



## Office of the Adjutant General Department of Emergency Services

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John Hoeven  
Governor  
Maj. Gen. Michael J. Haugen  
Adjutant General

To: DES Advisory Committee

From: Greg Wilz

Topic: Department of Emergency Services Advisory Committee (DESAC) Meeting Executive Summary for August 14, 2006

Date: August 21, 2006

### Homeland Security Update – Greg Wilz

#### 1. Disaster Recovery

- Seventy jurisdictions including counties, cities and townships submitted Public Assistance applications for the 2006 Presidential Disaster.
- Ninety-five percent of the funding for the approximate 500 Project Worksheets (PWs) is scheduled to be obligated by September 25, 2006.
- To date, four applications for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding have been received. Three are home acquisition projects and one involves cleaning a drainage ditch. The application deadline is August 31, 2006.
- The State Unmet Needs Committee meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2006 to ascertain remaining requirements of Coleharbor residents and leverage funding/resources to match needs.

#### 2. Homeland Security Program

- All FY 2006 funding has been allocated to state entities and local jurisdictions according to the distribution plan. Final jurisdictional spending/expenditure plans are due August 15, 2006.
- DES has applied for a \$500,000 Critical Infrastructure Protection grant to fund protection planning for a major site. DHS has not authorized disclosure of the site.
- The Department participated in a regional communication plan exercise with Morton and Stark counties.
- DES along with other state agencies will participate in a table top exercise focused upon evacuation of special needs populations.

Note: The exercise has since taken place and a follow-up meeting is being scheduled to determine if a task force should be chartered and what its mission would include.

- In conjunction with the National Guard and State Health Department, DES is participating in a terrorist exercise during October named Lignite Wind.
- Thirty-four individuals participated in DHS Train-the-Trainer courses for ICS 100, 200, 300 and 400. DHS representatives extended extremely complimentary remarks about the quality and dedication of the participants. Greg indicated to all in attendance the importance of imbedding ICS at every level of response and stated

only quality instruction and training to exacting standards would be accepted by the Department.

### 3. Operations

- Greg pointed out North Dakota experiences so many disasters it is imperative to implement a Type II Incident Management Team (IMT) to provide backup management for large scale events. The team would consist of approximately 36 members across all response disciplines and a commitment of 3-4 years. During an actual event, members would operate as long as required.
- On June 30, Governor Hoeven declared a statewide rural fire emergency implementing the ND Rural Fire Danger Guide.
- The Lund Fire, between Selfridge and Fort Yates, consumed 9,226 acres and is the largest thus far. A Rocky Mountain Area Interagency Type II Incident Management Team (IMT), assumed incident command for three days and then returned it to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

National Guard personnel dropped 67,000 gallons of water on the fire. A shortage of engine bosses caused firefighting teams from the North Dakota Forest Service to stand down. National Guard soldiers will be trained as engine bosses to increase capability.

Due to safety concerns and liability issues, regional and local firefighters must stand down when a federal Interagency Type II IMT controls the scene. This has caused anxiety and animosity among firefighters when available local resources are not utilized to reduce the number of acres burned. General Haugen indicated this is a problem which may be mitigated by a North Dakota Type II IMT.

- Fire reporting to both the North Dakota Fire Marshal's Office and Forest Service is causing concern. Not only is it a duplication of effort but issues with frequency and different report forms is a problem.
- Staff conducted WebEOC emergency manager training on June 16<sup>th</sup> in Minot for the northwest region, June 20<sup>th</sup> in Cavalier for the northeast region and July 20<sup>th</sup> in Valley City for the southeast region. DES staff is coordinating training for emergency managers in the southwest region. National Guard, Forest Service, Governor's Office and Department of Transportation personnel have received WebEOC training. DES staff will schedule additional training sessions for state agencies.
- FEMA Region VIII and North Dakota are implementing a Points of Distribution contingency planning effort to identify sites where water, ice, MREs and other supplies can be delivered and subsequently distributed to the public.

The FEMA survey team met with emergency managers from Morton and Burleigh Counties and Bismarck to identify sites in the Bismarck/Mandan area. DES staff is working with FEMA to schedule additional meetings in Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Devils Lake, Jamestown, Minot, Jamestown and Wahpeton.

- A draft of the State Emergency Operations Base Plan and Fire Guide will be completed before the Emergency Management Association Conference in mid-September.
- The Governor's Office approved use of a single engine aircraft transport located in Lemmon, South Dakota when needed to contain a fire. It is available within an 80 mile radius. Fire chiefs must access the asset through the emergency manager. There is a 90/10 percent cost share.
- General Haugen provided pictures of the train derailment in Griggs County. He explained the spill primarily contained consumer products and fortunately, very little hazardous material.

## State Radio Update - Russ Timmreck

1. The migration project continues to proceed well; work on the Bismarck Sub-network, containing nine of the 36 towers, is finished. Work has begun on the Fargo Sub-network and will move to Dickinson and Grand Forks, then on to Williston and Minot. Highway Patrol officers have conducted benchmarking efforts and found digital to have better range and clarity. However, paging capability in certain locations is diminished and mitigation will occur on a county by county basis.

The final State Radio workshop to explain the upcoming tower migration will be held in Williston on August 15.

