

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012



Photo: NWS

Bonner County Emergency Manager Bob Howard stands in the bottom of the giant washout on Cocolalla Road.

Wet Spring Causes Problems

Weather predictions last fall indicated we would have a La Nina winter, but it took a while to get here. Early season precipitation did not materialize, and ski resorts were struggling to have enough snow to open. Conditions changed late in the winter and into spring, and Idaho saw some monthly rainfall records broken that had stood for over 100 years. That late season rain and snow caused problems with saturated soils and high rivers, and as a result several counties were included in a state disaster declaration.

Beginning in March north and north central Idaho started seeing a steady stream of rain and snow. In March, Wallace saw an astonishing 11.7 inches of rain during the month of March, shattering the record. The first sign of trouble was when the Dobson Pass Road in Shoshone County sloughed away, rendering the road impassable. BHS worked with the county to tap into Idaho Department of Transportation's expertise for technical assistance. Soon after, the rainfall caused major transportation problems in Bonner, Latah and Idaho Counties.

In Idaho County, Leitch Creek road was completely blocked by a major landslide. The slide covered the road, blocked the creek, and

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Public Safety Communications Stays Busy

Once again, Public Safety Communications (PSC) has surpassed expectations by successfully completing three major projects this past winter. As PSC plans for another busy project year, their list of projects continues to expand in order to keep pace with the demanding communication needs of their customers. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, Public Safety Communications and the Idaho State Police (ISP) initiated a comprehensive 700 MHz Crossband Project that started in late August 2011. This project was successfully completed by the end of February 2012 and included the procurement, provisioning and installation of thirty-two conventional repeaters, positioned at selected locations throughout the state. The installation of these repeaters significantly expanded ISP's footprint and enhanced the dual band architecture of their current system. Most importantly, the project upgraded their existing legacy UHF analog systems to a



Photo: PSC

The technicians from Lewiston met with the Boise techs to install the repeater at Cold Springs Ridge, outside Riggins.

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This spring we have been very busy at BHS. With flooding, landslides and exercises dominating the schedule, we must work extra hard to focus on the long term issues such as redundant communications. All in all, I wouldn't trade any of it in and I am consistently impressed with the caliber of people I meet across the state.

On April 10 and 11 many agencies in several areas showed their dedication to being prepared for the next big one by participating in a large scale exercise. In Boise we stood up the Idaho Emergency Operations Center for 2 days, working 2 shifts per day. In eastern Idaho Teton, Madison, Jefferson and Bonneville Counties hosted 2 days of exercises as well, incorporating many agencies as well as volunteer organizations.

There will be formal after action reports, but I took some things away during those two days that will help guide my efforts to make Idaho as prepared as possible. One of the things that warrant further attention is the federal assets that Idaho could

have available during a large event. Having a good catalogue of what those assets are and how to access them is something that needs to happen quickly. Another thing that I noticed, and that I believe is a local issue as well, is the number of folks we have available to staff emergency operation center operations. Multiple shifts over extended operational periods requires significant staffing.

One other thing I came to appreciate was the value of the subject matter experts and the emergency support function personnel. That expertise that resides within the state agencies, special teams, voluntary agencies and the rest of our partners is unmatched. Without that specialized knowledge no disaster response can be effective. Every day it becomes more and more apparent what the term "whole community" means to emergency management.

I recently met with the sheriffs of the counties participating in the exercise. We will be conducting a follow-on discussion about things we all learned. One of the topics is redundant communications. It is often noted that one of the first things to be impacted after an event is communications. This is why we need to put some serious thought into the systems we use, and what backups we have available. One of those redundant systems is our amateur radio operators we have across the state. We have been and will continue to include those folks in our exercises and trainings so that a firm understanding of capabilities exists throughout the system.

Things show no sign of slowing down, however the constant movement is leading to improved emergency management capabilities at the state and local level. Many of us in the emergency management arena are doing more with less, however our focus is clear and our determination remains strong.

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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Major Exercise Series Helps Prepare Idaho

This April, BHS concluded the largest exercise series that has ever been conducted in Idaho. It was an exciting event and everyone involved was able to take away a new perspective to better prepare their communities. The exercise series focused on our collective response to a catastrophic earthquake and flooding event affecting Eastern Idaho. The goal of these exercises was to identify areas of improvement as a State under crisis conditions, in a no-fault, learning environment. The exercise series was made up of 4 tabletop discussions, 6 full scale exercises and one 2-day functional exercise.

