

PREPARED

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

Colorado

Office
of
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION

NATURAL
HAZARDS
MITIGATION
COUNCIL

Bill OWENS
GOVERNOR

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Colorado OEM 2000 in a Nut Shell

Y2K. The Department of Local Affairs, Office of Emergency Management began the year 2000 with a full activation of the state emergency operations center (SEOC) as a contingency should the state experience any Y2K outages. Emergency response coordinators from the various state departments as well as representatives from US West and Public Service Company were present. Governor Owens dropped by before midnight to offer support to all those giving up their New Year holiday to ensure a smooth transition.

A media briefing room was established above the SEOC with scheduled hourly briefings to keep the public informed. All four Denver television and five print media were there – some playing basketball to keep amused. Y2K came and went without serious disruption of services in any Colorado community. All state systems were operational when state offices opened for business on January 3, due in large part to the preparatory actions taken by the Owens' administration.

Domestic Preparedness

Exercise. Colorado was one of three states which participated in the Congressionally directed, Department of Justice sponsored, terrorism (we prefer to call it domestic preparedness) exercise in April. This Top Officials (TOPOFF) exercise was designed to drive hard decisions for scarce federal resources. The scenario involved a chemical event in Portsmouth, NH, a radiological event in Washington, DC, and a biological release of pneumonic plague in the Denver Metro Area with a concomitant epidemic.



Some five hundred local, state and federal first responders, medical practitioners, elected officials and cabinet officers participated in this high stress exercise which required activation of emergency operations centers (EOCs) in Denver, Aurora and Arapahoe County, as well as the state EOC in Golden and a Joint Operations Center at the Federal Center.

This exercise provided a good opportunity for training and planning, and allowed us to coordinate with agencies, particularly in the health field, with which we do not routinely work. Lessons learned provide the basis for developing a plan which will enable Colorado to be better prepared for health threats or use of a weapon of mass destruction (WMD).

Flood Recovery. Restoration of public infrastructure covered by the presidential disaster declarations for the 1997 and 1999 floods continues. During 2000, we processed payments totaling \$1.74 million to local communities and eligible state agencies for infrastructure repairs under the Public Assistance Program. \$1.18 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds was also distributed for approved mitigation projects.

Removal of Properties From Hazard Zones. Providing financial assistance to local communities to acquire and demolish homes in the flood plain or landslide zone and converting the property to open space were a priority following the 1999 flood.

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COEM 2000 in A Nut Shell

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COEM teamed with the Division of Housing, which put up \$1 million in CDBG funds, to begin acquisition of flooded homes in North La Junta. Working with Otero County (Tri-County Housing), the cities of Manitou and Colorado Springs, and FEMA, we applied for and received \$ 6million in HUD Unmet Needs funding to complete the acquisition/demolition of homes in the hazard zones. The two largest Unmet Needs awards were Tri-County Housing, for removal of homes from the flood plain, and Colorado Springs, for removal of homes from landslide zones. Fifty-three homes were removed from the flood plain in North La Junta, and the lots turned into open space. The Colorado Springs acquisition/demolition currently stands at 17 homes, and the same is planned for five to seven more.

Wildland Urban Interface Fires. There were some 2,100 fires in our state this year which burned over 126,745 acres. While COEM was not actively involved in coordinating resources in all these fires, we monitored them, participated as a member of the Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Group, and provided wildfire situation reports.

Following the Bobcat Gulch and Hi Meadows fires, which made national news, we established a 24-hour hotline to gather information to determine if we met the criteria for a Small Business Administration (SBA) declaration which would have made homeowners eligible for low interest loans on their principle residence. Unfortunately, we had an insufficient number who were uninsured or under insured by 40% or more to qualify.

While both fires received a FEMA fire suppression declaration, federal financial assistance was not immediately forthcoming. Governor Owens issued an Executive Order which provided state financial assistance from the state disaster emergency fund for burn area environmental rehabilitation, contracting of two single engine air tankers, and other fire suppression costs associated with Bobcat and Hi Meadows fires. COEM collaborated with Colorado Geological Survey on debris flow studies in the areas of both fires.

The Bircher Ranch and Pony fires at Mesa Verde also made national news and adversely impacted small businesses in Montezuma County that are so dependent on tourism dollars during the summer to sustain them the remainder of the year. Working with the Montezuma Economic Development Council, we were able to obtain the necessary documentation to support an SBA declaration for small businesses in Montezuma and contiguous counties.

