

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011



Photo: Jay Baker, BHS

Last winter high levels of precipitation caused problems across the state. This coming winter could bring more of the same.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SAYS IT IS "BACK TO THE FUTURE" WITH LA NINA

The 2010/2011 La Nina weather pattern put many areas throughout Idaho into record breaking Snow Water Equivalent levels last winter/spring. However, Mother Nature gave us a break with cool temperatures and minimal late spring precipitation. So while flooding did take place, it was not as serious as it could have been and served to highlight "at risk" infrastructure and gaps in our emergency management and response processes.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has given us a "heads up" to expect another La Nina pattern this winter and spring. With that in mind, now is the time to identify the infrastructure within your jurisdiction or area of responsibility that is critical to life support and economic sustainment (power, water treatment, bridges, roads housing etc.) and make sure there is a protection plan in place for that critical infrastructure. Now is the time to identify those residential and commercial areas that have been and will be at risk from La Nina and the severe winter weather, spring runoff and high water she brings along with her. Now is the time to update Emergency Operation Plans (EOP) as well as Hazard Mitigation Plans to deal with what we have learned from the last La Nina, what we know to expect and develop plans to protect property and shelter residents.

Unexpected problems popped up in many jurisdictions and the solutions put in place were effective and low cost. An example is

[La Nina continued on pg. 2 »](#)

PLANS SECTION LOOKS FORWARD

The BHS Plans Section has been very busy with numerous projects and some mandatory federal preparedness reporting projects that we wanted to shed some light on and share with you. In addition, there are a couple of very important planning projects that we will be tackling in the near future that are designed to help planners better identify what to plan for and provide them with a more streamlined method to accomplish the actual writing of Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs).

GREAT IDAHO SHAKE OUT - The first annual Great Idaho Shake Out occurred on October 20, 2011 at 10:20 am. and over 86,000 Idahoans registered to participate. This included but was not limited to 106 families, 1 Boy Scout Troop,

[Plans continued on pg. 4 »](#)



Fred Abt, Response and Recovery Branch Chief, participates in the Great Idaho Shakeout and illustrates how to take shelter during an earthquake.



With no shortage of things to do, time keeps passing quickly. From congress to communities throughout Idaho, emergency management and homeland security issues continue to be at center stage. One thing is sure, our mission to make our state resilient is as important as it has ever been.

Last winter and spring saw an abundance of moisture which caused flooding issues in all corners of Idaho. This winter’s projections appear to be on the same track with another La Nina winter weather pattern expected. At BHS we are revisiting our plans and procedures to make sure we are prepared.

As preparedness encompasses the whole of a community including citizens, businesses, and government, I encourage others in our state to also consider the impacts of adverse weather.



The future is full of opportunities for our state’s emergency management community to come together to increase our capabilities. Next year we will be conducting a full-scale, seismic based exercise centered in Eastern Idaho. This effort will focus on mass care and search and rescue, and will be an opportunity for first responders and emergency managers to test their methods and skills for responding to an identified threat to the area. In the winter of 2012 BHS looks forward to working in conjunction with the Idaho Emergency Management Association in putting together a workshop with multiple tracks for sharing best practices and looking at current issues.

What makes emergency management and homeland security work effectively is the cooperation of people dedicated to making the places they live safe and prepared. Here in Idaho we are fortunate to have a strong community within which we focus on our common goals of reducing the impact of disasters. Thank you to all of you who dedicate yourself to this vital endeavor.

