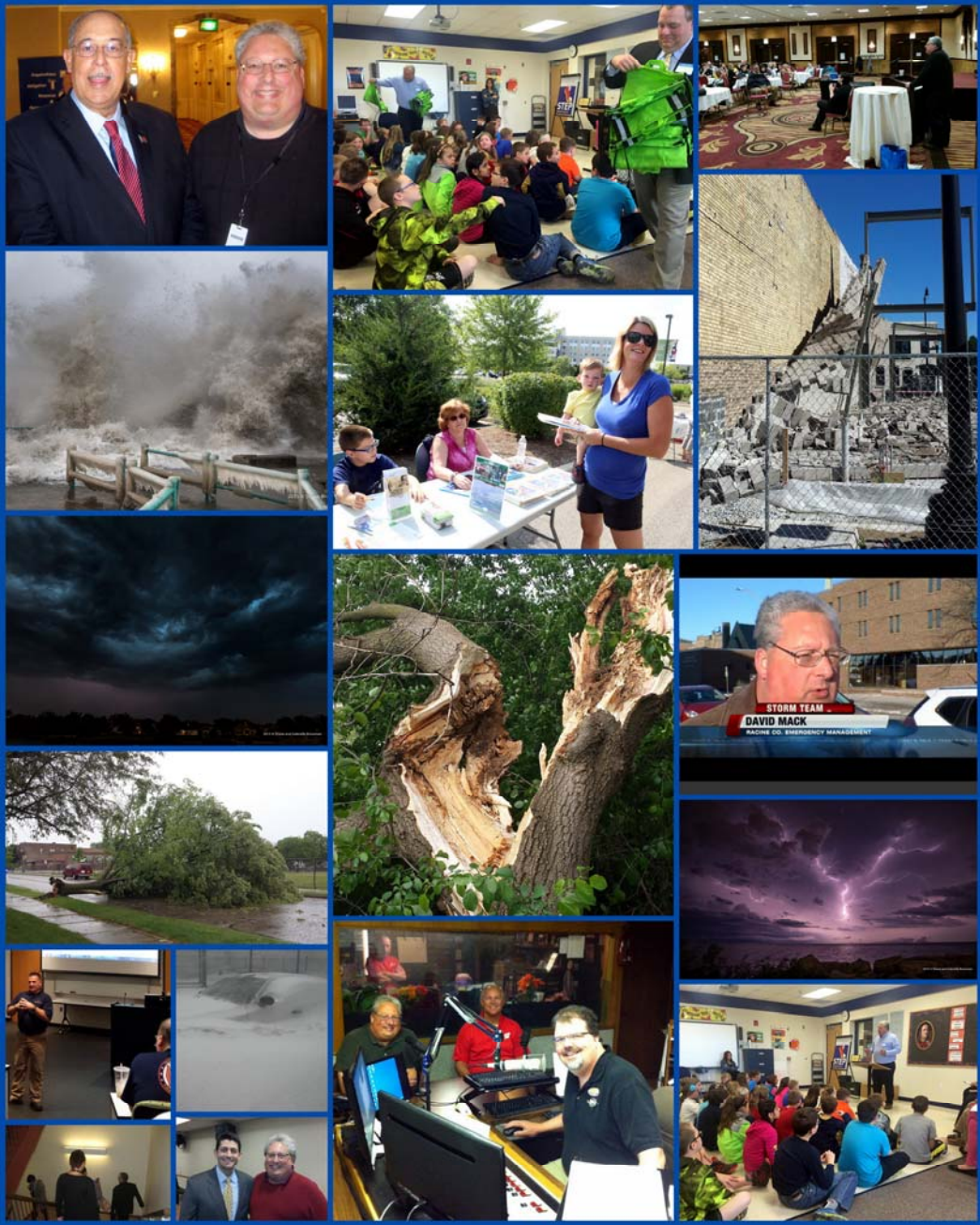


Racine County Office of Emergency Management



2015 Annual Report

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
2015**

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

A Letter from the Emergency Management Coordinator

December 2015

Dear County Executive Delagrave:

I am pleased to present the 2015 Annual Report for the Racine County Office of Emergency Management (RCOEM).

2015 was a good year for emergency management. A relatively minor spring and summer storm season allowed us to focus on planning, exercise and public outreach initiatives.

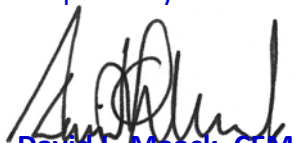
All plans were updated and we began updating the Racine County Hazard Mitigation Plan. We were able to facilitate several emergency exercises for key stakeholders and we continued our public outreach efforts. In addition, we sponsored a well-attended Crude by Rail Awareness workshop for first responders.



