

# Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

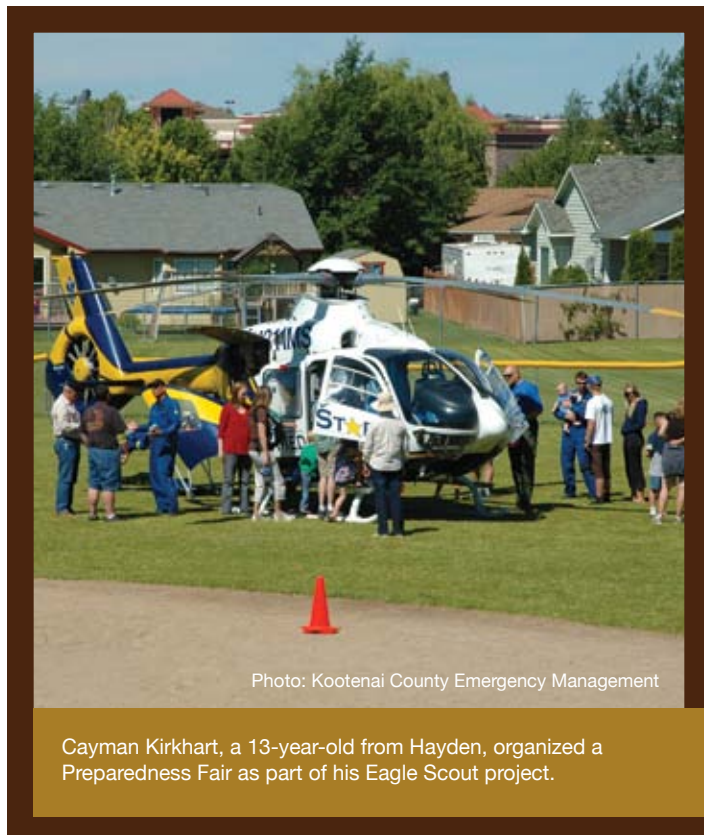
SUMMER 2011

## Idaho Kids and Preparedness

With today's technology kids, from the very young to those almost entering adulthood, are connected to the world and can become affected by disasters that happen 1000's of miles away from them. Young people are connected through texting, tweeting, facebook, and emails...information about what is happening in the world is traveling faster than the news media can report it. In this world of technology driving communication young people are becoming engaged in the process to prepare for emergencies and two of them live right here in Idaho.

Cayman Kirkhart is a 13-year-old from Hayden, who organized a Preparedness Fair as part of his Eagle Scout project. The fair was held July 9, 2011 at Finucane Park in Hayden and he called his fair "Be Prepared Day." Cayman's main goal was to "present information, strategies and lessons in how families and individuals can prepare themselves to survive disasters." Cayman organized the entire fair from finding a location, finding partners to participate, scheduling all demonstrations, ensuring the safety of those that participated, to the cleaning up once it was all done. The event took Cayman approximately eight months to organize and he gained participation from

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## Friedman Memorial Airport Full Scale Exercise, 2011—Blaine County

The first warm Saturday morning this spring found first responders from multiple jurisdictions converging on a quiet road next to the Friedman Memorial Airport, Hailey Idaho, in response to an aircraft accident scenario. Months of planning by airport, county and BHS personnel culminated in this full scale exercise focusing on the Planning, Interoperable Communications and Hazardous Materials Response Target Capabilities. Participants from Hailey, Bellevue, Sun Valley, Wood River and Blaine County worked in a concerted effort to meet exercise objectives and build capability within their agencies.

Exercise play began with a commercial aircraft overrunning the runway on landing, entering Highway 75 and striking a

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Responders from Blaine County participate during the full scale aircraft accident exercise.

grocery delivery truck. Firefighters worked to extricate victims, sporting life-like moulage wounds, while fighting spot fires around the accident scene. An explosion and possible HazMat leak from the grocery delivery truck temporarily interrupted rescue operations, which were soon resumed with responders wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

As each of the eighteen actor-victims were extricated from the aircraft they were moved to a triage area where they were tagged, treated and prioritized for transport to the hospital. The use

of live actor-victims increased realism and allowed responders to practice reassuring victims during extrication efforts. Actual transport of victims to the hospital added another dimension of realism, providing hospital staff the opportunity to practice their personnel call up procedures.

