

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012



The Halstead Fire burned over 180,000 acres, threatened homes and businesses, and burned until the snow fell.

2012 Summer Fires

Local, State and federal fire and emergency management agencies were busy this summer with multiple, state-wide wild land and structure fire suppression efforts and managing all the resources associated with these efforts to protect life and property throughout Idaho. The fire season began early this year and was successfully managed by local responders and their state and federal partners. However, as the fires continued to burn and in response to a specific request for assistance to the Trinity Ridge Fire near Pine and Featherville that started on 03 August 2012, the Governor issued a State Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for wild land fires throughout the State on 14 August 2012.

The Idaho Emergency Operations Center (IDEOC) was activated as a result of the State Declaration and immediately mission assigned the Idaho National Guard (IDNG) to assist our federal Forest Service partners in the Boise National Forest by providing numerous traffic control points for closed and evacuated areas near the Trinity Ridge Fire as well as helicopter support for the evacuation of injured firefighters. Additionally, the Idaho Department of Lands and the Idaho State Police were tasked to assist the Forest Service as they fought the Trinity Ridge Fire.

Areas near Atlanta, Pine and Featherville were evacuated at some point during the months that the Trinity Ridge Fire

Fires continued on pg. 3 »

Public Safety Communications Project Update

In a blink of an eye, another summer of projects comes to a wintery close for Public Safety communications (PSC). The goals for this past summer included several projects that supported a variety of customers as well as our own public safety infrastructure. PSC provided project support and management for the Idaho State Police Investigations (ISP), 700 MHz Conversion Project, State of Idaho Wildfire Retrofits as well as several communication site upgrades approved and implemented by the Idaho Division of Public Works. Furthermore, PSC continues to work on several long-term projects that will continue throughout the winter.

The primary purpose of the ISP 700 MHz Conversion Project was to transition ISP's investigations portables and mobiles



PSC completed several fire mitigation projects this summer, like this one at Chinese Peak, to prevent damage from wildfires.

PSC continued on pg. 5 »



As I get out around the state and meet the Idaho’s emergency management team, it becomes clearly obvious the impact emergency managers have on their communities. I recently observed students of the Meridian Medical Arts Charter School conduct a demonstration of their Community Emergency Response Team training. These teenagers have a foundation of skills and civic service that they will carry with them throughout their lives. This would not be possible without the dedication of people like Paul “Crash” Marusich with Ada City - County Emergency Management and Heidi Novich, the Special Programs Planner here at BHS.

It has been a bit of a whirlwind as I have stepped into this job. Less than two weeks into my new position we activated the Idaho Emergency Operations Center in support of one of the most severe fire seasons in Idaho’s history. In that response we activated the Idaho Air and Army National Guards to multiple fires, secured two Fire Management Assistance Grants for the Trinity Ridge and Kearny Fires, and activated multiple emergency support functions in support of Emergency Operation Center operations. Through the entire process I was impressed with the level

of professionalism and cooperation among the federal, state, and local agencies involved in the response and recovery.

With the massive amount of territory burned by the fires this summer we will be monitoring the potential for landslides. Many times in our recent history we have seen the effect loss of vegetation has on the stability of steep slopes when combined with rain, snow or spring runoff. We are working closely with our partners in the Silver Jackets to make sure we are doing all we can to mitigate the hazard where we can, and be prepared to respond if necessary.

Events on the national stage also have an impact on our state. One of the most closely watched topics is that of budgets and the amount of grant funding that will be available in the future. In a time of doing more with less it is increasingly important to forge the partnerships and cooperative environments that will enable us to maintain the capabilities our state requires to be resilient and prepared for the hazards we face. As we saw with the response from Hurricane Sandy, unexpected events will continue to happen and it takes engagement on all levels of government to be effective in our profession. At the state level here in Idaho we are working closely with our elected officials and local partners to develop the strategies that will ensure our continued and coordinated emergency management capabilities.

I am honored at the opportunity to serve as the state’s emergency manager. The professional team we have here at BHS has demonstrated to me that we have what it takes to face our challenges and be successful in our mission. I look forward to getting to know those of you who I have not yet met, and I welcome your suggestions on how we can better serve the people of Idaho.

Sincerely,
Brad

Brad Richy, Colonel, State of Idaho Military Division
Director, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
Direct Line: 208.422.3001
Admin Asst: 208.422.3035



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.

