

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016



Massive Landslide Isolates Idaho County Communities

It was a shocking sight. On Feb 18th late in the afternoon, a massive rockslide deposited approximately 100,000 cubic yards of debris on state Idaho State Highway 14. The rockslide, approximately 500 feet wide and more than 60 feet deep, immediately cut off the only wintertime access to Elk City and several other rural communities.

The Federal Highway Administration expedited an emergency funding request and delivered \$500,000 in Quick Release funds for initial response to the disaster. Additional funds will be available in the future to address restoration efforts.

Idaho County officials worked with the U.S. Forest Service to open an alternate road – Forest Road 1199. This alternate route provided access for essential traffic shortly after the disaster occurred. Regular use and challenging weather has limited the trips Elk City residents can make across the forest road.

In response to the natural disaster, the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security activated the Emergency Operations Center for ESF 1 (transportation), 5 (emergency management), 7 (logistics and resource support), 14 (recovery and mitigation), and 15 (public information and warning). As part of its ESF responsibilities, the Idaho Transportation Department posted regular updates on WebEOC and took the lead in a unified command structure to keep agencies and residents informed about the status of repairs and restoration.

Landslide continued on pg. 11 »

Cybersecurity at the Local Level

Almost every day we hear of major cybersecurity issues in the news. Fortunately, there appears to be a growing awareness that being proactive with our personal and business information is essential. A collaboration between The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region has created a three-year program to raise cybersecurity awareness among businesses, public institutions, non-profit groups and Idaho citizens. Here are some safety tips shared at a workshop in Post Falls earlier this year.

CYBER SAFETY TIPS:

- Have separate accounts for different purposes so that if one account is compromised, the other(s) are still protected
- Use one card for online purchases only. Replenish the funds only when you plan to order something.
- Talk with your banker to discuss two-step verifications for all online banking withdrawal transactions.
- Create a complex password that might actually be a sentence, ie "IloveynewdogRex!"
- Do not share your passwords with others
- Do NOT open attachments or links from senders you do not recognize.
- Always report any suspicious computer behaviors to your IT department or consultant.
- Regularly download the vendor security "patches" for all of your software.
- Businesses need be in the business of protecting employee and customer records.



Greetings,

It's been great seeing the teamwork and collaboration throughout Idaho's emergency management community. People have been coming together to accomplish great things, both in the face of difficult times and in making great strides to be prepared for the future. As an example, the people of the Clearwater Valley experienced a significant fire season this past year that destroyed many homes. Through volunteers, donations, and grants, the Wildfire Unmet Needs Committee of Clearwater, Idaho and Lewis Counties (WUNCCIL) just completed construction of two homes for people who'd lost everything. More homes are planned for construction and I'm impressed with the way the community has come together to help each other.

The past few months have been quite busy for our partners in northern and north central Idaho. Only a month after northern Idaho's Presidential Disaster Declaration, a second was issued for a snowstorm that impacted the same area. The application process and administration of these declarations was a significant effort by the private sector and local and state governments. We've been complimented by FEMA on our state's professionalism, and I thank all those who put in the time to the successful recovery.

In February, Idaho County residents experienced a major disruption following a massive landslide along state Highway 14. The debris path was 60 feet deep in areas and covered 500 feet of roadway. Governor Otter's State Disaster Emergency Declaration for Idaho County enabled access to federal funding for landslide remediation and the ability to look at all available options for the impacted citizens and agencies.

Effective July 1, 2016 the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security will have a new name. Governor Otter signed legislation following this year's session changing our name to the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, a name that better communicates our role and minimizes confusion. We will continue to operate just as we have in the past, but will do so under our new name.

I am also pleased to announce that lawmakers approved streamlining the governance of the Emergency Communications Commission (ECC), the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC), and FirstNet Planning Committee into the Idaho Public Safety Communications Commission. This move will support the implementation of new technologies such as Next Generation 911 and FirstNet, and will reduce the duplication of efforts of multiple commissions with overlapping membership. Additionally, this enhances local input through the addition of District Interoperability Governance Boards (DIGB) made up of local representatives.

We've been planning for the Cascadia Rising exercise for over a year and preparations are moving at full speed. At the Idaho Emergency Operations Center we're holding drills, trainings and exercises to make sure we're ready for the challenge. The exercise design teams at the local, tribal, and state level are busy drafting injects and control elements to make sure we are building an exercise that provides realistic and valuable opportunities to grow.

