanup and recovery process for the 2008 storms and flooding will take months and in some cases years - we must remain ready for the next storm or emergency. As we approach National Preparedness Month in September, I encourage all Wisconsin citizens to take a look at their own family or business emergency plans, put together a disaster supply kit and enroll in emergency training such as first aid, CPR or even Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) courses.

By working together, we can be ready for the next storm and keep our families safe. ■

representatives from all regions of the state. Continual training will occur twice per year on topics ranging from domestic and international terrorism, disaster response and other areas of interest.

A properly trained TLO is an asset to local communities, businesses and response agencies. If a truckload of chemicals was stolen from a business in Wisconsin, for example, a TLO would have the means to report this information to analysts at the WSIC and federal authorities. Should other state fusion centers report a similar string of thefts, a potentially dangerous trend could be spotted at the federal level and a catastrophe avoided.

Alternatively, if federal authorities warn states of burglaries involving inter-state trucking, TLO's would be notified and communities and businesses could more closely monitor trucking and shipping yards. In both cases, open lines of communication between TLO's and local, state and federal authorities are the foundation for preventing crime and terrorist activity.

If you or your agency would like to become involved in the TLO program, please contact the WSIC at [wsic@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:wsic@doj.state.wi.us) for more information. ■



## Homeland Security funding cuts continue



Homeland security funding in Wisconsin will be the lowest since the program debuted in 2003, the Department of Homeland Security announced in July. In FY 2008, Wisconsin will receive just \$15 million, down 14% from 2007. Funding for the Milwaukee Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), a separate award from state funding, remained stable at \$4.5 million. Efforts will now be made to trim the state's spending plan to meet the \$10.6 million allotment. For more information, please visit [www.oja.wi.gov](http://www.oja.wi.gov).

# Wisconsin June 2008 Flooding



The heavy rains in early June left widespread destruction across southern Wisconsin. Thousands of people were displaced as the water would rise and would remain in many communities for weeks. Local, state, federal agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and citizens worked hard to try and protect the raging flood waters and provide comfort and relief to those impacted. Here are some images of the 2008 Wisconsin Flooding.





# New initiative promotes emergency volunteerism

The state Citizen Corps Council and Wisconsin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) have launched an initiative to encourage and prepare Wisconsin citizens to volunteer during emergencies and disasters. The partnership will also work with local governments to better use and incorporate volunteers in disaster response and recovery plans.

“As the response to this summer’s floods showed, in Wisconsin, when people are in need, our citizens come to their aid,” said Governor Jim Doyle. “This initiative will help citizens safely and efficiently join our professional first responders in responding to emergencies, saving lives and protecting communities from disaster.”

The Wisconsin Emergency Volunteer – WeVolunteer – Initiative brings together government emergency response agencies, non-profit disaster service groups and private citizens to increase the number of citizen volunteers statewide and to better integrate them in emergency situations.

Through the new initiative, Wisconsin citizens can more easily find emergency volunteer opportunities. Over 35 different non-profit disaster service organizations with more than 200 local chapters are listed on [www.wevolunteer.wi.gov](http://www.wevolunteer.wi.gov).

Additionally, a statewide volunteer registry currently under development will allow citizens to enroll themselves in a volunteer database, giving emergency responders the ability to search for volunteers with particular skills – medical training or permits to use heavy machinery, for example – and call on them when the need arises.

The WeVolunteer Initiative is led by former Adjutant General and Citizen Corps Council Chairman Al Wilkening and Salvation Army Disaster Services Director and VOAD Chairperson Terri Leece.

## The initiative will focus on:

**1. Promoting emergency volunteerism:** Communities rally to help one another during disasters and emergencies, and



the WeVolunteer Initiative will give citizens a central place to find emergency volunteer opportunities.

**2. Integrating volunteers in emergency response & recovery plans:** The WeVolunteer Initiative will work with local governments and response agencies to better incorporate volunteers and disaster relief organizations in response and recovery plans. The WeVolunteer website has information on volunteer liability and training courses on how to manage spontaneous volunteers.

**3. Increased coordination of disaster relief organizations:** From faith-based organizations to local citizen corps councils and chapters of the Red Cross, there are dozens of disaster relief organizations working hard to serve Wisconsin citizens in need. WeVolunteer will increase coordination of these efforts and facilitate the sharing of best-practices. ■

# Statewide trunking system update

A Statewide System Management Group (SSMG) has been formed through nominations from state law enforcement and emergency management associations to oversee the development of a proposed statewide interoperable communications system. The SSMG will select an independent engineering firm to conduct a technical feasibility study for the project, and based upon its outcome, the SSMG will craft recommendations to either move ahead with the planned trunking system or to consider alternative proposals.

