

Racine County Office of Emergency Management



2013 Annual Report

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
2013**

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

RCOEM MISSION

RCOEM ORGANIZATION

BUDGET/GRANTS OVERVIEW

EMERGENCY PLANNING

TRAINING & EXERCISES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC OUTREACH

SPILLS/INCIDENTS



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

A Letter from the Emergency Management Coordinator

December 2013

Dear County Executive Ladwig:

I am pleased to present the FY 2013 Annual Report for the Racine County Office of Emergency Management (RCOEM).

Flooding threatened parts of Racine County this spring and Racine County Departments and Agencies mobilized to assist municipalities. Fortunately for Racine County residents, the storm system bypassed Racine County. The remainder of the storm season was relatively minor with no major incidents to report.

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) was adopted by the County Board and the plan, along with municipal plan guidance, was made available to municipalities. We have also offered to assist them in their planning process, along with conducting a tabletop exercise to test their plans.



In the past year, we continued to strengthen our community outreach and preparedness activities. In addition to the public outreach campaigns that we are required to undertake, we hosted three national training courses and developed a Day Without Business Planning workshop. In addition, we launched a new website and created a FACEBOOK page.

Finally I would like to thank Jim Dobbs, Skip Twardosz, Dave Voss and Tom Knitter. All have volunteered their time and augmented our staff by serving as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators for Racine County. Their assistance has been invaluable and they have become integral members of the emergency management team.

We are extremely proud of our accomplishments in the past year, and we look forward to your review.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

2013 Highlights

- Flooding threatened Racine County in April. On April 18, 2013, County Executive Jim Ladwig issued an Emergency Declaration. Sandbags were provided to municipalities at cost and several municipalities undertook sandbagging operations as a precaution.
- David Maack serves on the Planning Committee for the Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security, along with participating on the IL-IN-WI Regional Catastrophic Planning Team Citizen Preparedness Sub-Committee. In addition, he served on the FFY2014 POW I & G Workgroup.
- David Maack was elected the Chairman of the Traffic Safety Commission, replacing the late Don Karkow who served in that position for 37 years. In addition, he was appointed to the Racine County Local Board 922000 which oversees FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program.
- RCOEM staff participated in walkthroughs at the following facilities- St. Joseph Grade School, Drought School, Johnson Insurance, Living Water Lutheran Church and Sacred Heart Church.
- RCOEM worked with a Leadership Racine Team to successfully coordinate and sponsor a joint Safety Fair with the YMCA.
- A new webpage and a FACEBOOK page was set up.
- RCOEM provided input on IBHS' new *OFB-EZ* template and FEMA's Best Practices for Starting a Community Preparedness Program in your Organization: A Guide for Community Leaders and Individuals and a Day Without Business Planning workshop was offered for Racine County businesses and non-profit agencies.
- The County Board promulgated changes to the Racine County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the plan was distributed to stakeholders.
- RCOEM hosted three national training courses in Racine County and gave more than 35 presentations/interviews on emergency preparedness.
- RCOEM continues to partner with the Department of Corrections, participating in various exercises that they are conducting in Racine County. In addition, RCOEM participated in four disaster exercises, the statewide tornado drill and facilitated fire drills for all county buildings.

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.

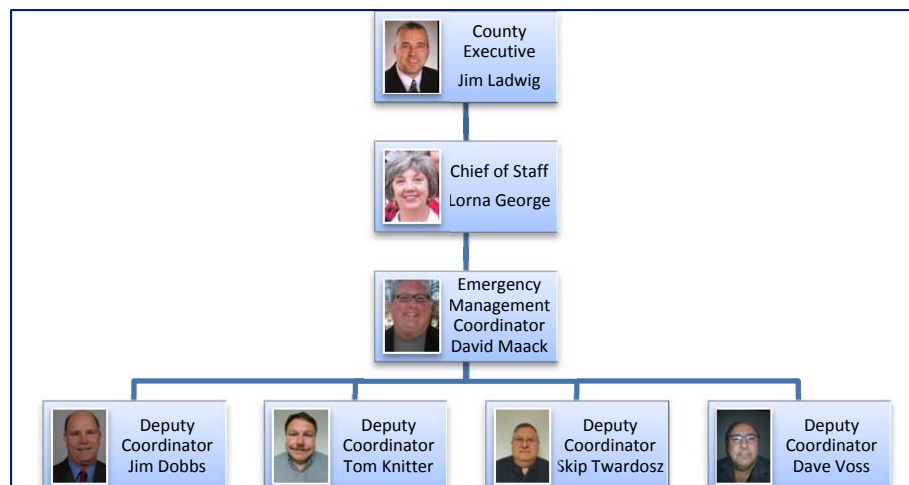
Our mission is *“To assist the community in mitigating known hazards and in preparing for, responding to, surviving and recovering from both natural and man-made disasters”*

