

Racine County Office of Emergency Management



2019 Annual Report

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
2019**

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"Building a Disaster Resistant Community-Making Disaster Resistance a Way of Life"

A Letter from the Emergency Management Coordinator

January 2020

Dear County Executive Delagrave:

I am pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report for the Racine County Office of Emergency Management (RCOEM).

During 2019, we transitioned into the Sheriff's Office. This transition was seamless. The Emergency Operations Center was activated for the July 3rd Fireworks in Sturtevant and the July 4th Parade in the City of Racine. We also launched the Racine County Community Organizations Active in Disaster. In addition, the South Shore Fire Department's HAZMAT team was designated as the county's team and we worked closely with them to obtain both training and equipment grants.



I would like to thank Mike Buse, Jim Dobbs, Skip Twardosz, Dave Voss and Tom Knitter who serve Racine County as volunteer Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators. Their assistance has been invaluable, and they are integral members of the emergency management team.

I would like to thank you for your participation in emergency management activities. We could not accomplish what we do without your support and leadership.

Respectfully submitted by:

David L. Maack, CEM, CPM, WCEM
Racine County Emergency Management

2019 Highlights

- Racine County plans were reviewed and updated. Five new off-site facility plans were developed, and 65 off-site plans were updated. In addition, a Crisis Communication Plan was developed. RCOEM participated in the annual DOC Work Stoppage Plan Review meetings.
- A Polar Vortex gripped Racine County, resulting in Racine County closing buildings due to extreme cold. March rains and snow melt off resulted in minor flooding along the Fox River in Burlington. A downburst on July 2nd caused considerable damage on the northside of the City of Racine. Trees and power lines were down all over.
- The Emergency Operations Center was activated for the July 3rd Fireworks in Sturtevant and the July 4th Parade in the City of Racine. Protesters threatened to disrupt the parade.
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings were held on March 25th, July 9th and September 23rd.
- RCOEM assisted South Shore Fire Department with obtaining a hazmat training grant, along with the EPCRA Equipment grant. South Shore Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team was designated as the County's Level B Team.
- RCOEM is implementing the WICAMS credentialing system.
- RCOEM held a Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) Kick-Off meeting which was well attended by non-governmental organizations. The PIO Network and the Public Private Partnership also met in 2019.
- David Maack was a breakout presenter for the 23rd Annual Crisis Intervention Conference.
- Dave Voss, RCOEM Deputy EM Coordinator, was honored by the Volunteer Center for his service to RCOEM.
- David Maack continues to chair the Racine County Traffic Commission and co-chair the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Emergency Management Collaboration Workgroup. In addition, RCOEM was represented at the Racine County Fire Chief's Association, Racine County Police Chief's Association, West End Public Works Association, Racine County Land Information Council, Racine County Court Security Committee, Southeastern WI Coastal Resilience Project, RCPT Citizen Preparedness Subcommittee, IAEM-USA Faith Based Organizations Caucus, Racine County Executive and Employee Safety Committees, First Responder Advisory Board and the Racine County Local Emergency Food and Shelter Board.

RCOEM MISSION

The Racine County Office of Emergency Management (RCOEM) is a planning and coordinating agency charged with developing both comprehensive all-hazard plans and specialized plans for chemical spills and terrorism. In addition, it is required to conduct disaster exercises and drills, provide emergency management-related training, conduct public awareness campaigns and respond to actual disaster or emergency situations. RCOEM provides key coordination and leadership to county departments, stakeholders, residents, and visitors.

Our mission is *“To assist the community in mitigating known hazards and in preparing for, responding to, surviving and recovering from both natural and man-made disasters”* and our motto is *“To build a ‘Disaster Resistant Community’ while ‘Making Disaster Resistance a Way of Life.’”*

Wisconsin Statutes §323.14 requires that the governing body of each county, town and municipality shall adopt an effective program of emergency management consistent with the state plan of emergency management. The office provides emergency management services to all municipalities in Racine County. It works closely with local fire, police and public health departments and is represented on the Racine County Law Enforcement Executives Association and the Racine County Fire Chiefs Association.

RCOEM ORGANIZATION

RCOEM is a relatively small department with 1.0 staff. In addition, five volunteer Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators are on call in the absence of the Emergency Management Coordinator.