2. A contract was awarded to Maximus for research into State Radio costs and needed charges for services.
3. Two Communication Specialists were hired; staffing is now complete.
4. In support of the Lewis and Clark event, State Radio supplied eight mobile radios from the Department of Transportation to the National Guard and 10 of its own to McKenzie and Mountrail County law enforcement personnel.
5. The North Dakota Health Department requested assistance developing a strategy to implement backup communications when the power grid fails.
6. Joel Rostberg provided the following information at the request of Russ:

An interoperable communications, multi-jurisdiction full scale exercise was conducted among Morton and Stark Counties and State Radio on July 26, 2006. It was controlled and evaluated by the Local Government Homeland Security Exercise and Training Program. A domestic terrorism scenario was used to trigger a large-scale Hazmat release response for mutual aid support between Morton and Stark County first response elements. The exercise focused upon interoperable communications to test current communications equipment capability and infrastructure utilizing routine dispatch from Morton/Stark County Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs) and those response elements routinely dispatched by State Radio required for mutual aid support to Morton County. In addition to interoperable communications, the components of Incident Command System (ICS) were established. Oversight and evaluations were conducted by members of the DHS training and exercise support staff and Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP). The outcome demonstrated the need for a State Interoperable Communications network and radio frequency management plan which directly supports large-scale regional response by multi-jurisdictions as well as some of the complications with radio frequency management during the current migration from analog radio to the new P-25 digital radio systems. A formal after action review will be conducted on September 12 to develop an official exercise report for participating jurisdictions/agencies.

## Budget Update - Ross Mushik/GregWilz

The budget briefing contained information concerning the following:

- Direction of the Department
- Emergency Management Performance and Homeland Security Program grants
- State Radio Special Funds
- Proposed transfer of federal funds
- 2007-2009 and 2005-2007 Budget comparisons
- Line item changes

- Optional packages
- Salary Issues
- Haz Chem Program
- State Emergency Response Fund proposal
- Department priorities
  - Transfer Motorola lease payments and salary expenses from federal to general fund.
  - Restructure the Haz Chem Program.
  - Optional packages
  - State Emergency Response fund

## CERT

A group of emergency managers brought forward concerns about expenditures within the CERT program administered by the North Dakota League of Cities. In response, the Department asked and received a DHS review. The review team examined expenditures and met independently with representatives from the emergency manager group and League of Cities. Although DHS indicated there were no significant findings, the final report will contain a series of recommendations. Greg indicated the Department will maintain better communications with all jurisdictions about the program. On August 22, emergency managers from the group, League of Cities officials and DES personnel will meet to discuss the findings.

## Strategic Plan Update - Bill Sorensen

It was reported two objectives relating to formation of the Advisory Council and the study of employee duties, responsibilities, benefits and compensation had been completed. Development and implementation of the handbook needed only a review by HRMS and legal. Developing methods to streamline customer feedback, integrating protocols between State Radio and Operations, identifying stakeholder requirements and ascertaining preferred communication methods were on schedule. Identifying and documenting product and service deliverables, implementing a more effective internal communications process, developing a process to implement a training and professional development program were considered behind schedule.

Amy Anton, Operations Chief, briefed members about the process and progress in integrating protocols between State Radio and Homeland Security Operations. Russ Timmreck explained how the goal to formalize and standardize the organization's systems and processes would begin as individual checklists were crosswalked and adopted by State Radio and Operations.

## Regional Capability

Joel Boespflug reported the eight largest fire departments/Hazmat teams, emergency managers representing the eight jurisdictions and the Regional Capability Working Group will participate in planning and implementation efforts involving regional collaboration. To ensure the regional response process continues uninterrupted, he brought forward the idea to obtain a legislative resolution or bill that directs regional response implementation. This was thought to be a development that DHS would view positively for FY 2007 funding and beyond.

## Audit Review Subcommittee – Greg Wilz

The DES Audit Review Subcommittee has not met since May 3 and is awaiting the 9-1-1 committee to develop its initial legislative package and Maximus to complete its research into State Radio cost structure.

Mark Johnson, from the North Dakota League of Cities, indicated it was preferable that 911 coordinators develop consensus recommendations and voluntarily comply rather than require legislation which is vulnerable to change by legislators.

#### Legislative Council Fiscal and Audit Review Committee - Russ Timmreck

The State Radio migration process and progress was explained. The committee asked for specific responses to audit proposals. It was explained that individual responses would be forthcoming once research findings by Maximus concluded and consensus of stakeholders was reached.

#### Aerial Applicator Reimbursement

Payment for aerial applicator services will continue under the current guidelines until republished. A meeting will be scheduled to revisit the reimbursement process and use the emergency manager within the jurisdiction to authorize services.

#### Open Discussion

Development of mutual aid agreements is becoming a tedious complicated process due to differing opinions from legal council representing individual jurisdictions. A view was expressed that DES should help establish simple straight forward mutual aid legislation applicable to all jurisdictions. Greg indicated that mutual aid is changing rapidly throughout the United States but it remains a local decision and is out of the Department's lane.

Another opinion stated the one page mutual aid template sent to emergency managers was developed to mirror umbrella agreement currently in legislation and forms an adequate framework to reach agreement.

#### Stakeholder Presentation

Tim Wiedrich, Chief of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Section of the North Dakota Health Department, provided committee members an overview the Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA), and Pandemic Influenza grants.

The North Dakota Public Health Emergency Preparedness system consists of eight separate sections. The grant that funds this system requires the Health Department to address 76 critical tasks and to meet 23 performance metrics. The state was awarded approximately \$5 million half of which must be allocated to local entities.

The HRSA grant of approximately \$1.4 million is used to address medical surge capacity. At this time, the goal is to reach a hospital surge level of 500 patients in excess of current capacity. Ten critical goals are required and 21 performance metrics must be met.

Phase I and II Pandemic Influenza grants total \$1.56 million and require 60 critical tasks and seven performance metrics. Phase III dollars have not been allocated. Currently, the Health Department is assessing the quantity of anti-viral drugs the state needs in its reserve. The Department has established a Pandemic Influenza planning committee which includes DES. The intent is to fold the plan into the state's all hazards approach and deal specifically with unique differences.

Meetings Dates

Time

Location

September 11

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CST Building & Assoc. of Counties

October 23

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Association of Counties Building