

# Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

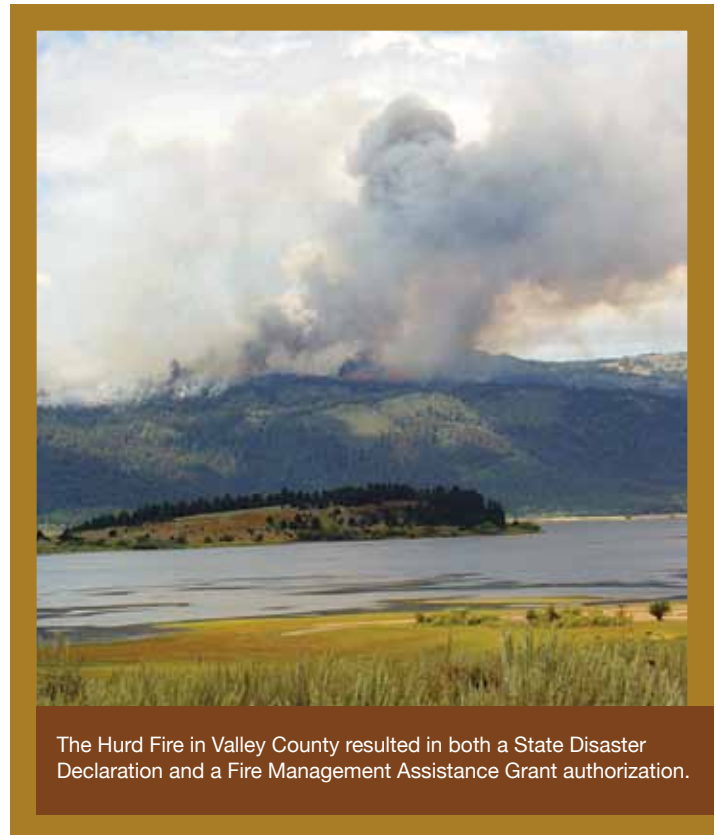
## Fires and Floods Result in Declarations and Lessons Learned

Over the past four months, BHS has worked with counties in responding to and recovering from two significant events: the June Flooding which impacted Adams, Gem, Idaho, Lewis, Payette, Washington and Valley Counties and the August Wildland Fires impacting Valley and Boise counties.

These two events resulted in a State Disaster Declaration and Federal Major Disaster Declaration for flooding in the seven counties listed and a second State Disaster Declaration for Wildland fire along with a Federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) authorization for the Hurd Fire in Valley County.

The overall response and subsequent recovery activities for these events on the part of local and state agencies was timely and very effective. This activity and the high quality of work involved continues as it will take many months to close out these State and Federally declared events. As local and state organizations and agencies participated in these events, actions and activities that can be improved upon were identified as well as actions and activities that worked exceptionally well and should be sustained. Following are a few of the more important "lessons learned" over the past few months;

Fires & Floods continued on pg. 3 »



The Hurd Fire in Valley County resulted in both a State Disaster Declaration and a Fire Management Assistance Grant authorization.



This tanker overturned on Highway 95 in Bonner County, illustrating the need to study, train and exercise for hazmat incidents.

## Northern Idaho Regional Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study Completed

Bonner County Emergency Manager, Bob Howard, had long been concerned about the lack of specific information regarding Hazardous Materials being transported through Bonner County. Bob was specifically concerned that the Bonner County first responders might not be properly prepared to respond to potential hazardous material event however he really didn't know what type of material they should be prepared for. He presented his concern to the other Northern Idaho County and Tribal emergency Managers who concurred with his concern and agreed to support a region wide Hazardous Materials Flow Study.

Hence, in the fall of 2009 Bob submitted an application for and was awarded a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant to provide funding to conduct a Region wide Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study. In early 2010 Bonner County

Study continued on pg. 5 »



This fall it is my pleasure to highlight an important project that we have been working on. The need for real-time, actionable information is critical during day-to-day and emergency response operations where multiple jurisdictions and disciplines interact. The Pacific Northwest Pilot project is a regional approach to give decision makers the information they need to make informed decisions, and will be a great tool in emergency management.

The Pilot Project brings in information from a wide variety of sources, and displays it in visual form on a graphical, interactive map. The viewer displays live data from external sources such as our neighboring states, NOAA,

NIFC, ITD, and SNOTEL sites. It also displays internally generated information such as significant events from WebEOC and the Resource Inventory Tracker. This project will produce a common operational picture and provide the information upon which to determine resource allocation, evacuation planning and predictive services.

Users will be able to access the viewer through the connectivity made available with the Broadband Project. I look forward to seeing this project grow and evolve into a resource for all emergency management throughout Idaho.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the Pacific Northwest Pilot Project, or any other emergency management or homeland security initiatives.

Thanks,  
Bill

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This newsletter is the official newsletter of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. This quarterly publication is intended for the use of the State of Idaho's emergency management community, legislators, government officials and others who are interested in learning about Idaho's emergency management techniques and procedures.

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# Long Butte Fire

Saturday evening 21 August thunderstorms moved through the south-central part of the state, which ignited a wildfire in the south-eastern corner of the Saylor Creek Bombing Range. When firefighting resources arrived on the scene the fire had already burned approximately 5500 acres. The local BLM office knew they were going to need outside resources to manage the fire and requested a Type II Team.