These businesses are eligible for low interest (4%) loans to help them during times of lost revenues.



Project Impact

Communities. Five Colorado jurisdictions have been recipients of federal "Project Impact -

Creating Disaster Resistant Communities" grants. This program provides financial incentives for local governments to partner with business and industry to create safer communities in which to live and work.

This year the five established communities have been very productive. Fort Collins, the first Colorado participant in this new initiative, successfully closed out its grant this year after creating a website for real time stream gage information, and distributing flood mitigation and warning education material to citizens living in the flood plain. Delta has installed an all hazards alert system and purchased NOAA weather radios. The San Luis Valley has installed 3M Safety Film on windows in three school districts as mitigation against high winds, earthquakes and vandalism, and is working on an emergency telephone notification project. Clear Creek County has sealed off contaminated mines in Virginia Canyon, and established an E-911 surcharge. And Morgan County constructed a tornado safe room in a day care center, installed an early alert and warning system, and built a model hazard mitigation house which has been displayed at public events as an education tool.



Kevin Kuretich with Morgan County's model hazard mitigation house.

Local Emergency Management Preparedness Grants.

Our focus at the COEM is to help local communities prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against disaster emergencies. To that end during 2000, we have provided federal grants in the amount of \$1.38 million in addition to the funding previously discussed.

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COEM 2000 IN A NUT SHELL

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T *Training Courses, Symposia and Education.* COEM conducts formal training courses for emergency managers and local elected/appointed officials, and sponsors training for first responders and incident managers. More than 1,800 participated in COEM sponsored training during 2000.

COEM also plans and conducts two major conferences each year: the Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Conference. The Governor's conference provides a forum for emergency managers and local officials to share lessons learned and address regional issues. One hundred eighty-one people attended the 2000 conference. The LEPC Conference is focused on hazardous materials planning and training in the local response. One hundred ten local, state and federal officials attended this year's conference.

Public education and outreach is a major goal of COEM, and we continue to sponsor natural hazard awareness weeks to increase citizen cognizance. Our website at: <http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/oemindex.htm> contains information and downloadable publications on individual and family preparedness and Colorado hazards. COEM also produces a weekly Information Report and a quarterly newsletter for emergency managers, local and state officials, first responders, volunteers, other state agencies, and businesses to keep them up-to-date on current information, training, and activities.

President Coolidge and Table Manners

President Coolidge invited some Vermont friends to dine at the White House. They were worried about their table manners and decided to do everything President Coolidge did. The meal passed smoothly until coffee was served. Coolidge poured his coffee into a saucer. The guests followed suit. He added sugar and cream. The visitors did likewise. Then, Coolidge leaned over and gave his to the cat.

HazMat with an Attitude

by Steve Douglas, CEMA President

One of the first steps in developing a local emergency operations plan is to conduct a community specific *hazard analysis*. That's not a new thought. It is probably part of the first session of any introduction to emergency management. Ten years ago, it is safe to say that most community hazard analyses conducted in the United States, under FEMA guidance, included nuclear attack (from the Soviet Union). Much has changed in the last ten years and although many of our plans still identify nuclear attack as a hazard, we probably do not exercise that part of our plan nearly as much as we did in the 1950s through the 1980s. That is a good thing. The probabilities associated with the threat changed.

In the 1990s and into this new millennium, we are seeing the emergence of a threat called terrorism, and we are no longer just seeing it played out abroad; we are seeing it at home as well. As an emergency planner and responder, that makes me sick. It is one thing to pit our skills against the effects of natural disasters and unintentional technological disasters, and a whole different thing to spend our civilian energies preparing for intentional acts against the general public. Ok, now that I have vented, I can get over it.

When terrorists shift from using conventional firearms (typically weapons of *individual* destruction) to explosive, chemical, biological or nuclear weapons (weapons of *mass* destruction [WMD]), they also shift positions in our hazard analysis. I tend to characterize WMD as another form of hazardous materials. As civilians, we tend to prepare for unintentional releases of hazardous materials. Increased focus on terrorism causes us to also think in terms of intentional releases. In other words, terrorism represents hazmat "with an attitude."

Recent efforts (Nunn-Lugar and Department of Justice) focused on preparing for terrorist activities at home can do much to augment existing elements of our community emergency preparedness. They touch on existing elements such as law enforcement, medical, command and control, communications, hazardous materials, and others.

