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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

Colorado

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of
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MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION

Bill OWENS
GOVERNOR

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEMA PRESIDENT

Stephen Blois was elected President by the Colorado Emergency Management Association at the Governor's 2004 conference on Emergency Management

"Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe"

H.G. Wells - Outline of History (1920)

It's now my third month as CEMA President and I want to communicate some important issues with our membership. Two issues I felt strongly enough about to label them as my "platform" during my campaign for the position were the CEMA certification process and the continued professionalization of the organization. These two processes should actually be viewed as one. Acknowledging and participating in the emergency managers certification process will lead to a higher level of professional recognition, both within and outside of the organization.

In the process of conducting the CEMA survey last year, I discovered that emergency managers come from a variety of backgrounds—fire, EMS, search and rescue, law enforcement, as well as professional studies. Many paths to emergency management were offered as I communicated with almost 100 Colorado emergency managers.

Continuing your education as an emergency manager is the best way to help yourself and your community. Many low cost and cost free educational opportunities are available. FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers many on-line classes free of charge. The Professional Development Series (PDS) certificate is awarded when seven basic classes are successfully completed. This certificate is an educational milestone for emergency managers.

Information about the PDS can be reviewed at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/PDS/>. I have seen that this certification is already being used as a key hiring element by local governments searching for emergency manager applicants. It will be used even more in the future.

The foundation of the CEMA certification process is the PDS and job experience. The bronze level of certification (simplest to fulfill) requires the PDS and minimum time in a position in emergency management. For many emergency managers in the state, the bronze level of certification should be set as a continuing education target. The subsequent steps of silver and gold certification levels come after continued education, experience, and activities are achieved.

"...everyone's working at full speed—planning, exercising, writing grants, fulfilling grant requirements..."

The current reality of emergency management, especially with the new homeland security initiatives, is that everyone's working at full speed—planning, exercising, writing grants, fulfilling grant requirements, or just meeting day-to-day administrative needs. It is easy to put a low priority on continuing education when other duties are demanding attention. Don't fall into this occupational pattern, because continuing education is easier than you think, and more important than you realize. You just have to take the "first steps" of investigating the components. Try an online class. Investigate what it takes for the PDS certification and bronze level and then act. You'll see for yourself that one small step will lead to a path filled with satisfaction and increased professional status. You help yourself as well as your community.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CEMA PRESIDENT

Stephen Blois

Steve has been a firefighter and company officer with the Poudre Fire Authority in Fort Collins, Colorado since 1979. His position also includes Haz Mat/WMD Technician and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Technician.

He was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, living there through his high school years. Steve and his wife Terri will be celebrating their 32nd wedding anniversary this August. They have two daughters, Kristian Kimberly Cunningham and Kelly Elizabeth Blois, and three grandsons, Tyler (age 7), Tolland (age 4), and Taytem (age 2).

Steve graduated from Colorado State University with a B.S. in Forestry in 1975. He also has an Associates Degree from Aims Community College (Greeley) in Fire Science & Fire Protection and has received advanced training at Mercury, Nevada; Anniston, Alabama; the National Fire Academy; and the Emergency Management Institute in Emmittsburg, Maryland.

Steve's Goals as CEMA president: Promote the concept of continuing education for emergency managers and encourage CEMA certification. Develop partnerships with other public agencies as well as private organizations and encourage improved communications between agencies.



The last book Steve read was *Black Ice, The Invisible Threat of Cyber-Terrorism* by Dan Verton. His current interests include writing an animal annex for his OEM's Emergency Operations Plan and forming partnerships with local VOAD (Volunteers Active in Disasters) groups to develop a County Animal Rescue Team (CART).

Steve's personal hobbies are gardening, photography, travel, and SCUBA diving. He recently traveled to Holland and, besides sightseeing, he worked a couple of shifts with the City of Utrecht Firefighters and Paramedics and visited their communications and emergency management offices.

NEWS & TERRORISM: COMMUNICATING IN A CRISIS



DHS is collaborating with the National Academies to host a series of interactive workshops on the crucial role of the media in terrorism response. Titled "News and Terrorism: Communicating in a Crisis," workshops will be held in ten locations across the country.

Each workshop will feature an interactive table-top terrorist scenario involving government officials, members of the media, and technical experts, with the goal of focusing on the challenges faced by these groups during a crisis so that they are equipped to provide accurate and timely information to the public. In addition, the National Academies will provide information on weapons of mass destruction, including fact sheets on specific terrorist threats and a list of experts who are able to provide reliable information quickly in a time of crisis.

The first workshop took place in July 2004 in Chicago, Illinois. Additional workshops are scheduled in locations across the country, including Denver, through July 2005. A tentative schedule is available at <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3549>. For more information, contact Kristin Gossel at DHS; (202) 282-8010; e-mail: kristin.gossel@dhs.gov or Randy Atkins at the National Academies; (202) 334-1508; e-mail: atkins@nae.edu.

GRANT Application Handbook



Grant Application Handbook: A Guide to the Application Process for Competitive and Non-Competitive Grants is available free on-line from the Nuclear Energy Institute, 1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20006; (202) 739-8000; e-mail: webmasterp@nei.org; http://www.nei.org/documents/Emergency_Planning_Grant_Handbook.pdf. This guidebook provides an overview of the grant application process as it pertains to hazards and disasters. It provides resources and information for local jurisdictions seeking funding to improve or facilitate their emergency response capabilities. The book's appendices contain valuable information and links to other grant-related programs, agencies, and organizations.

INCIDENT COMMAND & THE FAMILY DOG



...or “We’re off to Wally World and I’m in Command”

by Jim Lancy, Arvada Emergency Management



We all — on a daily basis — face situations which require organization, management, planning skills, and the ability to work effectively with others. Our professional and private lives are filled with challenges that must be faced and conquered. These challenges are especially acute and daunting for emergency responders when the situation is a major fire in our neighborhood or a potential terrorist attack on our community. There are many effective management systems that work well, but one in particular is especially useful in dealing with emergency response situations: it is the Incident Command System.

The Incident Command System (ICS) was developed in the early 1970s as a way for California firefighting agencies to organize firefighting efforts. An analysis of fires in southern California revealed recurring problems that included: nonstandard terminology, lack of the capability to expand and contract as required by the situation, nonstandard communications capabilities, unmanageable span of control, and a lack of a comprehensive resource management strategy. Municipal, county, state, and federal authorities formed an organization known as Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies (FIRESCOPE) to review and implement an incident management system. These efforts lead to the development of the original ICS for effective wild land firefighting. This system of incident management ultimately evolved into an “all-hazards” system, appropriate for all types of emergencies and, as you will see, for everyday use as well.

ICS can be used for any incident from the single car auto accident or dumpster fire to the overall response to an event as large as the Oklahoma City Bombing or the attack on the World Trade Centers.

Basic Incident Command Organization Chart

ICS has been adopted by the National Fire Academy as its model incident management system. The International Association of Chiefs of Police and the American Public Works Association have also sanctioned and adopted the ICS and the federal government endorses the system. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) both mandate the use of ICS in the handling of hazardous materials accidents.

The beauty of the ICS is its simplicity. Although the system appears at first blush to be complex and daunting, ICS can be taught in a few hours. Implementation and practice are the keys to effectively using ICS in incident management.