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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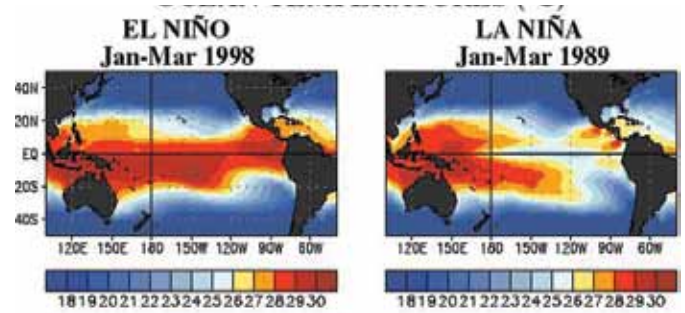
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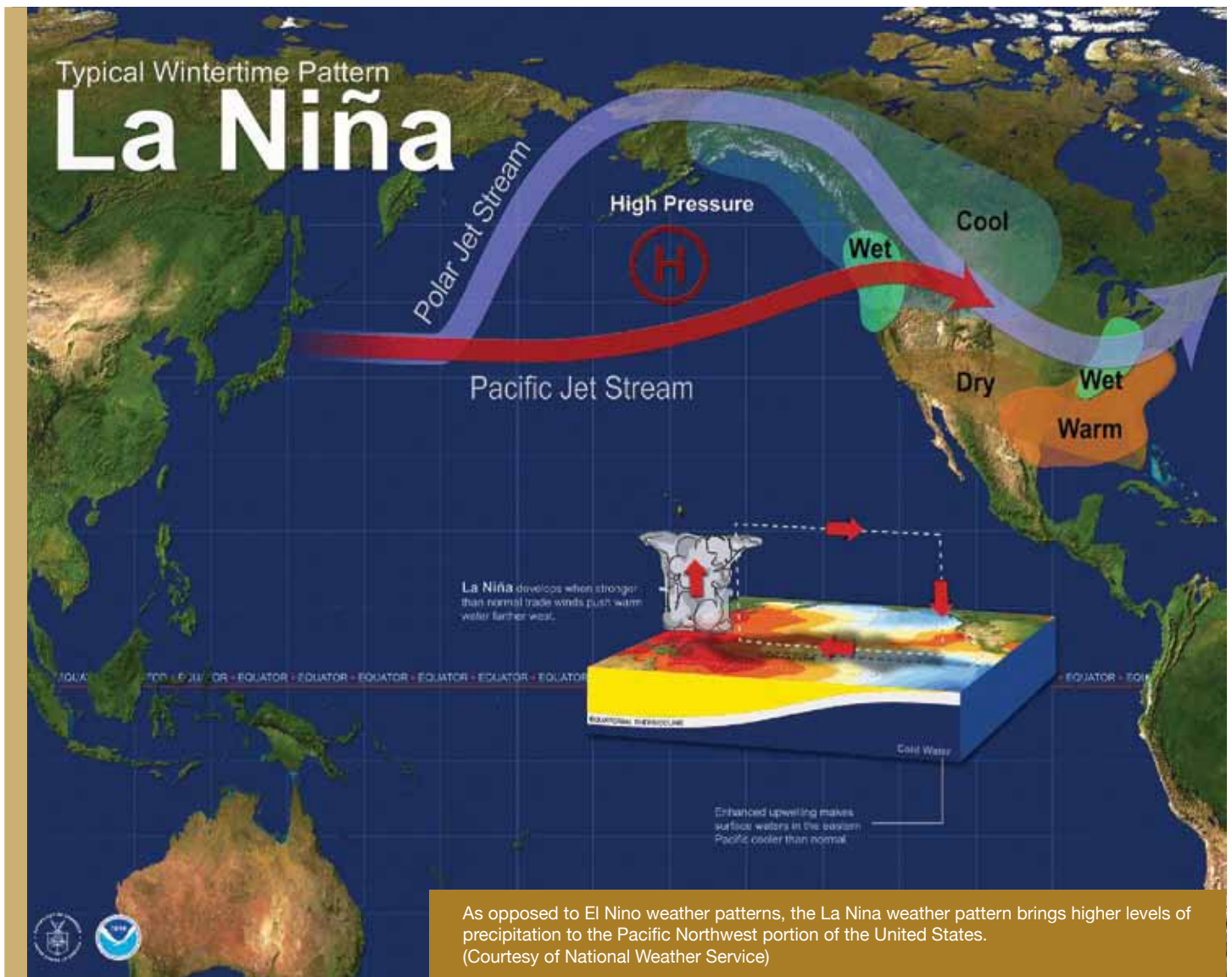
inflow from rising water into storm drains causing water treatment plant settling ponds to reach their overflow point. These are storm drains installed as part of a now – abandoned and forgotten subdivision’s infrastructure. Fortunately this situation was quickly recognized and effectively mitigated at the local level with plastic sheeting and sandbags – a potentially nasty sewage spill averted. Do all communities know what kind of water treatment plant treats their sewage and provides their drinking water? Does their plant have direct flow from storm drains into the settling ponds? Does their plant have critical pumps and machinery in flood prone areas? Is there a map of all possible runoff intake and a plan to control this inflow? This is one example of how an EOP or a Hazard Mitigation Plan can work to prepare your community for what is likely to occur.