Both the Blaine County Multi-Casualty Response Unit and the HazMat Response Unit were deployed for the exercise, enabling responders to practice using these resources in a large incident. A total of 64 responders and volunteers participated in this exercise, including

evaluators from Twin Falls County and Jerome City. The Friedman Memorial Airport Full Scale Exercise was an opportunity for multi-agency coordination and response within Blaine County. An After Action Report (AAR) has been provided to the county to assist further refining of plans, procedures and training.

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It seems like it took a long time for the wet spring weather to end, but high temperatures and afternoon thunderstorms have let us know that summer is here. Since our last newsletter we as a state narrowly avoided a catastrophic flooding event, and we as an agency have been busy working to implement the changes that are coming in the grant management arena.

This past winter saw record levels of snow throughout the state and particularly in the headwaters of the Snake River. 1997 is our benchmark for disastrous flooding in Eastern Idaho and this year we actually had more snowpack than we did in that fateful year. This year Madison, Jefferson, Bingham and Teton Counties issued local disaster declarations and those were followed up with a State Disaster Declaration from Governor Otter. The Snake, Henry's Fork, and Teton Rivers all went well above flood stage. BHS worked closely with the local emergency managers to make sure resource shortfalls were supported, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performed emergency measures and levee work to prevent floodwaters from causing more damage. In the end we saw some significant flooding, but

the slow warming of temperatures moderated the snow melt and we avoided what could have been a disastrous flooding event.

The financial situation on a national level has not only affected our economy, it has impacted emergency management funding levels as well. The 2011 State Homeland Security Grant Program allocation to Idaho will see a drop in over \$1.4 million from the 2010 levels. While funding levels for the 2011 Emergency Management Performance Grant will remain steady, Congress has mandated an increased level of requirements for recipients of the grant awards. Some of these requirements include enhanced review of emergency operations plans, an increase in the number of required exercises, the completion of a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), and the use of standardized resource typing. Our Grant Management Branch and our program managers have been working diligently to make these changes as painless as possible, and I will continue to work closely with Idaho's emergency management community as we implement these changes.

We as an emergency management profession always face challenges and we are always working to turn opportunities into increased capabilities to manage disasters and emergencies. Emergency management takes the whole community and I look forward to working with our nation's finest emergency management community to make Idaho safe and prepared.

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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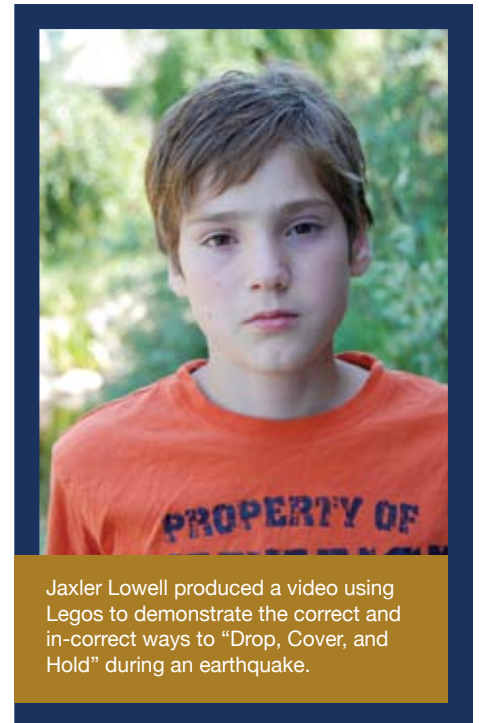
Preparedness continued from pg. 1 »

Kootenai County Emergency Management, Panhandle Health District, Northern Lakes Fire District, and the Northwest Backcountry Rescue to name a few. "Be Prepared Day" was a success and had an attendance of approximately 300 people.