ICS can be used for any incident from the single car auto accident or dumpster fire to the overall response to an event as large as the Oklahoma City Bombing or the attack on the World Trade Centers. ICS can also be used for the simpler, closer-to-home tasks such as organizing the efforts to take a family vacation, as the following story will demonstrate.

“We’re off to Wally World and I’m in Command”

Jim, the head of the household, after considering the family’s need for a vacation (**initial response**) declares, “Family, we need a vacation. We shall go to Wally World and I’ll make it happen.” (**initial incident command-Incident Commander designated**).

Sue, Jim’s very patient wife, hears Jim bellow, shakes her head and thinks, “Here we go again.” Sue decides that Jim, although he is eminently capable of handling a trip to the hardware store by himself, may need some help with vacation planning and implementation. She takes Jim aside and tells him that, although he wears the pants in the family, she is now in command of this vacation effort (**assumes command after a face-to-face with the IC**). Jim responds with the traditional “Yes, dear,” and awaits reassignment. Sue assigns Jim the task of driving (**Operations Section**).

Now, Sue knows a family vacation is not a simple undertaking. Such an effort takes a lot of work and coordination between all the family members. Jim and Sue are blessed with three wonderful children who can all be counted on to chip in. So Sue calls the twins, Becky and Jimmy, away from their Play Station combat in the den to help out.

Becky is very organized, so Sue asks, “Can you make sure we have luggage, games for the drive, and whatever else we’ll need for this trip?” (**Logistics Section**). Becky also spends a lot of time on the phone, so Sue adds, “Make sure we have cell phones and chargers and think about what kinds of munchies we’ll need for the trip.” (**Communications Unit and Food Unit as part of the Logistics Section**).

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INCIDENT COMMAND & THE FAMILY DOG

(Continued from page 3)

Sue tells Jimmy he can help dad get the family truckster ready. Jimmy is 'into' cars at this point in his young life and jumps at the opportunity, "Gee, that would be great Mom!" (**Transportation Branch reporting to Operations Section**).

Sue (**IC**) is beginning to see that this little project is growing into a monster and realizes she can't handle everything herself (**span of control**). The tasks and responsibilities she has assigned are short sighted — she needs to make sure nothing is overlooked. Molly, her oldest daughter, has always been a stickler for detail. Sue calls Molly from her bedroom where the studious little darling is doing homework. After briefing her on the vacation, Sue tells her, "I want you to plan this trip so everything works like clockwork and we don't run into anything unexpected. Can you handle it?" (**Planning Section**).

"Sure thing, Mom," Molly says. "Does this mean I can boss Jimmy and Becky around?"

"No, just focus on planning this trip and leave your brother and sister alone. They have their own assignments to look after and I'm responsible for this vacation (**IC**), not you. I think I can handle any problems with them and if you have any concerns, come to me (**span of control**). By the way, while you are planning this little excursion, how about keeping track of everything and making sure we have all the tickets we need. I need to be sure your father doesn't forget anything?" (**Documentation Unit as part of Planning Section**).

"Watching over Dad is my favorite thing to do," Molly relates. "I'll give a written report on everything he does."

"That won't be necessary," Sue retorts. "Just make sure you get the tickets to Wally World."

Molly leaves to get started on her tasks while Sue muses, "Now what haven't I thought of? Maps! That's what we need. Wally World is a long way off and Jim has a hard time finding his way out of the bathroom. I'll have Molly call the auto association and order maps. They can even suggest a route to help Molly in her planning." (**Technical Specialist reporting to Planning Section**).

Jim sheepishly comes into the room and asks his loving wife, "Honey, we can afford this trip?"

Sighing, Sue says, "This family vacation is a great idea. We are way overdue for a getaway and everyone is excited about the trip. Let me talk to the bank and see what they can do for us. I think we can afford a small loan and they have always worked with us. (**Finance Section**) We also have a credit card that's almost paid off, so we can use it." (**Debt Unit as part of the Finance Section**).

Smiling now, Jim says, "Gee honey, you're swell." (Note: in the real world, *don't ever* call the IC "honey.")

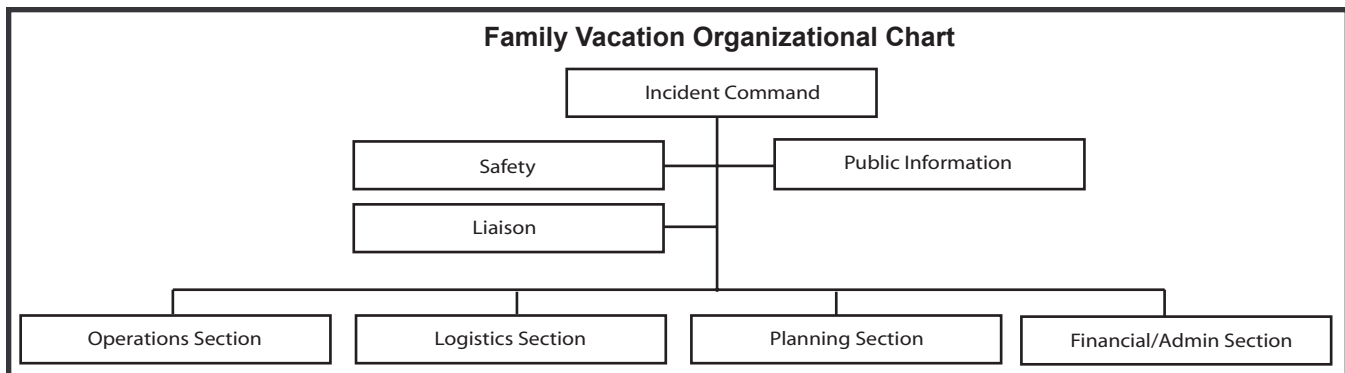
Jimmy comes in right about then and tells mom (**IC**), "Hey mom, the trip stuff's starting to pile up in the driveway, so I asked dad if I could tie Humphries (the family dog) next to the pile to watch over things." (**Staging Manager reporting to the Operations Section**).

Just then, the phone rings. Clair, the nervous neighbor, is calling. "Hello Clair, how are you?"

"I'm just fine. Looks like you and the family are taking a little trip. Where are you going?"

Sue rolls her eyes and thinks, "I could use a Public Information Officer right about now." (**PIO to report directly to the IC**).

(Continued on page 5)



INCIDENT COMMAND & THE FAMILY DOG



(Continued from page 4)

ICS is a proven system of incident management. It is used extensively by fire departments throughout the country and, to a lesser extent, by police and public works departments. ICS allows all practitioners to work together smoothly by providing: common terminology, modular organization, integrated communications, a unified command structure, consolidated action plans, manageable span of control, and comprehensive resource management system. By viewing ICS as a simple system with great potential to manage all types of situations, its usefulness become readily apparent.

So the next time you are planning a family vacation, stop and consider—you are already using ICS and may not even realize it. As you can see from this story and organizational chart, ICS isn't a difficult system to use. Its utility is boundless. It can even be used to manage a family vacation.

ON BEING A DINOSAUR



by Carl Hasselbrink, Chaffee County Emergency Manager

There are a number of lessons which recycle from one geologic epoch to the next. Some of the more recent happenings harken to the days when I was a young reptile watching the Army McCarthy hearings on the unblinking box in the family living room.

My family had books around including one I remember called "Sabotage." It was about all the evil things which people like Klaus Fuchs and a spy by the name of "Abel" were out to do to the U.S.