Meet your Statewide System Management Group:

Chairman: **Tom Ritchie**, Sheriff, Barron County

Vice-Chairman: **Randy Pickering**, Chief, Fitchburg Fire Department

Members:

**Joe Collins**, Chief, Two Rivers Police Department

**Steve Hansen**, Chief, Racine Fire Department

**Brian Satula**, Chief, Oak Creek Fire Department

**David A. Sonntag**, Chief, Phillips Police Department

**Tony Barthuly**, Chief, Fond du Lac Police Department

**John Sweeney**, Chief Deputy, Oneida County Sheriff's Department

**Karen Carlson**, Management Information Coordinator, FoxComm

**Jennifer Lord-Kourachi**, Emergency Manager, Clark County

**Dave Mahoney**, Sheriff, Dane County

**Kaylynn Gresham**, Deputy Director, Oneida Tribe

**Mark Schomisch**, Associate Warden, Department of Corrections

**Keith Tveit**, Wisconsin Emergency Management

**Doug Meier**, Department of Natural Resources

**Carl Guse**, State Frequency Coordinator, Department of Transportation ■

# Local, regional communications receive boost

Regional communications in Wisconsin received a boost when 15 counties were awarded funds to connect emergency operations and local and tribal dispatch centers using a Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP). The \$470,000 grant was recently awarded to the West Central Interoperability Alliance to accomplish a number of key objectives: to develop Emergency Operations Centers in WCIA counties and to connect dispatch centers of neighboring non-WCIA counties using its internet-based

network. Funds will also be used to connect the state's EOC in Madison and at least two dispatch centers from other regions of the state over the RoIP network.

Additional funding will be used to replace 2,000 aging local emergency responder radios. In four years, \$20 million has been awarded to local response agencies to replace or reprogram 30,000 radios. ■

## Preparedness Month Activities

September is National Preparedness Month. This annual event offers organizations and individuals on the local, state, and national levels an opportunity to partner together to deliver emergency preparedness messages to the public. The Wisconsin Homeland Security Council, the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Wisconsin Emergency Management, Wisconsin Citizen Corps, the Wisconsin National Guard, and the state Office of Justice Assistance are planning a number of exciting events throughout the state.

At the beginning of the month, there will be a big kick-off event at Miller Park with the Milwaukee Brewers for their September 1<sup>st</sup> baseball game against the New York Mets at 1:05 p.m. In addition to the public service announcements about emergency preparedness that will air during the game, local first responders will be joining us outside the stadium at 10 a.m. to promote the preparedness message to families before the game starts. By 11 a.m., Radio Disney will join the fun with family-friendly activities and a 1-hour live Family Entertainment event (starting around noon). Fans can show up early to the ballpark to listen to family-friendly music, answer emergency preparedness trivia questions, and get their pictures taken with emergency response vehicles.

The fun continues during the second week of September as local emergency response organizations across the state open their doors to welcome local community members.

The third week of September will highlight the state and local governments' efforts in improving Wisconsin's preparedness.

Then, as the last full week of September ends, the focus will shift from informing citizens about emergency preparedness to providing ways for citizens to get actively involved in the preparedness process. From signing up as a volunteer on the WeVolunteer registry to buying an emergency supply kit (Menards is partnering with the Wisconsin Homeland Security Council to have emergency supply kit items available for purchase in all 43 of its Wisconsin stores) to joining a local Citizen Corp team, this will be the time for Wisconsin residents to take the momentum of the first three weeks and implement enduring change that propels Wisconsin into the forefront of emergency preparedness.

For the month of September, the State of Wisconsin will be issuing the Four Base Challenge to Wisconsin residents. To complete the Four Base Challenge, households must get an emergency supply kit, develop an emergency plan, test their knowledge by answering questions about different emergency situations, and find a way to become more actively involved in emergency preparedness.

Information about different state and local Preparedness Month activities and the Four Base Challenge will be available on the Wisconsin Homeland Security website, [www.homelandsecurity.wi.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.wi.gov).

### Wisconsin's Weekly Themes for September Preparedness Month

Sept 1 – 6	Preparing Our Homes and Workplaces
Sept 8 – 14	Getting to Know Our Emergency Responders
Sept 15 – 21	Learning What Our State Is Doing to Keep Us Safe
Sept 22 – 30	Becoming Involved In Protecting Our Communities ■

**Emergency Preparedness Is Everyone's Responsibility**

Wisconsin Adjutant General Don Dunbar urges every family, school and business to:

- ✓ Make an emergency plan for people and pets
- ✓ Assemble an emergency supply kit
- ✓ Consider flood insurance

<http://EmergencyManagement.wi.gov>  
[www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)  
[www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov)

FEMA

# Fall Preparedness Conferences Announced

Details for the second annual Wisconsin Preparedness Forum and the annual Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA) Conference have recently been announced. The two-day Preparedness Forum begins October 27 followed by the WEMA conference on October 29. Both will be held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison.

The Citizen Corps Council-sponsored Wisconsin Preparedness Forum offers a unique opportunity for shared learning and networking between public, non-profit and private sector emergency preparedness and management officials.

Featured speakers include Adjutant General Don Dunbar, a panel discussion on recent flooding – including the perspective of the private sector, and a presentation on cyber-warfare from the Air Force Cyber Command. The two-day conference will close with an innovative business disruption exercise facilitated by world-class faculty from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The theme of this year's annual WEMA Conference is The Anatomy of a Disaster: Planning and Responding to a Long-Term Power Outage. The conference opens on Wednesday, October 29. Emergency managers attending the WEMA conference will receive a discount on registration for the Preparedness Forum.



**Brigadier General Don Dunbar, the Adjutant General of Wisconsin, addresses the Wisconsin Preparedness Forum in Stevens Point in 2007. Former Adjutant General and current Citizen Corps Chairman Al Wilkening, right, joined experts on counterterrorism, business continuity, emergency management and volunteerism at the inaugural event. The 2008 Forum will focus on the integration of public, private and volunteer resources following a disaster.**

For more information on the Wisconsin Preparedness Forum, please visit [www.citizencorps.wi.gov](http://www.citizencorps.wi.gov), or [www.wema.us](http://www.wema.us) for more information on the WEMA conference. ■

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