C.L. “Butch” Otter, Governor

Maj. Gen. Gary Sayler, Adjutant General,
Idaho Military Division

Col. Brad Richy, Director, Idaho Bureau
of Homeland Security
208-422-3040

Robert Feeley, editor
(208) 422-3033

Blake Holgate, design editor
(208) 863-8464

Fires continued from pg. 1 »

burned. Thirteen structures were lost; nine outbuildings and four homes/businesses. There was local economic loss due to the fire closures and the State Department of Commerce worked with the effected business and the Small Business Administration to provide relief. The Governor requested and received a Fire Assistance Management Grant (FMAG) from FEMA Region X in Bothell, Washington, to offset the costs associated with the county structure protection effort in Pine, Rocky Bar and Featherville as the fire crept closer to the structures there. Fire Agencies from around Idaho came to successfully help the locals protect their homes and businesses.

As the summer progressed, the Halstead Fire in Custer County and the Mustang Complex Fire in Lemhi County began to threaten homes and businesses and evacuations began to take place. The Idaho National Guard expanded their mission to assist the Incident Command Team on the Mustang Complex with traffic control points, as did the State Police with increased patrols for both fires, the Department of Environmental Quality with air filters for the Salmon School District and the Idaho Department of Lands with wild land expertise support to the North Fork Fire District in Lemhi County.

The McGuire Fire in Idaho County started on 27 August 2012 and quickly threatened the towns of Dixie, Orogrande, Comstock and other areas. Evacuations were put in place to protect the people of these areas.

The Karney Fire was started on 17 September 2012 and immediately burned one residence in the Wilderness Ranch area of Boise County and threatened to destroy the entire community. This caused the evacuation of the area. Again, the Governor requested and received a Fire Assistance Management Grant to offset the costs associated with protecting homes and businesses in Boise County. This fire was contained on 26 September 2012.

These were just the major fires that threatened communities throughout Idaho. There were many other wild land and



The Springs Fire threatened the communities of Crouch and Terrace Lakes, but the efforts of firefighters prevented the fire from burning any homes.

range fires throughout the summer, a considerable number of which caused communities to activate evacuation plans and move residents out of harm's way until the fires were contained. The IDEOC, activated on 09 August 2012 provided requested resources to the Trinity Ridge Fire, Mustang Complex Fire, Halstead Fire and Karney Fire; Situation Reports were generated daily to inform elected officials, senior management and activated staff of the current situation and Incident Action Plans (IAP) generated to guide the Statewide emergency response. These IAPs were initially completed three days a week and as the fires were contained, tapered off to once every two weeks.

Several State Agencies were activated through the IDEOC to execute the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) of: Firefighting (ESF 4), Emergency Management (ESF 5), Resource and Logistics Support (ESF 7), Hazardous Materials/WMD (ESF 10), Public Safety and Security (ESF 13), Long Term Community Recovery and Mitigation (ESF 14), Public Information and External Affairs (ESF 15), and Military Support (ESF 16). This is the first disaster in many years to activate so many ESFs. All of the agencies and personnel were pleased to support the needs of the fire response and emergency management of this disaster. All agencies successfully managed their missions in order to lessen the loss of life and property due to the wildland fires.

As Idahoans, we enjoy our wilderness but it is important to take care to keep fire danger to a minimum. The long and destructive fire season this year reminds everyone living on the edge of the wilderness to have defensible space to lessen the risk of damage or loss to homes and businesses. The agencies and people that fight fires did a remarkable job of protecting the property and lands that we enjoy and we appreciate their support throughout this summer.



Youth Preparedness Updates

We have amazing youth in Idaho that have committed to learning and spreading the message of emergency preparedness. One of those youth is 15-year old Cayman Kirkhart from Hayden, Idaho who was featured in the BHS Fall 2011 newsletter for organizing and hosting a community preparedness fair as a community service project to earn his Eagle Scout. Since that article Cayman has earned his Eagle Scout as well as applying to represent Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, and Washington (FEMA Region X) on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Individual and Community Preparedness Division, Youth Preparedness Council. Council members are between the ages of 13 to 17 and through their applications demonstrated a dedication to public service, making a difference in their communities, and desire to be an advocate for youth preparedness. Cayman was chosen for the council out of 125 applications nationwide and represents FEMA Region X on the Youth Preparedness Council for a term of up to two years.

In August 2012 Cayman traveled to Washington D.C. and met with the 12 other council members from across FEMA's ten regions. The council was able to meet with FEMA Administrator Fugate, Deputy Administrator Richard Serino, and Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness Tim Manning, and other federal agencies and national organizations. The council was given the opportunity to share their individual ideas on preparedness, talk about their disaster experiences, and to



In August 2012 Cayman Kirkhart traveled to Washington D.C. and met with FEMA Administrator Fugate and the 12 other council members from across FEMA's ten regions.

also provide questions and solutions to the FEMA leadership and to the other agencies and organizations that attended. The council continues to meet every couple of months to discuss their educational projects within their perspective states.