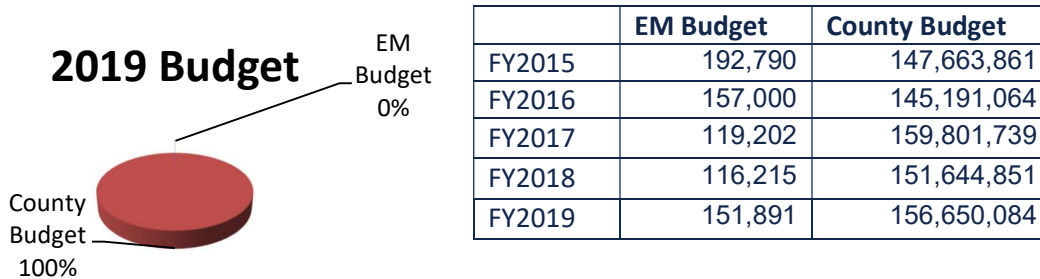
During an actual disaster, the emergency management coordinator advises the County Executive on emergency management issues. If need be, an Emergency Operations Center is activated, and key elected and appointed officials gather in it to manage the overall incident.

“Leaders of high-reliability organizations understand that, during emergencies, no one’s mind is operating at peak performance. So the leaders ensure that employees have practiced certain thought processes and action steps over and over and over, under circumstances that simulate their real world.”

Russ Linden

GRANTS OVERVIEW

Emergency Management accounts for less than 0.1% of the overall county budget. And because the OEM budget is largely offset by a combination of federal and state grants, it is less than 0.1% of the county tax levy.



Various grant opportunities become available each year. Two grants that RCOEM consistently receives are the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), which is supposed to fund 50% of operations, and the Wisconsin Emergency Management’s Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) Grant, which funds a portion of our hazardous materials planning activities. The following summary provides a snapshot of grants managed in 2019.

2019 Grants		
Program/Grant Name	Description	Grant Amount
EMPG	The purpose of the Emergency Management Performance Grants is to assist state and local governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides the funding to local jurisdictions through the states.	\$ 98,965.00
EPCRA	This is a formula-based planning grant to off-set expenses associated with implementing the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know act (EPCRA) requirements.	\$36,091.00
EPCRA COMPUTER/HAZMAT EQUIPMENT	The Grant is available to assist counties in complying with the requirements of ss. 323.60 and 323.61, Wis. Stats.	\$7475.00
HS EXERCISE 2018	Funding from this grant will be used to support local Functional EOC exercise.	\$5799.20
HMEP TRAINING GRANTS	These Grants are available to train the South Shore FD’s HAZMAT team.	\$16,000
		\$164,330.20

EMERGENCY PLANNING

RCOEM works closely with emergency responders, community partners, and residents to engage in comprehensive disaster planning for the County of Racine.

RCOEM has developed and maintains more than 70 plans, annexes, appendices, and supporting documents that guide preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Topics include Terrorism, Hazardous Materials, Mass Evacuation, Mass Care and Shelter, Medical and Health, Communications, and others. A Crisis Communications Plan was developed in 2019.

Plan	2019 Update
Racine County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Emergency Support Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the Racine County CEMP
Racine County Hazardous Materials Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the Racine County Hazardous Materials Plan
Offsite Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 new offsite facility plans were developed, and 65 offsite facility plans were updated
Racine County Emergency Response Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Racine County ERPs for all Racine County buildings
Mass Evacuation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the mass evacuation plan guidance
Railroad Emergency Response Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the Railroad Emergency Response Plan

“Leaders tend to appoint people in charge of risk control, crisis management, and business continuity. They have to understand that, when issues are that vital, they have to commit themselves entirely, personally.”

Patrick Lagadec

TRAINING & EXERCISES

Training is an important component of preparedness. Throughout the year, RCOEM sponsors various training programs in Racine County. Many of these are grant funded, and target audiences may include both public safety agencies and the general public.

CRISIS AND EMERGENCY RISK COMMUNICATION (CERC)

RCOEM hosted CDC's Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) training. CERC training offers responders and public health professionals training and resources to communicate more effectively in an emergency. CERC trainings are based on lessons learned during public health emergencies, evidence-based practices from the fields of risk and crisis communication, and psychology. Topics included: Introduction to CERC, Psychology of a Crisis, Messages and Audiences, Crisis Communication Plans and The Role of Spokespersons.