As you can see and know very well, Idaho's emergency managers are active and engaged. I welcome your input on ways we can improve and thank you for what you do for Idaho.

Thanks,
Brad

Brad Richy
Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
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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

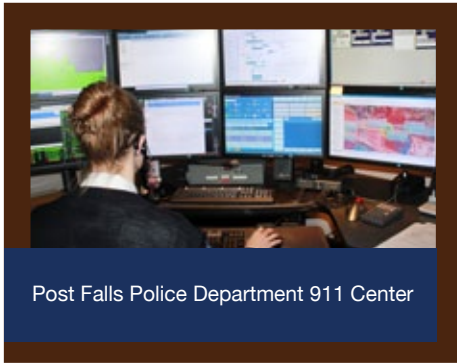
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Public Safety Telecommunicators Recognized

The week of April 10-16 is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, when the nation recognizes the dedicated men and women who answer calls for help at 911 centers or Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). These call takers and dispatchers provide the first critical contact for those in need of emergency services. In the midst



Post Falls Police Department 911 Center

of crises, they obtain vital information from callers in order to link them rapidly to police, firefighters, and emergency medical responders.

To perform this critical mission, the telecommunicators need a 911 system that keeps pace with technological advances. New technologies also bring opportunities to improve our 911 system, but they do not lessen the need for

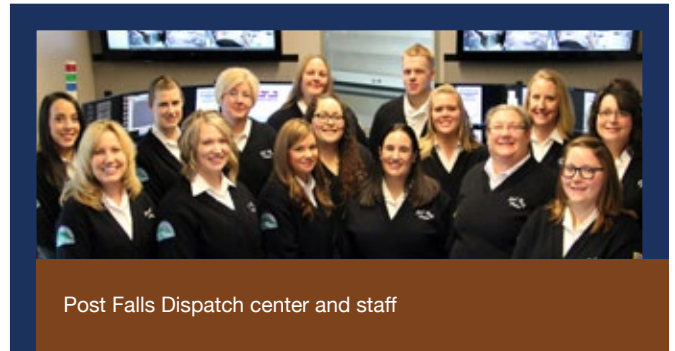
skilled telecommunicators. Even the best technology cannot replace the essential one-on-one connection offered by a call-taker or the knowledge of the local community that is critical to an effective response.

It is important to recognize that telecommunicators' jobs increasingly encompass not only call-taking, dispatch, driver's license testing, jail control (in some rural cases), but also the integration and analysis of multiple sources of information to determine the appropriate response to any given emergency. This will increase as Next Generation 911 creates the ability to funnel in text, video, and data in addition to traditional voice calls for help.

Communications networks are shifting from wireline to wireless, from circuit-based to packet-based IP architecture, and from locally-provided to cloud-based services. The public is also increasingly tech-savvy and driving expectations of what technology should be able to do for them, both in everyday use and in emergencies. These trends require emergency

response agencies to consider how to incorporate Next Generation capabilities and functions into their operations, including new media (like images, video, and text), data analytics, GIS mapping, and emergency alerting. Emergency response agencies must consider how to maintain the reliability and security of these new networks, services, and technologies against a variety of threats, ranging from natural disasters to cyber-attacks.

The celebration of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week reminds us to salute these dedicated professionals. They are the first to answer your call for help!



Post Falls Dispatch center and staff

The Dispatcher

Research suggests that the best moments of our lives do not come from leisure or pleasure. They come when we are immersed in a significant task that's challenging, yet matches up well to our highest abilities. Shocking? Probably not. In those moments, we're so caught up in an activity that time somehow seems to be altered; our attention is fully focused without our having to work at it. We are deeply aware, without being self-conscious; we are being stretched and challenged, but without a sense of stress or worry. We have a sense of engagement or oneness with what we are doing. This condition is called "flow," because people experiencing it often use the metaphor of feeling swept up by something outside themselves. Studies have been done over the past thirty years with hundreds of thousands of subjects, to explore this phenomenon of flow. Ironically, we

experience it more in our work than we do in our leisure time. In fact, our flow is said to be at its lowest ebb when we have nothing to do. Sitting around doesn't produce flow. As we approach National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, please know that your "flow" is observed, felt, and appreciated immensely! There are more times than not, and it is usually unremarkable outside of the Center, that you are immersed in that significant task that's challenging. You're fully focused and deeply aware with that sense of engagement and oneness. The one exception I take with this research is that many times you do so with a sense of stress and worry. Not because you are overwhelmed or inadequate, but because you are invested and deeply concerned for and about us. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for all you do to ensure the officers go home safe and the public are served. We celebrate our Dispatchers!