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HazMat with an Attitude

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Your community may not fit the profile of a potential terrorist target, but it may represent an excellent site to build or stockpile weapons of mass destruction, or it may lie along the transportation route between a collection site and a target. Unfortunately, there is some element of a terrorist threat that probably belongs in each of our community's hazard analysis, and consequently, in our emergency plans.

If you have not gotten to know Greg Moser of the Colorado Office of Emergency Management, have not been involved in a WMD assessment for your community, or are not aware of the Department of Justice grant process, I urge you to do so. Greg can be reached by telephone 303.273-1640 or e-mail greg.moser@state.co.us. He can brief you and help you get involved in the process. The result can be enhanced community preparedness for hazards that have high local probability, even if there are no terrorists in our midst.

Amateur Radio Operators provide access to 911 from Fire Stations

*by Jim Raymond
Douglas County Emergency Manager*

Area amateur radio operators participated in a three-county communications drill on Saturday, November 4th. The first phase of the exercise simulated an area-wide phone outage, with the hams called out to fire stations. These operators practiced providing the public with a means to reach Douglas County Sheriff's dispatchers and other 911 services in the event of a real communications emergency. In recent years, hams from the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) have provided similar public services for several real incidents.

The second and third phases of the exercise called for amateur radio support of two simulated storm-related accidents on I-25 and Hwy 67 in southern Douglas County. During this part of the drill, the radio operators provided county to county communications between Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, and Teller Sheriff's dispatch centers. Ten hams from the ARES District 24, which supports Douglas and Elbert Counties, responded and joined forces with ARES radio operators from El Paso and Teller Counties.

"Drills of this kind sharpen our communications skills and prepare us to respond to public inquiries and emergencies during times of actual phone system failures," said James Raymond, Emergency Manager for Douglas County.

For further information, visit the District 24 website at http://www.qsl.net/ares_d24/

Or contact James Raymond at jraymond@douglas.co.us

Monarch Pass HazMat Exercise

*...an after-action report
prepared by Jo Ann Stone
Gunnison County Emergency Manager*

This hazmat exercise took place on top of Monarch Pass at 1300 hours on Thursday, September 21, 2000, and was finally called by lightning at 16:30 hours.

The scenario was an abandoned vehicle parked at the Department of Transportation (DOT) parking lot on top of the pass. DOT was to have called dispatch that there were barrels in the back and suspicious boxes. Hazmat responded to the scene with ambulance and fire personnel. Upon arrival, and after seeing some of the product, they backed off and called in Colorado State Patrol (CSP). CSP did an entry and discovered signs of explosives and terrorism, and then called for the assistance of the Civil Support Team (formerly known as the RAID team).

The driver of the vehicle was supposed to have had overheating or engine problems. He grabbed a bag from the bed of the truck, threw stuff in it and hitched a ride.

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Monarch Pass HazMat Exercise

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Leads were injected into the exercise indicating this individual had entered the Gunnison city well house on Virginia, had been chased from the roof of the middle school by the janitor, stolen a vehicle from Mesa Campground, and was later found in the stolen vehicle at Neversink in a very serious condition, ill, vomiting, and babbling about getting even.

Items found at the scene were shotguns, bombs, grenades, and barrels indicating Sodium Cyanide and Ammonia Nitrate. There were also chemicals which were supposed to be anthrax and sarin gas, as well as a bottle simulating a serious explosive.

Incident command was established by the Gunnison Hazmat Team. This later became a unified command with Colorado State Patrol. The area was cordoned off and safety areas established. Other command staff was designated. Dispatchers were on the scene and handled their position by packset. Their notification lists were done by passing this information to the regular notification staff, who were on scene observing and awaiting their alert. The Army Guard Civil Support Team (CST / RAID) from Buckley ANG arrived and set up their mobile and portable headquarters. They established a communication center which provided access to satellite phones, cellular phones, all radio frequencies on all bands, and even Internet access. There were approximately 90 people at the exercise who braved rain, snow, wind, and even two pauses in the exercises to let lightning storms pass.

Participants included Gunnison HazMat, CSP HazMat, CST, Gunnison Ambulance and Fire, EPA, Forest Service, BLM, Colorado Office of Emergency Management and regional planners, Emergency Managers from Gunnison, Delta, and Ouray Counties, Chaffee County Fire and Hazmat, and Crested Butte Law Enforcement.

