

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015



2015 IEMA Conference WebEOC Exercise:

Untangling WebEOC Through Exercises

One of the activities at the 2015 Idaho Emergency Management Association Conference was an exercise designed to provide an opportunity for the emergency management community to practice using WebEOC. WebEOC is a web based tool utilized by emergency managers in Idaho which is designed to facilitate event reporting, situational awareness, resource management and essential documentation during emergency events.

The scenario for the exercise began with the emergence of a novel strain of influenza threatening the State of Idaho. This was followed by a widespread severe winter storm causing heavy snow and blizzards, ice storms, and flooding throughout the state, depending upon location. The severe winter weather and associated problems turned an already difficult situation into one that caused all counties in Idaho to declare a state of emergency, as well as the Governor of Idaho doing so as well.

The objectives of the exercise for local emergency managers included posting information on WebEOC, submitting requests



for assistance to the Idaho Emergency Operations Center (IDEOC), and familiarization with the shelter boards utilized by American Red Cross (ARC) during an emergency or disaster. The IDEOC Logistics Section also participated and processed the requests for assistance in WebEOC. ARC staff and volunteers updated simulated shelter information in WebEOC for each of the participating counties and tribes in Idaho. In addition, all Public Health Districts in Idaho participated in the exercise and utilized WebEOC to provide situational awareness throughout the state.

IEMA continued on pg. 4 »



Left to Right: Brent McFadden, Madison County General Services Director; Amanda Siok, FEMA Region X Risk Analyst; Gary Wilcox, Flood Control District 1 Commissioner; Mike Clements, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Northeast Area Field Officer

Working with Communities to Understand and Map Risks

The FEMA Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program met with over 33 government agencies in the American Falls and Idaho Falls Watersheds in late January 2015 to work together to identify, assess and reduce risks to a variety of natural disasters.

The Risk MAP program is funded and used by FEMA to provide enhanced information for local planning efforts, improve community outreach and increase local resilience to the main hazards identified by local jurisdictions. Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS) Risk MAP programmatic activities are coordinated with the IBHS GIS and Mitigation Sections, and deployed in concert with the Idaho Department of Water Resources National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These

Risk Map continued on pg. 3 »

Greetings,

I was pleased to meet with many county and tribal emergency managers at the Idaho Emergency Management Association (IEMA) Mid-Winter Conference in Boise. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security partnered with IEMA in a training exercise that challenged the counties and tribes with different scenarios and needs. The partnership that exists between the state, county and tribal emergency managers sustains a level of preparedness that benefits all the citizens of Idaho and makes our state well prepared to handle disasters and to help communities and tribes recover following a disaster.

Public safety communications remains a key focus of our work at IBHS. Idaho's emergency communications system is made up of 9-1-1, dispatch, data and radio components as well as the practitioners who use them on a daily basis. Following the technology summit in October, IBHS committed to working with the Idaho Association of Counties and Idaho Sheriffs Association and local stakeholders to form a steering committee. The steering committee is meeting regularly to make recommendations to support Idaho's emergency communications community. Four subcommittees have been formed to look at operations, technical issues, financial solutions and governance. Todd Herrera, in his new role as the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), is bringing his years of experience to help with the strategic effort to make sure Idaho's responders are given the support they need to communicate, and to plan for new technologies.

Another important issue related to public safety and emergency communications, is FirstNet. Congress has mandated the construction of a nationwide broadband wireless network, dedicated to public safety. The process by which this will happen in Idaho is through a consultation between Idaho's stakeholders and the federal FirstNet team. This begins May 21st, which is the initial consultation meeting for Idaho. More details will be coming soon, but I'd encourage you to attend and be part of the process.

And finally, this month the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security added a new section to the IBHS web page. A History of Idaho Disasters from 1976-1996 highlights five of the presidentially declared disasters in Idaho: the 1976 Teton Dam collapse, 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption, 1983 Borah Peak earthquake, 1984 Salmon ice jam flooding, and the 1996 panhandle flooding. A short written history of each of these events includes a timeline, physical and social impacts, response actions, estimated or actual cost of recovery, and stories from those who lived through the disaster. Going forward, IBHS will expand this project to include all 23 presidentially declared major disasters in Idaho. The new History of Idaho Disasters page is linked from our homepage and provides context for why the planning and preparedness work we all do is so important.

Thanks,
Brad

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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.

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

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programs work independently to complement one another while working in unison to support participating counties reduce risk.

The Discovery effort provides a convenient opportunity to take a comprehensive look at the components and activities that contribute to risk management in the watershed.

The Discovery process is designed to support participating communities within the Risk MAP watershed to identify hazard mapping, risk assessment, and educational needs.