Lt. Kevin Haight
Idaho State Police



MERCURY – BEAUTIFUL BUT DEADLY

By: Jeff Rylee
HazMat Special Teams Operations

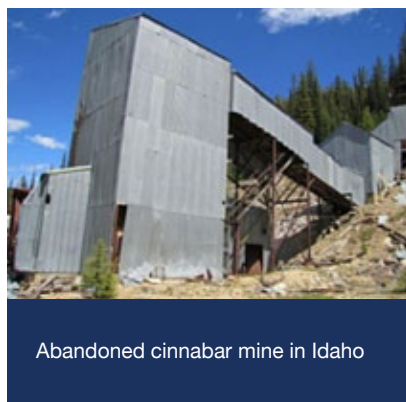
Idaho has a long history with Mercury (Hg). Cinnabar mines in the state, industrial uses, agriculture uses, education, health care, and private citizen prospectors, are just a few of the places we find this element.

Idaho has experienced many incidents involving the spill of elemental mercury. Severe health effects have occurred in some circumstances. School districts have spent thousands of dollars cleaning up mercury spills to prevent the exposure of students. These mercury spills have been experienced state-wide. Therefore, all the State's Regional Haz Mat Teams (RRT's) have the capability to detect and handle mercury spills.

With this in mind, let's talk about mercury and where it comes from and why it is used.

Mercury has also been known as quicksilver, because it is a silver liquid metal. The chemical symbol also reflects this property. The symbol, Hg, comes from the Latin term hydrargyrum, meaning "watery silver."

Mercury has been known for thousands of years. In many cultures, people learned to make mercury metal from its most important ore, cinnabar. When heated cinnabar releases mercury as a vapor (gas). The vapor is cooled and captured as liquid mercury.



Abandoned cinnabar mine in Idaho

Some mercury compounds are known to be poisonous. In the last forty years, the dangers of mercury have become better known. As a result, mercury use is now being phased out.

Mercury and cinnabar are both mentioned in ancient manuscripts. The Chinese, Hindus, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans all recorded information about the element and its ore. Greek philosopher Theophrastus (372-287 B.C) described a method for preparing mercury. Cinnabar was rubbed together with vinegar in a clay dish. Theophrastus wrote that the cinnabar had been found in silver mines.

When the metal was first made, he said, people thought it might contain gold. They were misled by the metal's shiny appearance. They soon realized, however, that it was quite different from gold.

Many reports on mercury told of its poisonous effects. Slaves who worked in Roman mercury mines often died of exposure to mercury. Mercury was sometimes very dangerous and sometimes quite safe. People even drank from streams that ran through mercury mines. Scientists now know that mercury's effects depend on the form in which it occurs.

Mercury metal and most compounds of mercury are highly toxic. Interestingly enough, scientists have become aware of this fact only quite recently. The toxicity of some mercury compounds has been known for many centuries. One form of mercury chloride known as calomel, for example, was sometimes used as a poison to kill people. It was also once used extensively to kill fungi and control maggots in agricultural crops.

But even as recently as fifty years ago, there was relatively little concern about mercury metal and many mercury compounds. High school chemistry students often played with tiny droplets of mercury in the laboratory. They used mercury to coat pennies and other pieces of metal.

Mercury was also widely used in dentistry. It was used to make amalgams, alloys of mercury with other metals, used to fill teeth. Most people even today are likely to have dental fillings that contain a small amount of mercury metal.

In the last fifty years, chemists have learned a great deal more about the toxic effects of both mercury metal and most of its compounds. They now know that mercury itself enters the body very easily. Its vapors pass through the skin into the blood stream. Its vapors can also be inhaled. And, of course, it can also be swallowed. In any of these cases, mercury gets into blood and then into cells. There it interferes with essential chemical reactions and can cause illness and death.

Sometimes, these effects occur over very long periods of time. People who work with mercury, for example, may take in small amounts of mercury over months or years. Health problems develop very slowly.

"Mad as a hatter!"

Back in the 1800s, most of the negative effects of mercury and its compounds were not yet known. Hatmakers of that time commonly used a mercury compound in their craft.