Briefings were done prior to each entry and debriefings after departing the hot site. A critique dinner, paid for with grant funds, was held at the Aspinall Wilson Center after the exercise followed by a Civil Support Team presentation on biological and chemical hazards. There were 63 people at the critique. The focus of the critique was not on mistakes, but on goals for each participating entity, and whether or not expectations were met - and if not met - ways to reach those expectations.

Everyone at the critique said they learned a lot about additional resources, possible procedures, and why the notification list was so long for a hazmat incident.

The exercise was video taped and several still pictures were taken as well.

Special kudos go to all those participating: CEMA, CEPC, COEM, Marlene Crosby, Bob Harris, Walt Baron, Carol Dawson as well as to Mark Collins, Scott Morrill, Rick Murdie and John DeVore for their outstanding support and cooperation. This sort of working together makes Gunnison the special place it is.

Ouray County & Region X Counter-Terrorism Workshop

by Jack Rowe

Ouray County Emergency Coordinator

Historically, the planning and assembly of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) threats invariably take place in rural areas such as exist in abundance on the Western Slope of Colorado. Recent examples of such terrorist events which originated from remote locations include biological poisoning attempts in Chicago, St. Louis, Oregon, Minnesota, Ohio, and Arkansas in this country; radiological contamination in Russia and Germany; and the chemical sarin attack in the subway system of Tokyo. Schemers like the Unabomber and Timothy McVeigh seek remote areas to plan and organize their efforts. Anthrax biological hoaxes have come in abundance. All Colorado counties have been exposed to one or more such hoaxes. We cannot assume such threats will always prove to be without substance.

As a result of this worldwide concern, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) have made funds available to all states for the purpose of training emergency responders to recognize and cope with WMD agents and events.

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Ouray County & Region X Counter-Terrorism Workshop

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Under the guidance of Greg Moser in the Colorado Office of Emergency Management (COEM), a number of counties have requested and received such grants. Ouray County is using its allocation to train both county and Region X responders to the highest practical level of competence.

The first classroom training session emanating from this grant was a two-day regional workshop conducted in October in Ridgway. Responders from Hinsdale, Montrose, and Ouray counties participated.

The Ridgway workshop included the involvement of Greg Moser, Counter-Terrorism Planner for the COEM; and two experienced WMD responders, Sgts. Arlyn Wood and Dale Lewis, from the Buckley Air National Guard, 8th Military Support Detachment (Civil Support / or RAID team) from Aurora. These individuals are experts in WMD recognition and response.

The agenda for the first day was structured around the Domestic Preparedness Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction courses at the Responder Awareness and Operations levels. The text and slide materials were prepared and assembled by numerous local, state and federal agencies and distributed to certified individuals for training purposes by EAI Corporation. Each student was issued a copy of the appropriate manual for the Awareness and Operations sections.

To provide an even more realistic touch to this lecture and slide presentation, a video entitled "Terror at Harford (Maryland) Mall," depicting a simulated chemical sarin attack, was inserted into the appropriate segments of the course material. Thus, students could relate to the actions of the on-scene emergency responders at the Awareness and Operations levels and understand the basics of the Incident Command System. A critique of the pros and cons of the response concluded the mall video presentation. It was a very dramatic and effective simulation.

Using this background text and video material, the second day presented students with the opportunity to plan their response to realistic events in their own domain. Specifically, the Civil Support Team (RAID) developed scenarios involving two separate mass-participation events in Region X. They were the Telluride Blue Grass Festival and the Imogene Pass Run. This allowed the dramatization of events in which disgruntled and deranged individuals planned to vent their anger and frustration with local government entities on the innocent masses present – not too different from the Murrah Federal Building calamity – do you agree?

The Civil Support Team artfully constructed a scenario for the Imogene Pass Run (1200 contestants plus bystanders) in which a planned biological event would take its toll at the course refreshment distribution points. Details of the agent preparation site, which was discovered by local law enforcement before the race, were disclosed to the participant teams (3 to 4 students each). A series of five (5) questions were presented and 40 minutes allowed for written response. These responses were then critiqued by the Civil Support Team and others in the audience.

The second scenario, involving a chemical agent, was selected for the Telluride Blue Grass Festival, at which several thousand people gather. The room in which the lethal chemical was being concocted was discovered by a local law enforcement official. Upon detecting a strong odor, he subsequently collapsed and died. This alerted response personnel to the potential dangers present. A similar series of questions were addressed by each team and the responses again critiqued.

