Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2010

Federal Disaster Declared for Spring Flooding

The first days of June brought a storm system that caused significant damage in several Idaho counties, and those counties are still working to recover from the disaster. According to the National Weather Service, a deep plume of moisture resembling an atmospheric river extended in an unbroken stream from near the Philippines across the central Pacific Ocean ending in Oregon and into Idaho where it dumped 2 to 6 inches of rain. This phenomena is sometimes referred to as a "Pineapple Express" due to the tropical origin of the moisture. Melting high elevation snow combined with the heavy rain to further enhance the storm runoff.

As the rain pounded the area and the water rose local officials took action to make sure their citizens were safe, and in some instances first responders and local officials were required to conduct evacuations and rescues. Immediately after the storm passed emergency managers, first responders and road departments began assessing their damage, a process that was hindered by eroded roads and high water. What they found was that the heavy rain had caused an intense runoff that had created piles of debris and washed out roads, bridges and culverts. Some areas also saw damage to their recreational areas and water treatment facilities.

Photo: Robert Feeley, BHS

Idaho County had some of the most severe damage from washed out roads

Based on the damage, ten counties declared local disaster declarations and seven of those requested the state declare a disaster on their behalf. Governor Otter understood the damage and issued a State Disaster Declaration in support of the Lewis, Idaho, Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette and Gem Counties. As the state declaration process engaged, BHS began working with the local jurisdictions to monitor the situation and assess needs.

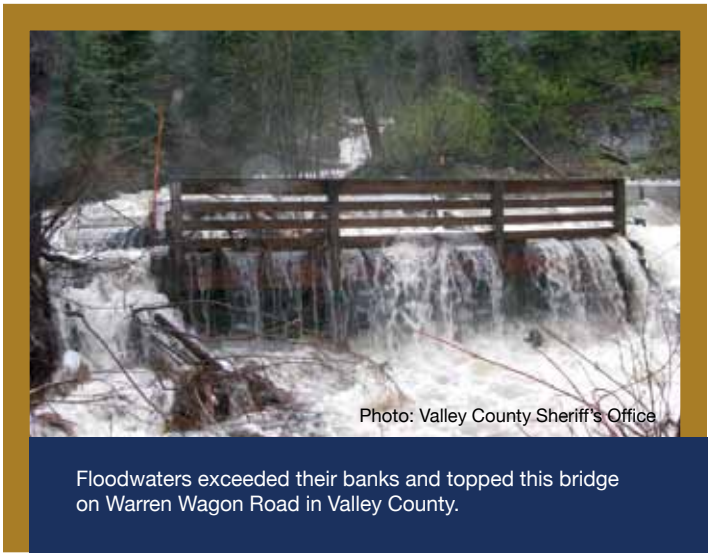

Photo: Valley County Sheriff's Office

Floodwaters exceeded their banks and topped this bridge on Warren Wagon Road in Valley County.

The Idaho Emergency Operations Center (IDEOC) was activated and Command and general staff participated in an Incident Action Planning meeting at 10 a.m. each day. As a result, an Incident Action plan (IAP) was produced by noon each day for the operational period. Based on that meeting and the IAP, a daily situation report and executive summary was produced to keep all informed of what had taken place and what was planned. IDEOC management augmented staffing by reaching out to staff and community partners volunteering to work in the IDEOC and shadow in their assigned role. In the event an incident occurs that requires extended operations, cross-training to cover positions on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis is critical.

The week of July 5-9 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) came to Idaho to conduct a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment to determine if the affected jurisdictions met the threshold for federal disaster assistance. The assessment conducted by federal, state and local officials confirmed that Idaho had met the threshold for federal assistance. After Governor Otter was informed of the Preliminary Damage Assessment results, he submitted a request, through the Regional FEMA Administrator's Office, for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. This request was approved on July 27, and within days FEMA Region X formed a Joint Field Office in Boise. Currently federal, state and local officials are developing projects to repair the damaged public infrastructure and to restore it to the condition it was before the unexpected flooding event.

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While we are now in fire season, several counties are working to recover from the damage incurred during this spring's flooding. We at the state are working to support those jurisdictions in their recovery efforts and are facilitating federal disaster assistance to the affected counties. In addition to the recovery operations, we are monitoring the wildland fire season and continuing our efforts to bring grant funding to Idaho.

The storms of early June brought heavy rainfall and significant damage to several counties in north central and southwest Idaho. Seven counties declared local disaster declarations and requested support from the state. In support of those requests we activated the Idaho Emergency Operations Center and staffed it full time. Due to the magnitude of the damage, Idaho sought federal assistance for the recovery and rebuilding of what was damaged. FEMA Region Ten came to Idaho the week of July 5-9 to conduct a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment and confirmed damages met the threshold for federal assistance. Governor Otter requested a Major Disaster Declaration to support the recovery, and that request was approved on July 27. Currently FEMA has established a Joint Field Office in Boise to coordinate rebuilding the damaged public infrastructure.

