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Wisconsin Homeland Security newsletter

Spring/Summer 2010

New law creates statewide structural collapse teams

Last fall, Governor Jim Doyle signed a new law that will enable fire departments with specially trained personnel to respond to a structural collapse anywhere in the state they are needed.

The new law provides reimbursement of structural collapse team response costs from a responsible party, state employee status for worker's compensation benefits for team members, and a civil liability exemption for the team, its members and sponsoring fire departments responding to structural collapse emergencies outside their jurisdictions.

In 2003, the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) began acting on the Governor's directive to develop regional response capacity.

Over the past six years, OJA has invested \$12 million in federal Homeland Security monies to train 450 rescue workers in rescue techniques and to provide teams with the specialized equipment needed to respond. In the near future, Wisconsin will have highly trained teams that can reach anywhere in the state.

An additional \$4 million of Homeland Security money has been invested to create the Regional Emergency All-Climate Training Center (REACT), which provides first responders with advanced training and realistic experience in conducting specialized rescues involving collapsed structures, confined space, ropes and trenches.

This legislation creates a structural collapse response structure that will sustain Wisconsin's increased search and rescue capacity into the future.



Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) will begin the development of the regional structural collapse teams and will administer the new law and the teams. WEM is working with the fire community to develop the program.

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Homeland Security Council

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From the Chair

Spring is a great time in Wisconsin. After a long winter, it is always nice to see green again. However, springtime also means the start of storm season. That's why it's important to ask: "Are you ready, Wisconsin?" Our *Ready Wisconsin* program has a great website with information on how to get a kit, make a plan and be informed of risks and hazards. There is also valuable information for seniors, those with special needs, taking care of pets in emergencies and fun activities for kids. The website is <http://ready.wi.gov>.



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

Spring is also the time to get ready for tornado and severe storm season. Last year, we had 16 tornadoes in Wisconsin, causing thousands of dollars in damages. On average, Wisconsin has 21 tornadoes per year. To get prepared, I encourage everyone—businesses, schools and families—to take a few minutes to discuss what to do and where to go should severe weather or tornadoes strike.

Also, it is important to have a NOAA Weather Radio. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. The alarm feature can alert you and your family to seek shelter during severe weather.

Finally, I'm pleased to welcome home more than 3,200 "Red Arrow" Soldiers that returned to Wisconsin after an historic deployment. In 2009, the Wisconsin National Guard deployed as many as 40 percent of our soldiers and airmen for combat operations. It is good to have them home. Whether we have troops abroad or at home, the Wisconsin National Guard is prepared and ready to respond as needed.

Donald P. Dunbar

Wisconsin National Guard / Wisconsin Emergency Management regional partnership initiative

Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Wisconsin National Guard have developed a regional partnership initiative to improve information sharing, enhance planning and exercises, and continue to build relations with the local and regional emergency management offices.

Under the initiative, a team of three or four National Guard soldiers and airmen are paired with each of WEM's six regional offices. The teams will interact with county, local and tribal emergency managers at regional meetings and other events to get to know each other, share ideas and integrate preparedness activities.

Developing relationships prior to an emergency is fundamental to a successful emergency response. This initiative serves to do just that by improving coordination, collaboration and communications between the National Guard and the emergency management community.

Adjutant General appointed to national advisory group

Wisconsin's Adjutant General has been appointed to a national group to advise the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on all aspects of disaster preparedness and management.

Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar, Adjutant General of Wisconsin and Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor, was named by FEMA Administrator W. Craig Fugate to the National Advisory Council (NAC). The NAC is comprised of emergency management and law enforcement leaders from state, local and tribal government and the private sector. The NAC will advise the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of disaster preparedness and management in order to ensure close coordination with all partners across the country.

The 35-member council was formed in 2007 following Hurricane Katrina. NAC members serve three-year terms and are selected based on their expertise in emergency management and response, public health, infrastructure protection, cyber security, communications and other areas related to FEMA's mission.