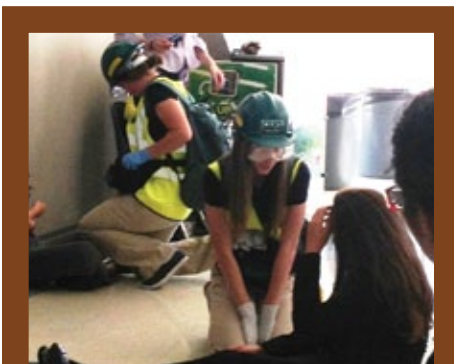
When the question of what was achieved at the Youth Preparedness Council was presented to Cayman he said, "With the many ideas and creative minds that we have in the YPC, we will be able to come up with better ways for youth in the United States to be more prepared for a disaster. And that preparedness will spread to their families." When posed with the question of the future of the Youth Preparedness Council Cayman

said, "I think that the committee will make a noticeable difference in youth and adult emergency preparedness and will last for many years after the current council's members two year term is up."

Another group of youth that have earned recognition is those that attend the Meridian Medical Arts Charter (MMRC) High School and their educators. MMRC students are part of the organization Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). MMRC students compete at state and national HOSA competitions in the category of Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT), which has become a part of the MMRC curriculum. Paul "Crash" Marusich with Ada County Emergency Management submitted the MMRC for a FEMA 2012 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards. The

submission earned an Honorable Mention award in the category of Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness. BHS was able to assist one of these students, Sierra Anderson as she competed in the HOSA National CERT competition in Orlando, Florida this last summer. Sierra and her partner competed against 100 other students across the nation and as freshman felt the finished well in their first national competition.

In the submission to FEMA Crash writes: "The school was first introduced to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training when staff from Ada City-County Emergency Management (ACCCEM)



Meridian Medical Arts Charter School CERT program participants show off their CERT skills in a triage demonstration.

Youth continued on page 9 »

from their existing legacy UHF system to a statewide 700 MHz trunked and conventional system. Additionally, this upgrade will give ISP a broader range of coverage, standardizes their unit identifications and provides for better reliability over their previous legacy UHF systems.

Another major project implemented this summer was the state Wildfire Retrofit Project or otherwise referred to as the Fire Mitigation Project. The importance of this project is obvious, especially with the unrelenting fires that ravaged the state of Idaho this past summer. This project included retrofitting three communication sites all located in eastern Idaho. The three sites selected for the mitigation upgrades include the following: Malad Mountain, Chinese Peak and East Butte. The scope of this project includes vegetation removal, the application of aggregate, burying the propane tanks, generator protection and the upgrade of the communication building at Malad Mountain. Therefore, the primary purpose is to eliminate fuel sources, along with hardening of critical resources. Two of the three sites were successfully completed over the summer. The remaining fire mitigation work at Malad Mountain is underway and scheduled to be completed next summer. Overall, these retrofits will give PSC the ability to better withstand the impacts of a range fire and most importantly allow PSC to continue to provide vital services to our public safety and emergency response customers and partners.

The last two projects of the summer were made possible through the Idaho Department of Public Works (DPW) and included significant site upgrades at Schweitzer Peak and Bennett Mountain. The Schweitzer Peak Project located in northern Idaho, was completed just in time, prior to receiving a blast of wintery conditions, which included several inches of snow. This project involved the design and construction of a new communications building, planned to provide for better access as well as future expansion. The new facility provides upper level access for

better winter ingress as well as better overall functionality. Most importantly, the ascetics of the facility have been substantially improved and the equipment inside is now better protected from the elements. The second DPW project completed this summer was the installation of a new tower at the Bennett Mountain communication site, located in Elmore County. The scope of this project included the removal of the existing tower and the construction of a new 100 foot, self-supporting tower. Once again, this project was completed just prior to the onset of winter conditions. As Steve Steiner mentioned, "Our window of opportunity for projects is extremely limited, due to the altitude and remote location of our communication sites." Simply put, PSC has approximately 90-120 days each summer to complete projects at these remote sites.

Overall, it has been a successful project season and would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and expertise of our PSC field technicians as well as the collaborative efforts of the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Department of Public Works. The upcoming project cycle is already in full force and preliminary planning is

underway for ongoing projects as well as several new projects. Next year will once again prove to be challenging and a chance to provide ongoing improvements to our communications infrastructure.

Jim Brede, Project Manager
Public Safety Communications
208-288-4003
jbrede@bhs.idaho.gov



On Bennett Mountain, in Elmore County, PSC removed the existing tower and constructed a new 100 foot, self-supporting tower.



