



homefront

Wisconsin Homeland Security Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2010

Governor Doyle accepts 2010 Annual Report on Wisconsin Homeland Security

On September 22, Governor Jim Doyle accepted a report from Brigadier General Don Dunbar, Adjutant General of Wisconsin and Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor, on Wisconsin's overall homeland security readiness.

The report outlines the efforts Wisconsin is taking to prevent and respond to potential emergencies including major storms and threats to agriculture.

"This homeland security report confirms that Wisconsin's emergency management efforts are strong, and that we are continuing to improve our readiness to respond," Governor Doyle said. "No matter what the threat is, we will make sure that all are prepared should emergencies strike in Wisconsin."

Some of the highlights of this year's annual report include:

- * **Homeland security funding.** As anticipated, federal homeland security funding for Wisconsin decreased - from \$15.3 million in FY 2009 to \$14.5 million in FY 2010.
- * **Improving cyber security.** To combat cyber terrorism, Wisconsin's Division of Enterprise Technology has developed a Cyber Annex to the State Emergency Operations Plan and has held exercises.
- * **CBRNE Emergency Response Force.** The Wisconsin National Guard has been selected to develop a specialized 180-member unit that will support local responders in decontamination, medical response, and search and extraction capabilities and will be operational by September 2012.

To view the report, visit:
<http://homelandsecurity.wi.gov>



Governor Jim Doyle receives the 2010 Annual Report on Wisconsin Homeland Security from Brigadier General Don Dunbar as members of the Homeland Security Council look on.

(Left to right: Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar; Governor Jim Doyle; Superintendent David Collins, Wisconsin State Patrol; Chief Charles Tubbs, Capitol Police; and Oskar Anderson, Dept. of Administration - Division of Enterprise Technology)

Inside this issue:

Urban search and rescue teams test skills (page 4)

STEP helps children prepare for disasters (page 6)

Regional teams bolster emergency response (page 7)



Homeland Security Council

Brig. Gen. Donald P. Dunbar

Homeland Security Advisor and Council Chair

The Adjutant General—Dept. of Military Affairs

David Collins

Superintendent—Wisconsin State Patrol

Dr. Seth Foldy

Emergency Coordinator—Dept. of Health Services

Charles Tubbs

Chief—Wisconsin Capitol Police

David Woodbury (alternate)

Dept. of Natural Resources

Michael Hinman

Administrator—Wisconsin Emergency Management

David Steingraber

Executive Director—Office of Justice Assistance

Ed Wall

Administrator—Dept. of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation

Robin Schmidt (alternate)

Agency Liaison for Food/Agriculture Security—Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection

Oskar Anderson

Administrator—Dept. of Administration, Division of Enterprise Technology

Vacant

Wisconsin Fire Chief

David Mahoney

Sheriff—Dane County

Edward Flynn

Chief—Milwaukee Police Department

Homefront Staff

Lori Getter

Wisconsin Emergency Management (lori.getter@wisconsin.gov)

Tami Jackson

Office of Justice Assistance (tami.jackson@wisconsin.gov)

Jerad Albracht

Wisconsin Emergency Management (jerad.albracht@wisconsin.gov)

Adam Blust

Office of Justice Assistance (adam.blust@wisconsin.gov)

Contents of the Wisconsin Homeland Security magazine are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government. Printed by the Dept. of Administration.



Printed on recycled paper.

From the Chair

What a summer! Wisconsin has seen a higher than normal series of damaging severe weather events — heavy rains, flooding, and more than 40 tornadoes. As usual, our first responder community was fully engaged and performed very well during these difficult conditions. Emergency management officials also performed admirably during these events, striving to assist when needed and collaborating to ensure the public was kept aware of changing conditions. Lastly, I am very proud of the continued excellent work of Wisconsin Emergency Management, which has also added value throughout the summer. We are fortunate to have such dedicated professionals as first responders and in the emergency management community.



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

We still have work to do in making sure our citizens are ready and prepared for the unexpected. A recent survey reveals that only 20 percent of Wisconsin citizens have put together an emergency plan and have a disaster supply kit.

That's why Gov. Jim Doyle declared September as Wisconsin's Preparedness Month. This year, I challenge all citizens to take positive action towards preparing for emergencies. Go online to ReadyWisconsin's website (ReadyWisconsin.wi.gov) to find out how to build an emergency supply kit for your home and vehicles, put together a family emergency communications plan, and know your community's hazard risk.

I am also excited to announce a new program aimed at teaching Wisconsin 5th graders about disaster preparedness. In a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Wisconsin Emergency Management, we are offering a national pilot project called the Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program. The curriculum was developed by teachers, and FEMA provides all the materials at no cost to our schools. The curriculum can be taught by classroom teachers and local emergency responders, together or separately.