While we are picking up the pieces from flooding, we are also keeping a keen eye on our wildland fire season. The cool spring may have delayed the fire season, but the warm winter helped to create conditions for a significant season. Already this year we have had several fires in the southern part of the state, to include a 109,000 acre fire on the Idaho Nuclear Laboratory facility. Long term projections from the National Interagency Fire Center have indicated Idaho may see an increased fire activity this year. BHS continues to monitor the statewide situation as well as prepare to support local jurisdictions that may need assistance.

The federal Department of Homeland Security has announced awards for the fiscal year 2010 State Homeland Security Grant Program. Idaho has been notified that we will be awarded $6,613,200, which is similar to the amount received last fiscal year. Another victory in the funding department is the award of the Emergency Operations Center Grant to Valley County in the amount of $773,913. Valley County's application scored well during the national review process, and their hard work has provided the means to enhance their EOC operations.

Your feedback is important to us as we continue to strive to provide seamless support to you during all phases of emergency management. Please feel free to contact me (bshawver@bhs.idaho.gov) or any member of the Bureau of Homeland Security team if you have ideas on how we can better support you or our state in emergency and disaster preparedness, response or recovery.

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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Clandestine Methamphetamine/Drug Labs

For public safety, it is important to be able to recognize a clandestine drug lab. A Clandestine Meth/Drug Laboratory is a site where meth has been, or was attempted to be made, processed, cooked, disposed of, or stored. Illegal meth labs are often found in homes, campgrounds, rest areas, rental properties, motel rooms, abandoned cars, garages, storage sheds, barns, vacant buildings, travel trailers, boxes, backpacks and even two (2) liter pop/water bottles. Fifty percent of the incidents the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) has received hazmat response cost recovery packets for in 2010 have been for clandestine drug labs.

BHS receives cost recovery requests for the initial response to these incidents but other costs may include:

- Cleanup
- Prosecution/Incarceration of the manufacturers, dealers and users
- Treatment for abusers

Methamphetamine Facts

What is methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine is a powerfully addictive stimulant that dramatically affects many areas of the central nervous system. It can be easily be made in illegal, clandestine laboratories from relatively inexpensive over-the-counter ingredients and can be purchased at a relatively low cost. These factors make methamphetamine a drug with a high potential for widespread abuse. Some of the common terms for methamphetamine are speed, meth, and chalk. In its smoked form it is often referred to as “ice,” “crystal,” “glass,” “crank” and “tina.”

Many common household products are the main ingredients

Meth continued on pg. 7 »

Responding to clandestine methamphetamine labs require responders to take a high level of precaution

IDAHO citizen corps

The mission of Citizens Corps and Community Preparedness in Idaho is to build capable communities and ensure resiliency to disasters through education of individuals and families to ensure they have the tools and abilities to withstand disasters. When disasters strike it has been well documented that the “first responder” is most likely not our local Police Department, Fire Station, or EMT unit, but rather our family and/or neighbors. In 2003 the National Fire Protection Association reported that there was 1 firefighter for every 265 people. Given this statistic, individuals and families should be prepared to be self reliant for at least the first 72 hours. This means having supplies set aside in the form of a “kit” that would include but not limited to items such as one gallon of water per person per day; non-perishable but nutritious food supplies, battery operated radio, toiletry items, medications, and if an animal is part of the family then food and supplies for them as well.

Building resilient Idaho communities is achieved through mitigation and education that places emphasis back on the individual and family to assist local first responders in sustaining critical capabilities and restore essential services in a timely manner. The Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Report published by FEMA February 2010 states, “Private individuals, communities, and other nongovernmental actors must be empowered to take action. The American people hold a strong sense of community, a belief in collective responsibility, and a willingness to do what is required of them to contribute to our common security and sustain our way of life.” That can be witnessed daily in communities a crossed Idaho; from our smallest to largest county.

Citizen Corps Councils are established throughout Idaho counties and make up citizen volunteer organizations such as Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT), Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS), USAonwatch.org (Neighborhood Watch), Medical Reserve Corps,

Citizen Corps continued on pg. 4 »

2011 Mitigation Application Season Nears

What are you doing to avoid future disaster related damage to your community?

The programs under FEMA's unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance provide an excellent opportunity to improve community safety and infrastructure by reducing vulnerability from natural hazards. This competitive process provided approximately $4.2 million from the 2010 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) cycle, and approximately $381,500 from the 2009 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) selected by FEMA for awards to local governments to complete mitigation projects and plan updates. Projects selected for awards out of these programs include mitigation plan updates, storm water management projects, bank stabilization, and wildfire mitigation projects.

How does my Community get a piece of the Action?

The process begins by submitting a Letter of Intent to the BHS Mitigation Section. This step notifies them that your community is interested in this opportunity, and helps them to review the project concept for eligibility and potential coordination and assistance needs. The BHS Mitigation Staff will then work with your jurisdiction to develop the application in FEMA's E-Grants System. BHS will compile the sub-grant applications from local government and submit the State's application by the deadline in early December.

Here are some important dates to keep in Mind for the 2011 Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation application cycles:

August 20, 2010: Letters of Intent are due to the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security.