It talked about bombs in seaports, selling "A-Bomb" secrets and even about plots to bring down the government through marvelously complex subtle plots - like rotting our brains with inane television and movie scripts.

If you have watched The Apprentice, The Bachelor or Jerry Springer - you are reasonably certain that they managed to complete their plan.

I have even heard supposedly serious news commentators discussing the possibility of trademarking the phrase "you're fired."

One of the best things about having a walnut size brain is that all of those thoughts are tied to a time and place which has other vivid memories. One of the more lasting is my dad being chased by a blonde bear while my mom was feeding other bears Canadian bacon sandwiches out the window of the Kaiser Manhattan. Not sure why dad was being chased - unless he was wearing too much aftershave (a clear violation of Bear Etiquette - hoo boy!). I think that dad was out of the car taking pictures. Somewhere in the family archive there is a picture of bears on a holiday lounging around on the car waiting for the next sandwich from mom. Dad probably got a picture of the blonde bear's bad side.



Not sure what sort of lessons can be drawn from the past concerning the current terrorism situation except that the threat has been here for longer than most people know and sometimes very valid answers can be found in the past. Even if that answer is just hold on to your ability to smile.

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

—Confucius, Chinese philosopher

Red Rocks EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING DEGREE PROGRAM RECOGNIZED BY THE COLORADO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

by Ivo Roospold, Red Rocks Emergency Management Program Coordinator

Until a few years ago, few people knew what the job title “Emergency Management” meant. Unfortunately, it took the September 11th terrorist attack for the discipline to gain new recognition. The role of emergency management is to support and help coordinate the activities of disparate response agencies during a major incident or disaster. This extends all the way from pre-incident mitigation and preparedness (emergency planning) to disaster response and post-disaster recovery activities.

In Colorado, the state, county, and municipalities have staff assigned to manage emergencies and disasters. Sometimes these responsibilities are housed with the fire department, police department, sheriff’s office or as stand-alone agencies. Many companies have also undertaken emergency management activities, creating contingency planning or business continuity planning departments.

The Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA) was created in 1965. Membership consists of individuals and corporations - public and private - interested or involved in emergency management. The majority of Colorado’s emergency management practitioners are members of this organization. Part of the mission of this organization is to provide a forum for sharing emergency management information and resources along with encouraging continued training and education, elevating professionalism within the emergency management field.

In order to achieve a high level of professional growth among people in emergency management, CEMA has initiated a three tier certification process (bronze, silver and gold), with gold being the highest level. Education, training, and experience are the basis of the CEMA certificate. The certification process was adopted in 2000, with the first CEMA member officially certified in September 2001.

Any emergency management practitioner is eligible to apply for CEMA certification. An individual with two years of full-time or equivalent experience in emergency management and having an Associate Degree in emergency management fulfills the requirements for the Silver level certificate. CEMA has specifically recognized the Emergency

Management and Planning A.A.S. Degree offered by Red Rocks Community College as fulfilling their Silver level education and training requirements.

Individuals interested in obtaining the Red Rocks Emergency Management and Planning A.A.S. Degree can apply online by going to CCONLINE.org, clicking on “getting started” and then picking Red Rocks Community College (partner colleges) as their “home” college and applying for admission.

Now, access to Emergency Management and Planning courses is easier than ever. A person doesn’t need to travel to take the courses because these courses are delivered over the INTERNET. Although each course is offered during a fifteen-week spring or fall semester timeframe, a student doesn’t have set classroom schedules; they can participate at any hour and from anywhere, even from their jobs.



In order to assist Colorado emergency management practitioners with access to the Red Rocks Emergency Management and Planning Degree Program, the Colorado Division of Emergency Management (CDEM) and Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) are offering scholarships to three prospective Colorado students each year. Applicants who wish to be considered for this emergency management and planning scholarship, good for one course, must submit a petition letter to the Colorado Division of Emergency Management. They must receive approval from both RRCC and CDEM prior to receiving the scholarship.

RURAL/METRO Ambulance NAMED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



Rural/Metro Ambulance has been named Business of the Year by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. This award recognizes a business that has contributed to the community and quality of life through its business practices, employees and community involvement.

Chamber president, Kevin Hougen says, "Rural/Metro Ambulance has shown great support and involvement in the Aurora community. We hold them as an example of what community commitment is all about and value them as a true community partner."

"Rural/Metro's employees are actively involved in local organizations, both in membership and in sponsorship of events. Rural/Metro participates in organizations such as the Rotary Club of Aurora, the Northern Aurora Business Association, Leadership Aurora, Denver-Metro SAFEKIDS Coalition, Adams and Arapahoe



David Patterson, the Mayor of Aurora, Ed Tauer and Rural/Metro Western region president Robert Heffner.

County EMS Council, Spirit of Aurora Board, the Community College of Aurora Foundation and the Aurora Economic Development Council," according to Rural/Metro division general manager David Patterson.

Rural/Metro of Colorado entered the Denver area market in 1998 after winning the competitive bid to provide 911 transportation services to the City of

Aurora, Colorado, through a partnership with the Aurora Fire Department. Since that time, Rural/Metro has grown its position in the region to include ambulance contracts with The Medical Center of Aurora, Centennial Medical Plaza, Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital, Rose Medical Center, Swedish Medical Center, Buckley Air Force Base, University of Colorado Hospital, and AirLife. Rural/Metro also provides back-up service to several area 911 providers, including the City of Denver.

COLORADO SPRINGS & EL PASO COUNTY TEST JOINT RESPONSE

In March 2004, the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County hosted a joint tabletop exercise for the region. The exercise scenario was a train derailment that occurred in the northwest portion of the city. The scenario presented a host of challenging issues that generated positive discussions among the participants. The tabletop was supported by 117 members representing 56 agencies.



The exercise focused on a chlorine release that expanded through city, county, and military boundaries. The disaster incident presented challenges related to infrastructure, hospital systems, communications, and emergency response deployment. The tabletop was an opportunity to evaluate joint response of city and county resources to a large-scale incident.

The tabletop exercise was a preliminary warm-up for a full-scale exercise planned in May 2004. City and County OEM representatives were pleased with the turnout and the commitment provided by so many agencies. Their mission is to build cooperative working relationships of city, county and military officials.

These exercises support developing regional response effectiveness in managing disasters. The organizations look forward to continuing our efforts to engage responsible partners in disaster planning.

TEEN SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING (TEEN SERT)

by Haley Rich, Emergency Preparedness Planner,
El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Services Division

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) "Are You Ready" handbook provided the curriculum for the Pueblo West High School (PWHS) Teen School Emergency Response Team (SERT) training and was augmented with videos, pictures, presentations, and hands-on activities for this pilot course. The future course is scheduled to be taught from the traditional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), but edited to focus on self and family basic awareness and preparedness. Many speakers participated in the program lending credibility and experience. The students responded favorably to these speakers and the education they received from them.



Medical training was taught by American Medical Response (AMR). This training was somewhat more advanced than even the CERT training, as students received their CPR certification, along with advanced splinting and stabilization training. As a result, the final exercise was more realistic due to the students' level of training and the use of students from the school's Drama Club as victims.