It was used to treat the felt and beaver fur that lined the hats. Eventually, exposure to the mercury began to cause changes in the hatmakers' bodies. Their personalities and behavior became erratic. Recognizing the bizarre personalities of many hatmakers, people often used the expression "mad as a hatter." In fact, author Lewis Carroll (1832-98) created a character for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland that owes its origins to the symptoms of mercury poisoning: The Mad Hatter.

People can also be exposed to large doses of mercury over short periods of time. In such cases, even more serious health problems can arise. These include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, damage to the kidneys, and death in only a week or so.

How might I be exposed to mercury?

Eating fish or shellfish contaminated with methylmercury.

Breathing vapors in air from spills, incinerators, and industries that burn mercury-containing fuels.

Release of mercury from dental work and medical treatments.

Breathing contaminated workplace air or skin contact during use in the workplace (dental, health services, chemical, and other industries that use mercury).

Practicing rituals that include mercury.

How can mercury affect my health?

The nervous system is very sensitive to all forms of mercury. Methylmercury and metallic mercury vapors are more harmful than other forms, because more mercury in these forms reaches the brain. Exposure to high levels of metallic, inorganic, or organic mercury can permanently damage the brain, kidneys, and developing fetus. Effects on brain functioning may result in irritability, shyness, tremors, changes in vision or hearing, and memory problems.

Short-term exposure to high levels of metallic mercury vapors may cause effects including lung damage, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, increases in blood pressure or heart rate, skin rashes, and eye irritation.

How can mercury affect children?

Very young children are more sensitive to mercury than adults. Mercury in the mother's body passes to the fetus and may accumulate there. It can also pass to a nursing infant through breast milk. However, the benefits of breast feeding may be greater than the possible adverse effects of mercury in breast milk.

Mercury's harmful effects that may be passed from the mother to the fetus include brain damage, mental retardation, incoordination, blindness, seizures, and inability to speak.

Children poisoned by mercury may develop problems of their nervous and digestive systems, and kidney damage.

How can families reduce the risk of exposure to mercury?

Carefully handle and dispose of products that contain mercury, such as thermometers or fluorescent light bulbs. Do not vacuum up spilled mercury, because it will vaporize and increase exposure. If a large amount of mercury has been spilled, contact your health department. Teach children not to play with shiny, silver liquids.

Properly dispose of older medicines that contain mercury. Keep all mercury-containing medicines away from children.

Pregnant women and children should keep away from rooms where liquid mercury has been used.

Learn about wildlife and fish advisories in your area from your public health or natural resources department.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to mercury?

Tests are available to measure mercury levels in the body. Blood or urine samples are used to test for exposure to metallic mercury and to inorganic forms of mercury. Mercury in whole blood or in scalp hair is measured to determine exposure to methylmercury. Your doctor can take samples and send them to a testing laboratory.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a limit of 2 parts of mercury per billion parts of drinking water (2 ppb).

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has set a maximum permissible level of 1 part of methylmercury in a million parts of seafood (1 ppm).

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set limits of 0.1 milligram of organic mercury per cubic meter of workplace air (0.1 mg/m³) and 0.05 mg/m³ of metallic mercury vapor for 8-hour shifts and 40-hour work weeks.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1999. Toxicological profile for mercury. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Quick Tips for Mercury Spills:

- Have people and pets leave the room.
- Don't let anyone walk through the mercury.
- Shut off heat or cooling to the affected area.
- Open windows.
- Don't vacuum or sweep.
- For mercury spills larger than the amount in a thermometer, contact the local fire department, public health official, or the Idaho State Communications Center at (800) 632-8000.

For more information on cleaning up mercury spill visit DEQ's web site at:

www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/prog_issues/haz_waste/mercury_spill.cfm

What Never to Do After a Mercury Spill

Never use a vacuum cleaner to clean up mercury. The vacuum will put mercury into the air and increase exposure.

Never use a broom to clean up mercury. It will break the mercury into smaller droplets and spread them.

Never pour mercury down a drain. It may lodge in the plumbing and cause future problems during plumbing repairs. If discharged, it can cause pollution of the septic tank or sewage treatment plant.