The final scenario involved theft of Cesium 137 from a radiation machine at the Montrose Hospital. This resulted in high levels of Beta radiation at numerous contiguous locations. Response personnel were again asked to provide answers to the sequential questions, following discovery of the theft.

All members of the class agreed that the two-day workshop was extremely practical and valuable to their understanding of the inherent dangers associated with WMD recognition and response. Similar sessions will be repeated in the near future.

**War doesn't determine who is right,
war determines who is left.
—Chinese proverb**

SOMETIMES...it's PERSONAL

...A SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORT...

by Clyde Anderson, Moffat County Emergency Manager

Winter descended on Northwest Colorado early this year. Snow flurries filled the air on Friday, September 22nd. I stopped by a used car dealership, which was owned by Joe, a good friend of mine and Special Deputy at the Moffat County Sheriff's Office. We visited, drank coffee and discussed the weather on this, his 40th birthday. Thinking that I was extremely clever, I went outside when he was busy with a customer and attached one of those "over the hill" license plates to the front bumper of the Bronco he was driving. To further the prank, I used tamper-resistant screws, knowing that he would not have the special tool required to remove them. "Happy Birthday, Joe," I called out as I left, chuckling my way out the door as a local florist was delivering some black balloons.

Monday morning I couldn't wait to stop by Joe's business to see if he had been able to remove the prank license plate. About 9:45 a.m. I pulled in the lot, no doubt with a childish grin on my face, and scanned the lot for the Bronco. Not seeing the Bronco, Joe, or anyone else, my eyes were drawn to the "closed" sign in the window. A message hastily written on a dry erase board hung next to the closed sign, "Closed, family emergency, don't know when I'll be back."

Now Craig is not a very big town, so someone had to know what happened. Several phone calls did not turn up any information. Someone had to know something. I cruised by the local hospital where Joe's wife, Angela works. I couldn't find her either. "We don't know, some type of emergency," I was told. Driving a few blocks to my office in the courthouse, I arrived to find several voice mail messages including one from my wife, Sally, who also works in the courthouse. Several friends had called her trying to find out what could be wrong. By 11a.m., a little more snooping had paid off. The Sheriff had information - our friend's teenage son was overdue from a camping/fishing trip on the Grand Mesa, a rugged, mountainous area east of Grand Junction. He and another teenage boy from Craig had failed to return on Sunday afternoon, and were missing. My concern deepened as I considered the weather that had blanketed the region with snow over the weekend.

A phone call to Kimberly Parker, the Mesa County Emergency Manager, confirmed two teenage boys were missing. Search & Rescue had been suspended briefly during the night but had resumed at 7a.m.

Their vehicle had been located but there was no sign of the boys. The parents of one of the boys were on the scene. Searchers could only go into the area on foot due to the dense, rugged terrain. A helicopter was also searching from the air. We knew that everything that could be done was being done. Still, an offer for mutual aid seemed appropriate. I began to ponder the capabilities of Moffat County's Search & Rescue resources. Vehicles, trucks, horses, snowmobiles, ATVs, divers, foot-search capabilities, GPS computer mapping, swift-water rescue, bloodhounds, communications equipment, generators, portable lighting. Could any of these resources help? It would take us a least three hours to get to the search area. Would that be fast enough to be of any value?

Unable to contact a mutual friend by phone, I drove to his house, finding him working in the back yard. Discussing the situation, we decided there was good reason for concern. It was going on 1 p.m. The weather near the Grand Mesa was clear and sunny, temperatures in the 50s. Our Search & Rescue experience had taught us that, under good weather conditions, most people who are lost will walk out on their own after sunrise, if they are able. I drove back to my office, deciding to call Kimberly Parker one more time to see if they could use additional resources if the search continued into Tuesday. Before I could pick up the phone, Sheriff Buddy Grinstead walked into my office, closing the door behind him. He had information from the Mesa County Sheriff's office that a body had been located in the search area. A phone call to Kimberly Parker confirmed one unidentified body had been located, but there was no sign of the other boy.

I called Joe and Angela's cell phone to offer any assistance that I could. I knew it was too late by the tone of Angela's voice saying hello. At a loss for words, I told her that we had heard some bad news and were calling to make sure it was accurate. The sound of unimaginable grief in her voice had already answered my question. The cell phone crackled with static and the connection was lost. Shortly after, we received good news that the other boy had been located and was in good health.