Now that we know La Nina is going to pay us another visit, don’t let her cause you and your community unnecessary pain and suffering. Pull out those EOPs and Hazard Mitigation Plans and work within your community and alongside your neighboring jurisdictions to get your citizens and your infrastructure ready to deal with whatever she may bring in her bag of tricks.

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El Niño episodes (left) reflect periods of exceptionally warm sea surface temperatures across the eastern tropical Pacific. La Niña episodes (right) represent periods of below-average sea-surface temperatures across the eastern tropical Pacific. (Courtesy of National Weather Service)



As opposed to El Nino weather patterns, the La Nina weather pattern brings higher levels of precipitation to the Pacific Northwest portion of the United States. (Courtesy of National Weather Service)

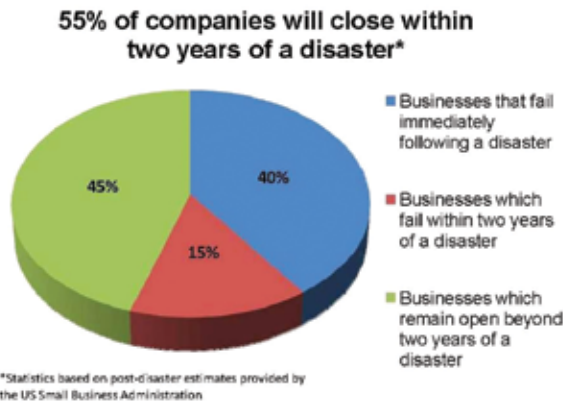
Public-Private Partnerships Connecting the Dots.....

America's businesses form the backbone of our economy. The private sector owns and operates the vast majority of our critical infrastructure such as electric power, financial and telecommunications systems. If businesses are ready for the impact of an event and can recover quickly, the state, the nation, and our economy are more secure. A commitment by the Whole Community to planning today will help support employees, customers, the community, and the economy throughout our state, our nation and even globally.

How quickly businesses can get back to operations after an incident can depend on emergency planning done before the event. Though each situation is unique, any organization can be better prepared if it plans carefully, puts emergency procedures in place,

works with their emergency management partners, and practices for all kinds of emergencies.

Some things that businesses can do to be better prepared include the following. Plan for the impact of an unexpected event



on your organization by assessing how your company functions both internally and externally to determine what is

absolutely necessary to keep operating. Communicate your plan to employees by practicing together. Think about including information about your disaster plan in new employee orientation programs. Provide information on Employee Family Disaster Plans. Coordinate with external partners such as vendors, suppliers and customers. Protect your investment by keeping copies of important records off-site, reviewing insurance coverage, preparing for utility disruptions, and improving cyber security.

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is committed to working with the public and private sectors to develop a "Whole Community" approach to emergency planning, preparation and recovery. By combining the knowledge, experience, and successful practices of each of these groups, we can better prepare for tomorrow's emergencies today.

Additional information can be found at: www.bhs.idaho.gov

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Plans continued from pg. 1 »

1 out of state agency from Montana, and 6 private businesses.

The Great Idaho Shake Out was a collaborative effort of The State Department of Education, Idaho Geological Survey, Idaho Citizen Corps, FEMA, and BHS. The State Department of Education sent out an initial email to schools requesting participation in the drill. Public service announcements were run in the newspaper, on the radio, and using billboards statewide. Citizen Corps also purchased and distributed bookmarks, 1-page flyers, and reminder cards to as many registered Idaho schools as supplies allowed for.

On the day of The Great Idaho Shake Out many staff got involved. Alerts and Warnings EMAC Specialist Ward Noland activated an Idaho State Alert and Warning System (ISAWS) notification to all BHS staff via office phone, cell phone, and

email to Drop, Cover, and Hold On during the designated time. The quake lasted for approximately 1 minute and then another alert was sent from ISAWS letting BHS staff know that the drill was over. Pictures of BHS staff participating in The Great Idaho Shake Out can be found on the BHS facebook page.