Course Snapshot and Instructors (9 week course/1 hour per day)

- Overview: Classroom teachers
- Disaster/Emergency Preparedness: Classroom teachers, Emergency Management Speaker
- Fire Safety: Pueblo West Fire Department
- Disaster Medical Operations: AMR
- What to Expect When You Dial 911: Pueblo County Communications Officer
- Weather Spotter: National Weather Service
- Moulage: Emergency Management
- Disaster Psychology: American Red Cross, CERT
- Terrorism & Household Hazardous Materials: Sheriff's Office

- Exercise & Final Participants
- Hotwash & Survey

Daily Classroom Attendance

- 46 students
- Classroom teacher

Family Lessons

- Family disaster plan creation
- Supply kits

PWHS School Specific Activities

- Lockdown: aggressive procedures and exercises
- Safety scan: fire extinguisher status evaluation
- Hazard assessment: building safety and door evaluation during lockdown

Exercise & Final Participants

- 46 student responders, 45 successfully completed the exercise, 1 did not due to the intense and realistic play of the exercise
- 2 AMR, 3 teachers, 5 administrators, 13 Drama Club members, 4 CERT, 1 School Safety Officer, 1 School Newspaper Reporter
- For anyone planning a Teen SERT program, make sure you document (still photo, video, etc.) the exercise for future promotion, accountability, etc.

Hotwash & Survey

The Hotwash was very instrumental in indicating to the students/participants what worked well in the exercise and how they felt after the exercise. The students presented a volunteer appreciation banner on which they wrote personal messages to the volunteers. This was very special to the volunteers, as it gave an intrinsic reward for all of their interaction with Teen SERT and it provided proof that it bridged a gap, allowing personal relationships to develop between the volunteers and the students. These relationships could prove critical in a true incident.

For anyone planning a Teen SERT program, make sure you document (video, etc.) the hotwash for future promotion, accountability, etc. The students are very animated in their discussion and class participation and PWHS regrets not videoing their responses. It is critical for this discussion to get back to the state and federal level for awareness support and potential funding.

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TEEN SERT

(Continued from page 8)

The students were very vocal in their support of the program and very interested in additional training. Of the 47 in the two classes, 46 completed the survey and 16 expressed interest in the first response field.

Resource planning

Due to the late receipt of the grant money, AMR filled in with medical supplies and CERT for moulage. The "Are You Ready" handbooks are free from FEMA for programs that don't want the customized, basic awareness/preparedness CERT curriculum. It is very important to conduct a survey before the students open the book and after the exercise, as part of the hotwash. Include a level of measurability in the survey to determine the student's understanding of first response, as well as what they learned from taking the course. Included in this report are the summarized results of the survey, as well as a template of the survey for use by other communities.



Future planning

Many areas that are currently being reviewed for implementation into the Teen SERT program are Homeland Security Alert Status change information, Terrorism and Hazardous Materials (home, road carrier, and meth lab chemical awareness), and more hands-on activities. Also being considered are the different ways Teen SERT can be offered to the students. For the spring semester, it is incorporated into the Life Skills class; however, if the popularity of the program continues to grow, administration may want to consider offering Teen SERT as a stand-alone program.

Due to the internal focus of this semester's pilot program, little exploration was made into developing middle or elementary school programs.

However, as Teen SERT grows, more emphasis will be placed on external training to the younger students in a "big brother, big sister" type of mentor approach in an effort to make being prepared for any type of emergency "cool."

Summary

There is no question that the Teen SERT program is a success. The students' feedback has provided insight into how the program needs to be adaptive to the current needs of the community and to the school itself. The community's interest in CERT will be strongly enhanced in the collaboration between the students and their parents with the homework assignments.

Colorado's Civil Support Team Evaluated

In May, the 8th Civil Support Team (CST), Colorado National Guard, was subjected to a 5th Army-sponsored evaluation. The scope of the evaluation exercise was to test the Team's ability to plan for and manage their response to multiple incidents over multiple geographically separated locations.



These locations ranged from Douglas to Moffat County. Local response agencies within both counties were able to successfully interact with the CST members and also received some valuable training. Members of the State of Washington Civil Support Team participated directly in this evaluation along with local response agencies. A formal evaluation will be written by 5th Army.

Simulated...

TERRORISTS STRIKE IN PUEBLO COUNTY

by Dick Vnuk, CSEPP Training Officer
Colorado Department of Emergency Management

Utility companies have long been worried about terrorist attacks. Gas and oil pipelines, electrical power, water supply and communication systems are all vulnerable networks. This has made them increasingly attractive terrorist targets.



With that in mind, some people in Colorado decided to test themselves and see just how ready they are. On February 23rd, Xcel Energy and Pueblo County hosted a table top exercise for over 80 people. Exercise players represented over 35 agencies. Their disciplines included law enforcement, fire, medical, health, local industry, state and local emergency management, and federal entities.

Over a year in the development, this was the first exercise in Colorado to use a terrorist event scenario at a major power plant. The scenario, at Xcel's Comanche Power Plant just outside of Pueblo, was designed to test not only the security at the plant, but follow-on operations for Xcel Energy once the plant is damaged and power is lost to its customers. Without the electrical power - which is taken for granted - first responders, police, fire, medical, and emergency managers were required to think about doing their jobs with backup power sources.

The table top was not the end of the process. With the help of some funding from the Colorado Office of Preparedness, Security, and Fire Safety and assistance from the Colorado Division of Emergency Management, a field functional exercise took place at the plant itself on April 7th.

Participants from all the same agencies took part in a "boots on the ground" terrorist event testing their skills and emergency procedures. Local students provided EMS personnel challenges by volunteering to be made up with realistic injuries. Law enforcement personnel acting as terrorists gained entry to the plant's control room and had to be apprehended. At the same time fire and emergency services personnel were busy with explosions and fire in the plant.



Overall, the exercise provided excellent training for the Pueblo response community and the Comanche power plant.

DHS Uses NOAA All-Hazards Network

The DHS Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate and NOAA have signed an agreement allowing DHS to send critical all-hazards alerts and warnings directly through the NOAA All-Hazards Network. The network supplements existing alert and warning resources and serves as an additional delivery mechanism for disseminating emergency information nationally, regionally, or locally, protecting citizens from both natural and human-caused disasters.

The NOAA system, which is capable of reaching over 97 percent of the U.S. and its territories, will continue to broadcast weather forecasts and warnings, including news about severe storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanic activity, chemical spills, bio-hazardous releases, and, in some states, Amber Alerts. Radios and televisions equipped with Specific Area Message Encoding allow listeners to preselect the categories of alerts they wish to receive in the listening area(s) of their choice. Special populations, such as the disabled or the elderly, can connect NOAA all-hazards radios via plug-ins to attention-getting devices, such as strobe lights, pagers, bed shakers, personal computers, and text printers.

More information about NOAA's All-Hazards Network and NOAA Weather Radio is available at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/allhazard.htm>.

CHEMICAL SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

A LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) PROGRAM

by Timothy R. Gablehouse

Chair - Jefferson County LEPC/Citizen Corp Council

The role of schools in the life of children cannot be understated. As communities grow and change schools are forced to grow and change as well. We observed that budgets for schools have not kept pace with growth caused impacts on the schools. One outcome of the conflict between increased burden and reduced budget in the schools can be found in the operation of chemical education laboratories.

Looking at existing schools trying to cope with growth pressure, we discovered that teachers assigned to laboratories frequently are not trained in chemical safety and are frequently not even experts in the curriculum they are teaching. They do not know safe practices for handling various chemicals. They do not know about the risks present in storage of chemicals. Simply put, for existing schools the risk reduction techniques that would ideally be applied to a situation where more students are being crowded into existing space are not practiced. For new schools, inadequate design and the hazards associated with moving old chemicals into the new building are not consistently addressed.