During Discovery FEMA, the State of Idaho, counties, cities, quasi-governmental agencies and academic subject matter experts meet in a workshop-like setting to exchange critical information about local hazards.

The purpose is to exchange multi-hazard information about the observed behavior of natural disasters, predictive advice, review of local development plans, discuss daily and emergency operations and a general review of stormwater/floodplain management activities. The team reviews this information collectively to understand local mitigation capabilities, hazard risk assessments and discuss current or future mitigation activities.

Possible outcomes of a Risk MAP project may include 100% federally funded Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology, Hazus Modeling, multi-hazard risk assessments and vulnerability analysis, educational and outreach materials, First Order Approximation (FirstPass) flood maps and in some cases can develop a new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (but not always).

Risk MAP is non-regulatory; the information gathered is used to

determine which areas of the watershed benefit more from risk mapping, assessment or mitigation planning assistance through a Risk MAP project. The State of Idaho sequences watersheds and communicates these priorities to FEMA.

Participating in the Risk MAP Discovery process increases awareness of whole-community resilience and helps identify proactive actions local communities can take to protect life, property and the environment.



Marshall Rivers, GIS Analyst presents Discovery Map to local stakeholder team

CERT in Action

On January 24th, a group of volunteers with the Eastern Idaho Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) held a free disaster preparedness workshop in Ucon, Idaho for members of the public and as a refresher for those previously certified in CERT. In total, over 60 people participated in the 3 hour event.

Participants attended workshops on light fire suppression, the incident command system, urban search and rescue, cribbing and victim extrication, victim triage, and first aid with each workshop being taught by an Eastern Idaho CERT volunteer. Demonstrations were also provided by volunteer amateur radio enthusiasts and the use of ham radio



for communications during disasters was discussed. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for more ham radio operators and the critical nature of ham radio operators to emergency service personnel in times of communication crisis.

A focal point for the event was the need for additional volunteers from the community to become CERT trained to better help their neighborhoods in time of disaster.

In a disaster, there could be little, if any, capability for emergency services personnel to respond to the overwhelming community needs for up to 96 hours following the onset of a crisis. CERT needs the help of all citizens to be engaged in neighborhood preparedness.

In a post-training survey, participants provided overwhelmingly positive feedback about the event and requested that more training events be provided in the future. Members of the local community said they left feeling more prepared for disasters and that they learned new skills with which they could help their family and friends.

**Jon Corpany, Eastern Idaho
CERT Program Manager
cert@easternidahocert.org**

In all, 76 people took part in the exercise, including representation from 33 counties and 2 tribes, 7 public health districts, 3 state agencies, the National Weather Service, and the American Red Cross. This was by far the largest WebEOC exercise in Idaho to date, and the first time that the American Red Cross and all Public Health Districts participated with local jurisdictions in a WebEOC exercise. Many of the county and tribal emergency managers participated on portable computers while present at the conference, demonstrating the ability of WebEOC to be utilized anywhere internet connectivity is available. Other local emergency managers, Red Cross personnel, and Public Health District staff participated from their own locations. The IDEOC players participated from the State of Idaho Emergency Operations Center. This exercise demonstrated the ability to utilize WebEOC to provide immediate situational awareness across Idaho from multiple locations.



of the tools available to help manage significant events. In order to maintain proficiency in "untangling" WebEOC, all users should continue to use it in as many exercises as possible. Thanks go out to IEMA, the exercise director (Greg Adams from Teton County) and the exercise design team for providing this opportunity for the Idaho emergency management community.

Sue Welch
Regional Programs Coordinator
swelch@bhs.idaho.gov



Strengths and areas for improvement were identified during and after the exercise. Participants reported that the exercise provided an opportunity to get a better picture of how the entire process for requesting assistance and completing a mission assignment in WebEOC works. Several participants commented that it was easier than they thought it would be. The exercise was also the first time that ARC has participated in a WebEOC exercise in Idaho, and their willingness to do so was appreciated by all participants. One of the most significant findings was the identification of potential gaps in providing situational awareness among the emergency management community as a whole, thus providing an opportunity to address those areas for improvement before a real world incident.

While the State of Idaho is fortunate that large scale disasters and emergencies do not often occur here, this does not allow many opportunities for emergency management to utilize some

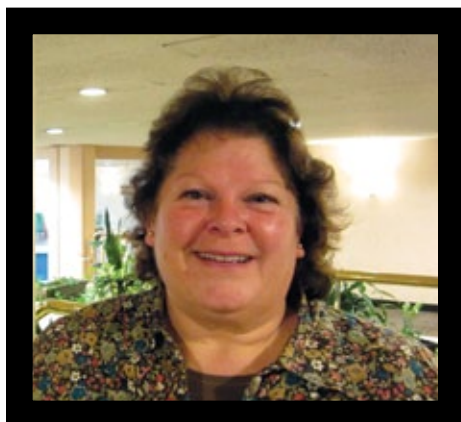


Why IEMA Matters

Jackie Frey

I appreciate the opportunity to attend the IEMA Conference to address issues within our county, my partners in Emergency Management and BHS. A great opportunity to network.