Never wash clothing or other items that have come in direct contact with mercury in a washing machine,

because mercury may contaminate the machine and/or pollute sewage. Clothing that has come into direct contact with mercury should be discarded. By "direct contact," we mean that mercury was (or has been) spilled directly on the clothing, for example, if you break a mercury thermometer and some of elemental mercury beads came in contact with your clothing.

Never walk around if your shoes might be contaminated with mercury. Contaminated clothing can also spread mercury around.



Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams

Each one of Idaho's Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams carries a mercury vapor analyzer called a "LUMEX". Mercury vapors are detected in very low amounts and these machines help the RRT's determine the safety of buildings, areas, clothing, etc. for occupation by people and pets.

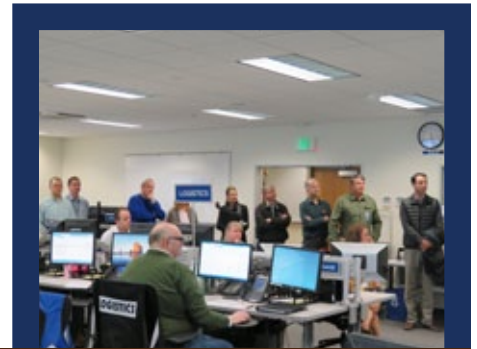
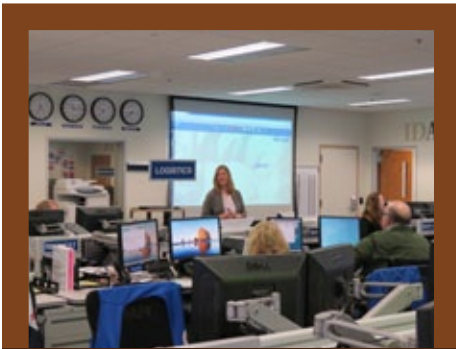
Mercury spills do not have to be catastrophic. We know that everyone has a story about playing with mercury without adverse effects. That single attitude has caused harm to many in Idaho. A few precautions can help keep the incident small and inexpensive. If in doubt, call State Comm and ask them to contact Idaho DEQ and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security for advice.

For more information:

EPA: <http://www2.epa.gov/mercury/forms/contact-us-about-mercury-your-environment>

Idaho DEQ: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/hazardous-waste/mercury/>

Idaho Power Officials tour Idaho Emergency Operations Center (IDEOC)



Boise - Idaho Power officials, including former IBHS Director Bill Shawver, tour the IDEOC. EOC Manager Cherylyn Murphy introduces staff and reservists and explains the roles and functions of each area.

IBHS Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Rob Mace being named the IBHS Employee of the Quarter. Rob is the Project Manager tasked with managing the State and Local Implementation Grants Program (SLIGP) and the organizational outreach of the involvement in

FirstNet, a federally funded national mobile broadband communications program. Rob is also a member of the Idaho Army National Guard, serving as a Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CW2) Aviator, and flies the Apache Attack Helicopter. Rob has demonstrated a keen ability to learn quickly and is consistently one of the bureau's top performers. Rob's contributions and accomplishments are numerous and his willingness to help others, with a positive attitude will keep him successful wherever he is assigned. Rob eagerly accepts additional responsibilities and exhibits initiative and outstanding decision-making abilities. IBHS leadership never hesitates to task him with anything and everything and he always excels. Rob is a true professional in everything he does and well respected throughout the organization.



Call 800-223-1661

FEMA Region 10 Congressional Briefing

Boise - IBHS Director Brad Richy welcomes Idaho's Congressional Delegation and lawmakers from northern Idaho to the March 29, 2016 FEMA Congressional Briefing at Gowen Field. Federal Coordinating Officer Dolph Diemont outlined the joint work accomplished by the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and FEMA Region 10 to secure assistance for northern Idaho communities affected by severe weather events that led to two Presidential Disaster Declarations.



FEMA Partners with IBHS in Service to Northern Idaho

While FEMA maintains a strong collaborative partnership with the State of Idaho on initiatives to promote disaster preparedness and help make communities safer and stronger, federal disaster declarations in the State are relatively rare. In fact, the assistance we are providing in northern Idaho for the November and December storms is the first under major disaster declarations since May 2011.

While this infrequent need for major disaster assistance from FEMA is good news for Idaho's residents and communities, the lack of "practice" working with FEMA means that many of our current applicants were largely unfamiliar with our programs, policies and procedures.

