

Racine County Office of Emergency Management



2021 Annual Report

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

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Building a Resilient Community by Making Emergency Preparedness a Way of Life

A Letter from the Emergency Management Director

March 2022

Dear County Executive Delagrave:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the 2021 Annual Report for the Racine County Office of Emergency Management (RCOEM).

2021 was another very active year for Emergency Management. Throughout most of the year, planning continued with preparation for civil disturbances across the county. The Racine County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated several times. We remained on high alert with COVID as we continued to be a hub for disseminating information. Racine County also experienced two derechos this year.



This past October we said goodbye to David Maack who worked for Racine County for over 32 years. David's passing of the torch has allowed me the opportunity to extend the legacy of emergency preparedness that David brought so well to the county and serve the great citizens of Racine County as the Emergency Management Director. We also welcomed Alex Freeman as the new Deputy Coordinator just prior to the new year. Alex comes to Racine County from Waukesha County Emergency Management where he served as an EM planner. He is currently studying at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay for his bachelor's degree in Public Administration.

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:

**Jay Kerner, WCEM, MEP
Racine County Emergency
Management**

2021 Highlights

- Racine County Emergency Operations Plans (EOP's) were reviewed and updated. Two new off-site facility plans were developed, and 29 off-site plans were updated. RCOEM participated in the annual Wisconsin Department of Corrections (WI DOC) Work Stoppage Plan Review meeting.
- RCOEM assisted in setting up the Wisconsin Department of Health (WI DHS) regional vaccination clinic at Regency Mall.
- RCOEM assisted South Shore Fire Department and Racine Fire Department with obtaining a hazmat training grant, and also assisted South Shore FD in obtaining an EPCRA Equipment grant.
- RCOEM hosted the Center for Homeland Defense and Security Executive Education Seminar.
- Channel 58 broadcasted live from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during Tornado Awareness Week.
- Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce (RAMAC) invited emergency management staff to present at the RAMAC Business Matters and at the Commerce and Manufacturers Association of Racine (COMAR) luncheons.
- Jim Dobbs, RCOEM Deputy EM Coordinator, stepped down after 25 years of service to RCOEM. Lorenzo Santos joined the team as a volunteer Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator.
- The Racine County Emergency Operations Center operated virtually to support public health's response to the COVID crisis and became a hub for information dissemination and planning.
- RCOEM continues to implement the WICAMS badging and credentialing system countywide within the first responder community.
- RCOEM continues to integrate and utilize ReadyOp to support daily operations, special event planning, incident management and emergency response and recovery.
- Jay Kerner continued to be involved with the Racine County Traffic Safety Commission, HERC Region 7 Exercise Planning Team and as the secretary of the Racine County Local Emergency Planning Committee.
- 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, Racine County Citizen Preparedness Subcommittee, International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) USA Faith Based Organizations Caucus, Racine County Executive and Employee Safety Committees, FirstResponder 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 comprehensive all-hazard plans and specialized plans for chemical spills and terrorism. In addition, RCOEM is required to conduct disaster exercises and drills, provide emergency management-related training, create public awareness campaigns, and respond to real-time disasters and/or emergency situations. RCOEM provides key coordination and leadership to county departments, stakeholders, residents and visitors.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To assist and support the community in mitigating known hazards and in preparing for, responding to, surviving and recovering from natural and man-made disasters.

VISION: (Updated 2022)

Building a resilient community by making emergency preparedness a way of life.

Wisconsin Statutes §323.14 require 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. We work closely with local fire, police and public health departments and are 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. Four Volunteer Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators assist with various initiatives and are on call in the absence of the Emergency Management Director.

During a disaster, the Emergency Management Director advises the County Executive on emergency management concerns. If need be, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated and key elected and/or appointed officials gather in the EOC to manage the incident in its entirety.

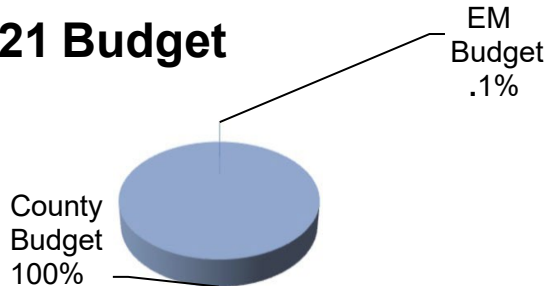
“You don't have to have all the answers. Set the vision and trust your team to provide valuable input to navigate the path forward.”

Janet Marinaccio

BUDGET/GRANTS OVERVIEW

Emergency Management accounts for less than 0.1% of the overall county budget. The RCOEM budget is largely offset by a combination of federal and state grants making it less than 0.1% of the county tax levy.

2021 Budget



	EM Budget	County Budget
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	188,640	167,828,792
FY2021	222,306	181,205,098

Various grant opportunities become available each year. Two grants RCOEM consistently receives are the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), which is supposed to fund 50% of operations, and the Wisconsin Emergency Management's (WEM) Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) Grant, that funds a portion of our hazardous materials planning activities. The following summary provides a snapshot of grants managed in 2021.