By Sunday evening the fire had grown by approximately 215,000 acres, due to the fire racing up to 30 miles per hour at times. The fire had consumed seventy-five percent of the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and the majority of the Saylor Creek Wild Horse grazing area. The fire had affected four counties by this time. The fire spotted over the Snake River near Hagerman, which was quickly controlled by the local department, and had knocked

Long Butte continued on pg. 7 »

Understanding the emergency declaration process at the local, state and federal levels is very important, particularly as this involves elected officials, first responders and a variety of agencies at all levels of government as well as the private sector. Both Idaho Code and the BHS website provide information on the process at the State level and federal information is available on the FEMA and BHS websites.

The Emergency Declaration is a useful tool to modify jurisdictional policies and procedures / rules and regulations for rapid response to and efficient and effective recovery from catastrophic events, both natural and man. It also enables State and Federal provision of critical resources to impacted jurisdictions.

Contracting policies, personnel overtime, equipment usage, mutual aid agreements etc. are just a few items that can be changed, modified or activated to allow for timely and efficient response and recovery for an event that significantly disrupts normal life. However, these things must be in place and should be practiced / rehearsed before an event occurs in order to be effective. Documenting these policies and procedures in an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is a good way to ensure everyone is informed of these critical procedures as is conducting training and exercises focused on how these policies and procedures are executed during a time of crises.

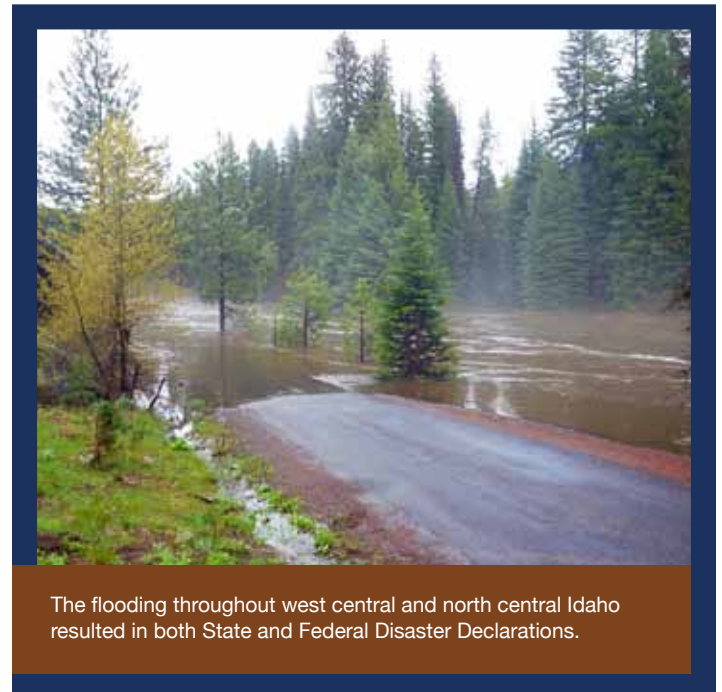
Understanding how a jurisdictional declaration can be leveraged to trigger a State Emergency Declaration is very important. In Idaho, the State declares in support of County Emergency Declarations, it does not declare in support of City Emergency Declarations. When the State does issue an emergency declaration in support of a County or group of Counties, costs of this support are shared between the State and the Counties supported by the State. Cost Sharing also occurs when a Federal Declaration is in place.

Information on the declaration process; on how to request support (requests for assistance – RFA); on cost sharing and on how the State presents this information to the requesting jurisdiction during an emergency - the Mission Assignment (MA) and Project Agreement (PA) process can be found on the BHS website: [www.bhs.idaho.gov](http://www.bhs.idaho.gov) in The Elected Officials Guide to Emergency Management, and on the Operations Tab on the home page.

In addition to understanding the emergency declaration process, an understanding of what agency or agencies are responsible for fighting fires and repairing roads and levees within jurisdictions is very important. Road maintenance and repair can be shared among a wide variety of agencies including: Federal partners such as National Forests and the Federal Highway Commission, county road and bridge departments, the Idaho Department of Transportation and Tribal Nations.

Fire Protection can be shared among an equal number of agencies including: Federal Partners such as National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service; the Idaho Department of Lands; local Fire Districts and privately organized Fire Departments such as the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Agency (SITPA); in some cases, land outside of any of the responsibility of these agencies is completely unprotected and fire protection defaults to the private landowner.

Just as documentation, exercises and training in a jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan can assist in understanding and executing the Emergency Declaration



Process, these same tools can assist in providing critical infrastructure response information for roads, levees and wildland fire suppression during emergencies.

As we transition from the wildland fire season to our severe winter weather season now is the time to applying these recent "lessons learned". Updated Emergency Operations Plans and coordinated and synchronized actions dealing with the impacts of severe winter weather through: discussions, table top exercises and training on sheltering, snow removal and flooding response will turn what would otherwise be chaos into an effective response and recovery effort by everyone involved.

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# THE FOREST OR THE TREES?

## Building Your Emergency Management Program

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You've all heard the old adage about not seeing the forest for the trees. Just like viewing a group of trees as an ecosystem to determine a forest's health, we can and probably should look at our emergency management program much the same way. Our "trees" are all the various projects, initiatives and activities to which we commit time, energy and resources. But the forest? Well, that is our overall emergency management program. As we pick away at the ever growing stack of activities that occupy our time and focus on completing those activities as best we can, do we ever step back and look at them in total to view the overall condition of our program? Perhaps; but just maybe not as much as we should. We often find ourselves working diligently to doctor that one tree, while not finding the time to look at the overall "forest health."