The causes for these problems are legion. No one area can be blamed for the entire problem. On the other hand, community growth and the difficulty the schools have in managing the growth in the number of students is at the core. Many believe the risks are very real and an accident is likely to have catastrophic consequences involving fire, explosion, and serious injury.

While existing regulatory programs tried to address these issues, these programs were very inadequate absent subject matter experts within the school districts. In a process involving the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Division of Emergency Management (CDEM), the Colorado Emergency Planning Commission (CEPC), Region 8 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), teachers, school administrators, and dozens of other interested people and organizations, the Colorado Board of Health established a regulatory program designed to create a safe harbor while still allowing students to experience the education a chemistry laboratory provides. These regulatory changes require each school to adhere to a list of prohibited chemicals and a list of chemicals that can only be used for certain restricted purposes.

As an initial part of the rulemaking, four members of the LEPC spent a substantial amount of time on the studies conducted by the School Toxics Special Advisory Committee appointed by the Board of Health. The Committee had three main objectives while assessing the dangers of chemicals in schools. The first was to gather existing information related to the current regulatory scheme and the inspection programs conducted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The second objective was to determine recommendations for responding to specific risks posed by chemical use and storage in schools. The third objective was to develop recommendations and/or options for an on-going program that prevents a similar situation from occurring. The School Toxics Advisory Committee Report was submitted to the Colorado State Board of Health on April 4, 2001. This report and more is available at <http://www.gcjllc.com/LEPC.htm>.

The LEPC knew the effort did not stop with new regulations, so it decided we needed to develop some experience, especially with rural school districts, to fully understand the scope of the problem and its solutions. Working with funds from the Colorado Emergency Planning Commission, Supplemental Environmental Project monies from DOE, and promised SEP monies from Safety Kleen Corp, and with an EPA Buy Clean program grant, the LEPC set out to provide training, education and actual disposal services. Initially the LEPC utilized its relationship with Morgan County Schools in accomplishing a laboratory cleanup and establishing a chemical inventory control system at the Fort Morgan High School. We further evaluated these efforts at a number of school districts such as those in Durango, Mancos, and Dove Creek. In addition, the LEPC benefitted greatly from the technical experiences of the Denver Public Schools.

We determined the most difficult problem faced by the schools is not maintaining compliance once established, but comes from the need to create awareness and achieve compliance in the first place. We noted that in the larger and more sophisticated districts, curriculum control and purchasing control efforts had been implemented which selected less hazardous chemicals for each curriculum and carefully controlled purchasing to avoid waste.

(Continued on page 12)

CHEMICAL SAFETY IN Schools

(Continued from page 11)

So we knew compliance could be achieved. The burdens of managing old inventories cannot be understated and present the greatest challenge.

Our project implementation efforts were focused upon a step-wise program. First came identification of districts that were under served and assumed to be more vulnerable. Second, an effort to obtain a commitment from districts in geographically similar areas to participate in a program. (It was necessary to focus on compact geographic areas in order to conserve resources.) Third, we developed training materials to guide districts in conducting inventories of the chemicals on-site. This was greatly complicated by the simple fact that most chemistry teachers in rural districts do not have any training in chemistry or even sciences generally. Fourth, we conducted the training and assisted in inventories. Fifth, a consultant was retained to assist in the removal of banned and dangerous chemicals. Some materials were ultimately detonated by bomb squads because of their extreme hazard. A report and some video is available on our web page.

The LEPC views the problem of chemicals in schools as a two-pronged matter. The first prong is control of materials coming into the schools. The second is removal of the chemicals materials already present. It really isn't possible to address one without the other as the schools, parents, students, first responders, and other stakeholders see this as a unified problem. Our objective here is to give schools, teachers, parents and students tools to address both prongs. This is a continuing project with our next efforts focused on development of a video as an additional training aid and solicitation of funds that can be used for chemical disposal.

EMAC IN ACTION

by Dick Vnuk, CSEPP Training Officer

Florida newspaper articles are calling Hurricane Charley the most destructive storm to hit Florida since Andrew. Thousands of homes and businesses sustained major damage. Power was out and roads were impassable. Despite this, emergency managers in Colorado volunteered to fly to Florida and lend a hand.

For the second time Colorado deployed people to another state to assist with a disaster through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The first one was for 9/11.

Every state except California and Hawaii are currently members. At the time of this article, seven Coloradans were in Florida with two to three more on the way.

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact is a state-to-state agreement. The federal government is not involved. The member states have a Governor-signed agreement to assist each other. When an EMAC state is hit with a disaster of such a magnitude that its resources are over extended, they can request assistance through EMAC. A call is put out through the EMAC website to all the other states. Each state's EMAC coordinator then sends out calls for assistance throughout the state. Typically the people who have the needed skills are city, county, and state emergency managers, PIO's, health care professionals, and many others. For Hurricane Charley, Florida requested nurses, donation managers, community relations managers, logisticians, disaster recovery center managers, administration, and finance managers.

A deployment is typically for two weeks. Individuals need to be able to cover their own per diem and motel costs, but all costs will be reimbursed by the requesting state. For this deployment, the Colorado Division of Emergency Management/Department of Local Affairs purchased plane tickets and rental cars. These costs also will be reimbursed by Florida. The other cost covered is salary. In some cases overtime is also authorized, but depends on the deploying persons salary agreement with their agency. Some people are authorized overtime and some are not.

To eliminate confusion, Colorado asks for a signed statement, or signed out-of-state travel request, or even an email from a supervisor stating that they agree to let the employee deploy before a person is placed on the available resource list. Only then do we send the person's name to the requesting state. This eliminates any need for us to call the requesting state and tell them we have to pull one or two individuals from the list we sent them.

For over a year, a national team has been revising the EMAC guidelines and developing a two-day exportable EMAC training course. Soon Colorado and Utah EMAC personnel will be ready to present this training to all state and local emergency managers in order to facilitate deployments. But personnel are not the only thing that will be deployed through EMAC. Equipment is also on the list of deployable assets. For Charley, three other states sent National Guard helicopters. Other states sent other types of equipment. Eventually EMAC will use the lists of equipment currently being prepared for the national resource ordering system effort of which Colorado is a lead state.

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EMAC In Action

(Continued from page 12)

Twenty-six states sent people to Florida. Only three sent more people than Colorado. Only four states west of the Mississippi sent people. The key elements of EMAC are the people in our local and state agencies who are willing to endure adverse conditions in order to help another state, and their supervisors who are willing make them available to deploy. The bottom line for us in Colorado is that the people we send out, bring back experience they may not get anywhere else. Without a doubt, that experience will make each volunteer and each respective agency better. That experience will help us help the people we are responsible to serve.

Officials say ready for attack

by Jeremy Browning, Craig Daily Press, May 18

The bad guys were covered with red paint balls and the local SWAT team came home unscathed. The Special Response Team, made up of members from the Craig Police Department and the Moffat County Sheriff's Office, stormed the control room at the Craig Station Power Plant Saturday during a disaster preparedness drill.

The incident commander, Undersheriff Jerry Hoberg, said the team performed well during the simulation that involved numerous local, state and federal agencies. Participants playing the role of terrorists barged through the plant's front gate and detonated a chemical weapon on the west side of the plant, Hoberg said. They then tried to take control of the power plant using mayhem as a diversion.