The Middleton Preparedness Fair was held in April and organized by Tammy Lowell and has become an event for the entire Lowell Family. This year's fair focused on earthquakes and the hazards they pose here in Idaho. Jaxler Lowell a Middleton sixth grader, at the time, helped his mom educate his community by producing a "Drop, Cover, and Hold" public service announcement (PSA). Jaxler produced the animated PSA using Lego figurines and blocks to demonstrate the correct and in-correct ways to "Drop,

Cover, and Hold" during an earthquake. Jaxler used his families lap top to show the short PSA repeatedly to kids that stopped by the Earthquake table and was available to explain the "Drop, Cover, and Hold" technique to anyone that had questions. Jaxler also helped his family set up and man simple shake tables using pans of Jell-O and buildings made of Lego's to show the potential movement of a structure during an earthquake. Jaxler and his family used technology and a simple table top demonstration to educate their community about planning for and being prepared for disasters.

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Jaxler Lowell produced a video using Legos to demonstrate the correct and in-correct ways to "Drop, Cover, and Hold" during an earthquake.

## *Natalie Lahti Selected as BHS Employee of the Quarter*

Natalie Lahti from BHS's Disaster Recovery Section has been selected as the Summer 2011 Employee of the Quarter. Natalie has been selected because of her professionalism and her invaluable service to the Recovery Section.

Natalie began her work with BHS in 2005 as a Situation State Planner and transitioned to her current position, BHS Recovery Emergency Management Specialist, in 2008. According to Don Taylor, BHS Recovery Section Chief, Natalie's personality is perfectly suited for emergency management and she has repeatedly demonstrated a calm and effective perspective while responding to a wide variety of complex situations.

During this last quarter Natalie has been instrumental in closing out the financial recovery for four state and federal disasters. This has required working with a wide variety of local, state and federal jurisdictions to justify and reconcile the complex accounting associated with each disaster. In addition, Natalie has proven to be an exceptional steward of state funds. Her 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.



Natalie Lahti from BHS's Disaster Recovery Section has been selected as the Summer 2011 Employee of the Quarter

Recently Natalie coordinated the state efforts during a Regional and Federal audit. Her leadership and attention to detail led to a "No Finding" result, a direct indication of the level of performance in the BHS Recovery Section. She has also assisted in the education and training of state agencies and in-house customers with improved reconciliation techniques for numerous disaster accounts. These efforts have increased accuracy, reduced disaster grant duration and increased the ability for applicants to recover from each disaster.

Natalie's effectiveness and leadership has proven invaluable to the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. Her work in coordinating financial assistance and cost tracking for over 50 applicants and 30 counties across several federal and state disasters has not gone unnoticed. Congrats Natalie Lahti on a well-earned recognition as the Summer 2011 Employee of the Quarter.

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In February, Chief Mark Lockwood, Chair of the Idaho Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) presented the SIEC Annual Report to the Legislature. Chair Lockwood reported on the progress the SIEC had made in continuing the implementation of the District Interoperability Governance Boards (DIGB's) whose purpose is to address the challenges facing its local interdisciplinary partners concerning communications, development of joint Strategic, Business, and Operational planning, the SIEC Statewide Strategic Plan, the SIEC Business Plan, the Statewide Emergency Communications Operational Plan, the continued build out of the statewide shared public safety communications system, the application and receipt of federal funding for interoperable communications, and the addition of DIGB members to the SIEC.

Lockwood updated the Legislature on the statewide system. The statewide system currently has 35 towers being utilized with 260 channels and 6, 280 subscribers. The statewide system has predominate coverage in 22 counties; with 23 counties in various stages of transition. The system currently offers Public Safety Communications covering over 1.2 million Idahoans. In 2010 the statewide system had 21 million "push to talk" actions by emergency response personnel, 37,000 hours of voice air time, 10,000 hours of over-the-air programming was completed, with an average of only 18% of the system currently being used to date.