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

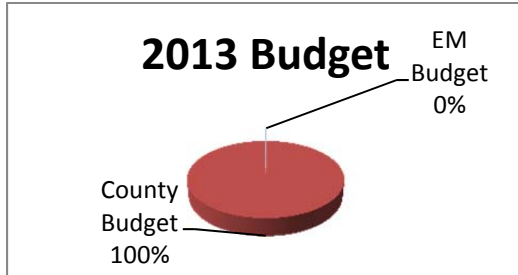
RCOEM is a relatively small department with 1.1 staff. In addition, four volunteer Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators are on call in the absence of the Emergency Management Coordinator.



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.

BUDGET/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
FY 2010	126,748	139,561,626
FY 2011	129,089	143,480,831
FY 2012	127,470	142,512,092
FY2013	124,790	140,091,656

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. In addition, funding through the Milwaukee Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) ended in 2013.

The following summary provides a snapshot of the various grants that were managed in 2013 (with the exception of EMPG and EPCRA grants).

2013 Grants		
Program/Grant Name	Description	Grant Amount
#9624 Homeland Security/SE Citizen Corps	This grant funds the Southeastern Wisconsin Citizen Corps Program, a collaborative partnership between the Racine County and Kenosha County Emergency Management programs. The primary activity is the Community Emergency Response Team training classes.	\$45,835.00
#9879 Homeland Security/UASI M&A	Funds support planning and equipment procurement activities as well as maintenance and administration expenses.	\$5,000.00
		\$50,835.00

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 50 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.

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 was adopted by the County Board in 2013.

Work continued on catastrophic/evacuation planning and functional needs planning. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation provided updated evacuation plans and maps for the entire county.

Updates were made to the Racine County Hazardous Materials Plan.

Plan	2013 Update
Racine County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Emergency Support Functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated and revised the Racine County CEMP • Reduced ESF's from 29 to 24
Racine County Hazardous Materials Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the Racine County Hazardous Materials Plan
Off Site Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 off site facility plans were updated and nine new off-site facility plans were developed.
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"> • Continued to develop a mass evacuation plan with the assistance of WI DOT
Municipal EOP Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Municipal Emergency Operations Plan template was updated and distributed to all municipalities.

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.

Incident Command System Training was provided for the Waterford Graded School District and the public works departments in Racine County. In addition, ICS-402: Incident Command System (ICS) Overview for Executives/Senior Officials was held for elected officials in Racine County.

*"A man should rely on his own resources; the one who so trains himself is ready for any emergency."
—OMAHA Proverb*

RCOEM hosted TEEEX's AWR-136 Essentials of Community Cyber Security and MGT-385 Community Cyber Security Exercise Planning, along with Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium's (RDPC) MGT 335 Event Security Planning for Public Safety Professionals. We also hosted Wisconsin Emergency Management's Basic Public Information Officer Course.

A DAY WITHOUT BUSINESS

Recognizing that one in four small businesses closed by a disaster or major emergency never re-opens due to the lack of a business recovery plan, RCOEM hosted **A Day Without Business "Make A Plan!" Workshop** for small and medium sized businesses and non-profit agencies on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at the iMET Center. Utilizing the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety's new streamlined business continuity toolkit, Open for Business-EZ, this four hour workshop walked participants through the steps that they need to take to make an effective business continuity plan.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Nine CERT classes were held in 2013 and over 180 people trained. Two classes were held at the Sturtevant Transitional Facility for inmates who will be reintegrating back into the community.

In addition, there were two general, two youth and three business CERT classes offered. In October, Kenosha County Emergency Management requested CERT trained volunteers to assist with a search and rescue operation at Petrifying Springs Park. Approximately 10 CERT volunteers showed up, including several from a local company who had trained their personnel in CERT.

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.