September 22-24, 2010: Benefit Cost Analysis Training in Coeur d' Alene

November 5, 2010: Completed Applications are due to BHS in E-Grants

December 3, 2010: BHS Deadline to submit application to FEMA

BHS is also accepting applications under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for DR-1927. This program is made available under section 404 of the Stafford Act following a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States. This program provides funds to local governments for mitigation projects and mitigation planning. The cost share for this program is 75% federal funds, 15% State funds, and 10% local funds. Priority is given to those jurisdictions directly affected by the disaster, and priority is also given to flooding projects since flooding was the cause of the disaster.

The Letters of Intent, and additional information about these programs can be found at the following link to our website.

http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/FinanceAndLogistics/Grants/HazardMitigationAssistanceGrantProgram.aspx

Dave Jackson, SHMO discusses a mitigation project with Keith Richey, Fremont County Emergency Management Coordinator.

What help is available for developing our application?

BHS provides technical assistance to sub-grant applicants in several ways. First, our staff works directly with those jurisdictions who submit a letter of intent to assist them in developing a scope and by providing feedback on applications prior to submission to FEMA. BHS also provides technical assistance able by request and is available within the bounds of our limited funding for technical assistance.

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Citizen Corps continued from pg. 3 »

and Fire Corps. This umbrella of Citizen Corps Councils reach out to individuals, families, private business, and local government entities to teach the importance of preparedness and being part of the community emergency response movement through volunteerism.

The Citizen Corps National Survey published in June 2009 targeted 2,400 American households, including Idaho, and found that citizens had a strong desire to attend training courses and volunteer through social network forums, and that this desire should be "harnessed" through educating and encouraging everyone to prepare. Harnessing this desire happens through local governments collaborating with civic leaders to find "nongovernmental resources and assets in government plans and protocols, and engaging citizens in personal preparedness, exercises, ongoing volunteer programs, and surge capacity response."

Individuals and families should be prepared to be self-reliant for at 72 hours

Disasters can strike at anytime and having a plan and the tools in place to ensure the safety of yourself, your family, business, and community is crucial. Plans, kits, and being informed are not just for individuals and families but also for business owners and local government entities. Being a resilient Idaho community means putting together a 72 hour kit, making a plan, and staying informed of the threats from natural or manmade acts. For more information about building your kit please go to www.ready.gov.

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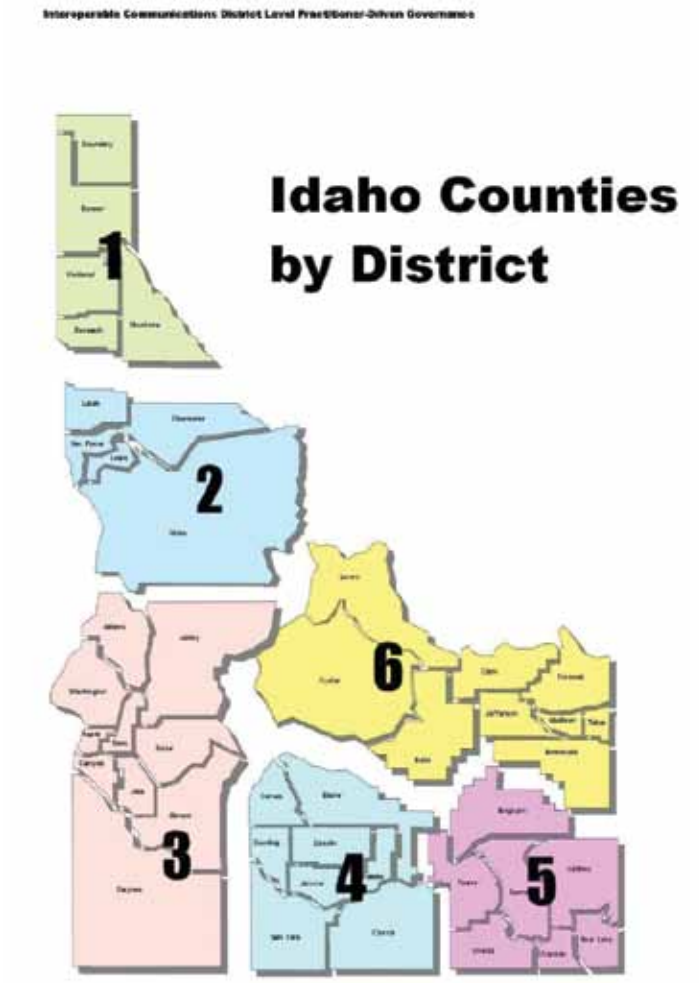
SIEC Moves Forward to the Next Phase

It has been almost a year since the first of several statewide governance meetings were held and we are pleased to report that significant progress has been made. Continued progress is a result of the SIEC and the Idaho state/local/tribal emergency response professionals who have collaborated and made statewide Interoperable Communications governance a reality.
Today all six (6) Districts in the state have a District Interoperability Governance Board (DIGB) with elected officers; each has finalized and adopted a formal charter and bylaws.



DIGB 1: Chair, Brad Coughenhour, Kootenai County 911 Director; Co-Chairs, Rob Weinclaw Coeur d'Alene Tribal Police Captain, John Specht Shoshone County Emergency Manager.