As reported by media outlets, in Ammon, one public elementary school used the event to run a school wide Drop, Cover, and Hold On drill along with an evacuation and count of students. At Idaho State University Campuses staff and young children at the early learning centers practiced for the Shake Out by talking to the children about what they should do in the event of an earthquake. Then on October 20th at 10:20 am they Drop, Cover, and Held On to practice with the children what they had been learning. The early learning centers reported that

students did as instructed with minimal confusion.

The Great Idaho Shake out was a success and next year will be even better so mark your calendars for October 18, 2012 at 10:18 am.

Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 8 And The 2011 State Preparedness Report – Signed in March of 2011, PPD 8 replaces HSPD 8 and features deliverables including: A National Preparedness Goal; The development and publication of National Frameworks for the Preparedness, Protection and Mitigation mission areas of emergency management (the National Response Framework (NRF) and the National Disaster Recovery Framework are already published), and; an Annual National Preparedness Report due to the US Congress. FEMA has worked

extensively with elements within the Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as well as with representatives from across the Nation to develop the latest State Preparedness Report (SPR) component of the National Preparedness Report. Key to it though, is the beginning transition of 37 Target Capabilities to 31 Core Capabilities - and there is obviously not an exact correlation. Given this new reporting criteria and a shortened timeline for completion of this year's report, BHS is working through these Core Capabilities with selected subject matter experts, to develop Idaho's inputs that will eventually formulate to indicate a measurement of preparedness. Needless to say, it's a time consuming and detailed process made more difficult because the specific formulary for measuring our preparedness has changed significantly, each of the past four years. After this year's submission and some anticipated FEMA process adjustments next year, we hope to have a standardized process to effectively measure Idaho's level of preparedness and provide the US Congress an answer to "How Prepared is the Nation?"

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- In order to align emergency management practices, policies, and procedures in the State of Idaho with national standards, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and its principles have been adopted by the Governor's Executive Order (E.O. No. 2010-09) for implementation by all local and State governments and agencies with emergency management roles. NIMS supports all five mission areas of emergency management: preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation. Objectives include NIMS Adoption, Preparedness, Communications and Information Management, Resource Management, and Command and Management Implementation.

Implementing NIMS throughout the state means that all emergency management partners, including first responder agencies, local and Tribal governments, county and Tribal emergency management coordinators, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGO), State agencies, and the Federal Emergency

Management Agency (FEMA), are reading and working from the same playbook to ensure that hazard risks to Idahoans are minimized or eliminated, regardless of the size or type of an emergency or disaster. For several years now, FEMA has provided a national web-based tool called the NIMS Compliance Assessment Support Tool, or NIMSCAST, in which all emergency management partners from the public and private sectors can evaluate their capabilities to manage incidents before, during, and after. NIMSCAST gives users the opportunity to evaluate past performance, set goals for accomplishing NIMS objectives, and record progress for their jurisdictions and/or agencies. In addition, it allows eligible and current recipients of federal preparedness grants to certify their compliance with NIMS, a requirement for all federal preparedness grant funding.

As in years past, this summer BHS provided technical assistance and support statewide to facilitate the completion and submission of NIMSCAST reports. Workshops were conducted in Boise, Twin Falls, Rigby, Pocatello, Lewiston, and Coeur d'Alene to update and train county and tribal emergency management coordinators on this year's changes in the tool. Many coordinators completed their jurisdictions' NIMSCAST reports while attending workshops. Phone and email support were provided to state and local users as needed. As a result, the State of Idaho's 2011 NIMSCAST report submitted to FEMA in September 2011 included data from numerous agencies, governments, and NGOs within all 44 counties and four Tribes, as well as 18 state agencies. BHS would like to thank all participants for their cooperation and we look forward to another productive year in 2012 developing greater competency and capability in NIMS for the benefit of all Idahoans.

New Earthquake Publication

Using a federal preparedness grant, BHS has teamed up with the Idaho Geological Survey and the Department of Education to develop and produce classroom activities to supplement the 2009 publication *Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country: Your Handbook for*

Earthquakes in Idaho. The Supplement: Classroom Activities publication is designed to meet Idaho State Standards for 8th and 9th grade Earth Science and Mathematics, but can be used outside the classroom to educate and prepare individuals, families, and communities for earthquakes. Using a variety of teaching methods, including demonstrations, hands-on experiments, games, lectures, and worksheets, topics covered include the science of earthquakes, individual and structural preparedness, earthquake safety, and more. The publication is the first of its kind in the State of Idaho and will be distributed throughout Idaho for use in science classes. Look for it on CD and in booklet form later this fall. It will also be posted to BHS' website at www.bhs.idaho.gov.