Who among you have more time on your hands than you have things to do? Not many of you, I'd bet. If you take a moment and think about the laundry list of emergency management planning and program initiatives, the workload can be staggering. Routine Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) maintenance, Hazard Mitigation (HazMit) planning and keeping up with training and reporting requirements is a fulltime job unto itself, most often more than part-time emergency managers can fully commit. Add to that things like COOP, COG, H1N1, PanFLU and a host of other issues du jour and you have enough on your plate to keep a small army busy. Then ask the question, "Is our local EOP or HazMit plan resolved and coordinated with our City, County or Tribal Comprehensive Development Plan?" Where does one find the time? Current economic factors would indicate that adding staff to most of our emergency management programs is not likely for the foreseeable future. What about training and exercise programs, or enhancing response and management capability through equipment purchases? And what about the

various initiatives put forth by our State or Federal partners? There is only so much that one emergency manager can process and stay on top of. So, is the situation hopeless? Perhaps not. Just possibly, we need to look at doing things "smarter and leaner." What if you as an emergency program manager had a step-by-step roadmap to follow in building your local program? What if this roadmap was in front of you each time you encountered a grant funding or program opportunity and could develop your projects in a systematic, dare I say it, "strategic" fashion?



During a round-table discussion at a local Emergency Management Workshop some time ago, questions arose concerning all of the various planning initiatives. All emergency managers seem to agree that routine plan maintenance is essential; that developing other plans and guidance is as important, but their plates are full with little time and resources to take on new projects. Throughout our discussion, there was talk of a theoretical list of the most important things to accomplish. The reality is that such a list, and the priorities on it would be different for each and every jurisdiction because of local community needs, economics, and yes, even political realities. Such a list could not effectively be generated that would adequately fit every jurisdiction. Eventually, the roundtable discussion evolved to the concept of strategic planning. That is in short, to develop that theoretical list for your local program; a strategy if you will, to define

program priorities at the local level. From the discussion it became evident that such a list-building effort should consider all the planning activities current and past within the jurisdiction; to look at what work is, and has been done within the scope of each program or project, and compare them to that end-state vision of the desired local program.

Strategic Planning is not a new concept. It has been around for a very long time. Everyone from military organizations to business have used various strategic planning models, but they all have a few things in common; identification of a desired end-state condition, and a strategy or planned set of actions to get there. So what if we brainstorm and visualize what we would like our local emergency management program to look like at some point in the future, and developed a strategic roadmap to get there? It was a "light-bulb" moment during that workshop discussion. What if we look at the program from a macro view? What if we step back from the individual planning initiatives, and took a critical look at our program, rather than focusing individually on COOP, COG, HAZMIT, etc., as individual projects, and created a program development strategy that would essentially network all of the various plans and planning activities into a truly comprehensive program and system of complimentary plans. Such a vision could identify those aforementioned program pieces like COOP and COG planning, and help to add clarity to various elements of emergency plans, mitigation plans, etc.

Some might say, "That's how it should have been all along." And they would be right. But the reality is that grant programs and emergency management initiatives tend to be "stove-pipe" programs, focusing on their particular area of interest or intended outcomes. Similarly, traditional emergency management training curricula has focused on particular areas as program building blocks without significant focus on overall program development. With this re-discovering of strategic planning concepts, local jurisdictions can significantly enhance the effectiveness of planning efforts, leverage work that has been accomplished in the various planning and development efforts, better identify

Continued on next page »

gaps or shortfalls, and in general, build a better, truly comprehensive emergency management program while reducing duplication of effort.

Following that very productive roundtable discussion, a few counties took up the challenge. Working with the Bureau of Homeland Security Planning section, some emergency managers developed a project proposal to contract an external review and assessment of their various programs and planning documents. I would be remiss if I did not mention and offer kudos to BHS Planner, Phil Lang for his assistance in developing the scope of work for those projects. Several jurisdictions have contracted the team of Whisper Mountain Professional Services to conduct the independent program assessments and to facilitate their strategic program development planning. Findings from those currently ongoing assessments will provide the first level of the aforementioned strategic planning process. Although

not all assessments are completed as yet, the region is already seeing benefit. Initial assessment activities have paid dividends in helping to steer the direction of county-wide COOP and COG planning efforts in Bannock County. Across the district, emergency managers are utilizing information gleaned from program assessments to plan their projects for the next available planning grant cycle, update their multi-year Training and Exercise plans and better prioritize their programs efforts. In short, their roadmap is helping to guide their program, even before the assessment process is complete. Various jurisdictions in the Southeast District are taking a major step to a “healthier forest” that is a truly comprehensive emergency management program.

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Study continued from pg. 1 »

advertised for and selected a consultant to complete the region wide study.

The objectives of the study were:

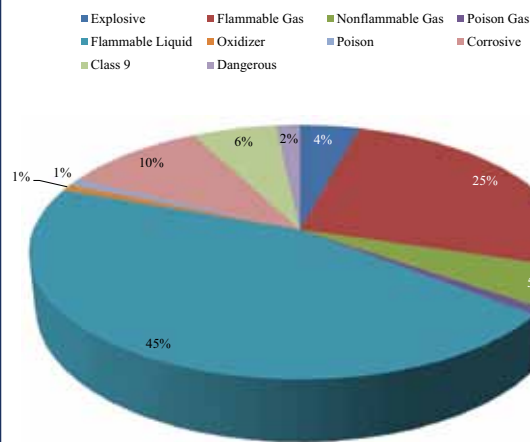
- Identify the primary routes by which Hazardous Materials are shipped to, from and through the region,
- Qualitatively identify the kinds and relative shipping volumes of Hazardous Materials most commonly shipped in the region,
- Locate high –probability accident sites along the primary transportation routes,
- Identify vulnerabilities in the vicinity of these sites, and
- Recommend specific planning and preparedness measures based on analysis of the above data and information.

