

Racine County Office of Emergency Management



2020 Annual Report

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
2020**

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

A Letter from the Emergency Management Coordinator

March 2021

Dear County Executive Delagrave:

I am pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report for the Racine County Office of Emergency Management (RCOEM).

2020 was an unprecedented year for Emergency Management. In January, lakeshore flooding resulted in millions of dollars of damage to the shoreline and a Presidential Disaster Declaration was approved for Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties. In March, the focus quickly turned to managing COVID and the Racine County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated for several months. Amid the pandemic, civil disturbance became a concern in the aftermath of the George Floyd incident in Minneapolis. And in August, several tornado warnings were issued for Racine County and a derecho resulted in damage.



Last year, we said goodbye to Dave Voss, who volunteered with RCOEM for over 46 years, but we also welcomed Lorenzo Santos as a new volunteer Deputy Coordinator. Lorenzo is a Navy veteran and is studying for his master's degree in Homeland Security.

On a personal note, this will be the last annual report I write for RCOEM. After 31 years with the county, I will be retiring sometime this Fall. However, the office will be left in good hands. In July, Jay Kerner was hired as the Chief Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator.

Jay brings years of tactical experience working for the Department of Corrections, as well as a strong planning and training background. I have personally worked with Jay over the years facilitating disaster exercises, and he has been a welcome addition to the team.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your participation and support of 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

2020 Highlights

- Racine County plans were reviewed and updated. 1 new off-site facility plan was developed, and 41 off-site plans were updated. RCOEM participated in the annual DOC Work Stoppage Plan Review meetings.
- Lakeshore flooding in January resulted in several millions of dollars' worth of damage to City of Racine infrastructure. Combined with damage that both Kenosha and Milwaukee experienced, a Presidential Disaster Declaration to offset public damage was granted.
- The Racine County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated to support and coordinate public response to the COVID crisis, becoming a hub for information dissemination, planning initiatives and resource allocation.
- The Racine County EOC was activated to monitor and assist in the aftermath of officer involved fatalities this past summer.
- RCOEM assisted the Racine Fire Department and the South Shore Fire Department with obtaining hazmat training grants, as well as assisting the South Shore Fire Department with obtaining equipment through the EPCRA Equipment grant.
- RCOEM continues to implement the WICAMS credentialing system countywide and has obtained ReadyOp, a tool that provides government agencies, hospitals, first responders, companies and unified commands with multiple communication capabilities and options in a single, secure website. ReadyOp is designed to support daily operations, special event planning, incident management and emergency response and recovery:
- 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 2.0 staff. In addition, five volunteer Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators are on call in the absence of the Emergency Management Coordinator.

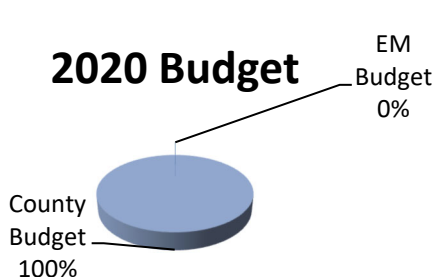
During a disaster, the emergency management coordinator advises the County Executive on emergency management issues. If need be, an Emergency Operations Center is activated, and key elected and appointed officials gather in it to manage the overall incident.

“You don't have to have all the answers. Set the vision and trust your team to provide valuable input to navigate the path forward.”

Janet Marinaccio

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.



	EM Budget	County Budget
FY2015	192,790	147,663,861
FY2016	157,000	145,191,064
FY2017	119,202	159,801,739
FY2018	116,215	151,644,851
FY2019	151,891	156,650,084
FY2020	169,061	167,828,792

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.

2020 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.	\$ 99,679.91
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.	\$ 36,231.73
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.	\$7335.79
MOBILE FIELD FORCE GRANT	The MFF grant is intended to enhance and better equip current MFF Teams. Grant funds were used to purchase gas masks (CBRN respirator) and related equipment supporting the mask deployment, i.e., canister, filter, and tactical mask bag.	\$ 25,365.00
HMEP TRAINING GRANTS	These Grants are available to train the South Shore FD's HAZMAT team.	\$8499.00
		\$177,111.43

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	2020 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">• 1 new offsite facility plan was developed, and 41 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

“Communication, setting expectations and having a work plan are more important now, than ever before.”

Julie Seavy

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 public.

Due to COVID, most training courses were put on hold. Typically, RCOEM will host several state and national training courses in any given year. This did not happen in 2020. Instead, agencies and personnel were encouraged to take advantage of online and virtual training classes.