Groundhog Day Tabletop Series

Over three days in February, participants from all over eastern Idaho gathered to how their agencies would support the incident of the earthquake and subsequent cascading effects. Each day focused on a specific target capability. The first day focused on the capability of Search and Rescue. The Idaho Technical Rescue teams joined local jurisdictions to discuss how scarce resources would be best applied. On the second day, the focus was on the capabilities of evacuation and public information. Here the group of emergency managers, elected officials and public information officers analyzed policies and procedures necessary to coordinate regional evacuation and public information.

On the third day the focus was mass care and sheltering. Here, volunteer and faith-based organizations shared with participants an in-depth look at their capabilities and mission sets. The 3 days of tabletop exercises was well attended by a wide variety of disciplines and agencies. It was a great opportunity to see how their jurisdiction plans interacted with other jurisdictional plans, and was a capability building exercise for all.

Groundhog Day Functional Exercises

Over two days in April, agencies and organizations had the opportunity to put into action the plans discussed during the tabletop exercises. At the state level, The IDEOC staff and Emergency Support Functions were activated to Level Three for two days, two shifts per day. For the first time, reservists and auxiliary support staff were brought in to assist with the operation. Concurrent to the functional exercise of the IDEOC, the Public Information Emergency Response (PIER) Team came to the Joint Information Center to work through their plan for conducting coordinated emergency public information.

Groundhog Day Field Operations, Full-Scale Exercises

On the same two days in April that the IDEOC was activated, four counties in eastern Idaho were busy handling the impacts from the simulated disaster. Teton, Madison, Bonneville and Jefferson Counties focused on evacuation, mass care and emergency operation center operations. On the first day, April 10, the focus was on evacuation. Here schools, courthouses and government buildings evacuated and relocated their operations to alternate facilities.

On the second day, April 11, the focus was on mass care and providing essential services to disaster survivors. Voluntary organizations were critical in this effort, and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, American Red Cross, and Salvation Army used mobile kitchens and emergency response vehicles



In Rexburg in Madison County voluntary agencies fed 1,100 students a hot lunch in under an hour and a half.

to feed the simulated survivors. In one location in Bonneville County, 2500 individuals were fed. Shelters were also set up in multiple locations, and in one case the shelter had to be relocated due to a simulated building safety issue.

One of the most important components to designing an exercise is to ensure unbiased, subject matter experts are part of the process. BHS was able to bring in Public Information Officers, Mass Care Specialists, Search and Rescue Technicians, and Emergency Managers from Utah, Montana, Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, Washington, Florida, and Nevada to evaluate and review our processes. Each of these evaluators found a reoccurring theme that speaks to our strength as a state--- our willingness to unite and serve our communities.

Exercise continued on page 4 »

Building Redundant Communications

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security's High Frequency (HF), Very High Frequency (VHF), and Ultra High Frequency (UHF) station is back on the air. We are building a Communication Plan, getting all of the radio and antennae in good working order, and testing each system.



The BHS Radio Room has been updated with some new equipment and some used equipment, and has the capability to communicate on several bands.

On the first Thursday of every month the Bureau joins with the Boise Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) team for their monthly meeting and net call. Every Wednesday at 1700 Zulu the Bureau tests with the Idaho Secure, FEMA's National Radio System (FNARS) and the SHARES Networks. Counties who are not currently participating are encouraged to join us.

The Bureau is currently working with various Idaho radio clubs and organizations like the Voice of Idaho Radio Club to establish processes for additional testing and exercise partners for the future. The program's long-range goal is to be prepared to provide two way communications from and to the disaster area to those who need information and assistance.

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Now, as after action reports and improvement plans are developed, we continue our continual process to improve our emergency management capabilities.

In total over 50 federal, state, and local agencies as well as volunteer organizations and the private sector participated in the exercise series. BHS would like to thank all of the participants that came together to make this possible. We also would like to make a special note of appreciation to the elected officials and agency directors that supported the entire effort.

Coleen Rice
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What the Bureau used to call the RACES program is now called Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS). This is because we support much more than just the RACES function to include Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and many others.