The new facility on Schweitzer Peak provides upper level access for better winter ingress as well as better overall functionality.

State of Idaho Emergency Operations Plan Revision Update

In May the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) began leading the revision of the State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). We are currently finalizing the details and moving forward in the promulgation process. The goal is to have the plan ready for distribution by the end of November. By utilizing the web based application, Emergency Operations Planning Tool (EOPT), BHS has provided the platform for communication, information sharing and document collaboration to the forty two state agencies involved in this revision process.

Over the past six months the EOPT has also been utilized to revise the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Susan Cleverly, a Senior Mitigation Planner with BHS had this to say about



The revised Idaho Emergency Operations Plan should be ready for distribution by the end of November.

the EOPT, "Our users appeared to catch on quickly and we haven't received any complaints thus far. We anticipate our plan update to have more user input with less meeting and travel time, as well as achieving a comprehensive product in a compressed timeframe."

As we move into the winter we will be conducting planning workshops for the BHS Area Field Officers and their local emergency planners. In the workshops we will review the Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 and train users on the EOPT. We will load jurisdiction's plans into the tool ahead of the training so local planners attending will be able to work directly in their current plan.

We are excited to continue to introduce this tool to support and encourage Idaho's emergency planners with the whole community approach and to truly have a living document.

To have an Emergency Operations Planning Tool account created or to receive assistance with the tool, please contact Lisa Bowen.

Lisa Bowen, EOPT Specialist
(208) 422-3331
lbowen@bhs.idaho.gov

Public Safety Communication's Jim Brede Recognized at the Fall 2012 Employee of the Quarter

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is proud to recognize Jim Brede as the Fall 2012 Employee of the Quarter. Jim is the Project Manager at the Public Safety Communications Branch of BHS. In his five years at PSC he has shown dedication and professionalism to all that have the opportunity to work with him.

Jim has taken on the task of the PMO (Project Management Office) for PSC, which required certification from Villanova University where he earned his Master's Certificate in IS/IT Project Management. Additionally, in May, he graduated from George Fox University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Project Management with a 4.0 GPA. Jim has been able to establish a working support group around the PMO, coordinating projects, finance appropriations, and purchasing and inventory management for PSC. His efforts has allowed for PSC to meet project deadlines and provide for more efficient use of staff and funding. Currently the PMO is in the process of establishing SOPs and professional standards for PSC.

According to his supervisor Steve Steiner, Jim is the consummate professional and a key asset to the success that PSC has accomplished with the reorganization of staff and resources. It is people like Jim who make BHS and PSC successful and responsive to the needs of the organization and to those we serve. Please join in congratulating Jim Brede for the award and take the opportunity to thank him for all he does.



The 2012 Great Idaho ShakeOut

The 2nd annual Great Idaho ShakeOut was held on October 18, 2012 at 10:18 am (local time). The Great Idaho ShakeOut is Idaho's largest "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" earthquake drill. The Great Idaho ShakeOut is a collaborative effort between the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State University, Idaho Geological Survey, Idaho Citizen Corps, and FEMA. If your organization or agency would like to be a partner or sponsor of the ShakeOut please contact Heidi Novich at (208) 422-3015 or hnovich@bhs.idaho.gov. We are always looking for organizations and agencies that will support and spread the educational message of The Great Idaho ShakeOut.

In 2011 over 86,000 Idahoans registered and participated in the first Great Idaho ShakeOut. This year's registration was over 92,000 Idaho participants. Registrants were asked to pick a category when they registered. A few of these groups had the following breakdown; 100 individuals or families, 90 k-12 schools, 3 universities, and 62 local, state,

and federal government organizations. The ShakeOut drill is for everyone and can be done anywhere. Registered participants are encouraged to conduct their drill two weeks before or after the designated drill. I had the privilege of leading a ShakeOut drill with Cub Scout Troop 344 in Nampa, Idaho at their Den Mothers house, Megan Kotter. The boys were ages 8 and 9, and we discussed "drop, cover, and hold on" when there are furniture items to cover under and when there is not. We discussed Idaho's risk for earthquakes and how to prepare our homes for such an event. All of the information that was shared with Cub Scout Troop 344 can be found on the Idaho ShakeOut website.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey Idaho is earthquake country and is ranked 5th in the nation for earthquake activity and 6th for risk. The Great Idaho ShakeOut is a public education campaign designed to teach all Idahoans about what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. During an earthquake it's important to know that when you feel the ground shake "drop" to the floor and get under a desk or table, then "cover" your head with your arm, and "hold on" until the shaking stops. The Great Idaho ShakeOut website, <http://www.shakeout.org/Idaho>, is not only for registration but also contains educational resources, prerecorded audio files, posters, and organization specific guides to help make your ShakeOut the best it can be. "Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country, Your Handbook for Earthquakes in Idaho" is found on the ShakeOut web page and on the BHS website at <http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Preparedness/Hazards/NaturalHazards/Earthquake.aspx>. This guide details the risk and history of earthquakes in Idaho, and preparedness tips so individuals and families, private businesses, government agencies, and faith-based and non-profit organizations can mitigate the hazards in their homes and offices.