Jackie Frey
Twin Falls Co. Emergency Manager

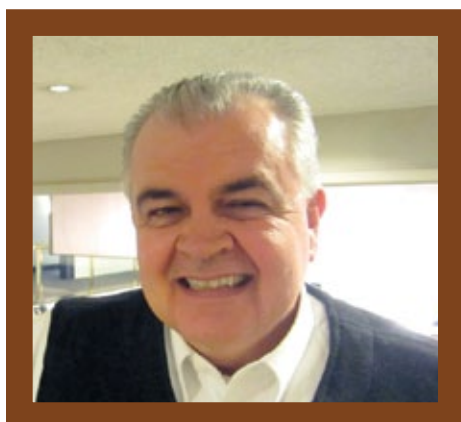


Wes Jones

It is a great opportunity to share lessons learned and identify processes to improve our ability to protect people, facilities, and Mother Earth.

It was nice to meet you! Come visit us when you can.

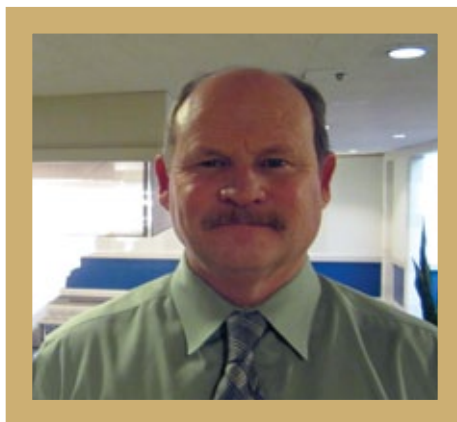
Wes Jones
Director of Public Safety
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes



Douglas R. Hardman

The IEMA conference provides a once-a-year opportunity for all local emergency management coordinators to meet as a group, share lessons learned and collaborate with BHS staff on building capabilities to make a more secure and resilient Idaho.

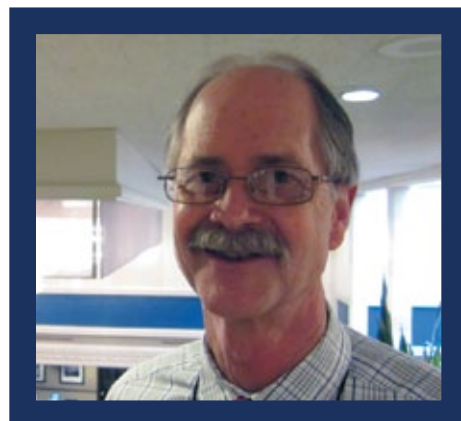
Douglas R. Hardman, Director
Ada County Emergency Management



Jerry Zumalt

The 2015 IEMA Annual Conference was an excellent venue in which to learn how emergency managers are successfully mitigating threats and hazards across the State of Idaho- in both the public and private sectors. Hearing first hand from the county emergency manager regarding his agency's response to the "Oso Slide" disaster, considering the applicability and advantages of developing multi-jurisdictional, Geographic Response Plans and listening to the State Epidemiologist's presentation on communicable diseases was especially beneficial. This year's expanded conference format which included hosting an evening social, including partner agencies such as Public Health and INL was appreciated by many.

Jerry Zumalt
Idaho County Disaster Management
Coordinator



Mel Johnson Retires



Melvin Johnson's career as the City/County Emergency Management Coordinator in Lewiston and Nez Perce County began in October of 1994.

As the Emergency Management Coordinator, Mel serves as principal advisor to the executive officers concerning program status, and response and recovery activities. His primary focus is to assist the citizens with their activities mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters or major emergencies, which may occur within the jurisdiction. Accomplishing these tasks, Mel has garnered the trust of the citizens, piers, co-workers, state and federal agency

personnel. He continually proves through his deeds that City and County government functions for the benefit of the citizens.

Always a strong supporter of training and exercises, Mel has completed the Professional Development Series, is an active member of the Idaho Association of Emergency Managers, and International Association of Emergency Managers. In 1996 Mel received his certification as an Emergency Manager (CEM), and in 1999 he was recognized by the State of Idaho as the Emergency Management Coordinator of the Year.