Each County/Tribal Emergency Manager, the County LEPC's, and several local first responder entities participated in the study by selecting specific transportation routes to be included and reviewing the data as it was collected. They also insured the direct observation points identified along the selected highways were appropriate.

Flow estimates were made for materials transported on highways, by rail, and by pipeline using direct observation of highway traffic, a transportation survey of Tier II facilities, storage data from Tier II Reports, and shipment data provided by BNSF Railroad, Union Pacific Railroad and the Montana Rail Link.

During the direct observations along the selected highway's a count was made of each passing commercial vehicle by vehicle type, route, and whether or not placards were displayed as required by the U.S. Department of Transportation. A total of 1425 commercial vehicle were observed. By far the greatest shipping volume was observed on I-90 with lesser volumes on US 95 and relatively light volumes on all other roads. The data was overlaid with the Idaho Transportation Department's accident data to determine the most probable location of highway accidents. Vulnerabilities were illustrated by plotting DOT Emergency Response guidebook recommended evacuation distances for the most commonly shipped materials in populated and/or in high accident rate areas. Other areas identified as vulnerable to spills were waterways, potable water

### Shipments by Hazard Class/Division



The flow study illustrated what hazardous materials may be on the road at any given time.

supplies, scenic and recreational area, as well as wildlife refuges resources.

Each Northern Idaho Emergency manager received copies of the region wide Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study as well as additional copies of their specific county's data. The study data will be useful when planning response activities, training first responders, equipping first responder entities. Elected official may use the information when making policy decisions regarding traffic and zoning regulations, allocating resources, and when entering mutual aid agreements as well.

Bob Howards efforts in completing the Regional Hazardous Material Commodity Flow Study have set the stage for a better prepared first responder community in North Idaho.

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# County Coordinators in the Northeast area complete a 5 year planning project of developing a regional evacuation and mass care/sheltering plan.

Under the leadership and guidance of Greg Adams in Teton County and the support of Mike Clements the Northeast Area Field Officer the 8 counties in the northeast region have worked together to develop a concept and then finalize it with an exercise validated plan.

The Northeast Idaho Emergency Management Working Group has developed a regional coordination plan that addresses much-needed policies, protocols, and procedures to improve coordination and communication in anticipation of potential regional emergencies and disasters. This plan places special emphasis on the functional areas of evacuation and mass care operations from a regional perspective.

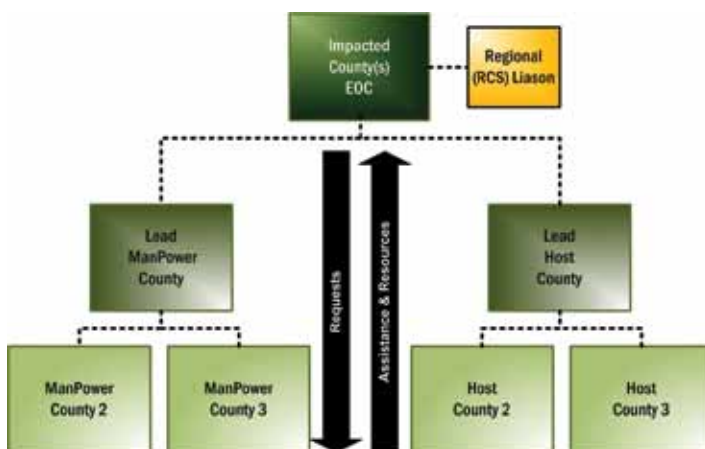
The purpose of the NE Idaho Regional Coordination System (RCS) is to provide a vehicle for collaboration in planning, communication, information sharing, and coordination activities/operations before, during, and after an emergency or disaster. Its function is to ensure that regional response is inter-connected and complementary. It reinforces interoperability among member jurisdictions and organizations, and makes response efforts more efficient and effective by coordinating available resources.

The diagram below illustrates, how it is founded upon a three-deep county concept that can be contracted or expanded based on the impact, magnitude, and scale of an event. Because the scope and application of this system is deliberately broad and scalable, it can be expanded to include other counties and jurisdictions outside this area should the need arise.

## Key Supporting Concepts

The “Impacted County” is the county that has or will be adversely impacted by an emergency or disaster. During an emergency or disaster that may necessitate a regional response, the Impacted County is responsible for:

- Activating their own respective County EOC and Emergency Operations Plan(s).
- Coordinating the overall emergency within the **Impacted County** area.
- Requesting the activation of the Regional Coordination System, and requesting aid and resources as needed.

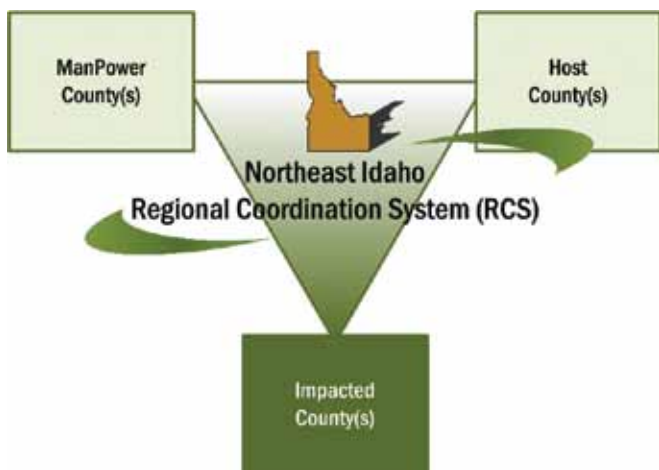


The **ManPower County** provides timely emergency resources, services, and manpower to the Impacted County— and in some cases, the Host County.