Our hope is that students will not only take the information home and share with their families, but that the skills they learn will become part of their lives — just like the seat belt and fire safety campaigns in the 1970s and 1980s.

This year, we hope to train more than 3,000 youth in this great program. More information is available at the ReadyWisconsin website.

Whether it is a tornado, flooding, ice storm, or chemical spill, knowing what to do and where to go and being prepared can make the difference in keeping your family safe.

ReadyWisconsin celebrates September Preparedness Month

From Rhinelander to La Crosse, ReadyWisconsin has been crossing the State throughout September, spreading the word about emergency preparedness.

To encourage families, businesses and schools to take steps to prepare for a potential crisis, Governor Jim Doyle proclaimed September as Wisconsin's Preparedness Month. ReadyWisconsin lined up a full calendar of events and media appearances throughout the month to inform Wisconsin citizens about the importance of building a disaster supply kit, making a plan for emergencies and being informed about risks.

A trivia contest on the ReadyWisconsin website was hugely successful. For the third straight year, ReadyWisconsin sponsored Preparedness Day at Miller Park in Milwaukee for the annual Labor Day game.

“The original plan was to hold the entire event outside, but the sporadic rains and strong winds made quick work of that plan,” said Tod Pritchard, Preparedness Coordinator for ReadyWisconsin. “When the Milwaukee Brewers suggested that we move our tables and materials inside the ballpark, we did not hesitate for a second. They are a great organization to work with.”

Ticket holders for the game between the St. Louis



Marquita Hynes from FEMA gets a hug from “Chorizo” at the third annual Preparedness Day at Miller Park

Cardinals and Milwaukee Brewers stopped by the ReadyWisconsin booth to win prizes and pick up handouts on emergency preparedness. Pritchard was pleased with the level of interest and participation at the booth.

“Fans enjoyed spinning our prize wheel and answering preparedness questions,” said Pritchard.

As part of the Miller Park event, emergency services vehicles from the Milwaukee Fire and Police Departments were on display on the plaza outside of the ballpark, and a visit from the Famous Klement's Racing Sausages added a comedic element to the festivities. Staff from FEMA and the National Weather Service were also on hand to talk to visitors about their agencies' programs and to distribute handouts.

To learn more about the ReadyWisconsin campaign, contact Tod Pritchard at 608-242-3324 or via email at tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov.



The Famous Klement's Racing Sausages check out the emergency services vehicles during the Preparedness Day event at Miller Park (photo courtesy of the Milwaukee Brewers)

Urban search and rescue teams test skills

A plan to demolish a parking structure led Winnebago County Emergency Management to coordinate a full-scale exercise for the regional urban search and rescue (US&R) teams.

The idea for this exercise originated with Assistant Chief Mike Sipin from the Neenah/Menasha Fire and Rescue Department. The City of Neenah had scheduled the destruction of the city's parking garage, and Assistant Chief Sipin, the department's training officer and a member of the local US&R team, recognized this as a unique opportunity to create a "real" exercise playing field where cutting tools, shoring, cranes and other large and destructive equipment were not normally able to be employed.

Members of the Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh and Neenah/Menasha Fire Departments were able to participate, sending US&R personnel to the site. Other participants included the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management, the Neenah Police Department, the Neenah Emergency Operations Center staff, Theda Clark Hospital, Gold Cross Ambulance and approximately 20 volunteer victims.

"As in every exercise, opportunities for improvement were identified, but overall, each agency and function completed their tasks safely and according to procedures," said Assistant Chief Sipin. "I feel grateful



A firefighter helps a "victim" during the structural collapse exercise in Winnebago County

that we were able to take advantage of this opportunity and that the US&R teams benefited and are more ready than ever to respond should an incident occur in our area."

Regional SWAT teams participate in school hostage scenario

Heavily armed assailants have taken hostage more than 125 students on a college campus and there are numerous injuries. This was the scenario in an exercise conducted by Winnebago County.

More than 300 responders participated in a SWAT exercise in Oshkosh in August. The drill involved multiple buildings at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Regional SWAT teams were activated, and "injured" participants were triaged by Oshkosh Fire Department paramedics and treated at Aurora Hospital, Mercy Medical Center and Radford Hall (student health center). The American Red Cross and University Counseling provided mental health services for those "affected" in the incident. Additional participants included the Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha and Appleton police departments.



