



Michigan



Emergency Management News

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More Than 500 Attend Successful Summit at Grand Traverse Resort Conference Includes Workshops, Speakers, Vendor Exhibits, Awards, and Hazmat Challenge

More than 500 people attended the Summit at Grand Traverse Resort Oct. 3-6, hearing a strong lineup of speakers, participating in a variety of workshops, and browsing vendors' exhibits of emergency management/homeland security products.

During the Michigan Emergency Management Association banquet, EMD Commander Capt. Kriste Etue presented the Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) Award to Dawn Mills, Missaukee County emergency preparedness coordinator.

Mills has served as a mentor for emergency management colleagues, provided backup to other emergency management coordinators, and designed numerous exercises. She publishes the bi-annual Emergency Management Newsletter (circulation 9,000), and serves on numerous boards and committees, including the Area Agency on Aging, Emergency Food and Shelter Board, and Missaukee Township Commission.

Several months ago, Mills designed and conducted the first-of-its-kind bio terrorism drill, with 115 participants. She also conducted a full-scale wildfire exercise.

Summit attendees enjoyed a variety of speakers, including New York firefighter Richard Picciotto, whose book, "Last Man Down," details his harrowing experience as a rescuer inside one of the World Trade Center towers that collapsed on 9/11.

For the second consecutive year, Dr. Larry Helms spoke. This year's presentation was "Running with Scissors: Why Smart People Do Dumb Things (and How To Avoid Them)."

Wayne Sallade, Charlotte County, Fla., emergency management coordinator, outlined the consequences and repercussions of Florida's catastrophic weather in August 2004. His presentation was titled, "Recovery from Disasters, the 2004 Hurricanes."

Public relations veteran Rick Kamel delivered an informative, entertaining presentation, "The Perception of Reality," laced with humorous anecdotes about how NOT to deal with the news media.

On Monday, Oct., 3, Hazmat teams from Michigan and Ontario competed in the Second Annual Hazardous Materials Challenge. (See photos, Page 7.) The day was unusually muggy (mid-80s temps), making the challenge a difficult endurance test for participants decked out in heavy protective gear. Sterling Heights Team 2 was the winner.



EMD Commander Capt. Kriste Etue presents the Professional Emergency Manager Award to Missaukee County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dawn Mills during the Michigan Emergency Management Association awards banquet.

2005 MEMA Awards Banquet

- Scholarship:** Jeff Yorks - Genesee CO;
- MSP/EMD Dist. Coordinator of the Year:** Lt. Harry Partridge - 3rd District;
- Response 2005:** Mark A. Watkins - Osceola CO;
- Recovery 2005:** William Smith - Ottawa CO;
- Preparedness 2005:** Jerry McCoy - Montcalm CO;
- Mitigation 2005:** Vicki Wolber - Macomb CO;
- Volunteer < 50,000:** Gary Atteberry - Osceola CO;
- Volunteer > 50,000:** City of Southfield Volunteers;
- Coordinator > 50,000:** Paul Baker - Kalamazoo CO;
- Coordinator < 50,000:** Dawn Mills - Missaukee CO;
- Distinguished Service:** J. Robert Johnson, Sterling Hts.;
- PEM of the Year:** Dawn Mills, Missaukee CO;
- President's Award:** Lt. Jim Van Bendegom - Kent CO.

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In the Trenches with Capt. Kriste Etue

During National Preparedness Month, those of us employed in emergency management do all we can to emphasize the importance of being prepared -- and strive to practice what we preach. Local emergency responders, city and county governments, schools and local law enforcement are EMD's partners in this endeavor. The results were impressive this September.

On Sept. 17, throughout Michigan, volunteers distributed family preparedness guides outside of participating Wal-Mart stores. On Sept. 27, Michigan State Police (MSP) personnel conducted a training session for elementary school students at the Hazardous Materials Training Center. The news media was invited to cover the event, generating positive press and spreading the preparedness message.

Since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast in August, EMD and emergency responders across Michigan have been integral in assisting the Gulf States with their relief efforts.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was fully activated on Friday, Sept. 2. Since then, EMD staff, military personnel, and representatives of every agency of state government, as well as local emergency management programs, have teamed up to help the Gulf States through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

A presidential declaration for all 83 Michigan counties was declared, providing

public assistance to help with evacuee relief efforts.

For the first time in Michigan history, a contingent of Michigan State Police troopers and local law enforcement officers were deployed together to Louisiana on Sept. 5. They were well prepared, with years of law



enforcement experience and hands-on training under their belts. After seven days of search and rescue missions and 11 days away from home, the last of the 98-member contingent returned home on Sept. 16.

'The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital.'

--Joe Paterno

While those officers toiled in muggy Louisiana, the SEOC was abuzz with activity as staffers helped coordinate and oversee Michigan's response to evacuees' needs. In a major disaster like Katrina, all sorts of unforeseen problems and challenges emerged.