My wife and I did not see our friends for two days. When we stopped by their home to visit, Joe reflected on the past few days. "Family and friends are all that matter," he said, "everything else can be replaced."

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Sometimes ...it's personal

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I knew there was nothing I could say, as no words could take away their grief. Their voices and facial expressions were somehow different. I thought about the Columbine High School victims and the families of those who died or were injured in that senseless shooting. I thought back to 1990 when my own daughter was injured in a random shooting when we lived in suburban Detroit. I remembered the anger I felt and how devastating it was to my family, even though it was not a life-threatening injury. I thought about incidents I had responded to as a road patrol officer in suburban Detroit and rural Moffat County. I remembered the horrified looks I had seen on people's faces and how their knees weakened when they realized they had lost a child and they became overwhelmed with grief and emotion.

Recalling tragic incidents I have been involved with, I think that emergency services workers, including myself, have often underestimated how devastated people are when they lose a child. But what can those of us working in emergency management do to help people who have suffered a devastating loss? Well, comforting our fellow man in times of need is certainly nothing new and goes back to the days of the Bible. Romans 12:14 reads: "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

Many of us have knowledge and experiences that can be put to use to help others. We can volunteer our time by joining local Critical Incident Stress Management teams, which provide help for people who have been traumatized. Response agencies can send sympathy cards to victims and families. Granted, this may seem like a small thing, but it is an unexpected personal touch that will be appreciated. We can refer victims to resources such as support groups, counseling and religious organizations. It is often said that only time can mend a broken heart, but we must accept the fact that sometimes people will never be the same after losing a child. We need to strive to do all we can for these people. In times of great loss, even the smallest acts of kindness will be noticed and appreciated.

We should never hesitate to get involved.

Well Worth the Effort

Integrated Emergency Management Course

by Lt. Roger Hoffner

Arapahoe County Emergency Management

When I was appointed Emergency Management Coordinator almost five years ago, I started hearing about The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmittsburg, Maryland, and all the training available there. The training I found most intriguing was the Integrated Emergency Management Exercise Course (IEMC), County Specific. This is where representatives from a county go to EMI and in a tabletop environment, respond to emergencies and disasters in their county, with resources they actually had in the agencies. After almost three years, it all came together for Arapahoe County in November of 2000.

When I first started investigating what the application process was to EMI, I found it was lengthy. I didn't make much progress until Commissioner John Brackney got involved. Commissioner Brackney had been appointed my liaison in 1997, and whenever I had the chance, I would spout off about emergency management issues. He attended two of the last three Governor's Conferences on Emergency Management in Colorado, and was truly interested in how to be better prepared, both as a government and the community.

"When we went around the room for introductions, it sounded like a Who's Who in Arapahoe County."

Commissioner Brackney and I talked about the program and what it would take to be accepted and successful. It was with his political savvy and dedication that we put in motion the process to get accepted. Once we had put together the application, which included everything from the Emergency Operations Plan to letters of recommendations from "movers and shakers," we planned an overview presentation to prospective participants. We both were surprised when over 120 people responded that they would attend. These were not the operations-level people, but rather commissioners, mayors, council members, police and fire chiefs, city managers, and department heads. When we went around the room for introductions, it sounded like a Who's Who in Arapahoe County.

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Well Worth the Effort

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This response was used to support the application and show the commitment of the leaders of Arapahoe County. This continued until we had to choose 79 of the 120+ to be the participants to travel to Maryland. It was not an easy task and the waiting list was very active until the plane actually left Denver.

I had some lofty expectations of what I hoped would occur in Emmittsburg, and I couldn't help but wonder how some of the people would work together. I wanted them to:

- Better understand Emergency Management, overall
- Better understand the Emergency Operations Plans, both County and City
- Know their responsibilities and roles
- Understand some of the problems relating to Communications and Incident management
- Understand the functions of the Incident Command Post, Emergency Operations Center and Policy
- Understand what it takes to respond and work together as a team
- Finally, identify weaknesses and work together to right any wrongs

As you might guess, I could go on and on for a long time, but I'll cut to the chase as much as possible.

I am asked, "Really, how did it go?" I can state without any regret, it went far beyond my wildest expectations. One of my biggest worries was if the County Emergency Operations Plan (which I am responsible for) was any good. I was on the hot-seat for the first two days until, at a Policy Group meeting, the instructor wanted several items addressed by the group. These items were to become a policy statement from the Group, and followed up by saying everything could be found in the Plan. He said he would like to see more checklists but thought the Plan was good. I was relieved!!