The **Host County** serves as the county during evacuation that receives and shelters residents and animals coming from the Impacted County, and also provides mass care needs as appropriate.

Direction and control prior to, during, and following an emergency or disaster rests with the leadership of the jurisdiction impacted by a given emergency or disaster. Requesting resources is made at the discretion of the Impacted County, which will allow them the ability to pick what they need; and, in some cases, for what price. The ManPower and/or Host Counties only have to offer assistance if they have the resources and capabilities to do so.

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# The Automated Critical Asset Management System

The Department of Homeland Security's Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS) is a web-based data system with countless tools and resources provided at no cost to State and local governments. ACAMS allows users to effectively collect, manage, and prioritize infrastructure data that supports the development and implementation of protective measures for our Nation and State's most significant assets.

ACAMS was originally called Arch Angel as a system created by the city of Los Angeles to catalog Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CI/KR) and tie it to first-responders for the purpose of enhancing protection and response activities throughout their area of operations. The system was so dynamic and successful that the Federal Government decided to purchase ACAMS for its use nationally. Currently 32 States are using ACAMS and most others are moving towards using it.

ACAMS was specifically designed and modified for the unique needs of State and local emergency responders such as: emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, infrastructure protection planners, homeland security officials, and other emergency personnel. The system can be accessed 24 hours a day from any Web-enabled computer at any location (to include the scene of a natural or man-made disaster) through a secure password protected portal.

ACAMS users can input local infrastructure asset data from all eighteen CI/KR sectors through an easy guided process. Outputs of the collected data assist users in pre-incident prevention and protection, as well as post incident response. The data entered into the system can be used to: enhance situational awareness in emergency operations centers, develop security plans, customize report, pre- or post-incident planning, geospatial analysis, training & exercises, and can feed directly into many of DHS and FEMA required Data Calls. The benefits of ACAMS are numerous to include:

## Time Savings

- All CI/KR information is stored into on central repository
- Offers standardized report templates
- AutoFill option automatically populates select forms

## Ease of Data Input and Accessibility

- Built-in standard BZP report templates
- Built-in asset manager questionnaires that allow owners and operators to input their own information
- Customized reports tailored for individual needs
- Vulnerability scoring tools enable prioritization of critical assets
- Information inputted and detail is determined by the State and local jurisdictions

## Great Situational Awareness

- Provides mapping of an asset in a geospatial context
- Provides live law enforcement and counter-terrorism information from national feeds
- Access to outside resources, publications, case studies, research tools, and frequently asked questions

## Fosters Public and Private Partnerships

- Allows owners and operators to play an active role in State and local infrastructure protection programs by maintaining accuracy of their asset's data
- Integration of Protected Critical Infrastructure Information protections reassures the private sector that their information is secure and protected against public disclosure

ACAMS is a significant force multiplier for all emergency managers, first-responders, and personnel interested in protecting CI/KR at the State and local level. In Idaho we are moving to fielding the system in early 2011 and will be hosting the initial ACAMS Training Course on 25-27 January 2011.

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and had knocked out power to portions of Castleford, Bliss, Rogerson, Hagerman and Jackpot.

Monday morning saw the Whalen's Type II Team assume management of the fire, setting up the Incident Command Post at the Billingsley Creek State Park just north of Hagerman. Castleford School District closed school due to no power. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) declared an Air Quality Alert and invoked a burn ban for the Magic Valley. In some valley areas the visibility was less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile. By this time the fire was the largest active fire in the country. By Tuesday the fire's perimeter was stable at approximately 306,113 acres. The fire crews were in a monitor and patrol perimeter and mop-up as required mode. On Thursday the fire crews were prepared for initial attack due to a Red Flag Warning in the area. Crews responded to numerous lighting starts outside the Long Butte perimeter.

Friday saw all power restored to Idaho Power costumers and fire crew demobilization starting. Monday morning 30 August the Whalen's Type II Team handed the fire's management back over to local control. At the peak of the response there were over 750 personnel assigned to the fire. By the time Idaho Power completed their work, they had 120 employees involved in the repair of 37 major



transmission structures, 7 power lines and replaced 120 power poles. BLM personnel rounded up and relocated the 200 wild horses of the Saylor Creek Herd.

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# Citizen Corps Council — of North Idaho — Wins National Award

In September The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the finalist for the National Citizen Corps Achievement Awards. The Citizen Corps Council of North Idaho was awarded “Outstanding Council Serving a Rural Area.” The Citizen Corps Council of North Idaho is comprised of five counties, two tribes, and the Panhandle Health District. County and Tribal representatives are as follows: Benewah County, Norm Suenkel; Bonner County, Bob Howard; Boundary County, Dave Kramer; Kootenai County, Sandy VonBehren; Shoshone County, John Specht; Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Robert Spaulding; and Kootenai Tribe represented by Dave Kramer from Boundary County. These five counties, two tribes, and health district encompass a large but rural area of Idaho, where during times of disasters and emergencies individuals can be left isolated within their community or even home.



Bob Howard and Sandy Von Behren receive the Outstanding Citizen Corps Council Serving a Rural Area from FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate.