We are able to effectively respond to a disaster like this because Michigan is well-prepared. Most of us have undergone

Unified Incident Command and E Team training. This training has paid off in real-life situations, including the August 2003 Blackout, flooding in May 2004, and at the Major League All-Star Game.

The knowledge we have gained from this training, as well as our familiarity with software, protocols and procedures, has helped the SEOC to function efficiently and productively. Training, studying and exercise participation are crucial components of preparedness -- as are CBRNE equipment, personal protective gear and rescue vehicles.

But beyond the tangibles, a mindset that puts preparedness near the top of our priorities is essential. As longtime football coach Joe Paterno once said, "The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital."

The Department of Military Affairs, Department of Human Services and other agencies of Michigan's government have been exemplary in responding to the Katrina disaster. What an appropriate way to demonstrate the importance of National Preparedness Month: Being ready when it counts.

I will soon reach out to many local emergency managers to assist in reviewing "after action" lessons learned from hurricanes Katrina and Rita to see how we, together, can strengthen Michigan's preparedness and response plans.

State Joins Hazardous Substance Surveillance Program

In January, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) joined 14 other states that collect information about releases of hazardous substances and the impact on public health. This federally funded program is called Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES).

HSEES was established to collect and analyze information about uncontrolled releases of hazardous substances that need to be cleaned up or neutralized, as well as threatened releases that result in an evacuation or other public health action.

The program collects detailed information about each event: names of the substances involved; quantities released; geographic location; factors contributing to the release; information about injuries; and actions taken to mitigate the impacts on environmental and human health, such as decontamination, evacuation and sheltering in-place.

For 15 years, state HSEES coordinators have provided the program with data from on-site emergency responders. Participating states use HSEES data for a variety of educational activities and other projects that encourage prevention of hazardous substance releases.

Data has included:

- Information for HazMat training courses;
- Spills, broken down by county, to assist with the proper placement of HazMat teams and equipment;
- Development and distribution of fact sheets on frequently spilled chemicals such as chlorine and ammonia; and
- Support for legislative actions to regulate various hazardous substances.

For more information, contact Martha Stanbury of MDCH, stanburym@michigan.gov or (517) 335-8364.

Mendelson Named State RACES Coordinator

Martin Mendelson of Warren has been named the new state coordinator for RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service), replacing Ray DeVlieg of Milford, who stepped down due to health reasons.

Mendelson will support the Emergency Management Division's efforts to build a RACES program within all local emergency management jurisdictions. Mendelson is well-respected in Macomb County for his steady work in promoting the objectives of RACES, including training and education.

EMD staffer Tom Newell will oversee Mendelson as he directs and works closely with RACES staff in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

The amateur radio operators of RACES, sometimes referred to as "ham radio operators," play a valuable role in emergency management. All hams are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, and they are present in every county in the nation. In many instances, RACES members provide essential communications during disasters when all other lines of communications have failed.

The activation of a RACES communications network greatly enhances the SEOC's capabilities. Additionally, qualified amateur radio operators, through the RACES unit, play a vital role in emergency management operations by



Mendelson

providing manpower during emergency center operations as well as back-up communications for response agencies and other volunteer organizations. All RACES volunteers are also trained and experienced Storm Spotters, and are able to assist emergency management personnel and the National Weather Service in the evaluation of a storm cell to determine the need for activation of established warning systems.

All hams are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and use protocols established by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

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Special Katrina Edition To Cover MI Response

Stay tuned for a special edition of *Michigan Emergency Management News* dedicated to Michigan's response to Hurricane Katrina.

For several weeks in September, the State Emergency Operation Center was activated, and state agencies mobilized their resources to assist with the aftermath -- aiding victims, assisting with search-and-rescue, and helping keep the peace in devastated areas.

Numerous state agencies and departments have contributed brief reports on their involvement and achievements. *Michigan Emergency Management News* will soon chronicle the state's response with stories and plenty of pictures.

EMD Planner Participates in National Target Capabilities Work Group

EMD planner Thom Higinbotham recently participated in the National Capabilities Workshop, assisting with refinement of the national Target Capabilities List (TCL).

TCL is part of Homeland Security Presidential Directive No. 8 (HSPD-8). It seeks to identify target levels of capabilities needed to perform critical tasks for homeland security missions. Planning is one of TCL's 36 target capabilities, and serves as the foundation for all the other capabilities.

The objectives of the planning group were:

- Identify hazards and evaluate their impacts;
- Prioritize emergency preparedness efforts based on hazard identification and evaluation;
- Identify functions performed and describe how those functions are coordinated;
- Describe how emergencies are managed across all hazards and all functions;
- Describe a resources allocation and prioritization system; and
- Integrate plans within the jurisdiction, among jurisdictions, and between levels of government.