TORNADO TABLETOP

RCOEM facilitated a quick Tornado Tabletop Exercise for the County Executive's Expanded Cabinet meeting. The tabletop consisted of an initial EOC Briefing and a round robin discussion on immediate priorities and resources the county could provide to the municipalities struck by the "tornado".

PUBLIC WORKS TABLETOP EXERCISE

RCOEM facilitated a tabletop exercise for the western Racine County Public Works Departments on October 16, 2014. The Tabletop Exercise was conducted to focus on capabilities associated with response to flooding along the Fox River resulting in damage that encompasses areas of the City of Burlington. The exercise was developed to test the Public Works Department's abilities to coordinate response and recovery efforts at the local level, requiring mutual aid.

FIRE DRILLS

RCOEM coordinated fire drills for various county buildings.

EXERCISE/DRILL:

04/19/13	Statewide Tornado Drill
04/26/13	Critical Infrastructure Lifeline Restoration Table-Top Exercise
07/17/13	Tornado TTx
09/04/13	Ives Grove Fire Drill
09/13/13	Courthouse Fire Drill
09/13/13	DLRCSC Fire Drill
09/17/13	Child Support Fire Drill
09/19/13	LEC Fire Drill
10/16/13	Public Works TTx
10/28/13	WRCSO Fire Drill
10/31/13	RYOCF TTx

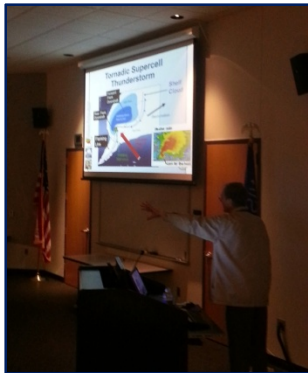


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC OUTREACH

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.

RCOEM provided input on IBHS' new *OFB-EZ* template and FEMA's *Best Practices for Starting a Community Preparedness Program in your Organization: A Guide for Community Leaders and Individuals*.

TORNADO AWARENESS WEEK



County Executive Jim Ladwig proclaimed April 15-19, 2013 as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Racine County and encouraged Racine County residents to Listen, Act and Live! RCOEM hosted an annual storm spotter seminar on March 19, 2013. Rusty Kapela, National Weather Service (NWS) Meteorologist, conducted dispatcher training, along with a basic and an advanced course. The training was held at the IMET center in Sturtevant. 13 attended the dispatcher training, 27 attended the basic storm spotter seminar and 54 attended the advanced seminar. Most indicated a willingness to be storm spotters.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT SEVERE WEATHER

Racine County Emergency Management, in partnership with SC Johnson, presented a Community Interest Program at the Golden Rondelle: Straight Talk about Severe Weather featuring John Malan, Chief Meteorologist at TODAY's TMJ4 and David Maack.



HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR

Racine County Emergency Management teamed up with Leadership Racine and the new Sealed Air Family YMCA to bring a newly revamped Health and Safety Fair on Saturday, April 27th from 9 am to noon at the Sealed Air Family YMCA Campus in Mount Pleasant. The Safety Fair included a free raffle for a generator, face painting, public safety displays and demonstrations, safety information for all ages, healthy eating tips, Air One Helicopter demonstration, Safe Assured-ID, and tours of the Sealed Air YMCA.

STUDENT TOOLS FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING (STEP)

Amy Maack, a teacher at Starbuck Middle School, identified a unique way of incorporating an emergency preparedness lesson into an after school reading program. As the students read through the Hunger Game trilogy, Mrs. Maack looked for creative ways of bringing the book to

life. From archery to identifying edible plants, she integrated hands on activities to supplement what the students were reading about. While the series focuses on long term survival, Mrs. Maack explained that many disasters may result in the students and their families being on their own for at least three days, if not longer.

Utilizing STEP (Student Tools for Emergency Planning), students were taught how to prepare for various emergencies including tornadoes, flooding, blizzards, power outages and thunderstorms and as well as developing their own family emergency plan. Wisconsin Emergency Management provided a basic “Go Bag” for each student. STEP is offered free of charge to schools and generally geared towards the 5th grade level. It is flexible enough to be a standalone module or it can be adapted to work with a variety of lessons, from science to reading. David Maack visited this after school program and explained how they could be prepared for any disaster.