Getting Public Assistance (PA) funds awarded to eligible state, local, and tribal governments, as well as to certain private non-profit applicants — including the area's four major power suppliers, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the North Kootenai Water District, the Coeur d'Alene School District and Kootenai County, among several others — has required steady communication and cooperation among all recovery partners, including the applicants themselves. It is they, after all, who are doing the heavy lift of documenting all of their eligible disaster-related expenses and working closely with us for reimbursements.

By providing this supplemental financial assistance for response and recovery activities, FEMA's PA program directly supports those who help protect lives and property during hazardous events, as well as expediting power restoration, roadway clearance, and repair of damaged infrastructure in order to quickly return communities to

normalcy. Additionally, the grants that are made available to the state under our PA and Hazard Mitigation programs help to minimize the risk of loss of life and property in future disasters.

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security's commitment to the disaster-affected communities and to forging a strong partnership with FEMA has smoothed the way for efficient and productive recovery operations under the PA program. It has been a true pleasure working with IBHS Director Brad Richy and the two top-notch appointed State Coordinating Officers, Jay Baker and Dale Nalder.

By Dolph A. Diemont
FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer



Declaration Summaries

Event: Nov. 17, 2015, storm and straight-line winds
Major Disaster Declaration: Dec. 23, 2015
Designated: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary and Kootenai counties and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.
FEMA Programs: Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Event: Dec. 16-27, 2015, severe storms
Major Disaster Declaration: Feb. 1, 2016
Designated: Benewah, Bonner and Kootenai counties.
FEMA Programs: Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program



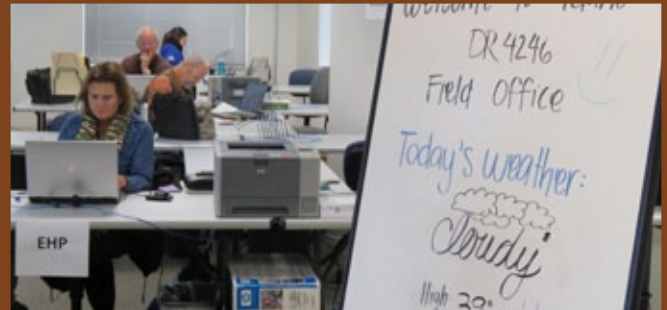
IBHS Northern Idaho Area Field Officer Jay Baker, serving as State Coordinating Officer for one of two Presidential Disaster Declarations addresses JFO staff



FEMA Corp Students at Coeur d' Alene JFO



Coeur d'Alene Joint Field Office - Jarod Dick, IBHS Recovery Coordinator and Dale Nalder, IBHS Southwest Idaho Area Field Officer begin work on securing grant funding for communities affected by a severe snow storm.



January 19, 2016 FEMA Joint Field Office (JFO) in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The JFO was set up to support four northern Idaho counties that sustained significant infrastructure damage following the November 17, 2015 wind storm and a December 2016 severe winter storm.

NORTHERN LIGHTS TESTIMONIAL

As a public non-profit electric cooperative serving 18,000 people in northern Idaho we are committed to providing excellent service to our members. The November windstorm and the December snowstorm caused significant damage to our infrastructure. The Presidential Disaster declarations for both weather events allows us to use the funding we receive to restore our facilities. The February Applicant Briefing at ITD in Coeur d'Alene gave us one-on-one access to officials from both FEMA Region X and subject matter experts from the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. The meeting gave us an opportunity to ask questions, familiarize ourselves with the process and engage with the teams we will be working with. Both the FEMA Region X and the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security teams have been exceptional partners during this process.

Annie Terracciano
General Manager
Northern Lights, Inc.

KOOTENAI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TESTIMONIAL

As CFO for Kootenai Electric Cooperative, I attended the FEMA kick-off meeting on February 11th. Given that we had recently been through the process addressing a similar storm a month earlier, much of the material in the meeting was a review of prior information. Hearing the process a second time and having an opportunity to discuss and ask questions of the officials who will be processing our funding assistance requests was beneficial for me. The process of requesting, supporting and ultimately receiving FEMA funding is complex and tedious. In order for a co-op like Kootenai to provide the necessary information to the decision makers it is important to fully understand the process guided by the Stafford Act. The meeting included officials both from the federal branch and state employees from Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. Having an opportunity to freely discuss the data issues we face with these federal and state representatives allowed the co-op group to build a common understanding as to the process we should follow in developing the cost of our service restoral efforts following the storm. That in turn should increase our probability of receiving the funding the member-owners of our co-op are entitled to.

