



The Duty Officer

Wisconsin Emergency Management Newsletter

Governor Walker Signs Wisconsin Emergency Response Plan

Governor Scott Walker signed the new State of Wisconsin Emergency Response Plan (WERP) on November 14 at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Madison. The new plan follows the National Response Framework but also has incident specific annexes for events including severe weather, radiological incidents and cyber security.

“This year Wisconsin has suffered many disasters and emergencies, from a blizzard to a deadly heat wave in July,” said Gov. Walker. “The one thing that all these events have in common is the importance of various government, volunteer agencies and the private sector working together to respond and recover from emergencies.”

The WERP contains a basic plan with 15 emergency support functions ranging from evacuation & transportation, search & rescue and firefighting. It also contains event specific annexes. Those annexes include response procedures for events including severe weather conditions, hazardous material releases and radiological/nuclear incidents.

Various state agencies, private sector and volunteer organizations developed the all-hazards plan. In addition, planning guidance and templates have been provided to county, local and tribal emergency management programs. This is to ensure that all levels of government are able to mobilize and coordinate response and recovery efforts to a disaster or emergency.

The WERP is available on the Wisconsin Emergency Management website:

<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/planning/WERP/default.asp>



Governor Walker signs the Wisconsin Emergency Response Plan with Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar, Adjutant General of Wisconsin (back left); and WEM Administrator Brian Satula.

Coordination of Local Agencies Leads to Success in Dramatic Ozaukee County Lighthouse Rescue

An early morning fishing trip may have turned deadly were it not for the coordination of multiple local agencies and their regular practice of marine rescue techniques.

Two men were trapped at the base of the Port Washington lighthouse for several hours on the morning of September 26. Just after the men got settled on the breakwater, powerful waves kicked up and washed them into Lake Michigan. After clinging to rocks for several hours, the men were able to climb back to the wall and find shelter under the lighthouse. A nearby resident spotted the men and called police.

With winds in excess of 40 miles per hour and six- to eight-foot swells, a rescue would be particularly difficult. A helicopter was requested from the Coast Guard in Traverse City, Michigan, but weather conditions made an air rescue impossible. Relying on lessons learned from regular practice, members of the Port Washington Fire Department and Ozaukee County's Emergency Management Water Safety Patrol headed the County's rescue boat toward the lighthouse for what would be a two-hour-long mission.

An early attempt to get a diver onto the breakwater proved fruitless, as the strength of the current and size of the waves made the 80-foot swim to the wall impossible. After retrieving the unharmed diver, the team regrouped and winds shifted in direction enough to make the situation more manageable. Finding a clearing in the rocks along the breakwater, the team was able to get the rescue boat close enough to allow two divers to climb on top of the wall. Timing their sprints against crashing waves, the divers ran to the stranded men and secured them in life jackets. While the team on the boat held the bow of the craft against the wall with the power of its twin 350-horsepower engines, the divers were able to get the two men safely onboard. On land, the men were rushed to the hospital, with one suffering the effects of hypothermia.

With the Port Washington Police Department and Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office also involved in the rescue, this incident was an example of excellent cooperation and teamwork among local agencies.

"During incidents such as this, it's important to have good working relationships with first response agencies," said Ozaukee County Emergency Management Director Mark Owen. "The core missions of emergency management include planning, training and exercising. In this situation, all three elements came into play for a successful outcome."

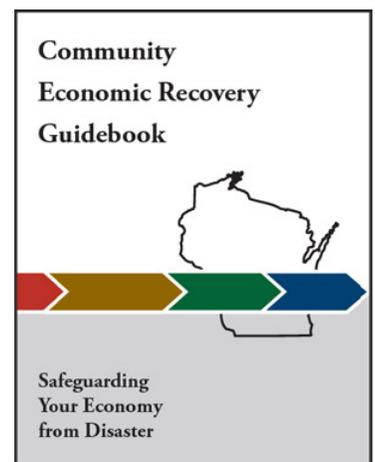


The rescue team pins the boat against the wall to reach the stranded fishermen (photo by Sam Arendt, courtesy of the Ozaukee Press – www.ozaukeeexpress.com).

Guidebook Developed to Aid Locals in Disaster Recovery

A recent publication aims to help Wisconsin's communities recover quickly following a disaster.