When General Shawver spoke to the Amateur Radio Relay League's (ARRL) Boise Hamvention, he said "When we need you we really need you" in reference to when there is a disaster the Ham radio operator community is in high demand. General Shawver started his discussion of the importance of emergency radio communications by asking a question, "What is the first thing you lose during an emergency or disaster"? The answer was local communications. The General then cited some of the more recent disasters where Ham radio communications played a significant role, The Japanese tsunami, the storms in Joplin Missouri, and those most recent storms in the mid-West.

The Bureau wants to partner with as many licensed, hams in Idaho as possible, to be a part of the reserve pool of radio operators statewide the bureau can draw upon in times of emergency.

Saturday June 23, 2012 is the ARRL's Field Day and the Bureau wants to welcome the radio operator community to come join us at Gowen Field and get on the air.

While speaking to a forum with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) (speaking of HAM Operators) FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said, "When everything else fails Amateur Radio oftentimes is our last line of defense" and we could not agree more.

Bob Wells, Special Assistant
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In Sugar City the American Red Cross opened and staffed a shelter to accommodate 50 people with cots and blankets. As part of the scenario, the shelter was forced to close and relocated to Rexburg.

Kootenai County Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Sampert Retires

Chief Ron Sampert started his career with the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department in 1975. In 1978 he began working for

Kootenai County Fire Protective District #1 and was promoted to Fire Chief in 1997. Under the leadership of Chief Sampert, a Fire & Rescue Boat was obtained, the Region 1 Response Team was implemented and Post Falls Fire Protective District and Kootenai County Fire Protection District #1 were consolidated. Most recently a new training center was created to benefit all those in the fire service in the State of Idaho.

As he retired, Sampert received the Idaho Distinguished Service

Medal from the Bureau of Homeland Security. BHS North Area Field Officer Jay Baker and BHS Public – Private Partnerships Section Chief Mary Marsh presented the award on behalf of General Shawver. Also, on behalf of Gov. Butch Otter, he was presented the governor's Challenge Coin reserved for members of the military and public employees who have distinguished themselves. In a separate ceremony, he was named KCFR's Outstanding Firefighter during the American Legion banquet.

Sampert dedicated his career to helping his fellow citizens, and will be greatly missed.

Jay Baker, North Area Field Officer
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Retiring Ron Sampert receives the Idaho Distinguished Service Medal from Jay Baker.

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digital 700 MHz system. Phase II of this project is scheduled to start early this summer and will include an additional forty-eight conventional repeaters located throughout the state.

Furthermore, Public Safety Communications established a new microwave link to Gowen Field. The purpose of this project was to connect the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) via microwave to the county and tribal EOC offices statewide and to the three BHS Regional Emergency Communication Operation Centers (ECOMS), located in Pocatello, Meridian and Coeur d'Alene. This new microwave connection provides redundancy and increased bandwidth for all users of the system. More significantly, the State Microwave will provide for enhanced WEB EOC applications, VOIP phone service, Video Conferencing capability, and support of future emergency communication applications for the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security in support of state, local, tribal, and federal partners.

PSC will begin another busy summer filled with multiple projects to include

closing out the EMS Upgrade Project, sponsored by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Additionally, PSC will be involved in several other Public Works projects while planning for on-going infrastructure upgrades and other future projects. In addition to these on-going projects, PSC will continue to move forward with phase I of the statewide broadband project as well as three fire mitigation projects that are also scheduled to start early this summer. Obviously, PSC has a full schedule for the upcoming summer and as Steve Steiner mentioned, "It is only going to get busier as requests for services continue to rise." Nevertheless, PSC is committed to providing top notch customers service for our emergency communication stakeholders throughout the great state of Idaho.

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Photo: PSC

St Joe Baldy: This picture was taken during the cross band repeater project at St. Joe Baldy in November 2011.

Idaho Emergency Operations Center (IDEOC) Plans Section

The IDEOC functions as a Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC) with a combination of Incident Command System (ICS) and Emergency Support Functions (ESF). This allows for span of control of the various units within the IDEOC and a clear chain of command for all staff.

The Plans Section gathers, verifies and analyzes information and turns that data into reports and briefs to assist in management decision making. The section consists of the section chief and deputy, the message unit, situation unit with predictive services, infrastructure unit and documentation unit. Each has a specific task to accomplish but is integrated with the other units in the IDEOC. Each of these units expands and contract based on the size of the event and the need for information by the command and general staff to make decisions.