DIGB 2: Chair, Don Gardner, Clearwater County Emergency Manager; Co-Chair, Mel Johnson, Nez Perce County Emergency Manager.

DIGB 3: Chair, Darby Weston, Ada County Paramedics Deputy Director; Co-Chair, Lorraine Elfering, Canyon County Sheriff's Office Communications Manager.

DIGB 4: Chair, Char Nelson, Blaine County Operations Manager; Co-Chair Kevin Halverson, Minidoka County Sheriff; Secretary, Jeff Perry, City of Gooding Police Department Captain.

DIGB 5: Co-Chairs, Lorin Nielsen, Bannock County Sheriff; Mike Sanders, Bannock County Sheriff's Office Captain.

DIGB 6: Chair, Stacy Hyde, City of Ammon Fire Chief; Co-Chairs, Mike Talbot, Custer County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy and Len Humphries, Fremont County Sheriff; Secretary, Mike Miller, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Sergeant.

The past years accomplishments would not have been possible without the team work and cooperation which has taken place among all statewide shareholders.

The next phase in joint development at this time is the development of the Statewide Operations Plan and Business Model, these plans will provide for continuity of operations, maintenance and sustainability of the statewide systems across the state. These components will provide the means by which future funding sources and operational needs and improvements will be based upon for the statewide systems. Information and input from each of the DIGBs and our state and federal shareholders are being forwarded to the SIEC Technical Subcommittee Operational Planning Workgroup in order to updated the "Operational Needs and Technical Resources Assessment" conducted for the State of Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security in 2008. We hope to have the first draft of these plans by early fall of 2010 in order to have finished products in time for the 2011 Legislature's review.

The governance, operational plan and business model components once coupled with the continuing infrastructure improvements occurring across the state will bring all emergency responders closer to having a statewide system of interoperable communications in order to meet their needs for day to day response as well as coordinated responses during a catastrophic disaster anywhere within the state.

Additional information may be obtained at the SIEC website: http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Communications/IdahoSIEC.aspx or by contacting members of the DIGBs or SIEC. In addition you may contact Dodie Collier, SIEC Program Manager.

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Idaho Emergency Management Broadband Network

The Idaho Emergency Management Broadband Network has been a topic of discussion in the emergency management community over the past four years. The broadband project was funded in March of 2006 and finally coming on line. In late 2005, a partnership between the Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS), Idaho State Police (ISP), and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) resulted in an agreement to develop broadband connectivity between the partner agencies as well as each county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by leveraging existing broadband networks currently operating. Both ISP and ITD had networks that connect to law enforcement agencies as well as Motor Vehicles Division. Often the network equipment is housed in the County Courthouse, the same location of many County EOCs. These networks typically have excess capacity that can be used for an emergency management network that will allow a private network tunnel between county EOCs and the Idaho Emergency Operations Center (IDEOC).

Idaho Emergency Management

IDAHO BUREAU OF HOMELAND SECURITY
PREVENT PROTECT RESPOND RECOVER

Broadband Network

In 2006 the Department of Homeland Security offered a competitive grant program for States to submit investments based on a five year State Homeland Security Strategy. Idaho's Homeland Security Statewide Broadband Network Partnership Project Investment was submitted to DHS along with eight other investments. DHS returned the Idaho grant award with the following comment. "One Investment from the State of Idaho was noted to be among the top 15% of all 586 State Investment submitted, and has been noted as exceptional: 1. Homeland Security Statewide Broadband Network Partnership Project." To ensure the success of the broadband project, the county emergency managers agreed to participate in the network development costs by allocating their respective broadband funds back to the BHS to apply to the network development.

Many changes have occurred over the last four years, but the results are encouraging. The State Microwave Infrastructure was upgraded from analog system to a digital Internet Protocol (IP) system allowing ample capacity to support the EM Broadband Network. Using (licensed 4.9 GHz point to point and multipoint) radio technology, each County/Tribal EOC will have a minimum of a 10 MBS Ethernet connection to the Broadband Network. The network continues to share a common router and switch with the DMV network for redundancy. The primary path is back to the State Microwave residing on mountain tops and the State Microwave that has ample bandwidth to maintain the quality of service within required specifications.

As of July 2010, fourteen counties, sixteen BHS staff members have operational VoIP phones on their desks and twenty VoIP phones are operational in the IDEOC. Public Safety Communication is projecting all but six to seven counties will be operational by December. The group of six or seven counties has line of sight problems than need to be worked out before their connection is completed.

In the original HSGP Investment the broadband network was based on a shared 1.5 MBS connection through the ITD Division of Motor Vehicles Network. A 10 MBS ethernet connections opens a huge capacity capability for emergency managers. VoIP Phones will provide emergency managers voice communications to any other EM network VoIP phone. A complete directory of VoIP phones is available on the phone's color display. The features list is something to behold. For example, MeetMe feature allows users to setup a call where participants call a predetermined number you send out in advance. The invited callers use the MeetMe function and dial the access code and they can talk. Once the call starts the moderator can hang up without affecting the call. You can view the participants on the call using the phones touch screen display as well as remove participants from the call.