By addressing key economic stabilization and recovery issues in the business sector, the Community Economic Recovery Guidebook can help local officials create a strategy to speed disaster recovery and build resilience for future emergencies in their communities. The guidebook is designed for three groups that would provide private sector leadership during an emergency: economic development organizations, civic



leaders or elected officials, and chambers of commerce or other business support entities.

Using real situations and national best practices to connect disaster management functions with economic development principles, the guidebook identifies strategies and suggests action steps for both before and after disasters. The result is a road map and tools for greater local awareness and coordination between economic stakeholders in supporting whole community recovery.

The booklet was developed by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Recovery Collaborative of Wisconsin. To download a copy of the booklet, visit <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/recovery/business.asp>.

CERT Course Held in Shawano County

Nineteen people from Shawano County and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Bowler completed a three-day Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class in late September. The course was funded by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance and sponsored by Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC).

Participants were trained in disaster preparedness, emergency response, first aid and light search and rescue.

According to Roger Miller, Community Preparedness Coordinator for the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, participants responded positively to the course and benefited from hands-on experience and the opportunity to learn both from the instructors and from one another. "It was a great pleasure to observe CERT members perform their tasks professionally and with vigor," said Miller. "In our time of need, I feel confident in our CERT response capabilities."



Course participants are trained in a wide range of disaster preparedness and emergency response measures during the CERT training in Shawano County.

Winter is Here! Are You Ready?

Love it or hate it, winter is here...and however you feel about it, you have to be ready for the snow, cold and curveballs that Wisconsin's winters can throw your way.

ReadyWisconsin is urging everyone to get an emergency kit in their vehicle. You can find a list of kit items on our website at readywisconsin.wi.gov.

Here are a few examples:

- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Extra hats, socks and mittens
- Flashlight with extra batteries



Keeping a bin of emergency supplies in your car can be a lifesaver if you are stranded during winter.

- First aid kit
- Shovel, booster cables and windshield scraper
- Water and high-calorie non-perishable food (raisins, candy bars, energy/protein bars, etc.)
- Sand or cat litter to use for traction
- Cell phone adapter

If you are stranded, these emergency kit items can save your life by helping you stay safe until assistance arrives.

On average, 60 people in Wisconsin are killed and 6,000 are injured each winter in accidents when the roads are covered in ice, snow and slush. Driving too fast for current conditions is often listed as the cause of winter crashes. Before you hit the road, dial 511 or visit www.511wi.gov to learn about the latest road conditions through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's free travel information service.

Often the safest call is to stay off the roads during a winter storm, so make sure your home emergency kit is stocked with supplies in case you are stuck inside for a while. Have a stock of non-perishable items ready to eat in case you cannot leave the house for supplies. A NOAA Weather Radio will alert your family to potentially dangerous weather that may be coming your way. Also, keep a battery-powered or crank radio handy – if you lose power you do not want to lose touch with the outside world. Again, you can visit the ReadyWisconsin website for other home emergency kit tips.

NOAA Weather Radio Boost in West Central Wisconsin

Weather radio coverage across west central Wisconsin just got stronger thanks to a new weather radio transmitter near Tomah.

This additional transmitter will greatly enhance coverage area around Tomah, Fort McCoy, eastern Vernon County and the Interstate 90/94 interchange. Development of this project was a joint effort of the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board, Wisconsin State Patrol and National Weather Service.

Here are the specifics:

Name: Tomah (Ridgeville)

Station ID: KE2XKP

Frequency: 162.525 MHz

Power: 300 watts

Proposed coverage counties: Adams, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon and Wood



Todd Shea, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service, and WEM Adm. Brian Satula discussed the addition of the new transmitter and the value of the NOAA weather radio system during a launch ceremony.

Wisconsin Represented in National Preparedness Awards

Two members of Wisconsin's emergency management community were recently recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for their commitment to disaster preparedness.

ReadyWisconsin's Tod Pritchard was named a "Community Preparedness Hero" for his work in spreading a message of emergency preparedness throughout Wisconsin. In the past year, Tod has launched three statewide video campaigns – one featuring Wisconsin first responders in recognition of 9/11; one featuring NASCAR champion and Wisconsin native Matt Kenseth encouraging winter safety; and one promoting NOAA weather radio. Tod has pushed the cause of the STEP program, a FEMA-developed course that teaches emergency preparedness to fifth graders statewide. Tod has had numerous TV and radio appearances over the past year and travels the state regularly presenting to groups on emergency preparedness.