The Plans Section gathers, verifies and analyzes information and turns that data into reports and briefs to assist in management decision making.

The message unit is responsible for all incoming communications and directing those messages to the correct section for action. The Message Controllers receive incoming phone calls, faxes, email, WebEOC event log entries, amateur radio and mail. They review each message, determine the section(s) that need to see the information and ensure that someone in the section sees each message to determine actions that may need to be taken.

The situation unit is responsible for gathering the data that is coming in regarding the situation due to the event, analyzing

that data and then using it to create the situation report (Sitrep), the incident action plan (IAP) and to predict future consequences based upon the current information. This unit is also responsible for displaying information in the IDEOC. The situation unit needs to receive data from the county/tribal EOCs, each of the other sections in the IDEOC and state agencies by the requested time to give a complete picture of what was known at that point in time. This information should be submitted as a Sitrep for that jurisdiction attached to a WebEOC event or in an email. If those modes of communication are unavailable a fax, telephone call or amateur radio message will work as well.

The Geospatial Information System (GIS) Unit creates maps to show where things are located and how the event is unfolding. These maps can give everyone a sense of where critical infrastructure, shelters and damage are located. This helps in making decisions on where to place resources, where to evacuate people to based upon where the damage concentration is and potential for further damage. All requests for maps from the IDEOC need to come through the Plans Section Chief.

The Infrastructure Unit collects and analyzes data related to infrastructure damaged during a disaster or has potential for damage. This unit works closely with the Emergency Support Functions and the Situation Unit to gather this information and include it in the Sitrep and IAP.

Documentation ensures that all documents related to the disaster are filed in the appropriate electronic and hardcopy files. The IDEOC uses Outlook files to file emails; WebEOC documents all information flowing through its boards; and TRIM is an electronic documentation program. The Documentation Unit is responsible to have hardcopies of all information printed out and backed up continuously in case the systems were to go down.

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 the Plans Section specifically please contact Cherylyn Murphy.

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forced residents to make a long detour. It was estimated that 24,000 cubic yards of debris were removed to clear the road for public use.

About the same time, Bonner County was soaked with rainfall that broke the monthly rainfall record that had stood for over 100 years. Bonners Ferry received 6.04 inches of rain and Sandpoint saw 7.88 inches, all new records. Several roads were washed out, including Cocolalla Loop Road. This road was destroyed when a rain-swollen creek overwhelmed a culvert. Water backed up on the west side of the road and eventually pushed through, leaving a gaping chasm.

In Latah County the same storm system caused similar problems, particularly in the Kendrick area. Slides, clogged culverts and eroded roads taxed the road department to the point where state assistance was needed to support their emergency protective measures and debris removal efforts. During March, Moscow received 7.84 inches of rain, also a new record for monthly rainfall.



Photo: Robert Feeley

Paradise Creek in Latah County exceeded its banks due to the record rainfall.



Photo: Idaho County

The slide on Leitch Creek Road in Idaho County completely blocked the road and the creek with 24,000 cubic yards of debris.

At printing time, the Boise River was above flood stage and higher than flows since 1998. The late season rain and high temperatures were forcing Lucky Peak Reservoir to release water to make room for storage. Ada City-County Emergency Management is monitoring the situation, fielding calls from the media and citizens, and prepositioning resources in case they are needed. Only time and weather will tell if the water will continue to rise, or if levels will drop to manageable amounts.

Given the amount of precipitation Idaho has seen, we can all be thankful that the damages have been limited to infrastructure and that no one has been injured. All of these events are stark reminders that emergency management is as important as ever and promoting preparedness and personal responsibility is a message we all should be preaching year-round.

Robert Feeley
Public Affairs Officer
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SIEC ANNUAL REPORT

In 2011, the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) focused its resources in several areas, which are outlined in the 2011 Annual Report. Following are highlights of the report.

SIEC Business Plan

In 2011, SIEC completed its Business Plan. SIEC guided its formation in order to have a model that will function as a foundational guide for the delivery of dependable, robust service and sustainable improvements to the statewide interoperable communications system. The radio networks across the State of Idaho were created by various agencies or groups of agencies to meet only a localized need. These systems are managed and maintained independently. SIEC recognizes that significant progress towards interoperability could be accomplished through the consolidation of statewide communications infrastructure and the coordination of existing independent radio systems.