New website launched for Wisconsin Interoperability Initiative

The State Interoperability Council and related working groups have launched a new website, <http://www.interop.wi.gov>, to increase awareness about an important statewide project to improve emergency radio communications for public safety and emergency response agencies in Wisconsin.

The site features news and information about current efforts to implement the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and the creation of Wisconsin Interoperability System for Communications (WISCOM), a shared statewide system that first responders in communities across the state will use to communicate during a major disaster or large-scale incident.

Visit <http://www.interop.wi.gov> to learn about why this initiative is vital to Wisconsin's public safety and emergency responder communities and to check the calendar of events for public meetings in your area.



First phase of WISCOM system launched

The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) Interoperability Council has launched the first phase of a much needed investment in Wisconsin public safety with the award of federal grant monies.

The Council—a group representing Wisconsin’s public safety community appointed by Governor Doyle—has developed a statewide system (called Wisconsin Interoperability System for Communications or WISCOM) so that emergency responders in communities across the state will be able to communicate in the event of a disaster or attack.

OJA awarded the Department of Transportation a \$16.3 million one-time federal Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant and federal Homeland Security grant monies to hire a contractor to build the initial phase of the WISCOM system. This system will provide 95% mobile coverage in the state.

Currently, a small number of shared “mutual aid” channels enable reliable communications between emergency response agencies, but the range of these channels is limited to a only few adjoining communities.

But in large-scale disasters, mutual aid channels can be quickly overwhelmed. At critical times—just when accurate communications is most needed—overcrowding



When the first phase is completed, the statewide Wisconsin Interoperability System for Communications (WISCOM) will provide 95% mobile coverage in the state.

on radios can provoke a system-wide crash or drop some emergency responders off the channel.

The project will be cost-effective both in the short and long term. Existing antenna towers and other infrastructure will be used to set up the framework for WISCOM. Once completed, long-term cost savings can be realized as local communities can tap into the statewide system to share infrastructure costs, avoid equipment duplication and extend coverage capacity to meet local needs.

Wisconsin officials participate in livestock emergency exercise

Officials from Wisconsin participated in a national exercise in Kansas and Oklahoma to test the logistics of implementing a cross-boundary stop livestock movement order.

The exercise scenario focused on a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak (FMD), a highly contagious disease affecting all cloven-hooved animals. While FMD poses no health threat to humans, the economic threat is huge.

Wisconsin participants returned from the exercise with important insights about applying a stop movement order in Wisconsin. Major Paul Wolfe, representing the Wisconsin National Guard, noted that “the Kansas Highway Patrol committed to approximately 70 checkpoints, each staffed by two troopers on 12-hour shifts...in an actual event under current Kansas policies, up to 40% of uniformed personnel could be consumed by an event like this. Even with the addition of National Guard troops, implementing a stop movement order could potentially exhaust state resources in a short period of time with no guarantee of achieving the desired outcome.”

Because of these logistical limitations, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is focusing on movement control to eradicate disease while maintaining continuity of operations for our food and agricultural industries. While livestock movement will not cease, control measures may include: establishing biosecurity zones; rerouting affected traffic; implementing pass and permit systems; coordinating communication activities with industry, state and local partners; and increasing premises biosecurity for industry.



Twenty-five communities awarded grants to conduct emergency preparedness exercises

The Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) has awarded \$315,000 in federal funding for 25 emergency management agencies across the state to conduct emergency response and all hazard exercises. The exercises will assist local agencies with evaluation and testing of their emergency preparedness plans and procedures. Funding for exercise grants is provided through federal Homeland Security funds.

The local emergency preparedness tests are a collaborative effort between OJA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Exercises may be used to assess communications and interactions between emergency responder groups—including Emergency Operations Center staff, police, fire, emergency medical personnel, specialized response teams (such as Hazmat)—and/or communications coordination among jurisdictions.