Hazardous materials teams responded. Emergency medical workers took care of the mock victims. Even the U.S. Army was called in.

"We went through a very realistic process as far as getting (the Army) dispatched," said Clyde Anderson, Moffat County's emergency manager.

Anderson staged the exercise with help from the Colorado Department of Military Affairs and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, which operates the plant. He will put together an after-action report to summarize his findings after the drill. But his preliminary reaction is one of admiration for those who participated in the drill.



"I thought the level of cooperation between local resources in Moffat County, our neighboring counties and jurisdictions and the state and federal resources was absolutely unprecedented," Anderson said.

Anderson estimated there were 125 people involved in the drill. The exercise was staged to provide a realistic training experience for an emergency response to a terrorist action at the state's largest power generation facility, which is the Craig Station. Hoberg also was encouraged by the results of the exercise.

"Usually one of the first things to bog down is communications," Hoberg said. "But it went well."

The fire commander could speak to all his people. The emergency medical services commander had no trouble communicating with his forces.

"None of us was walking over each other on the radio," Hoberg said.

One logistical challenge that will need to be addressed is the evacuation of the plant, Hoberg said. Since a hostile takeover of the power plant would become a crime scene, there would be many potential problems coordinating the continued operation of the plant and the gathering of evidence at the scene.

"We would want to conduct a lengthy investigation," Anderson said. "On the other hand, the power plant is a private entity and needs to do business."

Anderson considered the implications of shutting down the plant during such an investigation and said it would be devastating. "We need to look at that issue," Ander-

*"The more you get,
the more you got to take care of."*

—Alice K. Dormann

Do Your Community's Businesses Have An Emergency Plan That Works?

by MAJ Nathan A. Barton, US Army Corps of Engineers Reserve

While work continues on county, city, and town emergency operations plans, these will not function as well as they could, and should, if your community's businesses do not themselves prepare for emergencies. Although little known, an OSHA standard (29 CFR 1910.38) provides that all employers must have a written emergency preparedness plan to protect employees from injury resulting from fires and other emergencies, with the primary emphasis on safe building evacuation. (This is separate from, and applies to many more businesses than Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and other better-known regulations.) Obviously, for larger facilities, this can be as fully complex as a small town's emergency plan. For large facilities in a small town, this can have a significant impact on the community's planning.

But many businesses don't understand or accept the importance of emergency planning. However, by taking a relatively small amount of time to assist your businesses in their planning, it will greatly simplify much of the community's emergency planning and response effort. Not only will they be aware of your critical place in the community (and how much they depend on your knowledge, skills, and preparation), but they will be better able to support emergency response in the community when disaster strikes.

Usually, the skills and experience the local emergency planning effort needs is located right in your own town, and at a price you can afford, rather than having to call in an outside consultant or call in favors from elsewhere. While there are magazines, organizations, and companies that specialize in providing commercial businesses with help in emergency planning and related health, safety, and environmental needs, many small firms can't afford these, and your aid to them will be greatly appreciated.

To do this, you might consider the following three key elements:

- Communicating the need for, and assisting in business emergency planning,
- Training businesses and their employees in the community and their own emergency plan,
- Increasing private business involvement in community planning, especially exercises.

While many businesses are not aware of this OSHA requirement, most businesses which are likely to

need emergency planning the most are aware of their obligations under various laws and regulations covering occupational safety and health, consumer safety, and environmental quality, and will quickly understand the value of planning, once it is pointed out to them. Frequently, they may have no idea of how to begin, but the County or City Emergency Planner can help them quickly get started by putting them in touch with, say, their supporting fire district. Encourage them, as they develop their plans, to share it with other businesses (through the chamber of commerce, economic development group, or industry associations), and with you and their local firefighters. Point out the value of the first responders knowing "what is where" and "who will be there," when they most need help. Show them how they can combine this planning and training requirement with other planning and training they already do with their employees. Encourage them to work with their insurers and ask about discounts for improved planning and reducing risk.

Over the years, I have spoken with hundreds of business owners and operators about the need for emergency planning, providing information, and supporting local fire departments and other first responders. Once aware of the need, 95 out of a hundred responded eagerly.

"As we all know, we will never have enough resources to do the planning we need to in local, or even state, government."

Make the business owners and managers aware of the overall community emergency operating plans and especially, the shortfalls in resources and information. Business owners frequently are very interested in helping the community and being seen as a good neighbor, and often can volunteer time, materials, and even equipment and supplies for emergencies. In addition, the information they provide to you is very important in addressing the details of emergency planning for the entire community.

As we all know, we will never have enough resources to do the planning we need to in local, or even state, government. But getting businesses as willing participants in all aspects of emergency planning and preparation will not only stretch those resources, but will reduce the risks faced by the community.

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Do Your Community's Businesses Have An Emergency Plan That Works?

(Continued from page 14)

Whenever possible, enlist the aid of the business owner or manager (or their key employees) in community emergency planning efforts, either directly or through a business or civic organization. They will quickly see how important the emergency planning effort is, and how critical first responders and other organizations, not just for them, but for their customers, business associates, and families. Involving businesses in exercises makes the exercises more realistic, improves visibility, and often leads to more volunteer work to continue improving the community's ability to respond to emergencies.

Although it is one more thing to add to a busy and already over-full schedule, reaching out to businesses and encouraging them to comply with existing standards can be a win-win action for local emergency managers, both immediately and long term.

MAJ Nathan A. Barton, US Army Corps of Engineers (Reserve), has been working with emergency planning for businesses and local communities for more than a decade in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado, specializing in hazardous waste and materials. He is a licensed professional engineer specializing in environmental engineering, with his own consulting practice, a HAZWOPER trainer, and was formerly Deputy Comptroller, US Army Engineer District, Omaha. You can contact him at Nathan.A.Barton@us.army.mil

"October. This is one of the peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks. Other dangerous months are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August and February."

—Mark Twain

EXERCISES IN COLORADO

by Kerry Kimble, CDEM

So far, 2004 has been a very busy year for the emergency management community. Besides all of the bad weather, emergencies, federal grants, and staff changes, the community has also been actively involved in the planning, coordination, execution, and evaluation of training exercises throughout the state.

For the past year and a half, a majority of these exercises have been focused on a terrorism/weapons of mass destruction (WMD) scenarios. Since January 2004, a total 22 CBNRE (Chemical-2, Biological-6, Radiological-1, Nuclear-0, and Explosive 13) exercises have been conducted. Most have occurred at the local level with a few at the state and federal levels. These have primarily dealt with response and recovery operations to an incident.

These exercises have built upon the lessons learned from previous exercises (both man made and natural disaster) as well as real-world events that the jurisdictions have encountered. Besides the typical players (law enforcement, fire, hazmat, emergency management, emergency medical, etc) we have also brought in volunteer organizations, the private sector, and out of state agencies to participate.

Examples of some of these exercises are:

1. The Colorado Chapter of the American Water Works Association conducted an exercise to examine, mitigate, and develop follow-on procedures associated with the risk assessment data was collected in 2003. This risk assessment was conducted under the auspices of a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for large and small water districts. Approximately 80 people participated.
2. The Local Emergency Planning Committee in Ft. Collins hosted a pandemic biological agent/WMD tabletop exercise. Approximately 60 individuals from ten of the response disciplines within the city and county, along with the school district, university, VOAD, 211 (First Call), and the media were present. The objectives of the exercise dealt with (1) resource management, (2) continuity of government, and (3) public information. The scenario involved the spread of the influenza virus resulting in a 20%-50% absentee rate over a several week time period.