The SIEC Business Plan recognizes the need for a sustainable funding source in order to continue to develop and sustain this system through a cooperative and collaborative group of owners and shareholders. The Business Plan takes conscious aim at developing statewide strategies and efforts compatible with and contributory to all statewide stakeholders.

SIEC Operational Plan

In 2012, SIEC will continue to work with all its partners in order to complete the Operational Plan. The purpose of Phase One of the Plan is to develop statewide system standards, which will provide a basis for the consistent management of the statewide interoperable communications systems. This predefined communications plan will acknowledge and utilize the statewide interoperable communications system to enhance agency communications, enhance inter-agency communications, and allow for expansion of communication during major events.

The second phase of the Plan will create, on a statewide level, the basic concept for today's radio planning through the use of a regional channel, designed for rapid access, where an interoperability channel is assigned to the responder(s) during an event. This allows the agency's primary channel to be maintained, allows for unit interoperable communications, provides for channel expansion with the expansion of the incident, and allows for multiple event communications.

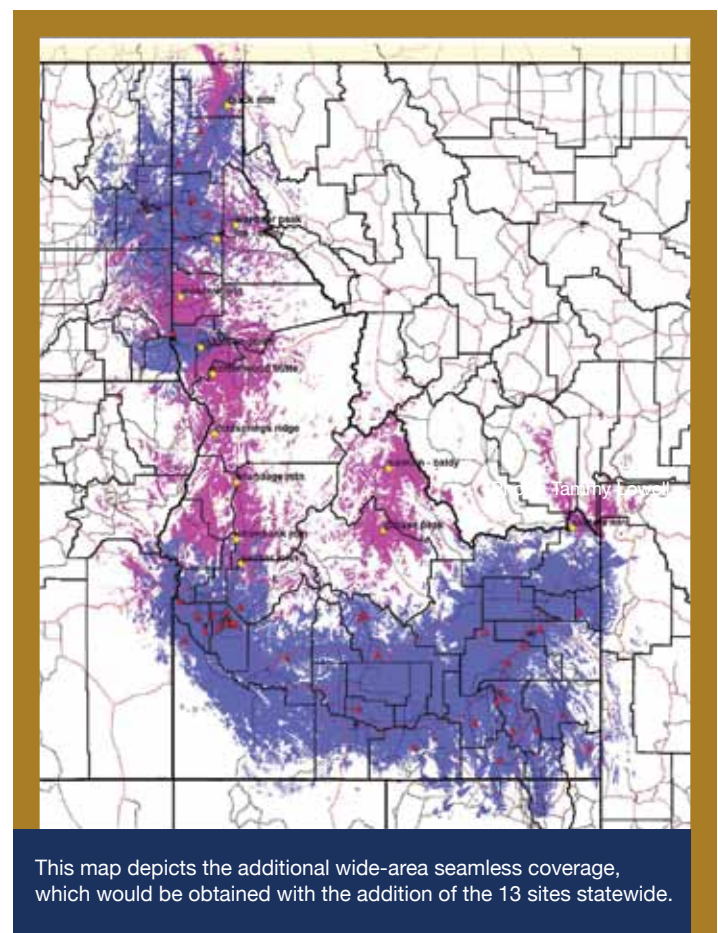
The Plan calls for interoperability talk groups to be assigned and used as incident operational channels for non-routine incidents.

The Operational Plan will also address situations in which different responders are using different frequencies. For example, 700MHz, VHF, and/or UHF and will provide regional

and region to region connectivity standards and parameters, which can be used on a day to day basis or during a catastrophic event. This standardization component of the system and its connection points and system bridges will allow first responders to pre-plan and conduct exercises in preparation for an incident requiring multiply agencies.

SIEC Strategic Plan

SIEC retained the services of CTA Communications (CTA), which furnished a Conceptual Design Report. From the CTA assessment, SIEC is developing a Strategic Plan, which would, with the addition of 13 sites, provide all major transportation



corridors and all major population areas statewide with a seamless wide-area communication system, as prescribed by CTA's assessment. SIEC believes a more realistic dollar figure can be obtained and would allow for the final phase of the statewide communication system, which would be met through the addition or completion of the following communication sites: Black Mountain, Wardner Peak, St. Joe Baldy, Moscow Mountain, Culdesac Grade, Cottonwood Butte, Cold Springs

Ridge, Brundage Mountain, Snowbank Mountain, Packer John, Grouse Peak, Salmon Baldy, Ashton Hill or Sawtel.