UNTIL HELP ARRIVES

RCOEM conducted a Floor Marshal Refresher, which included FEMA's Until Help Arrives course.

EXERCISES and drills are great opportunities to test skills and plans under simulated conditions. Each year, Racine County Emergency Management participates in several exercises/drills.

FIRE DRILLS

RCOEM coordinated fire drills for various county buildings.

EXERCISE/DRILL:

02/25/19	WEBEOC Drill
02/26/19	WEBEOC Drill
02/27/19	WEBEOC Drill
04/04/19	DOC Active Shooter TTx
4/12/19	Statewide Tornado Drill (Afternoon)
	Statewide Tornado Drill (Evening)
06/18/19	Ready 2019: COAD TTx
09/12/19	Courthouse Fire Drill
09/23/19	Racine County Service Center Fire Drill
09/25/19	DKRCSC Fire Drill
12/04/19	HERC Region 7 Pandemic Flu TTx

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC OUTREACH

Racine County Emergency Management conducts comprehensive, robust public outreach campaigns throughout the year. Campaigns include winter, flood, tornado, severe thunderstorm and hazardous materials awareness; public outreach includes speaking, media interviews, a Ready Racine newsletter, email blasts and a website to name a few.

PROCLAMATIONS

County Executive Jonathan Delagrave joined with Governor Tony Evers in proclaiming the week of April 8-12, 2019 as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week, September as National Preparedness Month and November 4-8, 2019 as Winter Weather Awareness Week.

PUBLICATIONS

David Maack continues to write a Community Newsletter column for *The Journal Times*. In addition, articles that he writes occasionally appear in other publications:

- 02/13/19 Ready Racine Newsletter
- 03/09/19 Community Newsletter: Emergency tips for weather-related incidents (JT)
- 04/02/19 Community Newsletter: County to mark Tornado Awareness Week (JT)
- 06/01/19 Ready Racine Newsletter (Spring 2019)
- 07/14/19 Community Newsletter: Are you prepared for a disaster (JT)
- 08/04/19 Community Newsletter: Was it straight-line winds or a tornado? (JT)
Ready Racine Summer/Fall Edition
- 10/27/19 Community Newsletter: Own it, secure it, protect it (JT)

STORM SPOTTER SEMINAR

RCOEM hosted the annual storm spotter seminar on April 2, 2019. Training was facilitated by National Weather Service Meteorologist Marcia Cronce. In addition, a Racine County Public-Private Partnership Severe Weather Safety & Spring Outlook seminar was held.

CONFERENCE SPEAKER

David Maack was a breakout presenter for the 23rd Annual Crisis Intervention Conference. He spoke on recovery from flooding.

OPERATION NORTH POLE

Santa Claus made a special visit to Racine County to brief Racine County officials on his travel plans through the county on Christmas Eve. Greeted by Emergency Management Coordinator David Maack, Public Works Director Julie Anderson, Captains Jim Weidner (RCSO) and Dan Adams (RCSO), Santa was given a tour of the RCSO Patrol Station and the Racine County Communications Center. RCOEM used Santa's visit in a public awareness campaign to remind Racine County residents to slow down and enjoy the holiday season with family and friends and to offer other safety tips to help keep resident's safe during the festivities.

SPILLS/INCIDENTS

MILD STORM SEASON

A Polar Vortex gripped Racine County, resulting in Racine County closing buildings due to extreme cold. March rains and snow melt off resulted in minor flooding along the Fox River in Burlington. A downburst on July 2nd caused considerable damage on the northside of the City of Racine. Trees and power lines were down all over. The Emergency Operations Center was activated for the July 3rd Fireworks in Sturtevant and the July 4th Parade in the City of Racine. Protesters threatened to disrupt the parade.

Racine County Severe Weather History

Year	Severe Thunderstorm		Tornado	
	Watch	Warning	Watch	Warning
2009	7	8	1	2
2010	6	7	7	7
2011	8	17	2	0
2012	2	10	0	0
2013	5	8	2	4
2014	8	11	1	1
2015	5	15	2	2
2016	7	8	0	0
2017	10	15	2	0
2018	4	6	1	0
2019	8	4	0	0
Total	70	109	18	16