2021 GRANTS		
Program/Grant Name	Description	Grant Amount
FEMA EMPG	The purpose of this grant is to assist state and local governments to enhance and sustain all-hazards emergency management capabilities. FEMA provides the funding to local jurisdictions through the state.	\$97,091.00
EPCRA	This is a formula-based planning grant that off-sets expenses associated with implementing EPCRA requirements.	\$36,205.00
EPCRA Computer/Hazmat Equipment	This grant assists counties' compliance with requirements of Wisconsin Statutes ss. 323.60 and 323.61 and was used to assist South Shore FD's Hazmat team to offset equipment costs.	\$7,335.79
HMEP Training Grants	These grants are available to train the City of Racine and South Shore FD HAZMAT teams.	\$16,000.00
		\$156,631.79

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 many more.

PLAN	2021 UPDATE
Racine County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Emergency Support Functions	A thorough review of the Racine County CEMP took place this year. A team of 30 members was established to complete this review.
Racine County Hazardous Materials Plan	Updates were made to this plan
Offsite Plans	Two new offsite facility plans were developed, and 29 offsite facility plans were updated
Racine County Emergency Response Plans (ERPs)	Updates were made to the Racine County ERPs for all Racine County buildings
Mass Evacuation Plan	Mass evacuation plans were reviewed and confirmed
Railroad Emergency Response Plan	Railroad Emergency Response Plan was reviewed and confirmed

“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. Target audiences include public safety agencies and the general public.

Due to COVID, most training courses were put on hold or held virtually.

2021 TRAININGS

April 13-15:	WEM ICS 300
May 12:	Damage Assessment Workshop
May 17-19:	WEM ICS 400
June 2:	Center for Homeland Defense and Security Executive Education Seminar
July 29:	Active Shooter by RAPD-RAMAC
September 30-October 1:	Emergency Planning for Special Needs Population
October 26-27:	Evacuation and Re-entry Planning
November 10-11:	Donations Management

CENTER FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND SECURITY (CHDS) – CCA TRAINING

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) developed an executive-level seminar for Racine County policymakers based on a simulated complex, county-wide disaster scenario known as a complex coordinated attack (CCA). This well-regarded crisis leadership program assisted Racine County leaders in examining their executive-level decision-making systems during disasters. The program curriculum and scenario were designed with input from Racine County exercise planning coordinators to help strengthen their jurisdiction's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from catastrophic events.



RCOEM TRAINS SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Racine County Office of Emergency Management conducted ICS 300 and 400 training for the Racine County Sheriff's Office Incident Management Team. EM Director, Jay Kerner, is a certified Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) instructor and conducted the training, along with Chief Deputy Jim Weidner. The goal was to equip the team with tools needed to plan and respond to planned and spontaneous events that may occur such as festivals, civil unrest and natural disasters.

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.

Please note, COVID drastically impacted our ability to conduct drills and exercises in 2021.

2021 FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills took place in various county buildings as planned every fall.

2021 DRILLS/EXERCISES:

April 16: Tabletop Exercise-Tornado Scenario
September 9: Dennis Kornwolf Racine County Service Center Fire Drill
September 23: WEBEOC Mobile Drill

TORNADO TABLETOP CONDUCTED

To cap off Tornado Awareness Week, RCOEM held a countywide virtual tabletop exercise on April 16. Over 15 county departments participated in this severe weather tabletop exercise. The exercise tested the response to, and recovery efforts of, a devastating tornado traveling across the county from Burlington to the lakefront of Racine. Feedback was positive and will be incorporated into the After-Action Review (AAR).

“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, Ready Racine newsletter, email blasts, social media and our website to name a few.

2021 PROCLAMATIONS

County Executive Jonathan Delagrave joined with Governor Tony Evers in proclaiming the week of March 15-19 as Flood Safety Awareness Week, April 12-16 as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week, September as National Preparedness Month and November 15-19 as Winter Weather Awareness Week in Racine County.

PUBLICATIONS

David Maack continued to write a Community Newsletter column for *The Journal Times*. His articles occasionally appear in other publications as well.

- March 17: A week to focus on flood safety
- March 21: 365 days and counting, County EOC has been active for an 'unprecedented' full year
- March 27: Community Newsletter: A 2020 year in review for emergency management
- April 1: IAEM Bulletin: Racine County Emergency Management-Lessons Learned from COVID-19
- April 7: Tornado awareness is focus of week
- May 1: Ready Racine Newsletter
- May 2: County recognized again for preparedness
- June 2: Today is heat awareness day
- June 19: Community Newsletter: Emergency Management team recognized for pandemic response
- August 1: IAEM Bulletin: Building Partnerships Is a Necessity

RCOEM PARTICIPATES IN YOUTH DISASTER TRAINING



Jay Kerner participated in the Volunteer Center of Racine/ Youth Volunteer Corps' Disaster Preparedness Training held in conjunction with the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. The training took place on Saturday, September 11 at the Moose Lodge in Caledonia. 25 youth participated, ranging in age from 11-18, and all were students from Racine County. In addition, approximately 20 adult volunteers helped to facilitate the training including members of the South Shore Fire Department, Racine County Emergency Management and the Racine Fire Bells. The training was similar to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and included an overview of the 9/11 attacks, search and rescue and first aid/CPR.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC OUTREACH