SIEC is assessing further enhancement of the system, which could be obtained through the utilization of a state partner, the Idaho State Police (ISP). ISP's Daniels conventional 700 MHz/UHF cross-band repeater system could be used on an as-needed emergency basis to fill in areas where 700 MHz trunked systems do not exist.

As populations increase in areas outside the major transportation corridors and major population areas, requiring additional transportation needs, their coverage from the ISP Daniels conventional system could be upgraded to trunked sites in the future.

The attached map depicts the additional wide-area seamless coverage, which would be obtained with the addition of the 13 sites statewide. The new sites are represented on the map as yellow dots. Current sites are represented on the map as red triangles.

In 2012, SIEC, through House Bill 368 (H368), instituted several critical changes:

- The sunset clause has been extended to December 31, 2018.
- SIEC now has the ability to develop funding recommendations for short-term and long-term systems maintenance.
- SIEC membership has been improved and rearranged through the addition of a member from each of the six (6) District Interoperable Governance Boards (DIGB), which continue to provide governance in the form of a "from the ground up" model, allowing for local inclusion.
- SIEC is now designated to serve as a conduit for future allocations of federal grant and nonfederal grant funding sources for the support and delivery of public safety wireless interoperable communications.

H368 was unanimously supported by the House and the Senate and was signed into law by the Governor shortly after passage.

Read the entire 2011 Legislative Report at:
www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Communications/IdahoSIEC.aspx.

Article submitted by:
R. Mark Lockwood, SIEC Chair
Police Chief, City of Sandpoint

Robert Feeley Recognized as BHS Employee of the Quarter

Robert Feeley, the Bureau's Public Affairs Officer, has been selected as the BHS Employee of the Quarter for spring 2012.

Since having been selected as the bureau's first public information officer, Robert has made an immediate and significant impact. As Public Information Emergency Response (PIER) Team coordinator, joint information center (JIC) Planner, incident Public Information Officer, and coordinator of external communications, he has steadily worked to build BHS's communications capabilities and establish a positive rapport with the Bureau's media partners and sister agencies.

The PIER Team is a group made up of the PIOs from the various state agencies and has been chartered to be prepared to support coordinated crisis communications during disasters, and to support local public information needs if required. Robert has instrumental in working with the team to conduct functional and table-top exercises to prepare the team for action. This effort began with the drafting of a JIC standard operating procedure, which is updated after each exercise. Robert has developed and built a display featuring the bureau and its many facets for use at the many public events the bureau is asked to attend annually.

Robert also provides support to incidents and disasters, and during each event, he works to keep the public, media and stakeholders informed of the situation. In addition, Robert develops agency publications, develops presentations and tracks events that may have an impact on BHS.



Robert is the public calm and collected voice and face of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security when called upon. Robert is working to train and equip other BHS staff members to serve in a similar role giving the Bureau the depth need in this important job.

In the future Robert is looking forward to increasing social media communication capabilities, and continuing to build out a statewide joint information system. Congratulations Robert on earning the recognition as employee of the quarter.

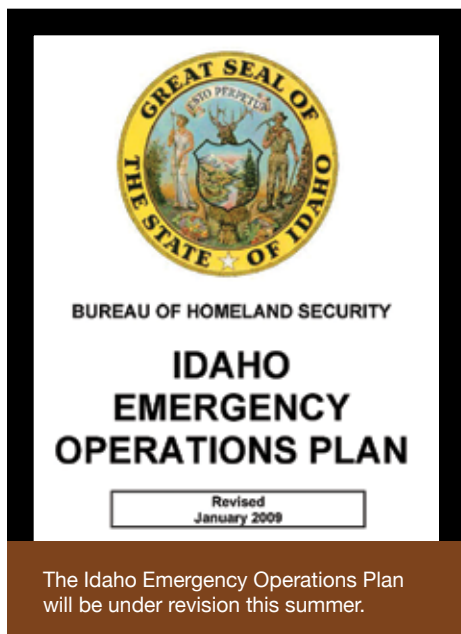
Bob Wells, Special Assistant
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Plans Section Fully Engaged

The recent departure of our Section Chief left some very large shoes to fill, but those of us who remain are still hard at work with the business of emergency planning across the whole community of emergency management in Idaho. The next several months will bring many challenges, yet also many opportunities to improve our preparedness and our ability to respond to disasters if and when they happen. The biggest effort over the coming months will be the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan (IDEOP) periodic revision. This effort will include not only the staff here in the Bureau, but our planning community partners across state agencies as well.