Office computers will communicate over the EM Broadband Network by using the network connection on the back of the VoIP phone. Users will then have a direct tunnel to WebEOC logins and the BHS network. Video conferencing from desktops is possible, not

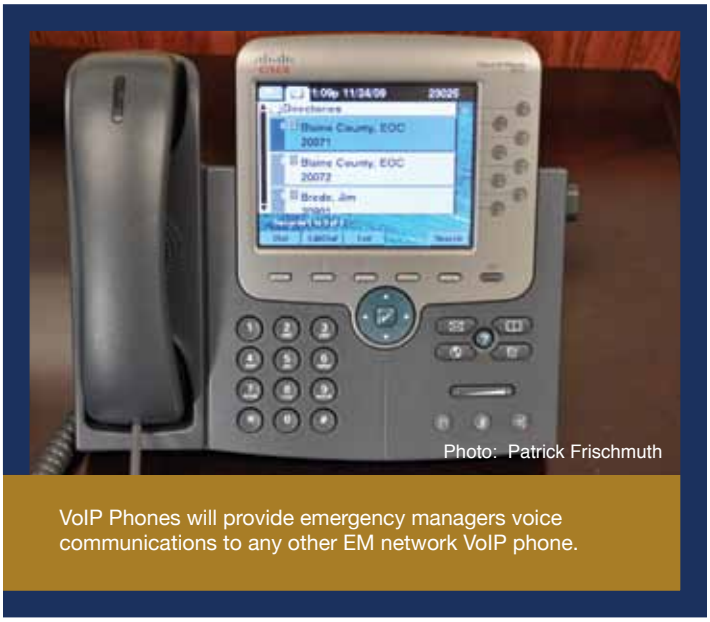

Photo: Patrick Frischmuth

VoIP Phones will provide emergency managers voice communications to any other EM network VoIP phone.

to mention full video conferencing capability with any other EM that has full video capabilities. A pilot project is underway with the FEMA Region X states and Montana to share a Common Operating Picture. As that capability comes online, county and city emergency services will be able to use the Broadband Network to share incident information on a common Geographic Information Platform. Sharing large GIS files and photographs between EOCs will become much easier.

Like any new system, there is going to be a learning curve for the users. Training on the equipment will be essential. BHS is looking to utilize our video conferencing capability to start regular training on all aspects of the new equipment. Regular testing or exercises will be scheduled for users so when the big one happens, you and your EOC teams are ready to work utilizing the Idaho Emergency Management Broadband Network.

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Meth continued from pg. 3 »

in meth, most notably over-the-counter (OTC) medicines containing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine.

Ingredients commonly used in methamphetamine production include:

- Acetone
- Anhydrous ammonia (fertilizer)
- Hydrochloric acid (pool supply)
- Iodine (flakes or crystal)
- Lithium (batteries)
- Pseudoephedrine (cold medications)
- Red phosphorus (matches or road flares)
- Sodium hydroxide (lye)
- Sulfuric acid (drain cleaner)
- Toluene (brake cleaner)

How is methamphetamine used?

Methamphetamine can be smoked, snorted, orally ingested, or injected. The drug alters moods in different ways, depending on how it is taken. Immediately after smoking the drug or injecting it intravenously, the user experiences an intense rush or "flash" that lasts only a few minutes and is described as extremely pleasurable. Snorting or oral ingestion produces euphoria - a high but not an intense rush. Snorting produces effects within 3 to 5 minutes, and oral ingestion produces effects within 15 to 20 minutes.

Manufacturing/distribution:

- 15% of methamphetamine production is accounted for by "mom and pop" labs found all over the country with primary concentration in West, Pacific Northwest and Midwest in rural areas.
- Small, portable labs that can be easily moved and established in small spaces such as trailers, motel rooms, barns and basements are also used.
- Another method is the Shake-and-bake: a two-liter soda bottle, a few handfuls of cold pills and some noxious chemicals. Shake the bottle and the volatile reaction produces one of the world's most addictive drugs (meth).

If you suspect a clandestine drug lab may be in your area, stay away and contact your local law enforcement agency.

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WILDFIRE MAPPING

The spring flooding season is over, and it is time to start thinking about fires. At the Bureau of Homeland Security, we monitor the fire situation throughout the year. We examine past-years fires during both fire and flood season, due to the fact that vegetation and soil changes affect the potential for new fires, and the intensity and probability of flash flooding. The GIS Unit relies heavily on its partners from NIFC, the BLM, and other state, tribal and local agencies that monitor and report on fires. We look at winter snowpack, stream gauges, weather patterns, and review a vast amount of pre-season analysis done by the National Weather Service, the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and others.

The GIS Unit of the Emergency Operations Center provides mapping and analysis of fire locations, the rate/distance a fire has spread, and possible impact to facilities such as homes, businesses, utilities and roads. This information is used by the Plans Section Chief to brief senior management, by the Predictive Services Unit to provide decision support information, by the Situation Unit to provide a detailed and measurable status in Situation Report, and is provided via WebEOC for consumption by State and County agencies.