Capabilities are delivered with any combination of properly planned, organized, equipped, trained and exercised personnel to achieve an intended outcome. TCL is designed to assist federal, state, local and tribal entities in understanding and defining their respective roles in a major event; necessary capabilities to properly respond; and where to obtain additional sources if needed.

"Being involved in this project was a wonderful opportunity to ensure that the state of Michigan was represented in the larger national homeland security decision-making process," Higinbotham said. "The progress we achieved this summer will have



Thom Higinbotham

profound effect on the direction of homeland security over the next several years. I am proud to have been a part of that."

Workgroups were formed for each of the 36 target capabilities, including emergency management, firefighting, urban search and rescue, critical infrastructure protection, interoperable communications, medical surge, CBRNE detection, and emergency public information.

A major objective of target capabilities is determining which level the responsibility for critical tasks and missions lies – the federal, state or local level. TCL planning refers to these levels as "tiers."

Higinbotham said more than 200 state, federal, and private sector stakeholders participated in the June kickoff workshop to assess planning capabilities and resources. Nearly 300 stakeholders attended the late July wrap-up session. The Department of Homeland Security reviewed the entire TCL in August, providing a national review period until early October.

The capabilities workgroups are currently reviewing the DHS and national review comments. At the end of October the final draft of the TCL was to be submitted to DHS and the White House. The National Preparedness Goal and TCL will then be published on Dec. 1.

Oakland County Conducts Major School Disaster Exercise

Editor's Note: Article and photos provided by Oakland County Emergency Management Specialist Mike Loper and Deputy Mike Saile.

The sun shone brightly the morning of Aug. 24. The stillness of the cool, dry Wednesday morning air, however, was soon alive with a myriad of people and equipment as a homeland security exercise prepared to get underway.

Scenario designers, evaluators, role-players and the professional first responders of Independence Township had come to test the response of the community's resources to a staged disaster at the brand new Clarkston High School.

In a scenario based on lessons learned from the Columbine School shootings and the terrorist attack on a school in Beslan, Russia, role players and special effects crews would stage a similar simulated attack. The event planning had begun last March with several meetings, a table-top exercise and a final conference held in mid-August. Funding for the exercise came from the 2004 Homeland Security Grant Program. It was now time to put everyone to the test.

The role players and special effects artists showed up at 7 a.m. to begin their moulage makeover, replete with the simulated blood and gore of attack casualties.

Laura Haven of Carson City, Nev.-based Image Perspectives applied her ghoulish artistry to the volunteer role players. The cast came from several organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America Explorer Program, three Civil Air Patrol squadrons, local drama clubs and friends and family members of other participants.

Next on the scene were the scenario designers and evaluators. Gail Novak, Mike Loper and Brandon Lewis from Oakland County Emergency Response and Preparedness were key behind-the-scene organizers and supporters. Tom



An Independence Township firefighter begins to triage the victims still inside the school.

Quisenberry and Steve Potter of Patriot Services Corporation and Don McLellan, Ph.D. of McLellan & Associates, LLC (both based in Oakland County) evaluated the exercise. EMD's Randy Layton observed the exercise firsthand, representing the state's interests.

At 10 a.m., the action started, as 911 calls began flooding into the Oakland County Sheriff's Communications Center. Uniformed

Patrol Deputy Sheriffs from the Independence Township substation under the command of Lt. Dale LaBair began to arrive along with the first elements of the Independence Township Fire Department under the command of Fire Chief Steve Ronk.

An Incident Command Post was set up on the hood of a car across the street from the school and the Incident Unified Command swung into action. More patrol deputies responded to the staging area and the Sheriff's Special Response Team arrived, complete with their new armored vehicle, the General Purpose Vehicles Colonel. Gary Caul, assistant principal at Clarkston High School, arrived at the command post. Additional fire and EMS resources from Oakland County -North Fire and Rescue began to arrive, including private ambulance EMS services.

The objectives of the exercise were to operate using the Incident

Command System/National Incident Management System working under a Unified Command concept. This they did very well, according to Layton. Other goals: honing the communications process and radio procedures; testing mutual aid pacts, safety and security; practicing crime scene management and evidence protection; assessing EMS operations; and evaluating overall law enforcement response and operations.

At the conclusion of the exercise, a hot wash was handled informally in the shade of the Salvation Army's canteen truck and the Oakland County - North's HazMat response vehicle. The role players, many still decked out in costume and make-up, were able to enjoy a hearty lunch, thanks to the ladies of the Salvation Army.



Independence Township paramedics prepare to evacuate survivors to local hospitals during the mass casualty exercise at Clarkston High School.



Oakland County Sheriff's Special Response Team clears a corridor in Clarkston High School, site of a full-scale homeland security exercise.