Emergency Planning and Emergency Operations Planning Template (EOPT) Update:

Spring welcomes sunshine, flowers and floods to the state of Idaho and as mentioned above, this year it also brings the assignment of revising the State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Beginning in May, the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) will lead this task by utilizing a web based application called the Emergency Operations Planning Tool (EOPT).



The EOPT has been designed to encourage a collaborative plan development process by providing a platform for communication, information sharing, and document collaboration among members of the planning team. The EOPT is free to users, integrates Microsoft Word and other Microsoft Office applications, allow users to upload electronic files, and offers multiple levels of security.

Derived from the collective knowledge of thirty plus industry professionals, the online tool guides planners through the process of “best practices” emergency planning. The tool provides suggested content, sample text, and offers a National Incident Management System (NIMS) coach that presents section by section guidance for NIMS consistency. It also includes a planning coach that lets users consult Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 version 2.0., the latest FEMA guidance.

The EOPT has customized user access and privileges which allow for increased and restricted participation in the plan development. The tool allows a user to have multiple roles in multiple plans. It also tracks and reports in real time the progress of a plans development and also merges and formats the plan upon completion.

In response to the ongoing training BHS has offered to prepare for the EOP revision, additional state plans have been uploaded into the EOPT. This has broadened the tool as a reference to other agencies and also offers the continuing opportunity for agencies to revise and/or create their plans.

Throughout the spring and summer, BHS will continue to conduct trainings and offer support for the revision process and to other agencies that want to utilize the tool for their plans. A short demo is available at <http://www.csepptemplate.com/id/>.

To have an Emergency Operations Planning Tool account created or to receive assistance with the tool, please contact Lisa Bowen, EOPT Specialist, at (208) 422-3331 or lbowen@bhs.idaho.gov

Citizen Corps Update:

The Bureau of Homeland Security team has created a supplemental Earthquake Classroom Activities Booklet to the “Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country” and Heidi Novich showcased the Booklet at a FEMA Region X sponsored Youth Summit. The summit focused on educational tools and hands-on activities that already exist in many communities that can be used to engage youth about the importance of emergency preparedness. The goal of the FEMA Youth Preparedness Initiative is to take existing programs and empower organizations that tailor to youth to incorporate those educational tools and programs into their “normal” curriculum or culture. The BHS Earthquake Classroom Activities Booklet fits into this category. Though a few of the activities were original to BHS staff, the lessons are ones that have been around for several years. Linda Selvig, a retired Idaho Earth Science teacher who collaborated on the Booklet simply took existing activities and lessons and brought them together in one easy to use format.

Events coming up on the Citizen Corps calendar include Wildland Fire Awareness Month in May. Idaho Firewise will be distributing television and radio public service announcements encouraging preparedness and defensible space. September will be National Preparedness Month, and October is Earthquake Awareness Month. On October 18 at 10:18 MST will be the Great Idaho Shakeout drill.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 6/Mass Care Update:

BHS is working on completing a rewrite of the Emergency Operations ESF 6 plan. This plan will showcase and call upon the resources that local jurisdictions and

volunteer agencies bring to a disaster or emergency situation that involve sheltering, feeding, emergency first aid, family reunification, and pet sheltering. The rewritten plan will define the State of Idaho ESF 6 lead as a monitoring and coordinating agency of a disaster. As the plan is developed, local jurisdictions will be asked to review the plan and synchronize it with their own Mass Care plans to ensure that when necessary, local jurisdiction plans work with the state plan, the same way the state plan should work with the FEMA ESF 6 plan.

also revealed the need to insure that what is written in the plan is what is actually done at the state and local jurisdiction levels. This will be a major consideration during the upcoming plan revision cycle scheduled for this summer.

