

Racine County Office of Emergency Management



2011 Annual Report

Office of Emergency Management

June 2012

Dear County Executive Ladwig:

I am pleased to submit our 2011 Annual Report for your review.

Although Racine County is a relatively safe place to live, work and play when it comes to natural disasters, we have seen our fair share of flooding, thunderstorms and tornadoes over the past several years. Most significant last year was the Ground Hog Day Blizzard which literally shut down all of Racine County for several days. Federal disaster funds were approved to supplement emergency response and cleanup efforts attributable to the blizzard.

In 2011, we began working as a region to develop a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). This plan is being based on the current Racine County CEMP and once completed, all the counties in the southeast region will be operating on a common platform for response and recovery. Funding for this project was provided by the Milwaukee Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

We continue to participate as a member of the Milwaukee UASI. The UASI is a federal Homeland Security program designed to fund regional planning and coordination in critical incident response. However, the Milwaukee UASI has been notified that it will no longer be eligible for funding through the Department of Homeland Security. Work is underway to complete projects.

On a positive note, we were recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with a 2011 Individual and Community Preparedness Award for our work with the faith based community in Racine County.

I would like to thank Lori Greenwood, who served this office for six years as my administrative assistant. During her tenure, she remained calm and collected through 51 Severe Thunderstorm Watches, 81 Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, 21 Tornado Watches and 13 Tornado Warnings in Racine County. She also assisted with Presidential Disaster Declarations in 2007 and 2008, an SBA Declaration in 2009 and Snow Storm Declarations in 2008 and 2011.

Finally I would like to thank Jim Dobbs, John Prochniak, Dave Voss and Skip Twardosz, who volunteered their time and helped augment our staff by serving as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators for Racine County. Their assistance has been invaluable and they are integral members of the emergency management team.

Respectfully submitted by:



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

RACINE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

During 2011, the Racine County Office of Emergency Management (RCOEM) was a relatively small department with 1.3 staff. In addition, four volunteer Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators were on call in the absence of the Emergency Management Coordinator.

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.

Racine County Emergency Management is a planning and coordinating agency charged with developing both comprehensive all-hazard plans and specialized plans for chemical spills and terrorism.

PLANNING

Racine County received a \$135,000 grant through the Milwaukee Urban Area Security Initiative to facilitate the completion of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) for the counties in the southeast region of Wisconsin.

This plan is based on the current Racine County CEMP; once it is completed, all the counties in the southeast region will be operating on a common platform for re-

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.

“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 its goal 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.

During an actual disaster, the emergency management co-

ordinate and recovery.

Work continued on catastrophic/evacuation planning and functional needs planning. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will be providing a detailed evacuation plan and maps.

An emergency planning template for special event organizers was developed. This plan template details action steps for severe weather, medical emergencies, fire, civil disturbances and lost

ordinators. The County Executive on emergency management issues. If need be, an Emergency Operations Center would be activated and key elected and appointed officials would gather to manage the overall incident.

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.

This annual report chronicles major activities throughout the year and is meant to give a broad, general overview of emergency management activities in Racine County.

children.

Updates were made to the Racine County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Racine County Hazardous Materials Plan.

“Always plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.”

- Richard Cushing, novelist

EXERCISES/DRILLS

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.

RCOEM participated in several exercises with the Department of Corrections, as well as a regional exercise with Time Warner. A historic nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System was held in November.

Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility Tests Plans

RCOEM was invited to help plan, facilitate and evaluate a tabletop exercise at the Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility (RYOCF).

Under the leadership of Warden Paul Kemper and Captain J. Kerner, local emergency responders were invited to participate in a tabletop exercise involving a train derailment impacting the RYOCF.



Corrections staff discussed how they would respond to the situation and anticipated potential issues such as the need to evacuate the facility. Local emergency responders addressed what their concerns would be and explained how they would respond to an incident like this.

Cooperation and communication were stressed by all participants, and a follow-up functional exercise was planned for Spring 2012.

“You got to be careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there.”

- Yogi Berra, baseball catcher

RCOEM also coordinated **fire drills** for various county buildings. 2011 Exercises/Drills:

- 02/23/11 Prison Exercise – Racine Correctional Institution (RCI)
- 04/14/11 Statewide Tornado Drill
- 04/21/11 Time Warner Cable Business Continuity Plan Tabletop Exercise
- 06/15/11 Public Health Exercise
- 07/19/11 RYOCF Tabletop Exercise
- 08/17/11 DKRCSC Fire Drill
- 08/26/11 LEC Fire Drill
- 09/22/11 Courthouse Fire Drill
- 10/12/11 Public Works Tabletop Exercise
- 11/07/11 Child Support Fire Drill
- 11/09/11 Nationwide EAS Test
- 11/10/11 RCI Functional Exercise



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.