In November 1996, Mel orchestrated a unique exercise involving Federal; State (both Idaho and Washington), and local (cities of Lewiston and Clarkston) participants. Over 200 individuals representing fifty different agencies and departments participated. The exercise was filmed and that film (AirEx 96) received recognition and a first place award from the National Coordinating Council of Emergency Management.

Federal Declarations during 1996, 1997, 2005 and 2011 kept Mel and his office extremely busy. All Flood related projects; damage survey reports and disaster closeout documentation were coordinated through his office. In 1996, an example and an unusual combination of projects was coordinated to assist the community of Peck, including the purchase of several pieces of property,

restoration of roads, development of specific stream structures and assistance with their water treatment facility and process. In 2005; another unusual combination of projects included the purchase of property; restructuring of buildings (including a Native Sweat Lodge); and repairs to significant infrastructure.

Through Mel's efforts the City of Lewiston and Nez Perce County were the first Idaho participants to be recognized as a "Storm Ready" community. They received National recognition during the 2001 Governor's Conference. Mel initiated the first CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) program in the State. Initially over 200 individuals received the CERT training and teams still exist in some sponsored agencies.

Mel maintains his amateur radio operator's license, has completely outfitted the County Emergency Operations Center with all types of radio equipment, and he supports and involves local radio operators.

Mel's expertise, knowledge, insight and opinion are frequently sought and utilized by city, county, state and federal officials. He is well liked and receives a high degree of cooperation and support. He will definitely be missed.

Mel and wife Karen plan to spend some quality time checking out the area wineries and no doubt the vintage book stores. Our best to you both.

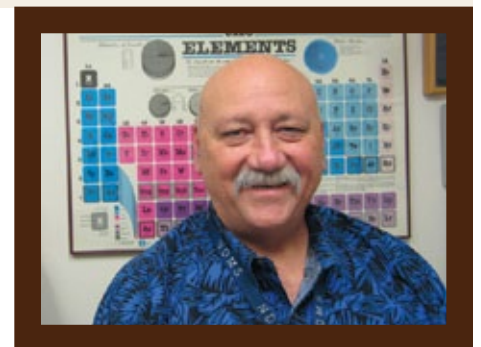
Debi Ruppe

Jeff Rylee is Employee of the Quarter

BHS's Response and Recovery Branch is highlighted this quarter, with several programs and individuals warranting recognition. Jeff Rylee has been selected as the spring employee of the quarter. Jeff is BHS's HazMat/Special Teams Program Manager. He has played a big part in helping to stand up the bomb squads, hazmat teams, and technical rescue teams we have here in Idaho. He also manages the HazMat duty officer program, providing 24/7 coverage throughout the year. He trains each duty officer to be able to approve deployment of the special teams, when incident commanders need their capabilities. He also serves as a subject matter expert throughout the state, lending his knowledge in chemical properties and hazardous materials to public and private organizations on a regular basis.

One of the voluntary works that he does is to teach ICS 300 and 400. This is additional work that he takes on during his day and work at BHS. What he offers the students is a vast and deep well of knowledge concerning the structure and operational use of the ICS and NIMS frameworks. He is able to put this information into layman's terms so that the new student can learn how the systems work within the framework. His examples are of personal meaning to him and he is able to relay that nature to the students.

Jeff is an extremely effective teacher and a credible example for others to learn from and follow. He is a true hidden gem within BHS as an instructor and mentor to those new to the structure. He is compassionate and attentive to the needs and learning styles of various students.



Those students enjoy and learn more than they had hoped to due to his instructional style and capabilities. Jeff is a professional and capable employee, and one that serves Idaho's citizens with distinction.

20 Years of Idaho Disasters:

A HISTORY OF IDAHO MAJOR DISASTERS 1976-1996



Recently I had the opportunity to work as a contractor at the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security exploring the history of some of Idaho's major disasters. I am a Masters student in geosciences at Boise State University researching volcanic risk perception and preparedness in the Skagit Valley of Washington, a lahar drainage for both Mount Baker and Glacier Peak. I'm researching the level of public concern, knowledge, and preparedness for lahars compared to other natural hazards. Before coming to Boise, I interned in geoscience policy at the American Geosciences Institute and coastal sedimentology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. I received my Bachelor's degree from Wellesley College in geosciences and medieval/renaissance studies. I'm interested in pursuing a career in science policy and emergency management.