As the year unfolds, Heidi Novich will be traveling to local jurisdictions and counties to talk about Mass Care and what county plans actually say. She'll discuss what it takes to become an ARC approved shelter, ADA compliance for persons with access and functional needs, pet

and in combination with planning, training, and exercises—their ability to manage disasters and emergencies effectively, regardless of size and scale. The 2012 update to the NIMSCAST is now available. While the metrics for measuring progress in the implementation of NIMS objectives have seen no changes this year, this latest version of NIMSCAST provides enhanced security features and improved e-mail function. The NIMSCAST User Guide has been updated and includes improved step-by-step instructions, additional guidance on using available reports, and an updated glossary. The guide can be found on the NIMSCAST homepage at www.fema.gov/nimscast.

The due date for State, Tribal, and local agencies and governments with a role in emergency management to submit the 2012 NIMSCAST report is August 15, 2012. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) has put together step-by-step guides to aid NIMSCAST users with completion of the NIMSCAST metrics. They can be found at <http://bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Plans/NIMS/ComplianceObjectives.aspx>. BHS will also provide workshops throughout the State of Idaho this summer to facilitate training and completion of reports. In preparation, agencies and jurisdictions may wish to review their 2011 NIMSCAST reports, complete their annual update to response asset inventories in the Resource Inventory Tracker (RIT), and update their NIMS training records.

The Resource Inventory Tracker (RIT) can be accessed via WebEOC or at: <http://bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Plans/NIMS/ResourceManagement.aspx>. To receive assistance with NIMS, NIMSCAST, or the RIT, please contact Alicia Martin-Cowger, NIMS Coordinator/Planner, at (208) 422-3309 or amartin-cowger@bhs.idaho.gov

The Plans Section: Dave Hall, Plans Section Chief; Heidi Novich, Community, Volunteer and Special Programs; Lisa Bowen, EOPT Planner; Alicia Martin-Cowger, NIMS Planner.



During the 2012 State Spring Exercise, the ESF 6 function was exercised with the American Red Cross providing vital support.

During the 2012 State Spring Exercise, the ESF 6 function was utilized and stressed producing some expected as well as unexpected results. One lessons learned was if local jurisdictions are faced with events that leave them without the ability to communicate through email, texting, or phone service, it becomes imperative that shelter facilities be pre-designated before an emergent event. Once these facilities are designated this information needs to be recorded in the American Red Cross (ARC) Sheltering System and/or the local jurisdictions Web EOC sheltering board if they have one. The ARC and Web EOC sheltering information will be cross loaded into the FEMA National Sheltering System, which the state will use to locate shelter inventory in any jurisdiction. The exercise

sheltering, feeding of shelter populations, and donations and volunteer management. So blow the dust off those ESF 6/Mass Care plans and she'll see you soon. If you have any questions, call Heidi Novich at 208-422-3015 or email her at hnovich@bhs.idaho.gov.

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Update:

The National Incident Management System Compliance Assistance Support Tool (NIMSCAST) is a valuable tool that enables Idaho's emergency management community and its public and private sector partners to evaluate their implementation of National Incident Management System (NIMS) objectives—

RETURNING TO BUSINESS-AS-USUAL AFTER A DISASTER MAY DEPEND ON THOUGHTFUL PLANNING BEFORE IT OCCURS

Are the private sector organizations in your jurisdiction prepared for a disaster? While it may not be possible to predict when a disaster will strike, it is possible to plan for how the Whole Community will respond. Business and industry, trade organizations, voluntary, academia, nonprofit, faith-based and other non-governmental organizations with a well-developed emergency plan stand a better chance of returning to normal operations more quickly and easily than those without. Planning and preparing for emergencies will prevent the loss of customers, revenue, and key assets.

The Public Private Partnerships Section of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is pleased to introduce the “Plan to Stay in Business—An Emergency Planning Guide.” The guide is designed to assist in the development of the private

sector’s emergency plans, enabling readers to identify threats specific and relevant to them, and detail their response to each. The easy-to-follow, 5-step planning guide walks participants and planners through:

- 1.** Identifying the hazards most likely to affect the business
- 2.** Identifying and assigning response roles to specific members of the organization
- 3.** Developing a list of key resources, critical business functions and record-retention strategies
- 4.** Evacuation and facility-security procedures
- 5.** Post-event communication and care strategies

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is encouraging the private sector statewide to review the “Plan to Stay in Business” and begin (or continue) to develop their own emergency response plans. For more information, or to request a copy of the guide, please contact Mary Marsh.

Mary Marsh, Public Private Partnerships Section Chief
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