PRESENTATIONS/INTERVIEWS

Throughout the year, David Maack makes presentations to various groups including service clubs, scout troops and schools. Over 25 presentations/interviews were given last year.

FAITH BASED PLANNING WORKSHOP

In conjunction with the City of Racine Mayor's Office of Strategic Partnerships and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, a forum on preparedness for churches and faith-based organizations was held on January 22nd. The seminar was attended by 46 individuals representing churches from across Racine County.



Pastor Ron Auch, Prayer House Assembly of God-Kenosha, shared his own church's experience recovering from the January 7, 2008 tornado which did over \$1 million in damage to his church. Pastor Auch explained that they were displaced for close to 10 months.

Participants then looked at two separate plans—an emergency response plan and a church recovery plan which would involve inventorying assets and identifying alternate locations. Finally, we discussed ways that churches could partner with the community. What a church can do will depend on the church's size, mission, skill set, etc. Some may do more than

others, but every little bit helps.

V.A.L.U.E. / WEMA

David Maack spoke to the Wisconsin Association of Public Purchasers on municipal emergency management responsibilities and the purchaser's role in an emergency event. In addition, he was a seminar speaker at the annual statewide WEMA conference.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP SEMINAR

Mark Baden, WISN Weather Watch 12's Chief Meteorologist recently addressed the Racine County Public/Private Partnership group on severe weather in southeastern Wisconsin.

In addition, Scott Anderson, General Manager of Grove Gear spoke on his company's recovery from the November 22, 2010 tornado in which 30,000 sq. ft. of their roof was ripped off. Rusty Kapela, NWS meteorologist spoke about the three tornadoes that struck Racine County that year.

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:

- Engaging the Faith-Based Community, IAEM Bulletin (January 2011)
- Lessons learned from Groundhog Day blizzard, Journal Times-Community Newsletter Column (2/16/11)
- Busting Complacency, IAEM Bulletin (April 2011)
- Tornadoes...nature's most devastating storm, Journal Times-Community Newsletter Column (06/16/11)
- A time to remember, a time to prepare, Journal Times-Community Newsletter Column (09/02/11)
- 3 Tips for Raising Your Visibility (Emergency Management on-line magazine, 11/23/11)
- Raising Your Visibility (IAEM Bulletin, December 2011)
- Community Newsletter Column: Avoid these mistakes in times of disaster (Journal Times, 12/15/11)

TRAINING

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

RCOEM HOSTS PUBLIC WORKS COURSE

RCOEM partnered with the Racine Police Department to offer TEEX's MGT317 –DM for Public Services course. The **Disaster Management for Public Services** course brings together those emergency management personnel who would be required to prevent, manage, or react to a natural, technological, or civil disaster within their community. The course introduced the natural, technological, and civil hazards to which public service systems may be vulnerable and covered the process of emergency response from pre-incident preparation and planning to post-incident recovery actions.



SCJ FLIGHT CENTER TRAINS LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS

The SCJ Flight Center recently it hosted three days of training at Batten International Airport in Racine. Working with Kellogg Community College, the SCJ Flight Center brought in a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) mobile trainer, utilizing a high tech mobile aircraft fire simulator. The simulator uses safe, controllable, environmentally acceptable propane fuel to provide a

variety of realistic aircraft fire scenarios, including flammable liquid spills,

DAVID MAACK RECERTIFIED

David Maack successfully completed the continuing education requirements to maintain WEM's Level 4 certification. This recertification is good through December 31, 2014.

David Maack completed the following training courses:

02/19/11	CERT Instructor Refresher
03/04/11	Governor's Conference
05/10/11	IS-906 Basic Workplace Security Awareness
05/10/11	IS-907 Active Shooter: What Can You Do?
05/17-18/11	MGT317 –DM for Public Services
05/26/11	Amtrak Training
06/10/11	FEMA IA Training
07/18/2011	WHOPRS
08/10/11	IS-230.b Fundamentals of Emergency Management
08/16/11	Aircraft Rescue Training
09/01/11	Lean Government Training
10/19/11	WEMA Conference
11/16/11	MGT 338 Risk and Vulnerability Assessments for Rural Communities
12/14/11	IS-00247 Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

Lori Greenwood completed the following training courses:

08/30/11	IS-139 Exercise Design
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"We need to create a culture of preparedness in America. Our forefathers knew how to take care of themselves, their families, and the communities in which they lived. As citizens, we need to be prepared to do that same - we cannot wait on the federal government to do it for us."

-Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, ret.

SPILLS/INCIDENTS

GROUND HOG DAY BLIZZARD

During the overnight hours of February 1 to February 2, a powerful low pressure center passing south of Wisconsin produced blizzard conditions across much of southern Wisconsin. Snow associated with the system began in the mid-afternoon hours of Feb 1st in far southern Wisconsin and pushed northward into the state through the evening.



Very strong northeast winds gusting to 45 to 60 mph were associated with this storm for an extended period of time. Snow accumulations ranged from 12 to 26 inches! This snow and winds generated massive snow drifts of 6 to 10 feet, and some locations had drifts up to 12 to 15 feet in height!

Whiteout conditions made it extremely dangerous to be on the roads, and snow plow operators stated that they could not see their plows six feet in front of them. In addition, stranded motorists and abandoned vehicles made it difficult to keep up with the plowing. With well over 200 stranded motorists through-

out Racine County, the focus quickly shifted from plowing roads to assisting with search and rescue operations.

Federal disaster funds were approved to supplement emergency response and cleanup efforts to the blizzard. Under the declaration, Racine County was eligible for federal funding to pay part of the cost for emergency protective measures undertaken as a result of the storm.

Government agencies, non-profit agencies and schools were eligible to apply for partial reimbursement for snow removal and response expenses incurred during this snowstorm. There were 47 applicants and to date, \$701,658.85 has been expended in federal funds and \$116,943.16 in state funds for a total reimbursement of \$818,602.01 countywide.



JUNE 30TH SUPERCCELL EVENT

A very intense thunderstorm rolled south just off shore of Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha Counties early Thursday evening, June 30, bringing damaging winds of 60 to



around 80 mph to the lake shore areas of Racine and Kenosha counties, as well as to southeastern Milwaukee County. A gust of 82 mph was measured at the Racine Airport. Although the storm remained 5 to 10 miles off shore, it did kick out an intense outflow boundary that moved on shore, bringing the damaging winds to the shoreline communities. Numerous trees were uprooted, powerlines were knocked down and roofs had shingle damage. There were reports of felled trees or tree branches damaging homes and mobile homes.

JULY HEATWAVE EVENT

A 4-day heat wave affected the state during the period of July 17-21st with heat index values of 100 to 117. Actual maximum temperatures were generally in the mid to upper 90s, and minimum nighttime temperatures generally ranged from the upper 60s to mid-70s. Statewide, there were only 5 directly-related fatalities, thanks to a 3-day advance notice by the NWS,

SPILLS/INCIDENTS cont.

and preparedness efforts of state, county, and local officials in conjunction with excellent media coverage. The fatalities were the first directly related to heat in Wisconsin since 2006.

GUSTY WINDS ALONG LAKE MICHIGAN

Strong low pressure over Ohio resulted in gusty north-east winds of 40 to 70 mph along the Lake Michigan shoreline from the She-

boygan area south on October 19th.



Waves built to 12 to 16 feet and a peak gust of 72 mph was recorded on the lakeshore at Racine.

“Good luck is nothing but preparedness and opportunity coming together.”

- Deepak Chopra

Racine County Severe Weather History

Year	Severe Thunderstorm		Tornado	
	Watch	Warning	Watch	Warning
1994	9	4	2	0
1995	10	9	2	2
1996	5	5	10	0
1997	9	6	2	1
1998	10	10	2	0
1999	8	10	0	0
2000	8	14	3	1
2001	10	7	1	1
2002	7	6	1	0
2003	4	6	3	0
2004	15	16	2	0
2005	11	5	5	3
2006	19	19	3	0
2007	2	11	3	0
2008	9	19	5	4
2009	7	8	1	2
2010	6	7	7	7
2011	8	17	2	0
Total	157	179	54	21

GRANTS

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 materi-

als planning activities.

In addition, we routinely apply for training grants and through the Milwaukee Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), of which Racine County is a member. Grants will be made available for our Citizen Corps program and for response-related equipment through June 30, 2013.

In many cases, the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance requires that the emergency man-

agement office apply for grants on behalf of outside agencies. Many of the grants are multi-year grants.

The following summary provides a snapshot of the various grants that were managed in 2010 (with the exception of EMPG and EPCRA grants).