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.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for your support and 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

2015 Highlights

- Racine County received grants to update the Racine County Hazard Mitigation Plan and to conduct a training needs survey and assessment.
- David Maack celebrated 25 years as the Racine County Emergency Management Coordinator.
- The Racine County Hazardous Materials Plan was updated along with 65 off-site plans. In addition, 4 new off-site plans were developed.
- David Maack served on the Planning Committee for the Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security.
- RCOEM sponsored several state and national courses including Disaster Management for Electrical Power Systems and Isolation & Quarantine for Rural Communities.
- RCOEM provided Incident Command System training for the Racine County Sheriff's Office In-Service.
- A number of disaster exercises and drills were conducted including a tabletop and functional exercise for the City of Burlington which focused on a hazardous materials release.
- David Maack was a plenary speaker at the Tri-State Whole Community Conference held in Skokie, IL.
- David Maack will be chairing 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 Committee, Racine County Court Security Committee, Racine County Traffic Safety Commission, Racine County Executive and Employee Safety Committee's and the Racine County Local Emergency Food and Shelter Board.

RCOEM MISSION

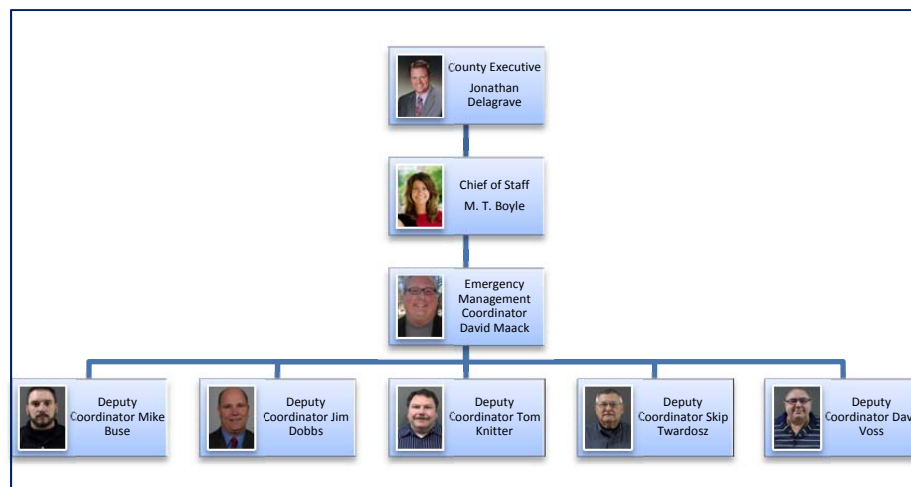
The Racine County Office of Emergency Management (RCOEM) is a planning and coordinating agency charged with developing both comprehensive all-hazard plans and specialized plans for chemical spills and terrorism. In addition, it is required to conduct disaster exercises and drills, provide emergency management-related 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

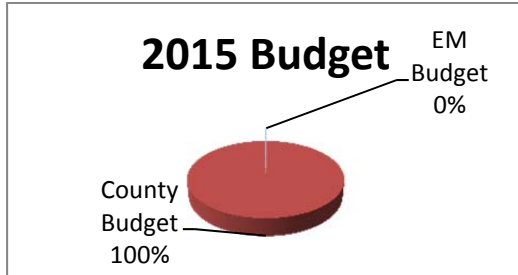
RCOEM is a relatively small department with 1.1 staff. In addition, five volunteer Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators are on call in the absence of the Emergency Management Coordinator.



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.

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
FY2014	130,766	145,433,561
FY2015	201,071	147,663,861

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 2015.

2015 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.	\$ 116,677.00
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.	\$36,969.00
HMEP	Planning grant funded by US DOT for the purpose of improving the delivery of EPCRA and enhance planning efforts with a focus on transportation. This grant was used to conduct a training needs assessment.	\$4538.75
		\$158,184.75

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 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Over 50 public and private sector partners, including representatives from non-governmental organizations, participated in Racine County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Kick-Off meeting at the IMet Center. A Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses from disasters like flooding, as well as maintaining our eligibility to apply for hazard mitigation grants. The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission will assist Racine County in updating the 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
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">• 65 offsite facility plans were updated and 4 new offsite 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">• Updated the mass evacuation plan guidance
Railroad Emergency Response Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed the Railroad Emergency Response Plan

“Make a game plan and stick to it...unless it’s not working.” –Yogi Berra

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.

RCOEM provided NIMS 700, ICS 100 & 200 training for the Racine County Sheriff's Office In-Service and a Public Information Officer (PIO) 101 course for the Kansasville Fire Department.

RCOEM hosted three national courses as well as TRANSCAER's Crude by Rail course. **The National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC)** provided MGT-345 Disaster Management for Electrical Power Systems. In addition, the **Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC)** provided two different classes on Isolation and Quarantine.

"We don't rise to the level of our expectations; we fall to the level of our training."
-Archilochus

David Maack completed FEMA's **Level 1 Professional Continuity Practitioner** series. The Continuity Excellence Series is dedicated to recognizing and enhancing excellence in the development and implementation of Continuity programs. Courses in the Continuity of Operations curriculum tie in with the National Response Framework and will help officials and plan for and maintain operations in order to continue providing critical services to their stakeholders following a disaster.