Looking towards the future BHS will strive to have over 100,000 registered participants in the 2013 ShakeOut. Earthquakes are a risk in Idaho and it's important for government and private sector emergency managers to educate as many Idahoans on what to do before, during, and after an earthquake.

Heidi A. Novich, Citizen Corps Coordinator
208-422-3015
hnovich@bhs.idaho.gov



Boy Scouts from the Nampa Troop participated in the Shakeout drill, and took some time to learn about Idaho's geology and how to prepare for earthquakes.

Special Programs Planner Update

ESF 6/Mass Care Plan Update:

The Idaho Emergency Operations Plan, Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF 6)/Mass Care plan has been revised and now aligns the bureau's management of this function with state statute. The planning assumption is that in a major disaster or emergency the event will produce casualties, cause substantial damage to both public and private housing, and/or may overwhelm the local infrastructure. The goal of the revision is to reaffirm that the State of Idaho through the bureau is not a shelter provider because the state neither owns nor leases buildings specific for this purpose. What the plan does do is ensures that the state monitors and coordinates support for

mass care, emergency assistance, and housing and human services responses by state agencies and non-governmental organizations. ESF 6 is responsible for providing related guidance to local jurisdictions and tribes as necessary to assist in all phases of the emergency management cycle.

NIMS CAST:

The National Incident Management System Compliance Assistance Support Tool (NIMSCAST) is the self-assessment tool developed by the FEMA National Integration Center for local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal jurisdictions to evaluate and report achievement of the National Incident Management

Programs continued on pg. 11 »

Idaho Emergency Operations Center (IDEOC) Operations Section

The IDEOC is part of the Idaho multiagency coordination system (MACS) that provides federal, state and jurisdictional interagency coordination and decision making; resource coordination; and situational awareness during all-hazard emergency events/incidents regardless of the degree of complexity or duration. The IDEOC is activated at some level for all potential and actual major incidents or emergencies. In past issues the Plans and Logistics Sections have been described. This quarter is about the Operations Section.

The Operations Section consist of the section chief and deputy, the 16 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) and the Idaho Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (IDAVOAD). IDEOC Operations differs from the on scene Incident Command System (ICS) in that the IDEOC is a MAC and operations works

to coordinate with the requesting agency as required to keep the mission moving smoothly and to be a liaison between the ESF/IDAVOAD agencies and the IDEOC.

The State of Idaho has 16 ESFs; Transportation, Communication, Public Works and Engineering, Firefighting, Emergency Management (IDEOC), Mass Care and Individual Assistance, Resource and Logistics Support (IDEOC), Public Health and Medical Services, Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction, Agriculture and Food, Energy, Public Safety and Security, Long Term Community Recovery and Mitigation, Public Information and External Affairs, and Military Support. The first 15 ESFs follow the National Response Framework format, but the last one, military support, is specific to the State of Idaho. State Agencies are

fall into the categories of (1) IDEOC ESF Functionality (2) Information Gathering and Dissemination and (3) Mission Assignment Management.

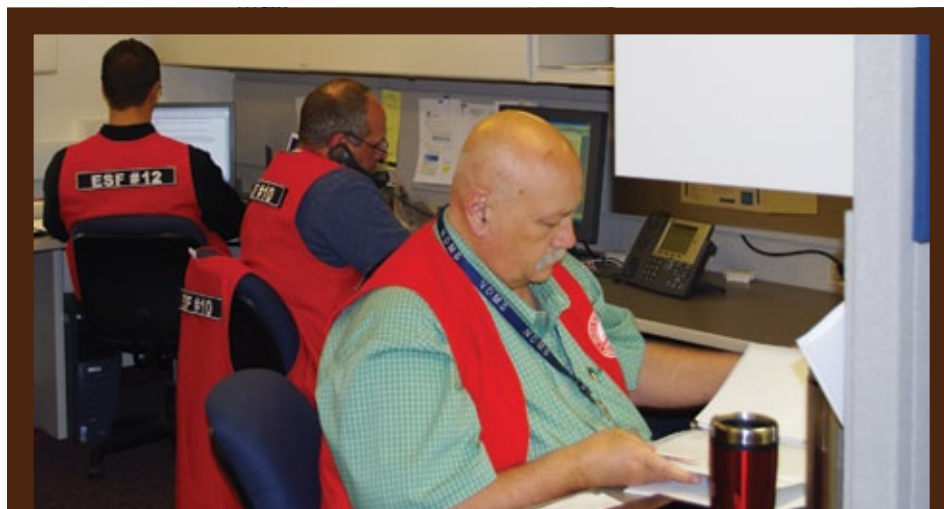
After a request for assistance comes to the IDEOC Logistics Section, the ESF coordinator may be requested to help identify primary and/or support agencies to task with a mission to fulfill. They also coordinate with other state agency liaisons that support the ESF to ensure the ESF's missions are progressing as needed and to report any issues back to the Operations Section Chief, as well as facilitating coordination between ESF participating operation centers, the local jurisdiction and the IDEOC.