Conducting exercises enables key emergency personnel to check existing plans and ensure there is a system in place that will protect the public in the event of an emergency. It has been shown that the best



A variety of emergency preparedness exercises—ranging from tabletop, to functional, to full-scale exercises—will be performed across the state to meet the unique needs of local agencies and communities.

time to learn how to handle an emergency is before it happens, and first responders who have had training and practice perform the best during an emergency.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security recognizes diligence of Wisconsin State Troopers

Wisconsin State Patrol Officers received United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Recognition Awards during a ceremony at the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs Headquarters in Madison. Pictured at right are (left to right) Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar, Adjutant General of Wisconsin; State Patrol Inspectors Christian Dalton and Eric Beine; and State Patrol Superintendent David Collins. Inspectors Dalton and Beine were recognized for their outstanding efforts during an incident which occurred on September 28, 2009 involving a semi-tractor/trailer combination unit stopped for



equipment and other violations. During the stop, the inspectors observed suspicious activity on the part of the vehicle occupants including unusual behavior and inconsistent documents, credentialing and other information concerning the driver, passenger and the trucking company. The inspectors were exceptionally diligent and thorough in their efforts, and they passed along the information they obtained through proper channels so that federal authorities were able to link it with others in their databases. This proved to be important for DHS to “connect the dots” in a larger effort to detect potential multi-state terrorist and criminal activity that could have undermined homeland security.

Rush hour and the traffic lights are flashing.

What now?

By Oskar Anderson, Chief Information Officer, State of Wisconsin

Virtually every community in Wisconsin relies, to some extent, on technology supporting telecommunications, transportation, energy and water. These systems, called Industrial Control Systems or ICS, are so reliable in their day-to-day operation we often forget how critical even the simplest of systems is...until it fails. Last November, thousands of commuters in Montgomery County, Maryland found out how critical these systems were when traffic came to a standstill after a 3 a.m. failure of a traffic control system installed almost two decades earlier. I am increasingly concerned about potential ICS problems that may be largely invisible until disaster strikes.

Like most information technology professionals in government, my career has focused on the business application of technology such as payroll, vehicle registration and government operations. Very little time was devoted to ICS, which generally reside in the engineering community. While business applications are important, what is gaining widespread national attention is our dependence on largely hidden ICS. A failure in these systems often results in a dramatic and immediate impact on citizens and the fundamental ability of a community to return to normalcy after the failure.

To help state and local governments (as well as industry) assess ICS vulnerabilities, the Department of Homeland Security's National Cyber Security Division (NCSA) established the Control Systems Security Program (CSSP) to reduce the risk of cyber attacks and disruptive incidents to ICS that operate the nation's critical infrastructure. CSSP offers user-friendly tools and "over-the-shoulder" training for asset owners and operators to conduct cyber security evaluations of their ICS.

Over the last year, media reports have contained competing accounts concerning the vulnerabilities of our ICS. At one extreme, asset owners should be concerned that their systems are riddled with vulnerabilities which are being exploited by foreign powers, while others report that their systems are completely sound and secure. How to separate the fact from hype is where the Department of Homeland Security can help.

Industrial Control Systems are unique—a blend of engineering, computer science, technology and delivery mechanisms. Because of these unique characteristics, most individuals, even those in the industry, have varying views of the cyber security posture for any given system. The ability for asset owners to consistently measure the security and reliability of their ICS is critical. For example, the ICS that controls the sewer utility may be secure, while the ICS controlling the traffic lights may be unsecure due to vulnerabilities in out-of-date software. This is where CSSP can assist asset owners in understanding the potential risks and vulnerabilities of any particular installation and provide ICS cyber security recommendations for risk reduction.



CSSP has a number of cyber security products, tools and resources available online to assist asset owners in assessing the security posture of their critical assets. Examples of such resources include ICS self-assessment software; ICS recommended practices; cyber security procurement language including specifications and guidance; ICS vulnerability notes, training and web-based courses; links to industry standards and references; and other valuable resources and information.

To access these resources or learn more about ICS-related cyber vulnerabilities, training, standards and references, visit http://www.us-cert.gov/control_systems. While the materials on this site will not make your staff experts on control systems, they are valuable tools in beginning a community dialogue concerning potential risks.