The recent restructure of BHS personnel has beefed up the Plans Section with some very motivated and knowledgeable planners. This is allowing for some long term planning goals and projects to gain significant traction and actually move forward. Amongst these will be an Idaho planning guide and a web-based planning tool. The Idaho planning guide will be more of a supplement to the FEMA CPG 101, that will help identify some of the common response activities that should be addressed in all EOPs and include planning tips and helpful resources for planners. The web-based planning tool provides a service that brings planners and stakeholders together on a collaborative platform and facilitates the planning process (based on FEMA's CPG-101) to create and maintain standards based plans. Plans can be created, edited, and managed online using MS Word or a standard browser. This web-based planning tool will provide step-by-step planning guidance, increased stakeholder participation & collaboration, decreased formatting time, and automated document version control. The BHS Plans Section will be providing more information on these projects in the next edition of the newsletter. Until then, keep your planning caps on straight and keep your stick on the ice.

The BHS Plans Section; Phil Lang, Dave Hall, Heidi Novich, Alicia Martin-Cowger.

The Northeast Area Enhances Preparedness and Response Capability with a New Database.

The eight counties that make up the Northeast area have worked together with various grants and developed equipment for emergency response and recovery that they share among themselves. This equipment stockpile includes generators of various sizes, generator lighting towers, exercise trailers, hospital mass care trailers, mass care tents, hazmat response trailers, just as examples.

Each county/agency that has a piece of equipment stores and maintains the equipment so that it is ready to go in an emergency. The MOU for the equipment allows the county that


is storing and maintaining the equipment to be first in line to use it in an emergency. The other counties are allowed to request the equipment when it is not in use by the storing or other counties in the region.




Since the region has developed a substantial list of equipment and it is stored over a large region, tracking the equipment and its location has become a problem. The solution was to develop a database of the equipment. This database includes; specifications of the equipment, its location, and the point of contacts and procedures to request the equipment in an emergency.

The database will be organized so that you can lookup equipment by: type of equipment, county, or storage location.


EQID:		
Description:	Light Tower	
County/Location:	Custer	
Owning Agency:	Mackay Fire Department	
Condition:		
Identification Number:	7C LT 3	
Last Inspection/Update:		
Source of Equipment:		
Acquisition Date:		
Purchase Price:		
Notes:		



Location Name: Mackay Fire Department
Agency: Mackay Fire Department
Phone:
Fax Number:
IPS Coordinates: 43°34.770' N 113°38.537' W
Address:
City:
State: ID
Zip:
Notes:



Full Name: Randy Iole
Agency: Mackay Fire Department
Title: Fire Chief
Business Phone: (208) 730-1119
Mobile Phone:
Fax Number:
Home Phone:
Email Address:
City: Mackay
State: ID
Zip:



Full Name: Ron Day
Agency: Mackay Fire Department
Title: Assistant Chief
Business Phone: (208) 588-4809
Mobile Phone:
Fax Number:
Home Phone:
Email Address:
City: Mackay
State: ID
Zip:



When completed, the database will be copied to CDs and distributed to the emergency management programs in each county. In addition to the interactive PC based database program, the information will also be printed and distributed in a bound hard copy.

The regional equipment has all been photographed and inventoried, and is now being entered into the database. This project should be completed just in time for Christmas. What a nice Holiday gift for the region.

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Heidi Novich Named BHS Fall **EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER**

Since assuming duties and responsibilities as the BHS Community, Volunteer and Special Programs Planner this past summer, Heidi has had an immediate and noticeable impact by steadfastly improving everything she has touched. She continues her duties as the Program Manager for the Citizen Corp program while assuming the new roles as the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 6 Mass Care Coordinator for the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan (IDEOP), the Volunteer Agency Liaison (VAL) for the State of Idaho, and planner.