There are many internet sites available to the public that provide fire maps and information. For a general overview of the fires throughout the U.S., the NIFC Current Large Incidents map is a valuable resource that is viewable online and is also in a printable PDF format. The link for this map is: http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

Wildfire continued on pg. 8 »

The Geospatial Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (GeoMAC) is a valuable resource for viewing up to date fire maps (GeoMAC)

Wildfire continued from pg. 7 »

Another valuable resource for viewing up-to-date fire mapping is the GeoMAC Wildland Fire Support Viewer. The Geospatial Multi-Agency Coordination Group (GeoMAC) is an internet-based mapping application that uses a standard web browser. Fire perimeter data is updated daily based upon input from incident intelligence sources, GPS data, infrared (IR) imagery from fixed wing and satellite platforms. The GeoMAC web site allows users to manipulate the map, zoom in and out to display fire information at various scales and detail, and print hard copy maps for use in fire information and media briefings. The fire maps also have relational databases in which the user can display information on individual fires such as name of the fire, current acreage and other fire status information. Optional map layers include Current Fires, Fire Perimeters, Thermal Imagery (hot spots), Past Fires, and base mapping that includes Imagery, US Topo maps, and Street Maps. It is a very useful and quick resource to have bookmarked in your arsenal of internet sites. The link for this mapping site is http://wildfire.cr.usgs.gov/geomac_beta/viewer.shtml.

One final resource that provides not only printable maps, but fire incident information, road closures, news releases and photographs is the Incident Information System (InciWeb), provided by the US Forest Service (www.inciweb.org). It was developed to provide the public a single source of incident related information and to provide a standardized reporting tool for the public affairs community. Information is updated frequently, often times hourly if the fire is very active.

These are just a few of the resources used by the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security to download, analyze, and provide situational awareness during the fire season. We will be working with our partners to provide the most timely and accurate information available. Our website, www.bhs.idaho.gov will also provide situational updates on fires in Idaho. We hope that you find these links helpful in preparing for, and monitoring the wildfire season.

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Getting the Word on the Street: Idaho Has a Fusion Center

It may not be a well-known fact, but the State of Idaho has a Fusion Center and its' name is the Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center. The Center's mission is direct and to the point: to protect the citizens and critical infrastructures of Idaho by enhancing the coordination and communication of information among local, tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to maximize the goal of improving law enforcement, first responder, citizens and community safety. This mission will be accomplished by integrating, analyzing, producing, and disseminating actionable criminal intelligence in combating terrorism through an all crimes approach.

The Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center is entering its second year of operations, has provided over 1,000 intelligence products in support of agencies across the State, been an active participant in hundreds of investigations, significantly increased the intelligence/information sharing capabilities of the first-responder community, and enhanced cross border communications with our neighboring States, but still we are finding that many infrastructure owners and the citizenry of our State do not know this most valuable asset exists to help protect our State and Nation.

Over the past couple of months we have had several occasions in which an incident took place at Federal Critical Infrastructure Sites and it was not reported to the Fusion Center or local law enforcement until a week or longer after the event took place. This is not to say that the asset owners did not report it through their own security personnel, because all did that. However, by the time the Fusion Center found out about the information and involved the key investigating agencies (FBI, local jurisdictions, State Police) the information was dated and offend trails had gone cold.

With this in mind the Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center is launching an information campaign to ensure that our citizenry and critical infrastructure owners know that the Center exists and is there to provide timely support. This is being done by several avenues: an information pamphlet, website links, and briefings to private asset owners and operators on the Fusion Center and its capabilities. Remember please report any suspicious activity to your local law enforcement or to the Center at: (208) 846-7676.

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HAZ MAT WEEK 2010

What do you do to stay competent dealing with a multitude of chemical/biological problems from household products to weapons of mass destruction? How do you make sure you comply with the federal law requiring annual competency in responding to hazardous materials emergencies? How do you make sure you are current on the constantly advancing technology in detecting, identifying, and mitigating hazardous materials incidents? In Idaho, the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams (RRT's) call it "Haz Mat Week".

The concept started in Region 4 – Boise Fire Department, as a way of providing skill update, refresher, and competence at responding to hazardous materials emergencies. After sharing this event with the other six Regional Response Teams during team leader meetings and training committee meetings, the other RRT's began to adopt this idea. Working together, the current annual week long training session for the seven (7) Idaho RRT's, and participants from other states and organizations was created.

The first annual Haz Mat Week event was held at Gowen Field in April of 2009. About 55 participants attended and enjoyed the concept. Approximately 89 participants attended the second annual Haz Mat Week recently held at Gowen Field. Again everyone was impressed by the concept and content.

The third annual Haz Mat Week is already in the planning stage and should be the best ever.

Courses for the 2010 Haz Mat Week included the Tank Truck Rollover Course instructed by Northwest Haz Mat Inc. This was a hands-on course that included tank truck design, tank truck anatomy, safety controls and shut-offs, vehicle stabilization, grounding and bonding,

Fred Turley of Boise Fire Department, teaches students how to use reference materials to aid in the selection of personal protective gear.

spill containment and control, tank off-loading/drilling, and scene safety. The Haz Cat Course (unknown chemical identification) was instructed by the Environmental Protection Agency and covered the field identification of solid and liquid unknowns through a series of field tests. It included the 10 Step System, the orange box, and the various basic tests that support chemical identification. This was a hands-on course and lasted for two days. Other subjects covered included air monitoring, analyzers, plug and patch techniques sampling techniques, mercury response, bridge calls, ICS forms, decontamination (technical, patient, and mass casualty), personal protective equipment (PPE) selection and resource use, and chlorine kits.