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EXERCISES IN COLORADO

(Continued from page 15)

3. In a joint Colorado Springs/El Paso County endeavor, a tabletop exercise was conducted. The scenario kicked off with a train derailment along I-25 between Colorado Springs and the Air Force Academy. Both chemical and radiological storage containers were spilled, which created a cloud plume that expanded across city, county, and Academy property. As a result approximately 3,300 people were seeking medical assistance, with an additional 33,000 seeking mental health assistance. I-25 and the rail lines were temporarily closed which started to impact commerce in other states.
4. The newly formed West Slope HazMat consortium conducted a tabletop exercise in Grand Junction. The two primary purposes for this exercise were: (1) to foster building relationships and (2) demonstrate capability levels between the teams. The objectives of the exercise were to: (1) develop an Incident Action Plan and (2) cross level detection and identification capabilities.
5. The City and County of Pueblo followed-up their tabletop exercise with a full-scale exercise involving a commercial entity. Personnel from 34 agencies participated including city and county fire, HazMat, law enforcement, Pueblo SWAT, hostage negotiators, communications center, public works, emergency management, health care, public health, emergency medical, and commissioners along with Xcel Energy, Aquila, Rocky Mountain Steel Mills, Amateur Radio Emergency Services, State Office Emergency Management, Colorado Bureau of Investigation, Colorado Mental Health Institute, Custer County OEM, Colorado State University Extension Service, OPSFS, FBI, ATF, and EPA. The scenario involved an explosive device at a facility resulting in injuries and deaths.

6. The Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC) hosted a discussion-based seminar exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to test the Colorado Energy Emergency Response Plan (as past of ESF-12) and the City of Greenwood Village Energy Emergency Response Plan sections associated with electricity and natural gas disruption and the resulting requirements for emergency fuel delivery.
7. The field exercise of the Adams-Broomfield-Jefferson Counties air disaster exercise picked up where their tabletop exercise ended, two hours after the explosion of the aircraft over the tri-county area.



Multiple incident command sites had been established (and in some jurisdictions area commands). At the local level, response activities still revolve around reacting to the after effects of the aircraft's disintegration – putting out fires, rescuing trapped personnel, etc. At the State level, assets were starting to be mobilized to respond to the local needs. Eight county/municipality EOCs were activated. Incident Action Plans started to be developed. Red Cross mobilized multiple shelters.

8. As part of the 7th annual Elbert County Public Health and Emergency Medical Service Council conference, a table top exercise was conducted dealing with a mass vaccination drill involving emergency medical, fire (paid and volunteer), law enforcement, hazardous material, emergency management, health care, coroner, and public health disciplines.
9. Moffat County conducted a seminar exercise involving a regional facility. The primary objective of this exercise was to conduct a first drill for the local (regional) HazMat team that was created last year. The objectives of the exercise were: (1) to test the recently approved Terrorism and Mass Casualty Annexes to the County's Emergency Operations Plan; and (2) to test the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT).

(Continued on page 17)



EXERCISES IN COLORADO

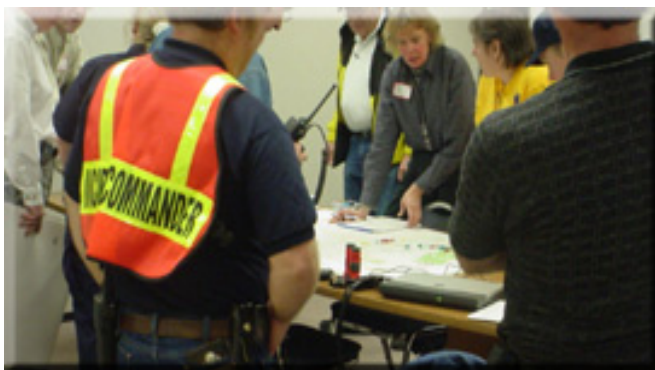
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10. The Colorado Department of Agriculture conducted a tabletop exercise utilizing a scenario that dealt with the identification of a Foreign Animal Disease, then continued with the coordinated response and passage of information relating to the disease not only within the region but also across the state. The major objective of the exercise was to work through the Animal Health Emergency Appendix to the Agricultural Emergencies Annex to the State Emergency Operations Plan.



11. Gilpin County conducted an emergency preparedness full-scale exercise. There were three primary objectives for this exercise: (1) Defense of the urban area. County fire agencies were to form a task force that should attempt to defend a sub-division from an impinging wildfire. Engines practiced structure triage and defense and coordination with tenders. (2) Animal evacuation - The Gilpin CART was to simulate the evacuation of several horses and several dogs and set up an intake shelter at the Gilpin County fairgrounds. (3) Evacuation of residents - Gilpin County Emergency Phone was tested.

12. The FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team (a federal asset CO-TF1) deployed to conduct a disaster drill. The Team entered into a collapsed concrete structure looking for survivors. Another element of the team secured a hanging piece of concrete, which could have injured the responders. Seven local fire rescue and law enforcement agencies also participated.



Even though these exercises have had a terrorism/WMD-related component, we must not forget that the local jurisdictions also conducted a series of exercises that had natural disaster scenario. Tornadoes, blizzards, and hazardous material spills occur within the state on a regular basis. During the same six months, a total of nine major natural hazard exercises were also concluded.

Regardless of the scenario, the number of participants, or the size, the primary goal of all of these exercises is to test our procedures, contingency plans, and to train our first responders just in case their skills are needed regardless of the cause of the incident.

DISASTER TRIVIA

We had repeat winners for the Disaster Trivia contest in the last newsletter. The winners were **Don Schoenbein**, Safety Service - City Of Englewood and **Erik Nilsson**, Larimer County Emergency Manager. Each received useful prizes for their correct answers.



The 'hint' for the last contest was:

This natural disaster came with little prior warning. Thousands were impacted and the disaster took the lives of over 400 people. Damage was estimated at \$25 million. Two hundred ships were grounded, and at least one hundred seamen died. Communication and transportation was at a standstill for days in a number of states and cities.

This disaster was but one in a series of events that helped city planners, workers, politicians, and businessmen realize a path to improving conditions in anticipation of another such event.

The answer was the Blizzard of 1888 also known as the "Great White Hurricane." The most famous snowstorm in American history acquired an almost legendary status. Although there have been many heavier snowfalls and significantly lower temperatures, this blizzard's combination of inclement conditions has been unmatched in 116 years.

The "Great White Hurricane," paralyzed the East Coast from the Chesapeake Bay to Maine. It began as a weak area of low pressure that formed in the northern Gulf of Mexico on March 10 before tracking up through Georgia to the North Carolina coast by March 11th. Moving slowly northward on March 11th and 12th, the storm remained relatively stationary off the southern New England coast on March 12th and 13th.

DISASTER TRIVIA

The days leading up to the blizzard were unseasonably mild, with temperatures in the 40s and 50s along the East Coast. Torrential rains began falling, and on March 12th the rain changed to heavy snow, temperatures plunged, and a ferocious wind began. The storm continued unabated for the next 36 hours.



Telegraph and telephone wires snapped, isolating New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington for days. Two hundred ships were grounded, and at least one hundred seamen died. Fire stations were immobilized, and property loss from fire alone was estimated at \$25 million. Milkmen gave up their routes, grocers and butchers for the time being abandoned all attempt to supply their customers, and congratulated themselves that for the most part the telephone lines were down so they could receive no orders which would be impossible to fill. The coal wagons were laid up and livestock were buried in the snow.