The hostage drill at UW-Oshkosh provided a realistic scenario for regional SWAT teams to practice crisis tactics

REACT Center home to Patriot exercise

The REACT Center at Volk Field was one of the sites of the Air and Army National Guard's annual Patriot exercise over July 14-15. The Patriot exercise included approximately 1,100 troops from 23 states and three nations. Wisconsin Emergency Management provided a manned communication trailer for the activities.

Wisconsin National Guard troops supported civilian counterparts during the two-day large-scale all-hazard scenario. The exercise involved a train derailment caused by a collision with a school bus. Participants utilized rail and cargo simulators, damaged structures, mannequins, live fires and explosions. Soldiers tended to the medical needs of victims portrayed by volunteers of all ages.

The goal of Patriot was to provide an opportunity for Guard units to test their domestic and combat defense capabilities through real-world training scenarios in a joint environment with military and local emergency responders.

REACT and Volk Field were praised by participants for their ability to allow the soldiers to test their skills in a unique and realistic environment. Brig. Gen. Don



First responders provide medical assistance during the Patriot exercise at Volk Field

Dunbar, Adjutant General of Wisconsin, noted that these resources provide “real-world scenarios for service members as well as civilian responders to practice emergency response plans for domestic operations.”

Wisconsin takes part in massive MABAS exercise

Several southeastern Wisconsin fire departments participated in a large-scale, multi-state exercise in Chicago to test the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), a coordinated plan of aid from multiple departments during emergencies.

The scenario for the August 26 exercise involved a rash of multiple tornados touching down in northern Illinois, creating a situation that was too large for local resources to handle alone.

Fire departments from Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan provided support under MABAS, with more than 350 fire units and 1,100 firefighters participating in the exercise at three staging locations around Chicago. Wisconsin sent fire task forces from Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine and Rock counties.

MABAS is a fire service multi-state mutual aid system that responds under a unified incident command structure with interoperable procedures, tasking and communications. MABAS operates under a single mutual aid contract at no cost to member communities



Fire task forces from four Wisconsin counties participated in the MABAS exercise

and agencies. It is the single largest mutual aid system in the country with four core states (Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan) and four associate states (Missouri, Ohio, Iowa and Minnesota) as members.

STEP helps children prepare for disasters

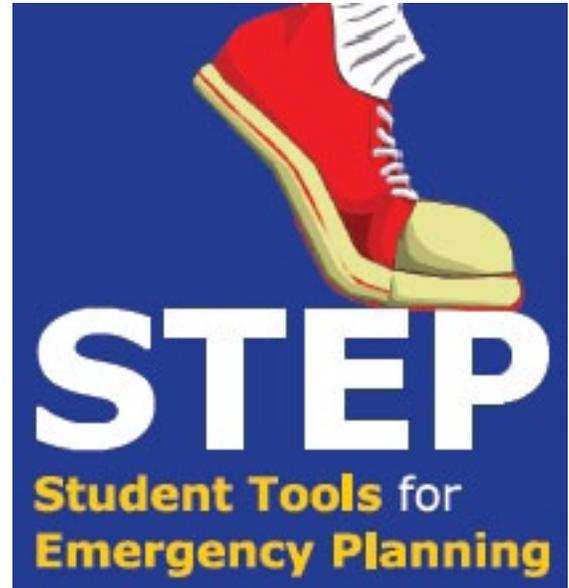
Helping kids prepare for disasters in their homes or neighborhoods is the goal of the Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) preparedness education project developed by FEMA. The program is on its way to Wisconsin in the 2010-2011 school year. Students at the fifth-grade level will learn about various emergencies and will share this awareness with family members.

The goals of STEP include teaching students about disasters common to their area and providing instruction on how to assemble emergency kits and form communications plans with their families.

The STEP lesson materials are designed by teachers, for teachers. STEP includes a set of materials provided at no cost to the school or teachers. The one-hour base lesson has streamlined objectives in order to be a manageable time commitment in the classroom.

For its first year, Wisconsin will be providing the STEP program to approximately 3,000 students around the state, with funding from FEMA.

Schools can apply to be part of the STEP pilot in Wisconsin by visiting ReadyWisconsin.wi.gov and filling out the online application form. Teachers or administrators can apply on behalf of their school, but an administrator will have to approve participation in the program.



Applications are due November 19, 2010. Selection of the pilot participants will be complete by December, 2010. Materials will be distributed to schools in early 2011.

For more information about the STEP program, contact Tod Pritchard at Wisconsin Emergency Management, (608) 242-3324 or by email at tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov.

WEM and Pierce County participate in nuclear exercise

On August 24, Wisconsin Emergency Management and Pierce County participated in a multi-state emergency preparedness exercise focusing on an incident at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant near Red Wing, Minnesota.