The ESF coordinator disseminate situational awareness from the IDEOC to share with ESF agencies; and collect and process situational information from the ESF agencies to report to the IDEOC regarding capability and critical infrastructure status, Incident Action Plan (IAP) objectives and damage assessment/ impact reports. They also support the IDEOC Plans Section with predictions of disaster potential regarding their ESF and report significant changes. They may be requested to support requests for federal assistance where appropriate.

The IDAVOAD may have a representative in the IDEOC to help coordinate the activities that their agencies are supporting; sheltering, donations, feeding, etc. This representative(s) has the same responsibilities as an ESF coordinator in providing reports to the IDEOC and ensuring that their mission is accomplished.

All of the Sections and Units in the IDEOC must work closely to create an efficient response to the requests of the local jurisdictions in order to save lives and property during a disaster event. If you are interested in more information on the IDEOC or are interested in being a reservist in the Operations Section please contact Cherylyn Murphy.

Cherylyn Murphy, IDEOC Program Coordinator
208-422-3020
cmurphy@bhs.idaho.gov



Members of emergency support functions work together in the annex to the Idaho Emergency Operations Center during the 2012 earthquake exercise.

with the ESFs and IDAVOAD to ensure they have what they need to operate and work through any difficulties in the mission. The Operations Section Chief is the liaison to the state agencies.

The Operations Section Chief has the responsibility to work with activated ESF coordinators and state agency liaisons to ensure that they are getting the support that is needed to accomplish the mission,

assigned to be a coordinating, primary or support agency in each of the 16 ESFs based upon the daily mission of the agency.

The ESF Coordinator provides management oversight for that particular ESF and serves as the primary point of contact for the IDEOC to coordinate that Emergency Support Function's (ESF) activities for preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The ESF coordinator's responsibilities generally

SON OF MALAD MAYHEM EXERCISE

The morning of September 21, 2012 at approximately 9:00 am, Oneida County dispatch was alerted to shots being fired at Malad High School. Thankfully it was only a training exercise. With this notification began a successful multiple agency response exercise to address the problems created by an active shooter incident with associated mass casualties and multiple fatalities.

Teachers followed the School District Emergency Plan in protecting the students, who were played by teachers and aides. Officers were able to put their tactical training into play by entering the school and locating the suspects. No one ever wants to see a school shooting, but it is important to be prepared in case our first responders are faced with that type of incident.



Steve Hayward, center, of the Bureau of Homeland Security directs the briefing of the emergency exercise.

During the exercise, participants demonstrated the ability to: initiate school alert notification and lockdown procedures; respond to and manage the emergency by establishing an appropriate incident command structure; rapidly develop and deploy a contact team to halt aggressive deadly behavior; incorporate mutual aid law enforcement assets from three counties and two state agencies into response actions and command structure; and conduct management of triage and pre-hospital treatment of victims through transportation to the hospital for additional care.

After the exercise, all participants met for a hot wash, coordinated by Steve Hayward, Regional Training and Exercise Coordinator for BHS. The hot wash is an opportunity to review the exercise objectives, identify things that went well, and to find things that can be improved. Through conducting and evaluating exercises, first responders and emergency managers can build upon training they have had and increase their capabilities to respond to incidents.

The exercise involved a total of 158 participants from the following entities: Malad school district #351; local city and county response agencies (sheriff, fire, EMS, and Search And Rescue);



In the exercise, law enforcement officers deployed a contact team to halt aggressive and deadly behavior.

Oneida County Hospital; Oneida County Emergency Management; community volunteers; along with mutual aid partners including the regional special tactics and response (STAR) team members.