The IBHS project combined my interests in natural hazards and historical research. Over the course of the summer, I conducted research on five of the presidentially declared disasters in Idaho: the 1976 Teton Dam collapse, 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption, 1983 Borah Peak earthquake, 1984 Salmon ice jam flooding, and the 1996 panhandle flooding. For each disaster, I compiled a short written history of the event that included the timeline of events, physical and social impacts, response actions, estimated or actual cost of recovery, and some stories from those who experienced the event. I included 10-15 articles of multimedia such as

pictures, newspaper clippings, radio broadcasts, and video clips. The Idaho Statesman and BSU archives provided negatives for numerous photographs. In addition, I compiled images for the 1997 winter and spring flooding and the 2000 wildfires. Future work will expand this project to eventually include all 23 presidentially declared major disasters.

Below is an excerpt from the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption article:

"For nearly two months Mount St Helens in Washington state rumbled with small earthquakes and explosions, and swelled as magma moved into the volcano. On May 18, 1980 at 8:32 a.m. PDT, the north side of the volcano fell away in a large landslide... [and] magma erupted out the north side of the mountain... With everyone's attention turned to the volcano itself, scientists and emergency managers overlooked the threat posed by the millions of tons of ash erupted high into the atmosphere.

By mid-afternoon, eastern Washington and northern Idaho were plunged into darkness as the thick ash clouds rolled in overhead. Day turned to night as light sensitive streetlamps flickered to life and tiny ash particles began to blanket the towns like snow... In Idaho, around two inches of ash fell on towns from Moscow to Coeur d'Alene... northern Idaho came to a complete standstill, even the U.S. postal service ceased operations. President Carter issued a federal major disaster declaration for... Idaho [on May 22, 1980].

No warnings alerted residents or emergency managers... to the imminent approach of the ash cloud or what to do when it arrived..."

To read more about the history of Idaho disasters from 1976-1996 visit www.bhs.idaho.gov.

Kimberley Corwin



Idaho Emergency Operations Center Reservist Program

Fills Important Need

The Idaho Emergency Operations Center Reservist Program began in 2013. Since then the work performed by reservists has proven critically important. The program was created to fill a deficit of staffing during state disasters that would require multiple shifts to coordinate statewide response operations. To ensure that the skills of each reservist could be utilized most effectively the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS) created training regimens specific to each of the positions that could be filled by volunteers from outside the agency.

The IDEOC is managed using the Incident Command System (ICS). There are four sections within ICS: Operations, Logistics, Plans and Finance.

The Operations Section is comprised mainly of other state agency personnel supporting the 16 Emergency Support Functions (ESF). The state agencies respond to disasters with resources that the counties have requested in order to support their response efforts.

The Logistics Section finds requested resources and prepares the agreements to send those resources into the field. Logistics also ensures the IDEOC has all the resources required to coordinate the state response.

The Plans Section gathers, analyzes and disseminates pertinent information available involving the ongoing disaster response including potential issues that could affect the response.

The Finance Section procures necessary resources and ensures that costs are accounted for, invoices paid, and staff time is recorded.

IBHS is currently training individuals in the Logistics and Plans Sections. We have approximately 70 individuals who have been, or are in the process of being trained.

Reservists come to us from a variety of backgrounds, including retired professionals, county emergency coordinators and emergency management students. We strive to give each reservist a chance to work in the IDEOC during

exercises and state activations several times a year. This gives reservists a chance to work in a faster-paced, more realistic environment and to practice the skills they learn during training.

To be a reservist, individuals need to fill out and return a reservist application and pass a background check. They must be computer literate with the ability to use Microsoft Office programs and have good oral and written communication skills. Reservists must have good organizational skills and be willing and able to work long hours when called upon in a fast paced, high stress environment. Additionally, they must attend training and exercises during office hours and be available during disaster events. If you know someone who would be interested in the IBHS Reservist program go to www.bhs.idaho.gov.

The application and instructions are available in the Volunteer link.

Cherylyn Murphy
EOC Program Coordinator

Know Your IDEOC Reservists



Michael Blomstrom is the Budget & Finance Officer for the Ada County Sheriff's Office. Blomstrom, who supervises seven employees, took the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Reservist training in January. "I've been actively involved in the *ARES/RACES radio program held at IBHS

currently. It seemed like a natural fit to be able to offer my skills and interests as a reservist. Personally, I want to have the training and know-how, to be able to be of service to my community during a disaster. I've already encouraged one of my friends to sign up."

Blomstrom also said he needed a refresher on WebEOC. What is WebEOC and how is it used? Sign up for the reservist program and learn this fascinating essential tool and many others used throughout our state during emergencies. www.bhs.idaho.gov

Ed MacBain retired from the Los Alamos National Laboratory with an extensive background in Fire Protection, Emergency Management, and Field Operations. He also served in the Marine Corps Reserve as an Air Field Services Officer, retiring in 1999. His desire is to continue serving

the community by volunteering as a BHS Reservist. In addition he spends about one day a week working on projects in the Emergency Operations Center. He finds this commitment not only challenging but also extremely rewarding.