NEW WEBSITE

Racine County Emergency Management has a new, updated website! The new website is easy to navigate and has practical and useful information and links. For example, on our homepage, you can find information on current watches and warnings, along with linking to WE Energies Power Outage Map. Check it out at www.readyracineco.com.

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK

Racine County Emergency Management is now on Facebook. Check us out at www.facebook.com/readyracineco. We are regularly posting useful preparedness tips, special weather information and pictures of events.

RCOEM PRESENTATIONS

David Maack was a presenter at the Milwaukee Area Church Safety & Security Seminar. Sponsored by the Milwaukee County Law Enforcement Executives Association, the seminar featured Carl Chin, author of *Evil Invades Sanctuary*, and was open to faith based groups in Southeastern Wisconsin. David was also a breakout session speaker at the regional 2013 Whole Community Preparedness Conference.



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:

- Community Newsletter Column: Prepare for upcoming storm season, (*Journal Times* 03/07/13)
- Ready Racine Newsletter-January 2013
- Community Newsletter Column: The best way to manage the storm season? Be prepared (*Journal Times* 05/23/13)

- Community Newsletter Column: The top 5 weather dangers we face (Journal Times 07/03/2013)
- Ready Racine Newsletter-July 2013
- Emergency Management as a Profession (IAEM Bulletin September 2013)
- Community Newsletter: You can be the hero (Journal Times 09/03/13)
- Ready Racine Newsletter-November 2013
- Community Newsletter: Be prepared for tornadoes at all times of the year (Journal Times 12/12/13)
- Community Newsletter: This holiday season, give the gift of preparedness (Journal Times 12/21/13)



SPILLS/INCIDENTS

MILD YEAR

The 2012-13 winter season started out relatively mild but that changed in late January and continued through March 2013. A number of winter advisory/warnings were issued in February/March. However, no major issues were encountered. Incidents of severe weather were also significantly lower in 2013, with the exception of spring flooding.

"People say that crisis changes people and turns ordinary people into wiser or more responsible ones."

—Wilma Mankiller

RCOEM ASSISTS AT FIRE SCENE

Skip Twardosz, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, responded to a nine alarm fire in the City of Burlington on Wednesday, January 30, 2013. The fire engulfed the Echo Lake Foods facility and there were concerns of both toxic smoke and chemicals, including anhydrous ammonia, which were stored on site. About 50 residents in the immediate area were evacuated as a precaution. More than 90 agencies from 12 MABAS Divisions responded to the scene and hundreds of firefighters from both the City of Burlington and the surrounding areas battled the blaze well into the next morning. Fire crews operated on five hour shifts due to the cold. The bitter temperatures also caused some problems with equipment freezing up. The Southeast Wisconsin Incident Management Team, led by Mark Stigler, was activated and they assisted in developing an Incident Action Plan for the next operational period.



FLOOD WARNINGS

Racine County faced the threat of near record flooding in April. On April 18, 2013, Racine County Emergency Management coordinated a Flood Emergency Planning meeting at Ives Grove. County Executive Jim Ladwig issued a declaration of emergency that morning due to the potential for dangerous flooding conditions. The declaration came following moderate to heavy rainfall in Racine County, resulting in both flood watches and warnings being issued. Sandbags were provided to municipalities at cost and several municipalities undertook sandbagging operations as a precaution. Inmates from the Racine County Jail were used to augment sandbagging operations. Rainfall amounts were less than projected and the impacted areas did not reach near record flood levels.

NOVEMBER TORNADO WARNINGS

Four Tornado Warnings were issued for Racine County on Sunday, November 17, 2013. The storms passing through Racine County were unique for several reasons. The active tornado season in Wisconsin is April to August and tornados occur most frequently between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. These storms were occurring in November and were happening mid-morning. The National Weather Service was detecting rotation in the clouds over Racine County and the storms that passed through Racine County had

already spawned tornados in Illinois. In fact, that storm system spawned over 50 tornadoes across at least five states - Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. 25 tornadoes were identified in Illinois, with 14 being significant (EF-2 or stronger). Of these, two were EF-4 and three were EF-3. In addition, there were 28 tornadoes identified in Indiana.

Racine County Severe Weather History

Year	Severe Thunderstorm		Tornado	
	Watch	Warning	Watch	Warning
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
2012	2	10	0	0
2013	5	8	2	4
Total	113	153	38	22