Robert Feeley
Public Affairs Officer
208-422-3033
rfeeley@bhs.idaho.gov

Youth continued from pg. 4 »

started recruiting students from the school to act as “volunteer victims” during the closing exercise of CERT classes held in the community. Soon after this, teachers from MMACHS started coordinating with ACCEM to determine the feasibility of incorporating CERT training into the school program. The curriculum team decided to incorporate the CERT modules into an eight week period during the junior year in the Health Applications class. The disaster awareness, emergency response and basic Incident Command System module that are included in CERT provide an excellent introduction to the foundation of emergency management. The instruction is also tailored to challenge students’ critical thinking about these topics from a medical career

perspective. 2012 marks the third year of this program, a program that is strengthened by the dedication of school staff and students alike.”

On November 6, 2012 at the MMRC Community Partners Breakfast Bureau of Homeland Security Director Col. Brad Richey, PIO Robert Feeley, and Citizen Corps Coordinator Heidi Novich were able to present two certificates to Cindy Currie, MMRC HOSA Advisor. The first certificate was on behalf of FEMA Region X Citizen Corps Coordinator Fred Brestch and the second was from BHS Col. Brad Richey in recognition of MMRC receiving Honorable Mention in Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness in the FEMA 2012 Individual and Community Preparedness

Awards. As part of the breakfast the HOSA CERT program participants were able to show off their CERT skills in a quick triage demonstration. The “victims” played their part well while the HOSA CERT members conducted emergency medical operations through evaluation and labeling of the victims for movement to the treatment area. The students responded in a confident and well organized manner demonstrating their skills and why they truly deserved this recognition by FEMA, ACCEM, and BHS.

Heidi A. Novich
Citizen Corps Coordinator
208-422-3015
hnovich@bhs.idaho.gov

Does Every Business Have a Plan?



In 2008 in Shoshone County, severe snow loading collapsed roofs, causing damage to homes, businesses, and government buildings.

With the recent severe weather events in the news, it's a good reminder that severe storms can occur quickly. And, while the event itself may be short-lived, the effects on communities could last for years. As winter approaches, with the potential for severe storms, businesses should take the time to ensure they are prepared for these events. Every home and family should have an emergency plan to protect their safety. It is very important for every business to have a plan, as well, to ensure its operations will be able to continue. Having an effective emergency plan in place, before an event occurs, can help a business recover from a weather disaster more quickly, and return to normal operations.

A good first step in preparing for winter storms is to determine the greatest risk potential. Some examples may seem obvious (heat loss, frozen pipes and plumbing, etc...), while others may not be. For example, could a severe weather event cause a loss of access to the building due to snow or ice accumulation? Can your critical supplies and products get to you? Having a predetermined plan to address the situation, such as an alternate route to the business, can help lessen the impact of the event. If the building loses power due to damaged power lines, is a generator available to provide back-up power to continue operations? Routine preventive maintenance on equipment such as generators, heating equipment and snow-removal machines will help ensure they can be quickly and effectively put to use, if necessary.

Guard against facility damage by inspecting the roof, walls, windows and roof drains for potential problems. Determine what equipment would need protection from freeze-up (i.e.

computers, telecommunications, manufacturing equipment, etc...) and ensure heating equipment is operating efficiently to provide this protection. Arrange for boilers and firing mechanisms/controls to be cleaned and inspected.

Additionally, important contact information should be updated and accessible (both electronically and in hard copy format). Contact information for the local fire department, emergency management, plumber, heating contractor, building owner/manager and insurance agent (to name a few) may become needed, and should be readily available. Be sure that a process is in place to maintain outside communications with potential clients/customers. If evacuation is required, has a process been developed for redirection to an alternate phone line or answering service, and has it been recently tested?

The most critical asset a business has is its employees, and they should be engaged in the planning process, as well. Be sure an emergency communication plan is put in place prior to the event and that the employees' contact information is current and easily accessible.

These are just some of the things to consider when thinking about winter storm planning and preparation. More information and resources, including an emergency planning guide, can be found at www.bhs.idaho.gov.



Severe winter weather can halt the shipping of goods, causing supply problems for businesses.

Mary Marsh
Public-Private Partnerships Section Chief
208-422-5623
mmarsh@bhs.idaho.gov

Gem and Boise Counties Host Joint Train Derailment Exercise

On August 2nd Gem and Boise counties hosted a joint tabletop exercise with the Idaho Northern Pacific Railroad which owns the Thunder Mountain Line. The Thunder Mountain Railroad Line runs a tourist “Pumpkin Line” from Horseshoe Bend to Montour every fall with an average of 100-150 passengers per trip. The scenario for this exercise involved a derailment of the train on the county line, requiring a joint county and railroad mass casualty response for 70 injured passengers. The exercise was facilitated by BHS Regional Training and Exercise Coordinator Autumn Roberts

The tabletop exercise was developed to test Interoperable Communications, Onsite Incident Management, and Triage and Pre-Hospital Treatment, all key components of a multi-agency mass casualty response. Participants used the roundtable discussion as an opportunity to de-conflict county and railroad response plans, increasing the ability of responders and railroad personnel to coordinate efforts on-scene. Communications was discussed heavily at the exercise as participants worked to reconcile the procedures and capability of Gem and Boise County dispatch centers as well as Idaho State Communications.