On the final day of Haz Mat Week 2010, a unique opportunity was offered to the participants. Three of the original developers of the Idaho Haz Mat System gave the students a historical perspective of where we started and where we are today. Bill Fruetel (Federal EPA, retired), Bill Bishop (former director of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, and the former Bureau of Haz Mat), and Jennie Rylee (original State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) chair and former Haz Mat Coordinator for Boise FD), spoke from their unique points of view. This kind of perspective was very valuable for the participants. Haz Mat Week 2010 was deemed a success by all the participants, and all are looking forward to next year.

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Thank you Mietta for your genuine smile and helpful demeanor you showed every day.

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security would like to wish Mietta Sibert a fond farewell as she has decided to leave her position as the State Training Specialist. For nearly 10 years, Mietta has been an essential member of our team. Mietta joined the state in January 2001as an Emergency Management Specialist under the Bureau of Disaster Services. Mietta has proven herself to be a subject matter expert in the field of first responder and emergency management training. She has spent the past 10 years building relationships with training providers and students across the state and nation. BHS would like to acknowledge Mietta's skill set as a highly detailed, organized individual. Many of the essential tasks Mietta performed for BHS and our customers are unseen and all too often unrecognized. Mietta deserves our gratitude and praise for a job well done time and time again. Her professional experience, constructive nature, and charismatic personality will be missed. Mietta's dedication and professionalism have been instrumental in preparing emergency responders and receivers for any and all types of incidents. We wish Mietta happiness and health as she embarks on her next journey.

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The State Preparedness Report

On May 14, 2010 the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) completed and submitted the State Preparedness Report (SPR) to the Department of Homeland Security. The SPR is a congressionally mandated annual reporting requirement, under the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, that requires States to self-assess their current level of preparedness.

Measuring preparedness has been a moving target as the SPR reporting requirements have changed each of the past three years. In prior years, States were asked to provide SPR data through time-consuming, narrative reports that accessed levels of preparedness as compared to the eight National Preparedness Priorities. This year, States were required to report its level of preparedness in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS), Target Capability List (TCL) utilizing a web-based and primarily quantitative survey tool. In this new form, the SPR survey has the look and feel of the web-based National Incident Management System Compliance Assistance Support Tool (NIMSCAST), with which most respondents are already familiar.

BHS performed a capability assessment to measure overall levels of preparedness for each TCL capability by rating Idaho's ability to perform individual capability activities on a 10-point scale. The capability assessment was completed by a designated user (BHS SPR coordinator), with input from numerous state and local subject matter experts (SMEs). BHS facilitated a self-assessment of the levels of target capabilities (TCs) and associated activities the state currently possesses, compared to the desired DHS target level for that TC. The difference between these two levels (current and desired) may or may not call for improvement, depending on the extent of the difference and the priorities of the State.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8: National Preparedness (HSPD-8) calls for a National Preparedness Goal that establishes measurable priorities, targets, and a common approach to developing preparedness capabilities. The National Preparedness Goal utilizes a capabilities-based planning approach to help answer the questions "how prepared are we?" "how prepared do we need to be?" and "how do we prioritize efforts to close the gap?" A central objective of capabilities-based planning is the identification of target levels of capabilities that federal, state, local, and tribal entities should achieve to perform critical tasks for homeland security missions. Capabilities are combinations of resources that provide the means to achieve a measurable outcome resulting from performance of one or more critical tasks, under specified conditions and performance standards. Version 2.0 of the TCL identifies 37 target capabilities.

How does this all fit into the "Big Picture?" Capabilities-based planning is all-hazards planning. The Goal's approach focuses efforts on identifying and developing the critical capabilities from the TCL to perform the critical tasks from the Universal Task List for the National Planning Scenarios. The Scenarios provide common planning factors in terms of the potential scope, magnitude, and complexity of major events that will help to determine the target levels of capability required and apportion responsibility among all potential partners. Developing appropriate capabilities to address this range of scenarios will help to prepare the Nation for terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

How does the SPR Survey benefit State, tribal, and local practitioners? Through completion of the SPR Survey, State, tribal, and local jurisdictions will obtain a clearer picture of their preparedness levels for all-hazards events, a more objective assessment of their capability shortfalls based on national benchmarks, and a stronger understanding of what their priorities should be to address preparedness gaps.

A copy of the recently released Nationwide Plans Review can be viewed at: http://www.iaem.com/committees/governmentaffairs/documents/FEMANationwidePlansReview15July2010.pdf

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Photo: BHS

A State receiving Federal preparedness assistance administered by the Department shall submit a report to the Administrator on the State's level of preparedness

PSC News for August

Public Safety Communications has again hit the ground running and another summer is here. We PSC has many important projects and the opportunity to provide communications services to our many customers for interoperable communications systems. We are always striving to increase our services and systems for all our customers. We here at Public Safety Communications (PSC) are currently working on a wide spectrum of projects to include the following: Emergency Alert System (EAS) upgrade, microwave backbone upgrade, 700 MHz infrastructure upgrade and the statewide broadband project. Along with the ongoing daily routines of keeping all the state agencies radio systems maintained and operated. As John Parker stated, "summer is always our busiest time, since many of our communication sites are just not accessible during the winter and spring months."