New York City was completely unprepared. On Monday, ten inches of snow lay on the ground. More was falling, and fierce winds were packing it into high drifts. Broken signs, trash-can lids, and pieces of glass from shattered windows blew through the streets. Transportation collapsed. Trains on all four of the city's lines stalled, leaving 15,000 passengers helpless in unheated cars. Trolleys were blown off their tracks. Trucks, wagons, and milk carts were littered on the streets. People who ventured outside were knocked down by the wind and drowned in snow. Dozens were buried alive.

At the weather station where researchers were trying to sort out the storm, the anemometer, with its propeller full of ice, stopped taking measurements of wind velocity.



Weather station personnel climbed up the mountain pole 175 feet above the ground, and repaired the instrument - which recorded wind speeds from 75 to 100 miles per hour. The full measure of the storm was never recorded, but it was one of the strongest and most costly in history.

The Great White Hurricane had brought twenty inches of snow, buried houses in 52-foot-high drifts, and taken 400 lives. The Southern New England Telephone company learned much from this disaster, as it would from disasters to come. They placed a heavier emphasis on sturdy construction and developed the means to put cables underground. And they realized that they had to prepare in advance for the possibility of disasters. The resulting transportation crisis led to the creation of the New York subway, approved in 1894 and begun in 1900.



Overhead Telephone and Telegraph Wires in Broadway, 1890. From the Book of Old New York.

ANOTHER TRIVIA QUIZ

This disaster took the lives of between 450 and 500 people with the body of one victim found 64 years later. At least 1,200 homes were destroyed. The disaster took place in the United States.



If you'd like to take a shot at guessing what this disaster was, you must name all of the following correctly:

- The **type** of disaster.
- The **location** of the disaster.
- The **year** the disaster occurred.

Email your answer to Polly White (polly.white@state.co.us) no later than **November 21, 2003**. Again, three prizes will be awarded for the correct answers. In the event that more than three correct answers are received, a random drawing will be held. Winners will be notified via email.

Would you like to submit a disaster for consideration for Disaster Trivia? If so, please use the email above.

Colorado EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Colorado Emergency Planning Commission (CEPC) hosted its Annual Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Conference on the 19th and 20th of August 2004, at the Doubletree Hotel in Westminster, Colorado. The topics ranged from LEPC activities throughout the state to special presentations on important subjects such as Homeland Security issues; updates on passed and pending legislation at both the state and federal level; and several transportation, as well as fixed facility, issues also. The conference was a success with representation from the entire state.

Next year's conference will be outside of the Denver Metro Area as is the CEPC policy. If you have suggestions on where to hold the conference next year, please feel free to forward them through your LEPC to the CEPC.

As in past LEPC conferences, the CEPC presented the Leonard Boulas Hazmat Award. This year's winner was **Mr. Mark Quick** a former state employee who is now employed with the Durango Fire and Rescue Authority. Congratulations Mark!!

The CEPC also has a policy of outreach meetings. The CEPC meets the first (1st) Thursday of every month at Camp George West, Building 120, 15075 Golden Road, Golden, Colorado. However, they try to meet in locations other than Golden one meeting per quarter. The next outreach meeting will be in Delta, Colorado on October 21, 2004 at a location to be determined. If your LEPC would like to host an outreach meeting in 2005, please contact any CEPC member with an invitation.

Mr. Mark Kunugi, of Coors Brewing Company in the Environmental, Health and Safety Office, was recently appointed by the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions to fill a vacancy on the CEPC. Welcome aboard Mark!!

The Jefferson County LEPC, on behalf of the CEPC, is still conducting LEPC assistance visits. These visits are without any cost to the LEPC and can assist an LEPC in any of its organizational, planning, and training areas that need help. Members of the CEPC and the Jefferson County LEPC are also available to address meetings with elected officials, citizen groups, or with LEPCs in general. For help or assistance in this area, please contact Richard Bardsley at (303) 273-1619, Tim Gablehouse or Melanie Granberg at (303) 572-0050.

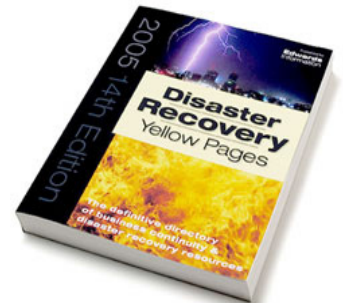
The application period for this year's Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness planning grants from the US Department of Transportation was initiated in June. Application packets have been distributed to all LEPCs with a submission deadline of September 17, 2004. For further information, questions or an application, please contact Richard Bardsley, CEPC Co-Chair at Colorado Division of Emergency Management (CDEM) at (303) 273-1619.

If you have not already done so, please submit an updated copy of your LEPC roster in order for the CEPC to approve it. This is very important due to the liability protection issues for the LEPC. If your LEPC has not had any personnel changes - submission of a new roster is not required.

The Colorado Emergency Planning Commission (CEPC) exists to implement the SARA/Title III EPCRA legislation in Colorado and to support the Local Emergency Planning Committees. LEPCs and individuals should feel free to attend CEPC meetings and contact the CEPC for questions or for assistance. The CEPC co-chairs are Susan Jones-Hard, CDPH&E at (303) 692-3019 and Richard Bardsley, CDEM, (303) 273-1619.

DISASTER RECOVERY YELLOW PAGES

The Disaster Recovery Yellow Pages is a resource for disaster recovery and business continuity information. Listings are arranged both by category and alphabetically, and it includes information on starting disaster recovery plans.



The publisher of the Yellow Pages, Edwards Information, is offering free listings for organizations active in a variety of disaster recovery-related activities. For more information visit <http://www.disasterrecoveryyp.com/listing.html> or contact Disaster Recovery Yellow Pages, 1318 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA 02446; (617) 264-2300; e-mail: info@disasterrecoveryyp.com.

"The fact that a believer is happier than a skeptic is no more to the point than the fact than a drunken man is happier than a sober one."
 -- George Bernard Shaw, writer,
 Nobel laureate (1856-1950)

CDEM Web Address:
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/>

Carol Channing, as part of a nightclub act, often encouraged audience members to ask her personal questions: "Do you remember the most embarrassing moment you ever had?" someone asked one night. "Yes, I do!" Channing replied. "Next question?"

"It is not necessary to imagine the world ending in fire or ice. There are two other possibilities: one is paper work, and the other is nostalgia."

—Frank Zappa

Heads-up...

The Annual Colorado Division of Emergency Management & Colorado Emergency Management Association conference will take place again in February of 2005. The date and location will be announced as soon as we can firm it up.

CDEM will run a Winter Weather Awareness Week (2004) sometime in October around the anniversary of the Blizzard of '97.

SUGGESTED INTERNET RESOURCES ON DROUGHT

<http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/Publications/droughtplan.402.pdf>

Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan

<http://www.drought.unl.edu/>
National Drought Mitigation Center

http://cwcb.state.co.us/owc/Drought_Planning/2003_Drought_Impact_and_Mitigation_Report_Final.pdf
2003 Drought Impact and Mitigation Report

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

http://www.colorado.edu/Law/centers/nrlc/publications/water_and_growth_summary_report.pdf
Water and Growth in Colorado

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