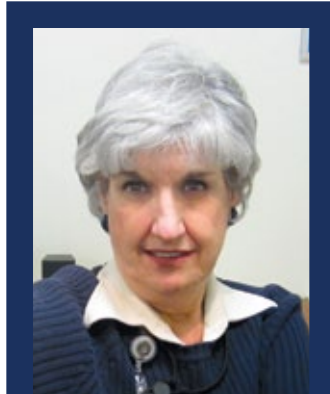
Gail Baird's Retirement

IBHS wants to recognize Gail Baird for her years of service with the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS) as she enters the ranks of PERSI retirees!

Gail indicated 120 Mondays ago her plans to retire from her position as Disaster Recovery's Emergency Management Specialist effective 05 Jun 2015. She is also stepping down from the Idaho Emergency Operation Center positions of Logistics Section Chief, Alt Recovery Section Chief, and Documentation unit.

Gail has worked with the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security since 2008. Her Bureau positions ranged from Program Assistant, Budget Assistant and Emergency Management Specialist with the Response and Recovery Branch. She also worked as the National Incident Management System (NIMS) program manager for the Preparedness and Protection Branch.

Gail has worked extensively during these past several years on helping the counties and local governments become proficient in the complex disaster reimbursement process. This involved



working with virtually every county and a myriad of local governments impacted by disaster. Gail is patient, helpful and diligent in her efforts. Her guidance and commitment have been instrumental in the success of disaster recovery throughout the state.

Her abilities helped Idaho navigate through (over 15) natural disasters and expedite the associated Federal and State financial assistance programs. Her efforts expedited reimbursements and aided in the stabilization of a complex financial process. Gail's efforts and professionalism have improved Idaho's ability to respond and recover from disasters of all potential hazards. She has been an exceptional steward of state funds. Her outstanding attention to detail has allowed for an efficient and effective accounting of all eligible costs. Her efforts have and will continue to produce the maximum allowable reimbursement of the State's disaster emergency account and local applicants limited funds.

As you transition to fulltime activities with family and friends, please accept this Irish blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
The sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

Gail, you will be missed. Sl'ainte

Don Taylor
Recovery Manager

What Is a SWIC?

As the newly appointed State of Idaho Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) my objective is to work with you and your jurisdictions to provide better public safety communications within each of the state's communities. Together we can increase and coordinate interoperability with all our public safety professionals across agency and geographic boundaries to ensure that interoperability is not a barrier for our first responders.

The SWIC works for the State of Idaho and supports all public safety communications agencies within the state by:

- Coordinating federal grant opportunities for communications systems
- Developing communications standards and procedures
- Finding solutions for interoperability problems
- Advocating for state communications interoperability planning
- Providing assistance to local communities free of charge.

The goal of this position is to help public safety agencies with the planning, design and implementation of wireless communications systems so that firefighters, law officers and emergency medical technicians can all talk to each other during an emergency or critical event. This is where the term interoperability comes from and why it's an important function.

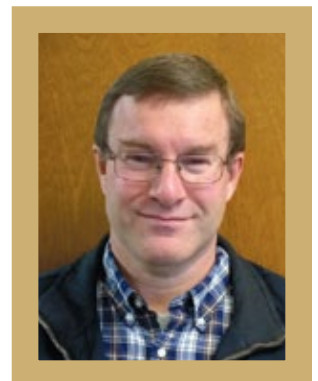
In conjunction with Public Safety Communications, we will work together to coordinate the use of common frequencies and talk groups between different radio systems within the state through the use of special interoperability channels, the development of tactical interoperable communications plans (TICP) and development of

standards for procurement of equipment. I will work closely with governing bodies for public safety communications systems and act as an agent in support of statewide interoperability initiatives and programs.. I will collaborate across all jurisdictions—local, federal, state and regional—to improve the communications systems utilized by public safety professionals and first responders. Finally, I will be the point of contact for the development of the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP).

Technical assistance (TA) opportunities are available for all states through the federal office of Emergency Communications (OEC) to assist local and state agencies with public safety communications needs. TA's can be requested each calendar year beginning in September (up to five can be requested) to support stakeholders, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and radio system operators throughout the state. This assistance is varied and can range from helping a project team with the design of a new 9-1-1 communication center to creating statewide interoperability planning documents.