Over the past few months, PSC has upgraded five EAS systems throughout the state. These systems are critical for our first responders and are currently located at in Meridian, Kootenai County, Coeur d' Alene and in Bannock County.

Furthermore, PSC has been continuously working to upgrade the statewide microwave backbone, which consists of a northern portion as well as an eastern portion. The microwave upgrade is scheduled to be completed by December of this year. When completed the upgrade will provide the following; Multiple DS-3 capacity in support of Broadband, our partnership with Idaho Public Television in their transition to digital signals and completely Internet Protocol (I.P) systems for the public, additional capacity to support voice, and data services to state and other agencies along with connection to other states.

Another huge project PSC has been working on is the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) 700 MHz Project, scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2011. This project consists of multiple investments with the state being responsible for two of the ten investments. PSC is currently working on multisite 700 MHz installations throughout the state that will eventually include five more trunk sites. Additionally PSC will purchase equipment to support the State of Idaho Strategic Technology Reserves to fulfill additional project requirements.

Gem County Fire and Sheriff's Office Communications site located in Gem County

The highest profile project for PSC is currently the Statewide Broadband Project. This project will provide a secure, reliable and redundant communications platform capable of functioning during routine day-to-day operations as well as catastrophic events. When completed this system will provide a high-speed communications link from the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to the respective County/Tribal EOC's throughout the state. Additionally, the system will provide voice over internet protocol (V.O.I.P) voice services, secure data transmissions, along with the ability to join into a video conferencing system from the State EOC facilities to EOC centers and other locations. This project is working with local EOC managers and PSC and BHS personnel. Recently, working with Ms. Anita Taylor system equipment was installed at a site owned by Gem County Fire and at their EOC center. (see attached photo) This is just one example of the forward progress this project is doing. These connections, when completed to the county EOC facilities and to statewide EOC facilities will improve the ability for multiple forms of communications in both daily events as well as emergencies. We here at PSC has made significant progress on this project and should have a majority of the locations connected by the end of December 2010.

In closing, PSC is trying to complete as many of the projects and ongoing routines as we can before winter arrives again. Whether it is installing emergency communications equipment on state agency vehicles such as, State Police vehicles or troubleshooting a part of Idaho's critical communications infrastructure, PSC is committed to providing the best communications interoperability within the Nation.

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BHS runs successful test of the Idaho State Alert and Warning System (ISAWS)

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS), in cooperation with Bonner County Emergency management, The Bonner County Sheriff's Department, and the Bonner County Commissioners conducted a county wide test of the Idaho State Alert & Warning System (ISAWS) on May 14th of this year. Over 14,000 calls were placed to residents and businesses in Bonner County. Bonner County was invited to help develop and test the ISAWS system, along with Boise County.

A message advising the citizens of Bonner County that the system was being tested was originated at the Idaho Emergency Operations Center, located at Gowen Field in Boise. Local newspaper, radio, and television

Photo: Ward Noland

BHS recently conducted this ISAWS training for Kootenai County officials

stations alerted the public of the upcoming test in order to prevent unnecessary concern worry by Bonner County residents. County officials were notified well before the actual test date, and were pleased to participate in the testing.

The test took place shortly after 10 AM; the message was delivered to county residents and businesses via land lines and, in many cases, cell phones. The BHS received over 250 calls from citizens of Bonner County with questions following the test, with the vast majority of callers indicating that they were pleased with the system.

Brigadier General Bill Shawver, Director of the BHS, stated that he was "pleased that the State of Idaho is developing a robust system for public warnings" and that he was "very satisfied with the results of the test; the system worked as it was designed". Bob Howard, Emergency Management Coordinator for Bonner County, said that "Bonner County is pleased to have been offered the chance to participate in the testing of the ISAWS system; public warning is an integral part of the Emergency Management function, and ISAWS is a powerful mass notification system".

ISAWS is an internet based system that will allow emergency managers to alert citizens of an impending emergency situation in areas varying in size from a small community to the entire State of Idaho. Through voluntary enrollment, citizens can enroll for notifications via email, cell phones, PDA's, or other means of communication. Special needs residents can enroll and identify there particular special need, including the use of oxygen, service animals, wheelchair, or other needs, if they choose to do so. Messages will be able to be delivered in multiple languages in the future.

Idaho broadcasters will be included in the ISAWS system. Equipment will be provided to the broadcasters that will allow them transmit messages to the public via the ISAWS system if they choose to participate. This should allow for clearer message reception by the broadcasters, which will lead to better audio quality messages being delivered to the public, especially in the more rural areas of the state.

ISAWS is still in development, but the BHS believes that a full scale version of the program will be available state wide soon. Testing has gone well, and development of the program is on schedule.

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