The “Outstanding Council Serving a Rural Area” honors the council that “promotes community resilience in rural areas, to include volunteer development and integration, public outreach, collaboration with existing community organizations, and strategies tailored to the unique needs of rural communities.” The Citizen Corps Council of North Idaho was picked for this honor because of their collaborative efforts in creating educational tools used to teach citizens, private sector businesses, local area and tribal government agencies to plan, prepare, and sustain themselves through emergent and disaster situations.

The Citizen Corps Council of North Idaho has developed “Preparedness Manuals” for each of the counties and tribes, which can be checked out by volunteer speakers to give public presentations on preparedness. These volunteer speakers and their

supporting County or Tribal Emergency Manager make up the N. Idaho Citizen Corps Speakers Bureau. The manual contains 8 preparedness sections on being ready; General Information, CD’s (power point presentations), Business, General Public, First Responders, Kids, Brochures, and Toolkit. Each of the sections is put together in teachable segments that walk the volunteer speaker through the selected presentation. An example of the Preparedness Manuals in use was in Shoshone County; the Silver Valley Junior Red Cross completed 10 presentations: 5 businesses and 5 families. A total number of 169 people were reached in these presentation given during 2 Chamber of Commerce Meetings, 1 Kiwanis Club, 1 Silver Valley Arts and Crafts Group, and 1 Silver Valley Warriors Good Sam Travel Group. In addition other members of the Speakers Bureau provided over 17 presentations reaching over 435 individuals from January 2009 to June 2010. There were also presentations provided at 3 safety fairs reaching an average of 200 people per fair. Other examples of groups that received the preparedness presentations were the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, the Kootenai County District Court and Bailiffs, the Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce, the Coeur d’Alene Tribal Service Program, and the Ponderay Surgery Center in Bonner County.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) invited and hosted two individuals from each winning category to attend the two day congratulatory event in Washington D.C. The council unanimously voted that Sandy VonBehren and Bob Howard would attend, and it was my pleasure to accompany them as the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Citizen Corps Coordinator.

During the two day award celebrations our small Idaho delegation had the privilege of attending a reception on Capitol Hill where we met the other award recipients as well as met Congressman Walt Minnick in his office, and discussed Citizen Corps in Idaho. We also toured the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at FEMA headquarters. While there we attended a round table discussion and award ceremony with FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) President David Maxwell, and International Association of Emergency Managers (IEMA) Pamela L’Heureux. On our last day in the Capital we were allowed a tour of the public rooms of the White House. Our tour guide was Paulette L. Aniskoff, Director of Individual and Community Preparedness, who had previously worked in the White House before joining the FEMA team.

This award sets the Citizen Corps Council of North Idaho apart as a leadership group in the state and is testament that in Idaho “community and government leaders (come) together to coordinate the involvement of community members and organization in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. Making more prepared and resilient Idaho communities that can sustain themselves during emergency and disaster situations.

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# SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL

Sustainable living has been defined as a lifestyle that attempts to reduce an individual's or society's use of the Earth's natural resource and his/her own resources. Some of us have enjoyed gardening and the benefits of home grown tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, even the prolific zucchini can become a household staple. For some of us it's a sentimental reminder of the times we spent with our parents, grandparents or even great-grand-parents in



Having a garden is a great way to be prepared and self-sufficient if a disaster were to strike.

the field and after canning and caring for the produce. Others don't have any of these memories, nor do they have the time, desire or money to initiate any new projects. It's much easier to stop at the store on the way home – the abundance of produce, fresh meat, fish and fruits, makes planning the next meal a relatively simple task in a more than complex world. But what of those individuals that can't afford to purchase the necessary commodities, or more importantly what do we do when and if those commodities are no longer available? How do we turn a just in time society back to a more self reliant culture? With the concerns of today's economy, the ever present threat of winter storms, floods, wild land fires and other hazards, and our inherent desire to improve our surroundings for our children and grand-children, several groups developed an opportunity for the general public to participate in a sustainability festival.

The Community Action Partnership

together with The Ploughshare Institute for Sustainable Culture, the Monastery of St Gertrude and the North Central Idaho Citizens Corps Council sponsored a festival at the Nez Perce County Fairgrounds in Lewiston on Saturday, July 31, 2010. Over 1,200 folks attended and participated in various hands on activities and seminars including woodworking, blacksmithing, soap and candle making, basket weaving and fiber crafts; including spinning, weaving and felting. Of course there were products to sample and purchase.

Emergency Management participated by distributing copies of the FEMA Guide to Citizen Preparedness "ARE YOU READY?", visiting with interested participants and promoting overall citizen preparedness and training.

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## Hazard Mitigation Update

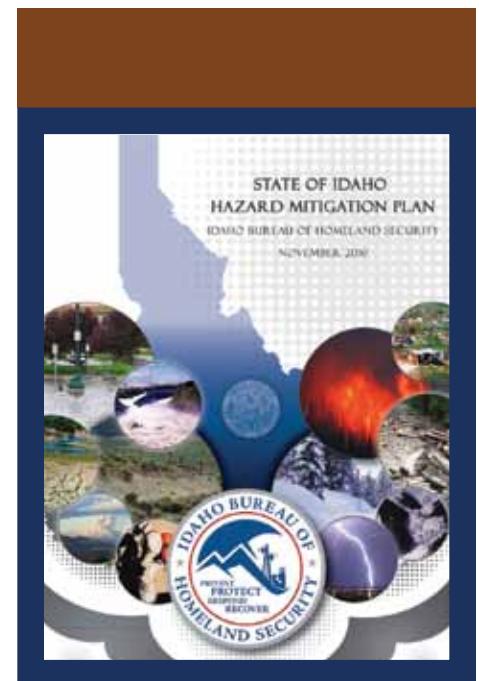
With Michael Barker Corp. serving as technical writer, BHS Mitigation Staff have been working on the 2010 revision of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), funded by a 2008 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant. Over the past three years, the revision process has included collaboration with three technical working groups for flood, fire, and earthquake hazards. These subject-matter experts from various state and federal agencies have provided input into the revision process. Fortunately, during the next three years, all three groups will continue to look not only at the annual maintenance of the SHMP, but also to act as ongoing support to the goals and objectives outlined by BHS in the 2010 plan revision.