From that moment, I watched the group work together, make decisions and plan like I only dreamed they would. Not only did they all pull together to address a terrorist attack, closure of I-25 and a tornado cutting through the county, but they did it with coordination and cooperation. Some of the things I heard were

- We need to really look at our Plan when we get back
- We need to appoint someone to respond to the EOC when it's opened
- We need to work more closely together

- We need to have one County Plan with annexes to address Cities
- We need to develop a CERT Program
- Does Roger have enough help

The trip was worth every ounce of energy we expended to make it happen. The overall comments encouraged me to keep pushing what every Emergency Manager pushes: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

My thanks goes out to COEM Director Tommy Grier for all his support, and I would like to thank every participant for taking time from their busy schedules to attend.

Update on the Department of Justice Equipment for First Responders Grant Program

by Greg Moser, COEM Counter-Terrorism Planner

As most of you know, communities throughout Colorado are in the process of completing the local assessments that are the first steps in developing a statewide strategy required for participation in the Department of Justice State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program. The response of local communities has been excellent! To date, COEM has received nine completed on-line assessments and fifteen short forms. Twenty-one other counties have notified us of their intent to complete their surveys by early February. This is great participation, but it is not the 100% effort we need if Colorado is to get the best possible use of this process and the funding it will provide.

To encourage participation, counties are being awarded up to \$2000 for submission of a completed DOJ assessment. We are remaining flexible on a deadline, but need to have the majority of the assessments in by early February when the state counter-terrorism steering committee will meet to begin developing our overall strategy. Once we have completed our initial state-level review, we will schedule regional workshops to encourage local involvement in setting priorities and establishing local and regional response capabilities.

The process has been a daunting one with numerous technical and programmatic frustrations. DOJ has made major progress in improving the on-line assessment process and is continuing to work to resolve the remaining problems.

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CSEPP News...

by Marilyn Thompson
Pueblo Chemical Depot Public Affairs

The U.S. Army has maintained stockpiles of chemical munitions since the 1950's. In 1985, Congress passed Public Law 99-145 directing the Army to destroy the aging chemical weapons while providing maximum protection to the public and the environment. As part of the dedication to providing this protection, an agreement was developed between the Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency establishing the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP).

The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) is a readiness program to enhance emergency preparedness of the communities around the eight stockpile sites. The program's goal is to improve emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

The portion of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile stored at Pueblo Chemical Depot, Pueblo, Colorado, is scheduled for destruction by April 2007. Events are taking place moving the installation and the community toward this important event. In early December 2000, an industry day was held in Pueblo, Colorado, at the Pueblo Convention Center. During the presentations, information was provided to potential contractors on the bidding process.

Important milestones are: the draft request for proposal issued in November 2000. Industry comments to the draft request for proposal were received in mid-December. The formal request for proposal will be issued at the end of January 2001. Proposal submissions are due in May 2001. Oral presentations are scheduled for May 22-June 1 with discussions and negotiations scheduled for May 22-August 3. The technology decision will be made at the end of August 2001 along with the request for final proposals. Final proposals will be received by October 8 with contract award mid-November.

Even though the technology for destruction has not been selected, there is much that can be done in the infrastructure stage regardless of the technology and this infrastructure process continues to move forward.

The construction, operation, and ultimate destruction of the plant will definitely impact the Pueblo County area.

There will be a great need for all kinds of goods, services, and materials. If attendance at the early December industry day is any indication, the contractors, vendors, and associated personnel providers stand ready to provide everything from concrete to earth moving to plumbing during the construction process.

Exercise 2001

by Ted Medley, Training & Exercise Officer, COEM

Tabletop

In preparation for the CSEPP Full Scale Exercise March 28, 2001, a CSEPP Exercise Orientation will be conducted at the Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) Emergency Operations Center (EOC), on March 14. The focus of this orientation is on initial notification, including information flow between Pueblo Depot and Pueblo County's Dispatch Center, activation of the outdoor warning system, and issuance of the initial EAS message. A moderator will sustain the orientation and ensure a problem log is maintained to document challenges and coordinated resolutions. The resolution of challenges is vital to developing and then enhancing an improved system for dealing with an accidental chemical release.