2011 GRANTS	START DATE	GRANT AMOUNT
Homeland Security/SE Citizen Corps	06/01/09	\$74,000.00
Homeland Security/Mutual Aid Radio Replacement Round 6	12/01/10	\$60,824.00
Homeland Security/Regional Planning Grant	12/1/10	\$135,000.00
FY'10 Homeland Security Intelligence & Information Sharing	01/01/11	\$45,000.00
2011 HMEP Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness	01/01/11	\$6,118.00
Homeland Security/SE Citizen Corps	05/31/11	\$79,850.00
Homeland Security/UASI M & A	09/01/10	\$5,000.00
TOTAL		\$405,792.00



Yorkville United Methodist Church was the recipient of a grant from the Union Grove Area Fund. The church plans to qualify its facility as a disaster relief site, and having an on-site water supply is required (current water source was shared with an adjacent property).

Brian McMahon, U.G. Area Fund Board Chairman, presented a check for \$4,500 to Trustee Co-Chairs Bill Beck and Cory Bartlett on August 11. Also attending the presentation was David Maack, Emergency Management Coordinator for Racine County.

Lori Greenwood Moves On

For the past six years, Lori Greenwood split her duties 70/30 between the Office of the Sheriff and Emergency Management. Effective 01/01/12, Lori transferred full time to the Sheriff's Office.

During her tenure she helped coordinate over \$750,000 in state and federal grants, many with overlapping years, while also managing the day to day administrative functions of the office. In addition, she assisted with various exercises, trainings, events and projects.

Over the past six years, she remained calm and collected

through severe thunderstorms, blizzards, tornadoes, heat waves and micro bursts. Looking back, there were 51 Severe Thunderstorm Watches, 81 Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, 21 Tornado Watches and 13 Tornado Warnings in Racine County over that period.

Several of these storms resulted in various disaster declarations including Presidential Disaster Declarations in 2007 and 2008, an SBA Declaration in 2009 and Snow Storm Declarations in 2008 and 2011. These declarations resulted in an increased workload in both the pre-



declaration and the post-declaration stages. Not only was she instrumental in compiling accurate damage reports and assessments, but in the post declaration phase, she also processed the reimbursements to Racine County municipalities and agencies.

Faith-based planning seminar basis for FEMA award

David Maack has been selected by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to receive one of the 2011 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards.

The awards recognize innovative practices and achievements of organizations and individuals that work to make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to manage any emergency situation. Maack was recognized in the "Engagement with Faith-Based Communities" category.

In collaboration with the City of Racine Mayor's Office of

Strategic Partnerships and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, he worked with the faith-based community to present a forum on preparedness for churches and faith-based organizations.

The forum's goals included reaching an underrepresented community and fostering a culture of preparedness within the faith-based community; as a result, a special effort was made to reach inner city churches. Forty-six individuals representing multiple churches attended the seminar.

County Executive Jim Ladwig said: "David is committed to

keeping the public constantly aware of the potential for natural and manmade emergency events and the need for all of us to be as prepared to deal with them as possible. His work with faith-based communities is only one example of that commitment."



CITIZEN CORPS

In 2011 The Southeast Wisconsin Citizen Corps hosted two CERT classes and a Traffic Control class. In March, a class was held at the Racine YMCA with 23 attendees. The second class was held at the Kenosha County Center in Bristol. There were 24 participants. During the course of the year, a CERT for Business class was developed and piloted. CERT Business classes will be offered in 2012.



We now have a database of over 410 CERT trained individuals. Twenty-four individuals from Racine County, 36 from Kenosha County and 7 from outlying counties have indicated a willingness to be on a call-out team.

Outreach activities included:

- Presentation at a Kiwanis' luncheon
- Gateway Community Awareness Day
- Safe Assured ID functions under the CERT banner
- Volunteer Internship Fair
- Southeast Wisconsin Citizen Corps CERT Facebook page



- Elderly Services Network Group Presentation
- Kenosha and Racine County Fairs

The Citizen Corps Coordinator attended the following functions:

- Faith based seminar
- Pipeline Safety seminar
- Fire Chief meetings

The Citizen Corps Coordinator completed the following training:

- OJA webinars
- E-grant training
- Citizen Corps Successes webinar
- Building Community Disaster Resilience through Public-Private Collaboration Webinar
- Public Information Officer Awareness (IS-00029)



CERT members volunteered for the following:

- Racine and Kenosha County Fairs
- Racine and Kenosha County Safety Fairs
- Traffic control at several festivals and events in Racine and Kenosha Counties
- Cops 'n Kids Giveaway
- Parades
- Snow removal for seniors
- Bicycle races

citizen  **corps**
 UNITING COMMUNITIES
 PREPARING THE NATION