Terence D Robinson CPA, MBA
CFO
Kootenai Electric Cooperative

Early Warm Weather Creates Hazards

A few warm and sunny days and a robust fishing season bring many visitors to the lower elevations front-country on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. Recreationists encounter breathtaking views, crystal clear waters, world class fishing, and numerous wildlife. They may also encounter a variety of hazards caused by this past season's wildfires and recent wetting rains.



The Tepee Springs Fire perimeter is located and falls within the boundaries of both the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and the Payette National Forest. The photos were taken on the Main Salmon River Road, FS Road #1614.

It's unusual to ask visitors to consider the hazards of wildland fire in March, but many post-fire hazards exist. The safety of our visitors and employees is very important to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

These photos, taken recently in the Tepee Springs fire perimeter, are reminders that visitors should use caution while visiting areas that have experienced fire activity.

Rolling rocks and debris are common in fire areas where foliage is no longer present to hinder their descent. When you enter a burned area, treat it as if you have never been there. Conditions change minute to minute in recently burned areas, especially in the springtime. Consider alternative routes and their current availability. If the location you are recreating in doesn't have a second route be prepared with the appropriate gear. Have a solid check in plan as well. No one will come to your aid if they don't know you're in trouble.

Other hazards may include:

- Thunderstorms, long duration storms, and rain-on-snow events can produce debris flows which may occur throughout the burned areas and downstream of these areas. These debris flows are dangerous for anyone caught in their path.
- Snags and woody debris can clog culverts and bridges which may wash out those structures.
- Floating and submerged logs may pose extreme hazards to boaters, rafters, and waders.
- Trees may fall at any time, but are especially susceptible to failure during high wind and/or heavy rain or snow.



Falls Point Road, FS road #443, is located on the Moose Creek District on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The road is accessed from the Selway Road, FS road #223, and begins at their junction.

In addition to the widely publicized State Highway 14 slide, an additional slide on Forest Service road 443, Falls Point road, was discovered March 1. The slide closed the road to all traffic. Prior to the slide, the road was open to vehicles less than 50 inches. Falls Point road falls within the 2015 Wash Fire perimeter. Although the burned landscape contributed to the slide, spring rains and run-off were also contributing factors.

Visitors are encouraged to contact your local Forest Service office or check our website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/nezperceclearwater/alerts-notice> for the most current road conditions and closures.

Jeannette Dreadfulwater
US Forest Service

FirstNet Planning For Idaho Moves Forward

The FirstNet Planning Committee for Idaho held the second State consultation with FirstNet on March 2nd at Boise Centre. FirstNet is a



federally funded national mobile broadband communications program. Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Director Brad Richy introduced members of the FirstNet team from Reston, Virginia who briefed Idaho's public safety representatives on objectives, dates, and proposals concerning the ongoing implementation of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. Mike Boyden, with Science Applications International Corporation, provided an overview of the recently released Request for Proposal (RFP) issued to potential vendors. Mike's briefing

covered the basics of what public safety can expect from FirstNet's RFP including: What will I get? How much will it cost? Where can I use it? When can I have it? Great questions were offered from the audience, making the meeting not only informative but collaborative as well. We look forward to working with Idaho's excellent public safety stakeholders in the months ahead.

For more information on FirstNet please contact IBHS FirstNet Project Manager Rob Mace at rmace@bhs.idaho.gov

WebEOC questions? IBHS Has Answers

One of the strengths of WebEOC, the state of Idaho's emergency information sharing platform, is the large number of emergency management personnel across Idaho who utilize this essential tool.

Traveling around Idaho and demonstrating how WebEOC can be an important resource has been critical to the widespread embrace of the program throughout the state.

With each presentation to a new group that number grows. We are pleased to announce that outreach is growing beyond Idaho counties and tribes to the private

sector, specialized organizations like Public Information Officer (PIO) groups and to our neighboring states including Utah and Washington.

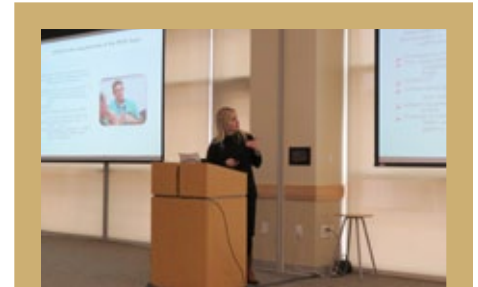
This growing awareness and appreciation of



Communications and Public Information professionals from Southeastern Idaho gather at INL for a regular regional meeting to discuss best practices and new developments in the external communications field.