Conducting Orientation Seminars

The focus is on familiarization with those roles, procedures, responsibilities and personalities in the CSEPP emergency management system. The Seminar is designed to elicit constructive discussion as the participants examine each components' system and procedures for dealing with an accidental release that could escape installation boundaries and pose a threat to civilian populations. The general purpose is for participants to evaluate plans and procedures and to resolve questions of coordination and assignment of responsibilities.

The method will involve PCD and Pueblo County discussing roles and responsibilities with emphasis on the steps to implement the plan and the agencies contacted during implementation. Communication and automation systems will be thoroughly discussed. The orientation allows participants to identify gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies and then focus on developing efficient and effective solutions.

Full Scale

The federally managed and evaluated Colorado CSEPP Full Scale Exercise (FSX) will be conducted on March 28, 2001. This will be a scenario-driven exercise in which the state, Pueblo County, and Pueblo Chemical Depot's EOC communications and automation links are exercised.

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CSEPP News...

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Primary participants will be key staff and decision makers who focus on evaluating plans and procedures and resolving challenges pertaining to coordination and assignments of responsibilities.

The response is to exercise the coordination of the emergency management system under conditions of realism and stress. The FSX will accomplish the following.

1. Evaluate selected emergency plans implementations, response capability, and training adequacy.
2. Provide feedback necessary to improve plans and procedures.
3. Provide training for participants and identify new training requirements.
4. Improve coordination between depot, county and state personnel.
5. Serve as a visible demonstration of the commitment of the Army, FEMA, Colorado and Pueblo County to protect the public and the environment.

The exercise will begin with a simulated event to which the players an emergency situation would respond. Response will be made to a set of problems related to standard exercise objectives and evaluation methodology. Evaluators at each location will conduct a critique to provide players an overview and preliminary assessment of the exercise.

Colorado Csepp Training Results - FFY 2000

The following CSEPP training was accomplished:

| Course | Students |
|---|----------|
| Counter Terrorism Grant Workshop | 41 |
| CSEPP Exercise Evaluation | 78 |
| Decontamination and Personal Protective Equipment | 45 |
| Disaster Recovery Operations | 7 |
| Emergency Planning | 3 |
| FEMIS Phase II | 3 |
| Personal Protective Equipment Refresher | 17 |
| Tone Alert Radio Orientation | 463 |
| Toxic Chemical Training for Medical Support Personnel | 88 |
| TOTAL..... | 745 |

Colorado Wildfire & Mitigation Conference



The fifth annual Colorado Mitigation and Wildfire Conference will be held March 30, 31 and April 1, 2001 at the Raintree Plaza Hotel in Longmont, Colorado. The conference will focus on mitigation, operation, and planning and preparation issues facing agencies in the wildland/urban interface of Colorado.

As everyone in the fire service knows, the 2000 wildfire season was an active one. The fresh topics for this year's conference reflect the challenges we faced in 2000.

- People attending the conference can learn about:
- Wildfire mitigation projects
 - Firsthand knowledge of the 2000 wildfire season
 - Planning and preparation for wildfire
 - Fighting urban/interface fires
 - Importance of public information
 - Issues after the fire is out

You may register on-line at www.WildfireColorado.org

Further information about scholarships, accommodations, meals, etc., are on our website.

This unique conference is a must attend event for:


- Emergency Managers
- Law Enforcement Personnel
- Firefighters
- Local Elected Officials
- Homeowner Associations
- Planners
- Insurance Industry
- Public Information Officers

For more information, call 303-271-8217.


We'd like to hear from you...

We'd like to hear from you if you have items of interest appropriate for our newsletter. Articles, comments, meeting news, web sites, stories, etc., should be addressed to:

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"Did you ever walk in a room and forget why you walked in? I think that's how dogs spend their lives." —Sue Murphy



DOJ Equipment for First Responders Grant Program

(Continued from page 9)

If you have already submitted your assessment, major kudos and sincere "thanks" for recognizing this as an important opportunity to get funding to improve your local communities' domestic preparedness for a broad range of possible crises. For those who have not participated in this process, you are encouraged to consider at least completing a short form of the survey so your concerns and needs can be included in our statewide strategy and you can remain eligible for funding consideration.

Terrorism and domestic preparedness are not just urban concerns. The growth of domestic extremism and the spread of international terrorism are facts of life that can potentially affect any community either as a target or a host. This program offers us an important opportunity to continue to build on existing capabilities and establish new ones to respond to a broad range of potential hazards in our communities. If you have questions about this program, please contact me at 303.273-1640, or by e-mail at greg.moser@state.so.us.

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