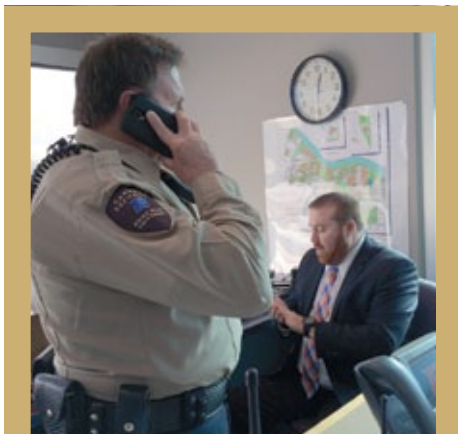
I look forward to enhancing this program and encourage you to share your ideas and become involved in your state's governing process for interoperability.

Todd Herrera
Preparedness/Protection Branch
Chief
Idaho SWIC



Using WebEOC as a Crisis Management Tool for POTUS 2015 Visit

On Wednesday, February 11, 2015, Boise State University hosted a visit by the President of the United State (POTUS) to our campus. In order to effectively manage any incidents or resource requests related to the POTUS visit, Boise State utilized a Command Post (CP) located in the Stueckel Sky Center providing Event Management along with an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at our Campus Security and Police Services substation for Coordination and Support. (Note: there actually was a larger Unified CP at another location made up of Idaho State Police, Boise Police, and Ada County Sheriffs Office; our CP was just tasked to manage events on campus).



Boise State Security officer Frank Harper and Assistant Director of Event Security Dave Ellis monitor campus events from the Boise State Command Post during President Obama's visit to campus February 11, 2015.

To maintain effective communications between the CP and the EOC, our communications plan included radios, landline phones, and cell phones, but we also utilized the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS) WebEOC crisis management system as our digital communications link between the 2 locations. In addition to pushing instant updates to both locations, our WebEOC entries allowed external agencies (such as IBHS) to monitor events as they occurred without requiring them to be present on campus.



We have used WebEOC as our primary crisis management tool for large events on campus for the past three years. Although used primarily for the Bronco football season, we have also used WebEOC for additional large-scale events such as the Steve Appleton Memorial, Davis Cup Tennis Tournament, and certain high visibility Taco Bell Arena concerts (i.e.; Jimmy Buffett Concert and Tailgate).

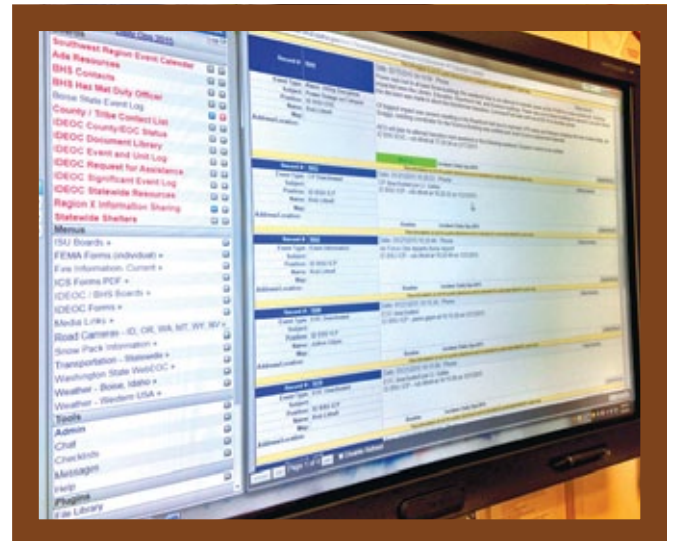
Along with providing near real-time updates to anyone logged on to WebEOC, we use it as our ICS-214 Incident Log. Once the event is over, you have digital documentation for historical purposes that automatically tells you:

- Who made the entry
- What time was the entry made
- Category of the incident type (assault, crowd control, lost item/child, etc)
- Description of incident

We started making entries during the planning process in the days prior to the POTUS visit to record coordination and potential issues. The President's office staff conducted all planning in secret compartmentalized pockets, so WebEOC was useful in putting together the pieces of our part of the plan as each department found out NEW requirements. We then created an Event Action Plan using ICS forms with

the siloed information we collected. The Event Action Plan was posted into WebEOC the day of the visit.

On the actual day of the POTUS visit and once our EOC/CPs were active, we entered everything that happened into WebEOC, which established our virtual link between the two locations. If we had an immediate need on campus related to the visit, the CP made an entry into WebEOC and instantaneously the EOC would see the requirement and started working the request. Although



we still used radios and phones to talk between the two locations, there were several times the EOC had completed our request before any discussion took place.

After the visit, the WebEOC log was essential in helping us collect and identify initial issues, observations, and lessons learned along with an easy way to tally incident categories. All in all, WebEOC is very much an enabler for our event management—consider using it for your next local event.