Heidi has assumed the responsibilities as the ESF #6, Mass Care coordinator and is leading this important planning team in a new direction. Her number one priority has been the development of a long-term (2-year) strategic plan which identifies the major goals and supporting objectives and outlines the path to success. Next steps that Heidi has chosen is the update of the operations plan (ESF #6) and the development of the tactical plans that will outline sheltering, feeding, housing, and provision of human services to victims of disasters. Heidi was handpicked by the Department of Health and Welfare to participate in the 2nd Annual Strategic National Stockpile Summit: Meeting the needs of At-Risk populations where she served as a subject matter expert on one of the panels.

Heidi has also been singularly invaluable in the publication of a supplement to "Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country: Your Handbook for Earthquakes in Idaho". She hired a retired science teacher and in collaboration with the BHS Mitigation Section, put a wide variety of information together including a significant amount of original material. Supplement: "Classroom Activities" publication is designed to meet Idaho State Standards for 8th and 9th grade Earth Science and Mathematics, but can be used outside the classroom to educate and prepare individuals, families, and communities for earthquakes. Using a variety of teaching methods, topics cover the science of earthquakes, individual and structural preparedness,

earthquake safety, and more. The publication is the first of its kind in the State of Idaho and will be distributed throughout Idaho for use in science classes on CD and in booklet form later this fall.

Finally, Heidi led the charge on the "Great Idaho Shake Out" campaign. The Shake Out provided a tangible way for all Idahoans to participate in preparedness by focusing on the potentially life-saving actions of "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" during and immediately after an earthquake. Heidi expertly managed this project by coordinating with a myriad of organizations throughout the State. Heidi delivered informative presentations to State Working Group meetings, Citizen Corps Council



meetings, and regional Emergency Management Workgroups (EMWs). Heidi's hard work and commitment to excellence resulted in close to 87,000 people participating in the Great Idaho Shake Out drill making this one of the largest drills in the state's history.

Heidi has definitely gone above and beyond the call of duty during this quarter and her dedication to the mission and team spirit continually brings credit to herself and the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Another busy year has come and gone for the staff of Public Safety Communications (PSC). With their reorganization complete and the hiring of three new technicians to fill vacant positions, PSC has made significant progress towards the completion of several major projects. All while maintaining the sophisticated communications infrastructure throughout the state. As Steve Steiner mentioned “The goals for the summer were to finish the eastern leg of the microwave upgrade and to move forward with those communication projects that will benefit our

equipment upgrades to meet the needs of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Most importantly, this upgrade will insure that select EMS communications equipment will meet the requirements as stated in federal Narrowbanding mandates. This project is near completion and should be finished later this winter. This is only a few of the important projects that PSC has been working on this past summer.

In addition to their day-to-day operations, emergency vehicle installations and projects, PSC has also streamlined processes and successfully reorganized the staff of PSC to provide better customer service as well as additional project support. PSC has been able to fill three vacant technician positions with quality individuals who each bring a separate set of unique skills and abilities to the organization and will be a huge benefit to on-going projects as well as future day-to-day operations of PSC. In the near future, PSC will add a Production Controller to the staff to fill the purchasing position vacated due to the unexpected and unfortunate passing of Steve Monzo.

With increased demands and changing technology, PSC plans to continue to evolve and adapt to the changing communications needs within the state. In short, PSC will continue to strive for continuous improvement and collaborate with stakeholders and partners to ensure the best public safety communications system to meet the growing demands of the state’s first responders.

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The Hellhole project includes connecting commercial A/C power to the site, and building a new communications facility with a 150 ft. tower.

customers the most.” Although the microwave project has been a challenging project, PSC staff has made significant progress this year and expects to complete this extensive project by early spring of 2012.

PSC has also been involved in several Division of Public Works (DPW) projects, most recently the Hell Hole Ridge communications site upgrade. This project forged a partnership between the State of Wyoming and the State of Idaho that will include the following upgrades: connecting commercial A/C power to the site, and building a new communications facility with a 150 ft. tower. The Hell Hole project is in the final stages and should be completed by the spring of 2012.

Furthermore, PSC is progressing well with the statewide broadband project with over three quarters of the counties and several tribes already on board and connected to the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security’s Emergency Operations Center network. The bulk of this project is due to be completed by the end of January 2012. Another important project to mention is the State/EMS project. This project will provide critical communication



The Hell Hole project is in the final stages and should be completed by the spring of 2012.