The benefits of this tabletop continued to be felt in Gem County a month after the exercise. Due to the proximity of the railroad to the Payette River, water rescue and recovery were discussed by exercise participants. The Gem County Sheriff’s Office has a trained dive team that can be assembled when needed. During the discussion Sheriff Chuck Rolland noted the need for a flat bottom boat to assist in water recoveries. In late September, the Idaho Northern Pacific Railroad and Thunder Mountain Line presented Sheriff Rolland with a 12 foot flat bottom boat to demonstrate



The Idaho Northern Pacific Railroad and Thunder Mountain Line presented Gem County Sheriff’s Office with a 12 foot flat bottom boat in appreciation of the county’s first responders.

their appreciation for Gem County first responders.

This joint tabletop exercise facilitated beneficial discussions between Boise and Gem county agencies as well as railroad representatives. The lessons learned and relationships developed through this exercise will assist participating agencies in building capability as follow-on exercises are conducted. This collaboration between public and private sector entities highlights the benefits of a whole community emergency management perspective.

Robert Feeley
Public Affairs Officer
208-422-3033
rfeeley@bhs.idaho.gov

Programs continued from pg. 7 »

System (NIMS) implementation objectives. The purpose of NIMS is to provide a consistent nationwide approach for local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal jurisdictions to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents. The state NIMSCAST was completed October 28th and I appreciate everyone’s patience as I learned this process, and we all (local and state agencies) worked through the roll-up process together.

Closing out 2012 and looking ahead to 2013 the NIC is releasing new typing definitions and job titles related to mass care and law enforcement. The mass care typing definitions and job

titles are now available and public comment to FEMA. If you are interesting in providing FEMA feedback on the new definitions and titles please go to <http://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system/documents-public-comment-o> and use the designated comment forms. If you would prefer you can send me your comments and I will submit them with my own.

Heidi A. Novich
Special Programs Planner
208-422-3015
hnovich@bhs.idaho.gov

**Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
4040 W. Guard Street
Boise, Idaho 83705**

CREATION OF A LONG TERM RECOVERY ORGANIZATION (LTRO); RESPONSE TO THE CHARLOTTE FIRE

On June 28, 2012 the Charlotte Wildfire, destroyed 59 primary residences in the Mink Creek and Gibson Jack areas in Pocatello. This human caused fire started on public land and quickly moved onto private land due to strong winds.

Within hours of the fire the Idaho Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (IDAVOAD) met to discuss the needs of those that had lost their homes. After several meetings the IDAVOAD Chair Wade Gayler suggested and led the formation of the 2012 Idaho Wildfire Long Term Recovery Organization (LTRO). The LTRO is made up of members of IDAVOAD, the Idaho State Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL), local state and county representatives, and other volunteer and civic organizations. The LTROs mission is to assist the homeowners that lost homes and have long term recovery and unmet needs.

The LTROs purpose is to provide a coordinated recovery effort to the 2012 Idaho Wildfire season and assist the homeowners that lost their primary residence in the Charlotte Fire and have long term or unmet needs. The LTROs executive committee is Chair Wade Gayler, Vice-Chair Bruce Olenick, and Secretary Heidi Novich. The LTRO general membership is comprised of individuals from voluntary and civic organization that have taken an active role in assisting those affected by the Charlotte Fire. In order to determine the potential needs of the affected homeowners the LTRO, through a Disaster Case Manager, met with homeowners to do this. This preliminary list is now complete and the LTRO will begin asking homeowners to submit their potential requests for assistance for consideration. If these requests could be filled through referrals on where to go for goods or assistance at the time of interview that was done. However, if homeowners need additional



The fire started on public land and quickly moved onto private land due to strong winds.

resources that require some type of monetary assistance those will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The interesting fact about the 2012 Wildland Fire LTRO is that it was created and is helping Pocatello citizens outside the existence of a state or federal emergency declaration. This is because of the dedication of Idaho VOAD members; local, county, and state agency workers; and local civic organizations. For a person or family that has sustained loss such as those affected by the Charlotte Fire the LTRO strives to assist in creating a new sense of normal.

Heidi A. Novich
Idaho Voluntary Agency Liaison
208-422-3015
hnovich@bhs.idaho.gov