UPCOMING TRAINING

EMD Training Opportunities

For more information you may contact the Training and Exercise Section at 517-333-5034 or visit our website at www.michigan.gov/emd.

Date	Course	Location
November 3	Basic Skills Modules 1 & 2	Lansing
November 4	Basic Skills Module 3	Lansing
November 23-29	Damage Assessment Workshop	Lansing
December 1	WEM: Legal Issues in Emergency Management	Lansing



Enrollment is now being accepted for the following courses. Please contact the Michigan State Police, Hazardous Materials Training Center for further information at (517) 322-1190 or www.michigan.gov/emd.

Course	Dates	Cost
Hazardous Materials Branch Officer & Branch Safety Officer	November 2-4	\$295
First Responder Awareness	November 5	\$50
Unified Incident Command System	November 7-8	\$245
Confined Space Rescue-MUSAR	November 8-10	\$395
Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents -- EPA 165.15	November 14-18	\$495
Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombings Incidents	November 22	Free
Hospital Decon for CBRNE/WMD Incidents	November 28-29	\$230
Hospital Decon for CBRNE/WMD Incidents Train-the-Trainer	November 30	\$95

Fifth Graders Receive Hands-on Preparedness Lesson at Hazmat Center

The Emergency Management Division helped sponsor several events during September in conjunction with National Preparedness Month.

On Sept. 27, students from Mt. Hope Elementary School in Lansing received instruction in family emergency preparedness at the Hazardous Materials Training Center.

EMD staffers joined officials from the American Red Cross and Michigan Citizen Corps in helping the 24 fifth graders practice assembling a family preparedness kit.

The class heard presentations from the Citizen Corps and Red Cross, got a closeup look at an emergency response vehicle, observed a Michigan State Police bomb robot demonstration, and toured the state police training academy.

"This experience created an awareness and an organized response plan easily understood by fifth graders," said the students' teacher, Mrs. Janet Scheetz. "Perhaps one day it will make a difference."

"This instruction is an excellent opportunity for

The DHS website, www.ready.gov, had more than 17 million hits during September.

these students to take back important preparedness information to their schools, families, and neighborhoods," said Capt. Kriste Etue, deputy state director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

National Preparedness Month encourages Americans to take simple steps in preparation for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. Throughout September, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and American Red Cross worked with local, state, and federal government agencies as well as the private sector, to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation.

DHS recently announced that its website, www.ready.gov, had more than 17 million hits and nearly 290,000 unique visitors during September. This compares with a 2005 average of 6.9 million hits and 169,000 unique visitors per month.

DHS also announced more than 42,000 "Ready" brochures were downloaded from the website, nearly five times the monthly average.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES: Speakers, Vendors, Networking



Diane Laban works the registration desk; attendees line up to register on opening day; and keynote speaker Dr. Larry Helms gets his point across.



Rick Kamel entertains and informs with "The Perception of Reality."



Wayne Sallade discusses Florida's 2004 hurricanes and the fallout from Hurricane Katrina.



Dan Sibb and Jaclyn Barcroft staff the EMD exhibit.



The conference speakers included plenty of humor in their presentations.

WORKSHOPS: Teaching, Learning, Growing



Mark Wesley -- On The Road To Regionalization

The Summit offers a variety of workshops on topics including regionalization, protecting critical infrastructure, and conducting damage assessments.



Lori Hornbeck -- Who's In Charge Here?



Jason Nairn -- What to Do When the Lights Go Out



Mark Hansen -- Techniques in Educational Presentations



Chuck Bouth -- Incident Command System/EOC Interface for Public Officials

Teams Compete in Hazmat Challenge

Sterling Heights Team 2 (Rob Duke, Will Walker) won the Second Annual Hazardous Materials Challenge on Oct. 3. Competing teams earned certification credits for their participation, and were awarded prizes.

Finishing second and third, respectively, were Washtenaw County Team 1 (Chuck Roark, Matt Tuttle); and Sterling Heights Team 1 (Bonnie DeMeyere, Matt Ratliff).



Upcoming Events

Michigan Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Commission (SERC) Meeting

Jan. 10, 2006

EMD Presentation Room

Contact: Diane Laban, 517-333-2749

Michigan Hazard Mitigation Coordinating Council

Jan. 18, 2006

EMD Terrace Room

Contact: Karen Totzke, 517-336-2622

Critical Infrastructure Protection Conference:

Building Sound Infrastructures for Today

March 30-31, 2006

Hilton Hotel, Troy, Michigan

Contact: Jackie Hampton, 517-333-5051.

2006 Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference

May 2-4, 2006

DeVos Place, Grand Rapids.

Contact: Jackie Hampton, 517-333-5051, hamptonja@michigan.gov

Visit the EMD website @ www.michigan.gov/emd

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