RACINE COUNTY RECERTIFIED AS A STORMREADY COUNTY

The National Weather Service has recertified Racine County as a *StormReady* community. In Wisconsin, 10 Counties, 13 Communities, one Government entity and three Universities have attained *StormReady* status. *StormReady* is a preparedness program to help communities develop plans to handle all types of extreme weather. To become *StormReady*, Racine County: has a 24-hour warning point and Emergency Operations Center; implemented multiple ways to receive notifications and alert the public of severe weather warnings and forecasts; uses a system that monitors weather conditions locally; and promotes the importance of public readiness through community seminars. Racine County was first designated as a *StormReady* community on November 23, 2005.



StormReady designation requires recipients to recertify every three years to maintain the designation. For additional information on *StormReady*, visit <https://www.weather.gov/stormready/>

Emergency Management Team Recognized for COVID Response

Sheriff Christopher Schmalig recognized the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Team with a Unit Citation at the Sheriff's Office Award's Ceremony. The citation read, "The Racine County Emergency Operations Center Team came together in collaboration to prepare, protect, and provide for the citizens of Racine County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their quick response to an unprecedented situation placed Racine County in a favored position whether it was obtaining personal protective equipment for distribution, establishing testing sites, setting up and maintaining isolation centers, monitoring hospital bed usage, or reaching out to local and state resources."



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC OUTREACH

Channel 58 Broadcasts Live from Racine EOC

Michael Schlesinger, CBS58 Meteorologist, broadcasted live from the Racine County Emergency Operations Center on the last day of Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. David Maack, EM Coordinator, joined Michael Schlesinger to provide severe weather safety tips to viewers.



“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

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Racine County assisted the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in identifying a facility suitable to function as a community vaccination clinic. Regency Mall was identified as a potential site and emergency management staff worked with mall management to find an empty storefront that could be used. RCOEM assisted with the logistics of getting the facility ready for the state to move in. Staff also assisted in developing an emergency response plan for the facility, as well as training clinic staff on that plan.



STRONG SQUALLS HIT RACINE COUNTY TWICE IN ONE YEAR

Similar to weather in the summer of 2020, on August 9, 2021, a strong cluster of storms came across the southern part of Wisconsin. The storm has been classified as a squall by the National Weather Service. This storm produced damaging winds resulting in downed trees and wires causing power outages across the county.

On December 15-16, 2021, another high wind front roared through the entire state of Wisconsin. A tornado affected the northwestern part of the state while Racine County sustained high winds reaching 63 mph. These high winds resulted in several downed trees and wires across the county.

INCIDENTS/SPILLS

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
2021	4	7	0	1
Total	74	116	18	17

SPILLS/INCIDENTS:

03/18/21	Mineral Oil (6632 Canal Lane, Waterford)		
03/23/21	Motor Oil (1 st St and Cunningham Rd, Kansasville)		
03/30/21	Gasoline (1637 Raintree Ln, Mt Pleasant)		
04/03/21	Mineral Oil (Greater Mt Eagle, 929 State St)		
04/21/21	Unknown (2707 87th St/Pikes Creek)		
04/26/21	UAN Solutions [Fertilizer]*AG (Landmark Service Coop, 17702 County Line Rd)		
05/17/21	Airplane Crash (Racine)		
05/25/21	Downtown Power Outage		
05/30/21	Abandoned Container (Eagle Lake Park)		
06/02/21	Power steering fluid (Reefpoint Marina)		
06/04/21	EOC Activation-Jail Protest		
06/05/21	EOC Activation-Jail Protest	08/06/21	Diesel Fuel Spill (9615 Charles St)
06/06/21	EOC Activation-Jail Protest	08/18/21	Mineral Oil (24229 Washington Ave, Kansasville)
06/09/21	EOC Activation-Jail Protest		
06/11/21	EOC Activation-Jail Protest	09/28/21	Wastewater (SCJ, 8311 16th St Sturtevant)
06/17/21	Illegal Dumping (31844 Washington)		
07/03/21	EOC Activation-Independence Day Fireworks	10/11/21	Gasoline Spill (944 SE Frontage Rd, Mt Pleasant)
07/04/21	EOC Activation-Independence Day Parades/Fireworks	10/11/21	Oil Sheen on river (Root River & State St)
07/05/21	EOC Activation-Independence Day Parades/Fireworks	10/17/21	Oil Sheen on river (Reefpoint Marina)
07/18/21	EOC Activation-Protests	10/25/21	Mineral Oil (2715 Manor Ave, Mt. Pleasant)
07/29/21	Tornado Warning		
07/29/21	Diesel Fuel Spill (Hwy41 and Hwy11)	11/02/21	Mineral Oil (1339 Groves Ln, Union Grove)

Thank you for your continued support of the
Racine County Office of Emergency
Management

END OF REPORT