David Maack, Racine County's Emergency Management Coordinator, was selected for the "Engagement with Faith-Based Communities" award. Over the past year, David has served as a plenary session keynote speaker at a "Faithful Readiness" conference sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; partnered with the City of Racine Mayor's Office and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare to present a forum on preparedness for churches and faith-based organizations; participated in a Salvation Army podcast; and worked with individual churches to help them plan for possible disasters by creating emergency response and operational recovery plans. David has also worked with churches to help them recognize ways they can meet the needs of congregants during an emergency, including managing donations and providing shelter, day care and elder care.

FEMA's annual "Individual and Community Preparedness Awards" recognize the achievements of organizations and individuals that work to make their communities safer and better prepared for emergency situations. David and Tod will receive the awards at a community preparedness roundtable event in Washington, D.C.



ReadyWisconsin's Tod Pritchard celebrates his FEMA award with (left to right) Larry Reed, WEM's Director of the Bureau of Planning and Preparedness, Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar and WEM Adm. Brian Satula.



WEM's Southeast Regional Director Ben Schliesman (right) presents Racine County Emergency Management Coordinator David Maack (left) with a certificate from Governor Scott Walker's office in recognition of his award from FEMA.

WEM Training Portal Set for December Launch

Wisconsin Emergency Management will launch its new online training portal in early December at www.trainingwisconsin.org. The portal will allow emergency managers, first responders and others from across the

state to register for WEM classes and keep track of their completed courses. The system stores earned certificates allowing users to download and print copies as needed.

This online portal replaces the previous document-based registration process. Additional details on the registration process will be posted to the WEM website (<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>) as the launch date nears.

ReadyWisconsin's "Tip of the Issue"

Pets need extra care when the temperatures fall. They should be brought inside when the temperature reaches 30°F with wind chill. Dogs and cats can get frost-bitten ears, noses and paws if left outside during bitter cold weather. Chemicals used to melt snow and ice can also irritate pets' paws – be sure to keep anti-freeze, salt and other poisons away from pets.



For your own health, be on guard for frostbite. Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by extreme cold. A wind chill around -20°F could cause frostbite in just 15 minutes or less. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ears or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, seek medical care immediately!

For more information, visit readywisconsin.wi.gov.

Tom Hurley Joins Eau Claire Emergency Management

Tom Hurley joined Eau Claire County as Emergency Management Director in mid-October. A native of Columbia, Missouri, Tom earned an associate's degree in Fire Sciences from Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and a degree in Public Administration from George Mason University in Virginia.

Tom has worked as an Americorps volunteer in Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico, providing emergency medical care and back country search and rescue. He has also served as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) for the Boone County (Missouri) Fire Protection District and as an EMT for the University of Missouri Hospital's emergency department and ambulance and helicopter services.

Tom can be reached at 715-839-1657 or via email: tom.hurley@co.eau-claire.wi.us.



Skip Sharpe Celebrates Five Years at WEM

Sidney "Skip" Sharpe, a member of WEM's planning section, was awarded for five years of service with the agency.

Skip joined WEM as a Planner in September 2006 and helped coordinate the new Wisconsin Emergency Response Plan. Skip also manages the E-Sponder system for the State Emergency Operations Center.



Skip (second from right) receives a Certificate of Appreciation from (left to right) Larry Reed, Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar and WEM Adm. Brian Satula.



Personnel Changes at WEM

Gary Wieczorek recently joined WEM as a Catastrophic Planner. Prior to this position, he served a combined 13 years as Public Safety Director for Ashwaubenon, Wisconsin and Yukon, Oklahoma. Gary retired as Deputy Police Chief from the Lake Forest (Illinois) Police Department and has a master's degree in Public Administration from Roosevelt University, Chicago. He can be reached at 608-242-3331 or gary.wieczorek@wisconsin.gov.



Sally Andrews receives a Certificate of Appreciation for her service to WEM from WEM Adm. Brian Satula.

After four and a half years as an Office Operations Associate with WEM's Bureau of Response and Recovery, **Sally Andrews** has joined the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Everyone at WEM wishes her the best in her new position!

Save the Date! Governor's Conference 2012

The 45th Annual Governor's Conference on Homeland Security and Emergency Management will be held on March 15 and 16, 2012. The pre-conference training day will be held on Wednesday, March 14.

The conference will be held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Details on the event will be in the January eNewsletter. Additional information will be posted periodically to the WEM website at <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>.