The SHMP revision has been approved by FEMA Region X, and has been sent to the Governor's Office for adoption. Once this is done, it will be sent to the Governor's office for adoption. After the final draft is completed, the plan will be published on the BHS website at <http://www.idahoshmpupdate.com/>. It will also be copied onto CD-ROM and a limited number of printed copies.

In other news: General Bill Shawver and Dave Jackson attended a big check presentation to the City of Lewiston on Monday, October 18, 2010. Lewiston has been awarded a 2010 PDM grant in the amount of \$2.1 million to make improvements to its storm water management system.

We are also pleased to note that more than \$270,000 of 2010 PDM grant funds were awarded to Gem, Payette, Elmore, and Lewis counties for their All-Hazard Mitigation Plan updates. In addition, we received notification just last week that Bannock and Clark counties will receive a total of nearly \$100,000 in 2009 FMA grant funds to update the flood portions of their Local Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans.

The HMGP grant under DR-1630, a flood disaster in 2006, was closed out in October. The \$180,000 grant was used to mitigate a flood-prone county road in Latah County near Viola, Idaho. An undersized culvert was replaced with a engineered box-culvert bridge designed to move considerable amount of flood waters when needed.



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# Grant Financial In and Out's

This article will provide information on the 2010 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) guidelines for routine maintenance, the requirements for Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) requirements, and guidance concerning the comingling of federal grant funds. The objective is to assist the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security's subgrantees to maintain their grant compliance and future eligibility.

## 2010 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT

The 2010 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) guidance incorrectly stated that:

"Routine upkeep (i.e., gasoline, tire replacement, routine oil changes, monthly inspections, grounds and facility maintenance etc.) is the responsibility of the grantee and may not be funded with preparedness grant funding."

Information Bulletin #336 modified the 2010 EMPG Guidance to allow for the expenses of routine maintenance under the EMPG program and FEMA/DHS advised:

"As noted in Information Bulletin #336 (announced on November 20, 2009), and in a clarification notice sent from ASKCSID@dhs.gov on January 8, 2010, the use of EMPG Program grant funds for maintenance contracts, warranties, repair or replacement costs, upgrades, and user fees are allowable under all active and future grant awards. In addition, routine upkeep (i.e. gasoline, tire replacement, routine oil changes, monthly inspections, grounds and facility maintenance, etc.) are allowable costs under the EMPG program only."

This modification allows EMPG funds to be used as they have historically been used in funding the emergency management operations

of states, counties and tribes. The 2010 EMPG guidance and a copy of information Bulletin #336 is located on the BHS website under "Cost Principles" <http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/FinanceAndLogistics/Grants/CostPrinciples.aspx>

## HISTORIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

Federal Law requires that federal grant funds that are used for projects that will fund: communication towers, physical security enhancements, new construction, renovation, and modifications to buildings or structures that have the potential to affect environmental resources and historic properties through ground disturbance, impact to wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, and other water resources; alteration of historically significant properties; and impact to threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and habitat undergo a Historic and Environmental Review. The only exception to this is projects funded under the PSIC grant, which has its own Historic and Environmental Preservation review process.

Any project that meets the above criteria must receive prior project approval from FEMA/DHS. As the SAA the BHS Logistics Section receives the requests for EHP review and forwards them on to DHS for formal review.

The Information Bulletin and additional information can be found on the website at [Http://fema.gov](http://fema.gov)

## FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS, SEPARATION OF ACCOUNTS

As BHS continues to monitor subgrantees, as required by grant guidance, there is a reoccurring question regarding the requirement to separate accounts for each federal grant award and comingling of federal funds.

Federal guidance states:

"Federal agencies shall not require physical segregation of cash deposits or the establishment of any eligibility requirements for funds which are provided to a recipient. However, the accounting systems of all recipients and subrecipients must ensure that agency funds are not commingled with funds from other Federal agencies. Each award must be accounted for separately. Recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from commingling funds on either a program-by-program or project-by-project basis.

Funds specifically budgeted and/or received for one project may not be used to support another. Where a recipient's or subrecipient's accounting system cannot comply with this requirement, the recipient or subrecipient shall establish a system to provide adequate fund accountability for each project it has been awarded."

In short the Guide is saying that an accounting system must clearly identify funding sources. Most accounting systems have coding that identifies receipts and expenditures. If an organization can't clearly identify funding receipts and expenditures for a given grant program, establishing a separate bank account for the grant program would provide the necessary separation.

The Investment Budget Worksheet, which is required by BHS for each grant application, could be a valuable tool for subgrant budget managers and bookkeepers in developing these accounts and tracking expenses.

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## Community Relations

After a disaster in which the President declares an Individual Assistance Disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will initiate the Community Relations program. This will occur after the response is done and events have moved into recovery. The purpose of Community Relations is to get the message out to disaster survivors about how they can receive help.