Idaho Technical Rescue Team Deploys on Collapsed Structure Incident

On an early August morning, the Idaho Falls Fire Department was called to an incident involving a tree falling into a private dwelling. Initial reports indicated that a male occupant of the home was pinned beneath the massive tree and the collapsed home. The technical rescue responders, who are part of Idaho Technical Rescue Team 3, quickly determined that this was not a rescue but in fact, a body recovery. Utilizing the skills developed in technical rescue for collapsed structures, the Idaho Falls tech rescue personnel were able to access, free, and remove the body of the occupant. With the family standing by during the process, the tech rescue team worked diligently and carefully to shore up the structure, provide access to the trapped victim, and ultimately remove the individual, with dignity and reverence, from the collapsed home.

That's the story in a nutshell, but the pictures tell a more vivid story about the difficulties in working in, making



A large popular tree, approximately 26 feet in circumference, crashed into this residence and crushed one of the occupants.

safe, and providing rescue to trapped victims in collapsed structures. It also serves as a reminder of the value of the service provided by Idaho's special teams and the importance of the specialized training they bring to complex incidents.

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The size of the tree made it difficult to even see the house from some angles.



Here you can see some of the "T" shoring that was done by the technical rescue personnel to make the structure safe to enter for the rescue attempt.

Idaho PSAP Standards Committee

In an effort to assist PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) in Idaho with training needs, the Idaho Emergency Communications Commission (IECC) formed the PSAP Standards Committee. Its purpose was not to impose standards on the PSAPs but rather to facilitate communication between the agencies to examine the issues they all face on a day to day basis. The PSAP Standards Committee is comprised of representatives from throughout the state and they established a list of projects they wanted to accomplish, including the following.



The Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Standards Committee is charged with the development of information, training and certification of Idaho's dispatch personnel.

Create a website to keep Idaho dispatchers and the public informed

The committee established a website, www.idahodispatch.com, to educate PSAPs and the public about dispatch issues in Idaho. There are featured communication centers, articles by dispatchers, legislative information, training and other news of interest.

Establish standard entry level training for dispatchers to meet Idaho POST (Peace

Officer Standards and Training) guidelines for certification

An Entry Level Dispatch Training Manual, in workbook format and on CD, was created by the committee and was distributed to each PSAP to be used for basic training. The lesson is certified by POST for 10 training hours.

Provide free ongoing training to PSAPs on various topics that is POST certified.

Heather Kunz with Bonneville County recently completed a round of classes in each region entitled "Achieving Excellence through Customer Service." The class was very well received and each attendee received POST credit.

Beginning in January, Beth English will be teaching "Effective TTY Call Processing". It will be a four hour class and will be held for two days in each region. The scheduled dates are:

January 16-17	SIRCOMM
February 6 & 7	Caldwell
February 20 & 21	Pocatello
February 22 & 23	Idaho Falls
March 5 & 6	Coeur d'Alene

Review IDAPA rules as they pertain to dispatch

Input was gathered regarding the IDAPA rules and presented to the Commission. Those not pertaining to dispatch, such as the driving record and age restrictions, were removed.

The committee is continuing to revise and update lesson material for the POST Dispatch Academy in order to make the material more up to date and relevant to today's dispatch environment. As Next Generation 911 moves forward classes will be developed that will familiarize dispatchers with the new technology and new information that will be received with the calls.

Your committee members are always available and willing to help. If you have suggestions for future training from the committee or even comments regarding the work of the committee visit the website at www.idahodispatch.com and click on "Contact Information" to contact your region's representative.

Beth English, Blaine County
Public Safety Answering Point Standards Committee

BHS Implements New Corrective Action Program

Typically agencies do a good job identifying things that need corrective action after an exercise or a real world incident. The difficulty often lies in resolving, applying, and sustaining those corrective actions to ensure the agency benefits from the lessons learned. It is important to resolve these corrective actions because they become the foundation for future events, exercise or real world. If not documented and implemented, little improvement or learning moves forward into future events. Without this validated flow of corrective actions integrated into future events or exercises we are doomed to repeat ourselves, wasting time, effort, and money. The Corrective Action Process (CAP) is a fundamental part (Evaluate/Improve) of the Department of Homeland Security's Preparedness Cycle:

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) will soon implement a new Corrective Action Program (CAP) to create a culture of resolving identified problem issues efficiently and effectively within the agency. Corrective actions or improvement items come from:

- real world events
- exercises
- daily operations

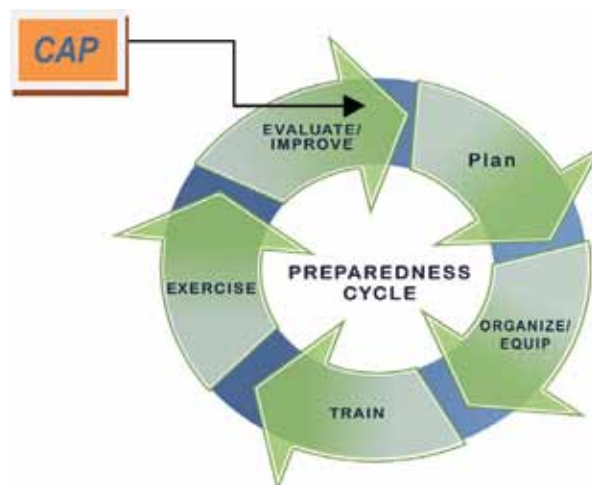
General Shawver recognizes that the corrective actions component of the process is very important and needs command directed emphasis. In addition, it is the goal of BHS to create a culture and precedent for having a sense of urgency and responsibility to resolve improvement items. There needs to be an established on-going cycle and senior leadership process to implement and resolve corrective actions. BHS hopes to

set the example and be a role model in this process so that other agencies can easily duplicate.

BHS plans to implement this process and culture by establishing and sustaining a Corrective Action Working Group or CAWG. The group will consist of a diverse mix of key leaders from the agency chaired by a senior leader. The CAWG will have the authority to manage and implement the resolution of open

issues solved at the lowest level and not elevated to the CAWG. The CAWG will meet regularly to discuss and prioritize the corrective actions list and make recommendations to resolve corrective actions. Responsible personnel will work actions and report progress on an on-going basis to their CAWG representatives. Through this process BHS will create a motivated culture of resolving corrective actions.

BHS will implement the CAP-CAWG process in December 2011. The Corrective Action Program will have a big impact on continuous improvement and growth in the BHS and this can be true in your agency or jurisdiction. This process is easily adaptable to all agencies, local, county or state. The BHS stands ready to assist their partners by sharing how to make this work. The BHS intends to work together on resolving



corrective actions. In addition, the CAWG will brief the Director routinely on the status of open corrective actions. The Director will have direct insight, oversight, and influence over the process.

One important component to this program is that it allows every staff member an opportunity to be heard. Issues that apply across functional areas will have a forum in which they can be resolved. The intent is to have routine

corrective actions thereby creating a more professional, operationally ready, agency to better serve their partners and fellow citizens.

Chris Lynch, on special assignment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the BHS Training and Exercise Section.

2009 GRANT CLOSEOUT UPDATE

As we move toward the close out of the 2009 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) it is important to ensure that the 25% requirement for planning activities is met. BHS in conjunction with the Idaho Emergency Management Association (IEMA) is implementing a number of measures to ensure compliance with this important requirement.

BHS will implement additional progress reporting requirements on the planning portion of the grant. As subgrantees complete the 2009 Reimbursement Request, the Progress Report tab must also be completed noting what planning activities have taken place. As the BHS finance staff conducts normally scheduled monitoring visits, additional emphasis will be placed on reviewing the subgrantees planning activities for grant eligibility.

The guidelines regarding eligible planning activities will continue to be emphasized through the Area Field Officers and in the Mini Emergency Management Workshops. In addition,

the BHS Budget Assistants will be sending a report showing subgrantee spending on planning activities.

Remember that eligible planning activities are far broader than simply updating a plan. One way of viewing of the Homeland Security planning funds is as a way of developing the capability of the local jurisdictions to respond to local and regional events requiring resources beyond the immediate area.

As we move forward here are the important dates for the 2009 Homeland Security Grant Closeout.

Last day for GAN equipment purchases	June 29, 2012
Last day of the performance period	July 31, 2012
Last day for reimbursement requests	August 15, 2012

Thank you all for making these grants successful.

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