The exercise was designed to test agencies responsible for protecting the health and safety of area residents in the unlikely event of a nuclear incident at the plant.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security evaluates the exercise and requires that each nuclear generating plant conduct an exercise every other year. Officials with Wisconsin, Minnesota, Xcel Energy, Minnesota's Dakota and Goodhue counties and Wisconsin's Pierce County participated in the exercise.



WEM Administrator Mike Hinman reviews a report during the Prairie Island nuclear drill

Regional teams bolster emergency response

Although no one hopes they are ever needed, well-trained and equipped SWAT teams and bomb squads can mean the difference between life and death for local law enforcement.

Developing law enforcement capabilities to respond quickly and effectively to major incidents has always been a focus of the Office of Justice Assistance's Homeland Security program. By 2005, OJA had identified eight local SWAT teams and six bomb squads strategically placed around the state which could help local law enforcement.

Over the last five years, U.S. Homeland Security grants have supplied those teams with specialized equipment – like the Bearcat armored vehicle – and training in topics such as weapons of mass destruction, explosive breach and hostage rescue.

But the equipment and training is only one part of the equation. Until the Aligned Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) project began, there were no standards locally or nationally for SWAT teams: what they consist of, what expertise or equipment they must have or how they would respond to incidents. This lack of standards made it difficult for local law enforcement to know what resources were available or how to call upon them.

Now, the project's two work groups (one each for SWAT and EOD, and the executive committee – three sheriffs, three police chiefs and three state agency representatives) are currently working on developing those standards for the regional teams in Wisconsin. The standard procedures and response plan for the SWAT teams is complete, and the corresponding plan for the bomb squads should be complete by this fall. The process ensures that standards and policies are consistent with the needs of local

law enforcement.

OJA Homeland Security Program Director Greg Engle said OJA hopes to get legislation passed in 2011 that will convert ALERT into a formal statewide resource that receives state funding, much like the regional hazmat teams already in place.

That legislation is crucial for the long-term viability of the teams, Engle said, because while federal funds have been able to pay for training and equipment, other funding is needed to pay for general operations and incident response.

Meanwhile, the regional teams project continues to evolve, taking advantage of advanced expertise and research available in the field of major incident response. Team members are being sent to Israel this year to research Israeli anti-terrorist operations, and the teams are also investigating the possibilities of using unmanned aerial and ground vehicles for remote surveillance and bomb defusal.



Volunteers clean more than 125 flooded Milwaukee homes

Following the July flooding in the Milwaukee area, the City and County of Milwaukee began a Flood 2010 Volunteer Clean-Up Effort to assist elderly and special needs residents. Volunteers have assisted more than 125 homeowners with cleanup and mold remediation.

Southeast Wisconsin Citizens and Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) has helped to support the volunteer operations, and several volunteer groups participated in the project.

The clean-up effort has led to valuable on-the-job training of volunteer management. The volunteers attend training prior to deployment, and the turnaround time to get volunteers mobilized is only a couple of hours before they begin to assist the community.



Southeast Wisconsin COAD business manager Kate Pillman, City of Milwaukee Office of Homeland Security representative Desiree Matel-Anderson and ARES operators Brian Jansen and Steve Buck coordinate assignments for volunteer crews

Erschen wins national preparedness award

Mary Jean Erschen, Executive Director of the Center for School, Youth and Citizen Preparedness in Lodi, is one of three people nationwide receiving an Individual Achievement Award as part of the National Citizen Corps Achievement Awards.



Erschen developed the concept of the READY Camp for the state of Wisconsin, which has been addressing preparedness for at-risk youth for the past five years in a summer camp atmosphere. Erschen helped develop the curriculum for the camp programs, which are supported by the Office of Justice Assistance through Homeland Security funds. She has also recruited and trained the adult leaders to provide not only preparedness activities, but also life skills and leadership training for the young people attending the camps.

Record summer rains in Wisconsin

According to the Wisconsin State Climatology Office, 2010 provided a new record for average statewide summer rainfall at 18.65 inches between June and August. The ranking is based on data from the past 116 years.

Milwaukee and three other southern sites had all-time records for individual locations.

High average temperatures in conjunction with heavy precipitation led to an abnormally active storm season as well. There were 40 tornadoes during the period of June – August, which is nearly twice the average of 21 tornadoes the State typically sees in a given year. The heavy rain and storm activity ranks 2010 as the third most active summer in recent decades.

We've gone green!

homefront
is now delivered electronically.

To receive your copy of Homefront, sign up at the Dept. of Military Affairs website.

Visit <http://dma.wi.gov> and click Email or Text Updates to sign up.