WebEOC would not have been as successful without "in person" visits to conduct introductory presentations, training and exercise support.

IBHS will continue to provide this support



IBHS Public Affairs Officer Elizabeth Duncan, briefs southeastern Idaho Public Information and Communications professionals on the role and capabilities of the Idaho PIER Team.

for counties, tribes, agencies and other organizations.

If you need assistance with training or exercises, need a general introductory or a refresher presentation please feel free to contact the WebEOC Administrator at kdehart@bhs.idaho.gov.

Karl DeHart
Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
WebEOC Statewide Administrator
208-869-1404 Cell
www.bhs.idaho.gov



Karl DeHart, WebEOC Statewide Administrator

Landslide continued from pg. 1 »

Rugged terrain, inclement weather, and worker safety complicated the cleanup process. During a public meeting March 10, ITD committed to opening a temporary route to provide essential services and medical assistance. ITD has opened access across the slide over weekends, at noon, and all night.

A contractor from Airway Heights, WA, began working on the slide Friday, March 11 and will work daylight hours (approximately 12 hours per day) seven days a week to return the route to travel as quickly as safely possible.

"A natural disaster of this magnitude has immediate and long-term impacts on citizens who depend on transportation to maintain their lifestyles. We know the rockslide has caused major hardships for those who live in Elk City and other rural communities," said ITD's District 2 Engineer David Kuisti.

"We appreciate their continued patience and

perseverance. That speaks volumes about their independence and self-reliance, which are necessary attributes for living in the remote region."

Nearly a dozen local, state and federal agencies have been involved in the response.

The entire process continues to be a collaborative effort of nearly a dozen local, state and federal agencies.



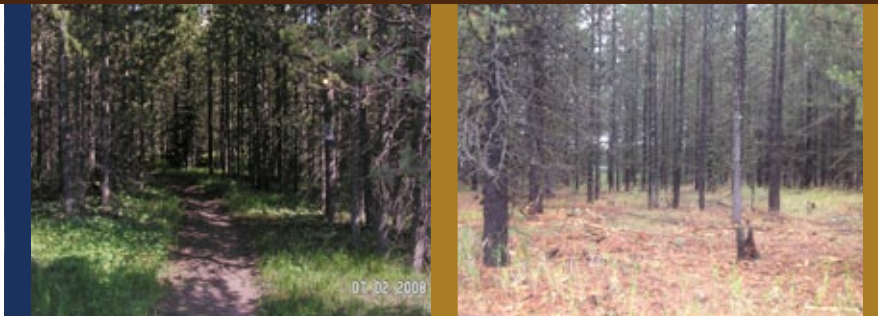
**Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
4040 W. Guard Street
Boise, Idaho 83705**

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANTS AVAILABLE

Here's something you don't hear very often: There is a significant increase in the amount of FY 2016 funding. On March 1st, IBHS announced the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant program to tribal, state, and local governments. This grant opportunity is available through the Federal Emergency Management

Agency and includes Pre-disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance funding for planning and projects to provide risk reduction from natural hazards. PDM will be \$90,000,000 nationwide with a baseline of \$575,000 per state, FMA funds will be \$199,000,000 nationwide.

We encourage applications for eligible projects listed in the approved tribal/county All Hazard Mitigation Plans. The number of applications



Harriman State Park Mitigation project – Before/After

The Before photo to the left shows an overgrown lodge pole stand that needed thinning to reduce fire dangers. The After picture shows the thinned area that mitigates the fire danger and makes the area more manageable during wildfire season.

per state are limited to 10 mitigation planning and 8 project applications. The FY 2016 PDM priorities are climate resilient mitigation actions, pre- or post-wildfire mitigation activities, or any mitigation action that utilizes green infrastructure approaches.

Letters of Intent were due to IBHS March 31, 2016. Applications are due in the FEMA eGrants portal May 18, 2016. IBHS Points of Contact for questions are Susan Cleverley (208-258-6545) scleverley@bhs.idaho.gov; or Mary Mott (208-258-6521) mmott@contractor.bhs.idaho.gov.