Robert Littrell
Emergency Management
Boise State University

Island Park Receives Open Space Award

On January 27, I had the distinct pleasure of presenting members of the Island Park Sustainable Fire Community with the Regional Foresters Conserving Open Space Award. This award recognized IPSFC for promoting community awareness of living with wildfire. This is a huge honor for this group to be recognized above all other groups in Idaho, Utah, and Nevada. We have tackled some major challenges and all of our partners are committed to engaging the public to make the situation better.

Members of the group represent land owners in Island Park, City of Island Park, Bureau of Homeland Security, Fremont County, insurance companies, The Nature Conservancy, Greater

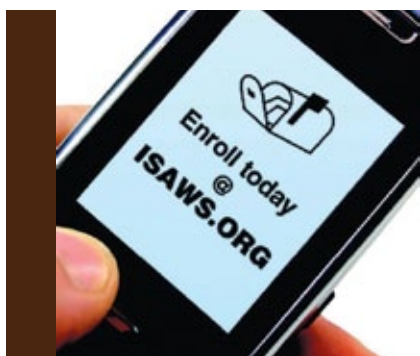
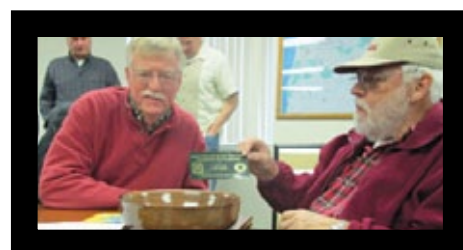
Yellowstone Coalition, Fire Learning Network, Fire Adapted Communities, Fall River Electric, Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Reclamation, research, and forest products industry. I think you will recognize some of the locals who have been working hard to address wildland urban interface issues and hazardous fuel conditions in Island Park; Mayor Tom Jewell, Bill Baxter, Carl Koehly, Bill Ruppel, Bill Vroman, Kent Bateman, Pam Herdrich, Keith Richey, Forrest Hall, Jeff Patlovich, Joe Sielinsky, Jordan Stoddard, Larry Johnson, Matthew Ward, Ted Powell, Tim Stronks, Scott Waldron, Keith Birch, Bob Albano, Jeff Liday, Jeff Hill, Jon White.

IPSFC has accomplished much since its inception. The group has received two large grants, hired a full time project coordinator, picked up slash in Yale Creek and Stonegate subdivisions, provided free home/lot fuels evaluations to over 100 property owners, completed six fuels reduction demonstration sites, provided educational materials and information about wildfire and hazardous fuels reduction to over 500 residents and visitors, and developed and utilized a social media plan to effectively reach the public in Island Park. Additionally, the group determined wildfire risk for the landscape and all individual properties in the project area, shared successes and failures with other fire adapted communities, and developed a five year action plan. Stay tuned for



projects and events we are planning for this summer. Additional information about the Island Park Sustainable Fire Community can be found on our website islandparkfirecommunity.com.

Liz Davy
Ashton/Island Park District Ranger



Are you and your family registered?

Idaho has the highest percentage of wireless-only households in the country. 52.3% of Idaho households have no landline phone service. All Idaho citizens are encouraged to opt-in to receive emergency alerts. Check with your local Emergency Management office or register at www.isaws.org.

Source: "Wireless Substitution: State Level Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, 2012", National Center for Health Statistics

**Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
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BONNEVILLE COUNTY KEEPS CITIZENS INFORMED AND PREPARED

During **National Preparedness Month (September 2014)**, Bonneville County Emergency Management completed a community preparedness project, making use of grant funding provided through the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS).

We sorted and delivered nearly 10,500 **Emergency Preparedness Guides** to thirty-four area elementary schools, both public and private, and available in English or Spanish. The intention and hope was to send at least one Guide home with every family represented at the schools. Each school also received twenty-five Guides for staff members, with additional Guides provided at later dates upon request. Getting the cooperation from some schools was a challenge, not because they were trying to be difficult, but because they too have so much going on. In the end they nearly all came through. This particular guide, produced by a company called Positive Promotions, Inc., seemed to offer the best product we could find for the money and it met our goal of community education and preparedness. It includes a comprehensive list of topics essential to emergency preparedness. The Guides are assembled in a compact, easy to read and clearly

defined format. Each Guide was stamped on the cover with "Provided on Behalf of Your Local Emergency Response Community (and) Funded by the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security."

We opted to distribute the Guides to elementary schools because for the most part, the children are still excited about things they get to bring home and show their parents, grandparents, or guardians. Also, the parents, etc., are still more likely to question the younger children about school and what they bring home, as opposed to middle and high school aged students.

We truly believe this was a worthwhile project and one that we count as a community success.

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