There are multiple ways to get that message out. The first is press releases detailing how to access FEMA's Individual Assistance program and where help can be found. Next is Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC). A DRC is a place where various organizations make



themselves available and disaster survivors can come for a "one stop shopping trip". DRC's will host federal, state and sometimes local and voluntary agencies. FEMA and the Small

Business Administration (SBA) will be there to tell individuals about what they have to offer, to help them with the application process or to answer questions that the individuals may have. In addition, depending on the nature of the disaster these are some of the agencies that may be invited to support the DRC; the State Insurance Department, the IRS, the State Tax Commission, the State Liaison, the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Interpreters, county departments that have services, etc. The DRC's are located in an area close to the disaster survivors, such as an empty space in a shopping mall, the county courthouse, a senior center, etc. The counties will be asked to provide the space for these centers if they are to be set up.

Continued on next page »

Another method that is used is to send out Community Relations Teams into the disaster area. These teams consist of a FEMA representative and a State representative and if the county would like to have a representative on the teams, they are included. The team will work with the County Emergency Coordinator to determine the areas that were affected the most and what the demographics of the area are. If it is a non-English speaking area, they will try to have an interpreter on the team. They will then go door to door and talk to individuals to make sure that the people are getting help and to tell the individuals about the programs that they may qualify for. They will also gather data to send back to the Joint Field Office about what they are seeing in the field and the types of help that may be needed.



The Community Relations Teams will also meet with community leaders to build trust with the community in order to get the word out. They will go to public gatherings of these communities such as church services and civic service group meetings/gatherings.

It is important for individuals and families affected by disaster to understand where they can get support in their recovery efforts. It is a confusing time for most people and the ability to talk with someone that can explain things is important for the individual and the community to recover from a disaster. The Community Relations Program provides this support during a stressful time in people's lives.

If you have questions or would like more information about community relations, contact Cherylyn Murphy 208-422-3020.

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

The summer of 2010 has once again proven to be a busy time for all members of Public Safety Communications (PSC). The primary goal for PSC this past summer was the upgrade to the northern microwave infrastructure, which will allow additional capacity to transport broadband as well as 700 MHz traffic throughout the state. PSC personnel worked tirelessly throughout the summer to complete this portion of the project and they will continue the migration process well into early fall. After the northern segment is finished, PSC plans to begin the next phase of the project and head east to work on the next segment of the microwave upgrade. In addition, PSC has been working on the Broadband Project, which will eventually link all State Emergency Operation Centers (EOC's) to the State's EOC located at Gowen Field. Twenty-three Counties have connectivity to the EOC network and now have fully functional voice over internet protocol phones (VOIP) capable of reaching the State's EOC at a moment's notice. Most importantly, these broadband connections will provide secure, reliable and redundant communications platform capable of functioning during routine day-to-day operations as well as catastrophic events. Further, PSC continues to work on a myriad of other projects throughout the state to include the following: 700 MHz trunked site installations, miscellaneous communications tower projects as well as several projects in partnership with the Idaho Department of Public Works.

This past summer personnel from PSC's District 5 were also involved in a major project at the Sedgewick Peak communications site located in Eastern Idaho. Both Kendall Anderson and Jeremy Hodge were instrumental in the design and construction of a new ice shield that will significantly help safeguard the site from huge amounts of ice that frequently fall from the tower during the winter months. Kendall and Jeremy designed the structure and custom manufactured many of the parts required for successful completion of the project. Logistically the project required acquisition of parts, staging, loading and the long arduous commute to the site located 12 miles in the mountains above Lava Hot Springs. The final stage of the project included excavation of solid rock, pouring the piers to support the structure and steel fabrication to insure the structure was strong enough to handle the expected ice and snow loads. Kendall Anderson/PSC designed the project with input from Jeremy Hodge/PSC, Nolan Johnson/ITD, Mark Porter/ITD, Dave Ball/ITD and Glenn McCullough/ITD. Kendall Anderson said, "This project was the compilation of what can be accomplished by team work and interagency cooperation."

Public Safety Communications will continue to move forward with site upgrades throughout the winter and provide top-notch customer service for our public safety stakeholders throughout the state.



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# IF YOU FIND EXPLOSIVES OR A SUSPICIOUS DEVICE

Courtesy of Twin Falls Police Bomb Squad  
Hazardous Devices Unit

Only trained bomb squad personnel should handle explosives or explosive items. Even if the item has been handled by someone else, it doesn't mean it is safe. Leave it where it is and call local law enforcement or State Communications.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. If you find a suspected explosive walk out of the area slowly. Let everyone know what you found and where it is. Do not go back and look at it, or let anyone else go look at it.
2. Try to leave doors open that lead to the device. If the item or device is located near an exit/entry point, choose an alternative exit route. Do not walk by the device.
3. Do not cover the item or device with anything. If you found it in a drawer, leave the drawer open. If you find it in a closet, leave the closet door open. If you found it in a container, leave the container open. Do not close the lid.
4. Try to get as much distance as possible from the item or device. Even if it is indoors get, as far away as possible.
5. If you encounter anything that looks suspicious and you have questions, call for assistance. It is always better to be safe than sorry!
6. Be sure to let the police or bomb squad know where the suspect device is and what it looks like.

If you have an incident that may include explosives, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or call State Communications at 1-800-632-8000 for assistance.

## REGIONAL BOMB SQUADS

There are five (5) Regional Bomb Squads (RBS's) that are able to respond throughout the State of Idaho. These Regional Bomb Squads are law enforcement based, specialized resources for responding to explosives, suspicious packages, or other devices



suspected of having explosive potential. They are equipped to provide remote assessment as well as render safe activities.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information regarding the Regional Bomb Squads in Idaho, please feel free to contact the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS).

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