The motto "if it's not broke, don't fix it!" resonates well in the Badger State. With respect to our critical ICS however, we should add, "and if it's working, develop a plan to keep it that way."

REACT: Wisconsin's premier training facility

By Mike King, Prairie du Chien Police Chief

Although most of us in law enforcement are aware of the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center located at Volk Field Air National Guard Base, few of us have been introduced to Wisconsin Emergency Management's premier training facility being operated at the same installation.

I recently attended training at the REACT (Regional Emergency All-Climate Training) Center

and was amazed at what I discovered. The REACT Center offers the emergency responder a series of full-scale state-of-the-art training areas and props spread over fifteen acres that can be configured and equipped to simulate just about any disaster a trainer can imagine. Some of the permanent areas include light and heavy rubble piles, pancaked structures complete with crushed vehicles, and a collapsed office simulator.

Attendees can easily practice everything from searching to shoring, lifting and moving to evidence collection, and hazmat/CBRNE operations. The facility even maintains a fleet of vehicles, tools and equipment that can be drawn and used by responders should they choose not to transport their own gear to the site.

Law enforcement responders also have the option to utilize miles of roads

and lots that can be used for vehicle stops, dignitary protection and counter ambush training as well as an indoor electronic small arms training system. Other options include the small arms range and the Military Operations Urban Terrain (MOUT) operated on base by the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center.

In addition to the hands-on training areas, REACT offers state-of-the-art classrooms, two lodging facilities and breakfast and lunch meals for responders attending many of the training courses.



REACT provides a wide variety of emergency response training opportunities. The campus and some participating responders (above).

So, what's the cost to attend an average course? It depends on the course and provider. For many of the classroom-based events, training and materials, breakfast and lunch meals and lodging are provided at no cost to the trainee or their sponsoring jurisdiction. Their only responsibilities are travel to and

from Volk Field and the cost of the evening meal. Other courses do carry reasonable tuition fees based on the level of instruction and equipment that is provided.

I urge you to take a look at the REACT website at <http://react.wi.gov> to learn more about this training facility.

Summer 2010 READY

Camps for youth announced

Dates for the popular disaster preparedness summer camp for youth have been announced.

READY (Responding to Emergencies And Disasters with Youth) Camps will be held in Madison and LaCrosse in June and July. The camps teach middle and high school students how to best respond to emergencies before first responders arrive. After attending READY Camp, students return home to develop school-wide preparedness programs and encourage friends and family to better prepare for emergencies.

For more information about the READY camp and to register, visit www.citizenpreparedness.org.



Soon after the Haiti disaster response, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings were held at MATC. Annie Robinson-Roya (pictured above, right) participated in a course focused on helping students learn search and rescue operations and EMS procedures. Annie sent the following note to the trainers after completing the class: "I am extremely proud of you for the work your department does for humanity. What an eye opener for me. That was an informative class. I think it is so helpful to have knowledge about what to do in dire situations...God grant you the energy and strength to continue helping people like me know the magnitude of your daily devotion to helping other human beings. I am glad that I took the class."

Town of Dunn opens storm shelter

The Town of Dunn held a ribbon cutting and open house for the recently completed storm shelter at the Bayview Mobile Home Park.

The Town lies south of Madison and north of Stoughton in Dane County. The Town applied for, and successfully received, a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant for the construction of the shelter. The grant totaled \$650,500 with FEMA providing 75% of the funds. The Town received \$30,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds through Dane County towards the local match. The park owner donated the land, which contributed towards the local match. In addition, town resources were used to clear the land, construct the driveway and install landscaping.

In 1992 a F3 tornado missed the Park by three miles. In 2005 another F3 tornado struck within a half-mile.

Park residents will operate the shelter, including opening during an emergency. In addition, there is an outside call box connected to the Dane County 911 dispatch where officials can explain how to open the key lock box when no one is available.

The PDM Program is administered by Wisconsin Emergency Management. For more information regarding the project or hazard mitigation programs, contact the WEM Mitigation Staff at 608-242-3211.

