



## Office of the Adjutant General Department of Emergency Services

P.O. Box 5511, Bismarck, North Dakota 58506-5511  
701-329-8100 ♦ (Fax) 701-328-8181 [www.nd.gov](http://www.nd.gov)

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 April 3, 2006

Date: April 7, 2006

General Haugen indicated that partnering with the Health Department to plan National Guard operational requirements necessary to assist in combating an Avian Flu Pandemic was an important priority.

He said feedback received from legislators and emergency managers was positive concerning the DESAC and its role in advising the Department.

### Homeland Security Update - Greg Wilz

1. Disaster Recovery staff members are completing large project closeouts for Rural Electric Coops, UND and NDSU along with other Hazard Mitigation Grant projects from 1999, 2000 and 2001.

A State Flood Coordination Center meeting, coordinated by the Disaster Recovery staff, will be held April 13, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in Devils Lake at the Ramsey County Courthouse.

2. Wayne Baron will be in Washington DC April 2-8 to participate in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) national application review process designed to assist in determining individual state allocations.

As part of the Homeland Security Grant process, a communications gap analysis survey has been sent to all jurisdictions.

A letter detailing the specifics of grant development, grounding and submission process along with a completed process map was sent to Representative Porter in response to his concern that the Homeland Security Grant process missed legislative intent. A meeting with Representatives Porter and Carlson to discuss the issue will be scheduled in the near future.

To ensure the methodology used to distribute local funding is inclusive of all stakeholders, DES will issue instructional guidance concerning the need to include local leaders, LEPC members and emergency management officials as well as information about verification/documentation procedures

3. Greg accompanied the Governor March 30 to obtain input from locals about Red River planning activities and to learn the types of state support which may be requested.

The city of Wahpeton has replaced dikes previously removed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and have raised other to increase coverage. National Guard personnel, using 20 ton trucks, were called upon to help establish a ring dike around the community of Lidgerwood.

In Fargo, work to protect infrastructure along Second Street was proceeding. Approximately 77 homes were being sandbagged by owners.

Grand Forks currently has enough protection.

North, along the Red River, in areas surrounding the cities of Drayton and Pembina, high rates of flow from tributaries may pose more severe flooding problems.

4. The Legislative Council requested and was provided expenditures for the each fiscal year of CERT Program funding.
5. The Response Alert Notification was explained as a new method for implementing a more proactive approach in notifying selected state agencies for potential response activities; its format follows ICS. The document provides agencies with a current situational overview, a mission statement, tasks expected for operational execution, guidance for logistical response needs as well as finance/administration and command and control information.

The Association of Counties and League of Cities will be asked to support ICS 100-200 training for all state agencies with responsibilities in the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP). The training has been designated a high priority to implement between now and August 30.

6. A three member DHS team reviewed the SEOP. Although there will be several improvement recommendations, team members judged the level of multi-agency cooperation and commitment to be extraordinary. Plan improvement will be a driver for future DHS funding.

The base plan re-write will begin by updating the Fire Annex.

7. The Evacuee Exercise was very successful and after action observations resulted in revisions to fill gaps. The level of engagement by CERT and VOAD impressed the DHS team as well as the realism CERT members displayed in their roles as evacuees.
8. There have been two DES legislative meetings. Initiatives include HazChem Fees, State Radio Special Funds including 911, changes in emergency management responsibilities contained within NDCC 37-17.1-6, missing and exploited children, mutual aid legislation compliance with the Stafford Act, State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Vice President selection, language expediting the process by which private resources to become state emergency contractors and terminology changes within the Disaster Act of 1985.

#### State Radio Update - Russ Timmreck

1. One of the two Communication Specialist vacancies was filled and four candidates will be interviewed for the remaining position.

2. In fielding the new digital communication system, the Mobile Communications Committee stipulated the quality and coverage of voice communications as the number one priority; therefore, current paging capability will diminish in the new digital format. Upon anticipated project completion in March 2007, extender boxes will be needed to retransmit messages in order to provide proper paging coverage. The cost is approximately \$2,500 per unit but the number required will remain unknown until the new system can be tested.
3. The Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) Coordinating Committee, comprised of Jerry Bergquist, Terry Traynor, and Russ Timmreck, who represent the 911 Association, Association of Counties, and State Radio respectively will, on June 27, brief the Electrical Industry Competition Committee concerning the annual report of income, expenditures, and status of emergency services communication in North Dakota.
4. The voice recorder used in State Radio failed and DES has obtained emergency purchase authority to buy the unit locally at a projected cost of \$80,000.
5. During the their Association meeting, Chiefs and Sheriffs will be briefed about State Radio and will asked for recommended methods to streamline feedback about products and services.

#### Budget Update - Ross Mushik

Ross said the Governor's budget is based upon 100% of general fund authority for the 2005-2007 Biennium. The DES total general fund budget is \$5.1 million.

#### 911 Association Legislative Committee Report – Jerry Bergquist/Gary Koselecky

The committee consists of 16 members and is chaired by Brent Nelson, Walsh County Emergency Manager. One subcommittee is tasked with defining allowable types of expenditures for which 911 fees may be used. A second, called the PSAPs Coordinating Committee, is charged to serve as a 911 advisory committee and will attempt to provide statewide direction much like the dissolved Governor's 911 Committee. The third subcommittee was formed to promote 911 education not only to legislators but all stakeholders.

The committee believes the one dollar fee should not be reduced; it helps jurisdictions meet increasing costs associated with funding new technologies. Since citizens voted for the fee, members believe the only authority to change the amount rests with local voters.

The next 911 Association Legislative Committee will meet May 4<sup>th</sup> at the North Dakota Association of Counties Building.

#### Strategic Plan Update - Bill Sorensen

Completion of objectives remains on schedule. A major benefit resulting from the process has been the high level of interaction between State Radio and Division of Homeland Security personnel. Over the course of the next few DESAC meetings, objective owners will be placed on the agenda to brief current progress.

#### Audit Review Subcommittee - Russ Timmreck

A summary of the March 30 subcommittee meeting dealing with Audit Recommendations 2.1, 2.1, 2.3 and 3.5 was reviewed. Committee members suggested that although related, identifying State Radio cost structure and charging agencies for communication services

needed to be analyzed as two separate issues. Attention focused upon the subcommittee's recommendation to write an RFP which stipulates that costs associated with State Radio Public Safety Communications must be identified. DESAC members reached consensus for DES to write and release the RFP.

The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 20, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the DES Conference Room.

North Dakota Emergency Medical Association - Dean Lampe, Nancy Capes, Ken Krupich

An overview of EMS in North Dakota was presented. Emphasis was placed upon the inability to efficiently transport large numbers of people requiring ambulance service. In rural areas there is both a lack of personnel and ambulances to evacuate as few as ten people. To partially combat or alleviate this gap, the EMS Association believes a portion of Homeland Security efforts should be directed toward the purchase of four bus ambulances that have a 10-12 patient capacity versus the two currently available in conventional vehicles. These assets would be strategically located throughout the state to provide efficient response capability. The Association also believes it is imperative to implement a regional approach to provide adequate on-scene decontamination capability.

Hot Wash

There was a suggestion to use engage NDSU resources to research methods other states used in applying cost accounting toward Public Safety Communications.

Future

Meetings Dates

Time

Location

May 8	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Association of Counties
May 9	8:00 a.m. - Noon	Association of Counties
June 5	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Association of Counties
June 6	8:00 a.m. - Noon	Association of Counties
July 10	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Association of Counties