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.

READY BURLINGTON

RCOEM developed and facilitated a tabletop exercise for the City of Burlington on September 10, 2015. The scenario involved a train derailment which impacted the entire community. City officials looked at evacuation concerns, sheltering option, economic impact and continuity of government. A functional exercise involving an anhydrous ammonia release at Air Liquide was held on October 3, 2015.



FIRE DRILLS

RCOEM coordinated fire drills for various county buildings.

EXERCISE/DRILL:

01/29/2015 RCI Prison Work Stoppage TTx
04/16/15 Statewide Tornado Drill
06/24/15 SWHSP Resilience Workshop/Exercise
09/10/15 Ready Burlington TTx

09/16/15 Ives Grove Fire Drill
09/17/15 Courthouse Fire Drill
09/18/15 DKRCSC Fire Drill
09/18/15 LEC Fire Drill
09/24/15 Western Racine County Service Center Fire Drill
10/03/15 Ready Burlington Functional Hazmat Exercise-Air Liquide



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.

STORM SPOTTER SEMINAR

RCOEM hosted the annual storm spotter seminar on March 26, 2015. Rusty Kapela (Retired National Weather Service Meteorologist) and Skip Voros (Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association) conducted the training. There were 43 attendees.

STEP

Woodfield Elementary School teacher Mindy Crayton's 5th grade class held a special STEP (Student Tools for Emergency Planning) presentation in April. STEP is an award winning program that is designed to teach 5th grade students how to prepare for various emergencies including tornadoes, flooding and storms and encourages them to share the information with their families and to develop their own family emergency plan. Along with the knowledge, each student takes home a starter emergency kit. Principal Shirley Guelig kicked off the event. David Maack joined Tod Pritchard (Wisconsin Emergency Management), Dextra Hadnot (AT&T) and Rep. David Craig in encouraging the students to be prepared for all kinds of emergencies. At the end of the program, they received a "go" bag which they can add emergency supplies to.



PROCLAMATIONS

County Executive Peter Hansen joined with Governor Scott Walker in proclaiming the week of April 13-17, 2015 as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. County Executive Jonathan Delagrave joined in proclaiming September as National Preparedness Month November 9-13, 2015 as Winter Awareness Week.

SAFETY FAIRS

RCOEM participated in the Raising Healthy Kids! Health Fair and the Little Saints Childcare Center Safety Fair. In addition, RCOEM attended the National Nite Out Kick-Off.

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:

- Ready Racine Newsletter-January 2015
- Community Newsletter: Let's all resolve to be ready in 2015 (Journal Times 01/09/15)
- IAEM BULLETIN: What Is a Resilient Community? (February 2015)

- Ready Racine Newsletter-April 2015
- Community Newsletter: April 13-17 is Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week (Journal Times 04/10/15)
- Community Newsletter: Be prepared for emergencies, severe weather (Journal Times 05/20/15)
- Ready Racine Newsletter-July 2015
- Planning For Railroad Emergencies (WI Counties Magazine July 2015)
- Community Newsletter: Why you should have an emergency plan (Journal Times 08/29/15)
- National Cyber Security Awareness Month (WI Counties Magazine October 2015)

STORMREADY COUNTY

Racine County was recertified as a StormReady County. StormReady is a nationwide program that helps communities better protect their citizens during severe weather from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations. StormReady provides emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations. StormReady also helps establish a commitment to creating an infrastructure and systems that will save lives and protect property. Receiving StormReady recognition does not mean that a community is storm proof, but StormReady communities will be better prepared when severe weather strikes.



RACINE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Racine County Emergency Management participates on the Racine County Traffic Commission. Each county is required to have a community-level, multi-disciplinary commission which is made up of a designated law enforcement officer, highway safety coordinator and highway commissioner, along with community representatives.

One program which is unique to the Racine County Traffic Commission is the monthly Staying Safe program, a partnership with the Journal Times and WRJN. The JT designs and produces a monthly safety poster and representatives from the commission participate on WRJN’s “Community Conversations” program the third Friday of each month. This activity is coordinated by Racine County Emergency Management.



SPILLS/INCIDENTS

MILD STORM SEASON

Snow and cold were common during the first part of the new year but the remainder of the year was relatively mild. The first Tornado Warning of the season was issued on April 9, 2015 when tornadic storms pushed up into Wisconsin from Illinois. Fortunately, there were no confirmed tornadoes in Racine County. An unstable weather pattern resulted in Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado warnings on July 18, 2015. Although there was no tornado activity, strong winds did do minor damage through parts of Racine County.

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
2014	8	11	1	1
2015	5	15	2	2
Total	126	179	41	25

"It can be 100 degrees in the shade one afternoon and suddenly there comes a storm with hailstones as big as golf balls, the prairie is all white and your teeth chatter. That's good – a reminder that you are just a small particle of nature, not so powerful as you think." –Lame Deer, Lakota