Psychological First Aid

Racine County hosted the Red Cross' Psychological First Aid course on February 6, 2020, at Ascension-All Saints. The objectives of the course are to help you build resilience and support yourself and others through this crisis by reviewing basic principles of providing psychological first aid, including how to recognize and manage stress in yourself and in others and how to lend support to family members, friends, and coworkers.

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

Due to COVID, fire drills in various county buildings were postponed.

EXERCISE/DRILL

RCOEM personnel participated in the following exercises:

01/08/20	DOC Contaminated Mail TTx
01/14/20	Regional Cyber Workshop
11/13/20	Southeast Region Energy Emergency Planning Virtual Workshop

Racine County Emergency Management received exercise credit for an actual incident involving an anhydrous ammonia leak on May 7th in Yorkville and for the COVID Response.

“Consider how we might help family, friends, neighbors and associates through a stressful moment.”

Ed Auble

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 13-17, 2020 as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week, September as National Preparedness Month and November 9-13, 2020 as Winter Weather Awareness Week in Racine County.

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:

02/01/20	Ready Racine Winter Edition
02/01/20	RCOEM Annual Report
03/07/20	Community Newsletter: January storm wreaks havoc on Lake Michigan shoreline
06/20/20	Community Newsletter: Emergency Operation Center activated during pandemic
07/30/20	Elected Officials Guide (Updated)
09/12/20	Community Newsletter: National Preparedness Month recognized in September
09/30/20	Ready Racine Fall Edition
12/12/20	Community Newsletter: Emergency Management gives winter safety tips
12/19/20	Operation North Pole-Santa Briefs County Officials

OPERATION NORTH POLE

Santa took a break from his normal routine to pay a virtual visit to the Racine County Emergency Operations Center. Due to COVID restrictions, Santa was unable to fly in for his annual briefing with public safety officials in Racine County. Dubbed Operation North Pole, the purpose of Santa's visit was to brief local officials on his Christmas Eve travel plans through Racine County. Joining him on the virtual visit was County Executive Jonathan Delagrave; David Maack, Racine County Emergency Management Coordinator; Jay Kerner, Chief Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; Sheriff's Captains Jim Weidner, Dan Adams, and Cary Madrigal; Julie Anderson, Racine County Public Works Director, Jackie Bratz, 911 Dispatch Center Director and Mark Schaaf, Communications Director. RCOEM used Santa's visit 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 residents safe during the festivities.



SPILLS/INCIDENTS

LAKESHORE FLOODING DAMAGES LAKEFRONT INFRASTRUCTURE

On January 10th, the National Weather Service issues a Lakeshore Flood Advisory for Racine County. As a precaution, Pershing Drive and the Christopher Columbus Causeway were closed due to concerns about hazardous conditions. As forecasted, high winds resulted in waves pounding the lakeshore. The most intense winds came on Saturday and were out of the northeast at 50-60mph. Wind gusts in Racine were recorded at 58 mph. As City of Racine officials surveyed the damage, there were numerous issues along 2.5 miles of the lakeshore, stretching from Carre-Hogle Park to Shoop Park. An emergency declaration was issued, and state assistance was requested. Damage in Racine, Milwaukee and Kenosha counties was enough to request FEMA to conduct a Preliminary Disaster Declaration (PDA). State and federal officials conducted the PDA on FEMA PDA conducted on February 4th and 5th. Wisconsin Severe Winter Storm and Flooding (DR-4477-WI) was granted on March 11th.



RACINE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER ACTIVATED FOR COVID RESPONSE

The Racine County EOC was activated on March 19th to support local COVID response activities. Initiatives that were implemented included setting up isolation facilities for those who may



need to self-quarantine and alternate care facilities to address potential hospital overflow, coordinating requests for personal protective equipment, coordinating testing sites for both the community and at facilities with outbreaks, and developing recovery plans to help transition back to normal operations. The EOC was deactivated on June 9th. The EOC was also activated for civil unrest following the George Floyd shooting in Minneapolis and to support Kenosha County in the aftermath of the Jacob Blake shooting.

DERECHO HITS RACINE COUNTY

A cluster of strong thunderstorms evolved into a line as they tracked across southern Wisconsin on Monday, August 10th, 2020. The storms produced damaging winds and a couple of brief tornadoes. These strong thunderstorms evolved from several thunderstorms over southern Minnesota and northern Iowa early on Monday into a widespread, long-lived windstorm, or "Derecho," resulting in trees and wires down across the county, flash flooding and widespread power outages.

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
2020	5	8	2	3
Total	70	109	18	16

“Appointed local emergency management teams should be the communications conduit to employees in specific areas. Develop protocols for communicating with local health officials to accurately track infection and obtain guidance.”

Leader to Leader Editors

Disclaimer: Any pictures showing personnel without masks were taken before mask mandates were recommended or in effect