Public Safety Communications has been making progress with PSIC investment #9 and #10 grant funded projects. In April of this year PSC purchased a deployable trunk system with antennae, deployable masts and associated components to complete PSIC investment #10. PSIC investment #9 is currently in progress with the Iona and Mount Harrison projects completed and with the Malad Ridge, Hell Hole, Lewiston Hill, and Bennett Mountain sites scheduled to be completed later this year.

The Idaho State Police are currently proceeding with a migration to the 700 MHz band. The lack of available funding has necessitated that the ISP transition to 700 MHz in a phased approach utilizing existing funding within ISP's budget. The first phase of the project was to purchase 700 MHz portable radios to be issued to those troopers having an immediate need to communicate with agencies already operating on 700 MHz. To date the ISP have purchased 142-700 MHz portable radios. During the fall of this year the next phase is to install 30-cross band repeaters operating on 700 MHz and coupled with the current UHF system on strategically selected mountain tops sites throughout the state. In addition, the ISP have purchased 700 MHz mobiles for all of the ISP investigations division to be

installed later this year. The ISP will be requesting funding from the Idaho Legislature to complete an additional 48 cross band repeater sites, finish purchasing the rest of the required 700 MHz portable radios, and purchase 700 MHz-VHF dual band mobiles for all of patrol throughout the state. In addition to 700 MHz interoperability, the ISP have purchased 200-700 MHz in car repeaters connected to the in car mobile radio in order to extend the 700 MHz portable range while the trooper is out of the vehicle.

In training news, on March 23, 2011 the SIEC in conjunction with the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) held a one-day Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) workshop. The workshop was well attended and a representative from each DIGB was present. Workshop attendees discussed Idaho SCIP initiatives, Narrowbanding, the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) Goal 2, review of the DIGB 3 draft strategic plan, and education and outreach strategies. The workshop provided a great outlet for attendees to provide invaluable subject matter expert opinions and dialog. Outcomes of the workshop include a shared understanding of the current status of interoperability projects and planned initiatives across the State of Idaho, development of the first steps of an Education and Outreach Plan, including identification of the audience, identification of the key message(s), identification of different strategies, tools, and tactics. Outcomes also included a shared understanding of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) mission and initiatives and a shared understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement regarding the draft District 3 DIGB Strategic Plan.

In May, the SIEC again partnered with the Office of Emergency Communications to hold a two-day workshop on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) governance development. Attendees included DIGB chairs, members from EMS, Fire, State Police, Emergency Management Professionals, and other state and local agencies. In late October the SIEC will again partner with the Office of Emergency Communications to hold a Communication Unit Leader (COML) course. Once details are finalized the SIEC office will send out invitations to all DIGB members, and members from EMS, Fire, State Police, and Emergency Management Professionals. The invitation for the COML training will also be available on the BHS website as well as the LMS system.

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# Citizen Corps, Community Education, and IDAVOAD News:

Summer, fall, and spring are a busy time for community preparedness. Many of the nation's spring disasters have showed us we need to plan and prepare for natural and man-made disasters; building ourselves into a more resilient community. We need to assess our strengths and weaknesses and using a whole community approach involve everyone in becoming more prepared and more resilient. At the kick off of the 2009 National Preparedness Month President Obama stated a resilient community is "one in which individuals, communities, and our economy can adapt to changing conditions as well as withstand and rapidly recover from disruption due to emergencies."

September 2011 is National Preparedness Month (NPM). If you didn't update your personal, family, or business plan in January then September is a great time to dig your plan out and update any contact information and go over your alternate "meeting spot" if you are separated from loved ones or



co-workers. NPM is also a good time to make sure you know where your emergency preparedness kit is and replace batteries or rotate food supplies. Do those extra clothes, toys, or batteries you put in your kit need to be replaced because they are old, don't fit or aren't age appropriate anymore? If you don't have a kit it's not too late...go to <http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Preparedness/Personal/DisasterKit.aspx> and click on the quick link for "Get a Kit Checklist." If your private business, government agency, non-profit, or faith-based group would like to participate as a NPM coalition member simply go to <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM> and register. Once you register you will have access to a toolkit that includes templates, resources and tips to assist you with promoting emergency preparedness.

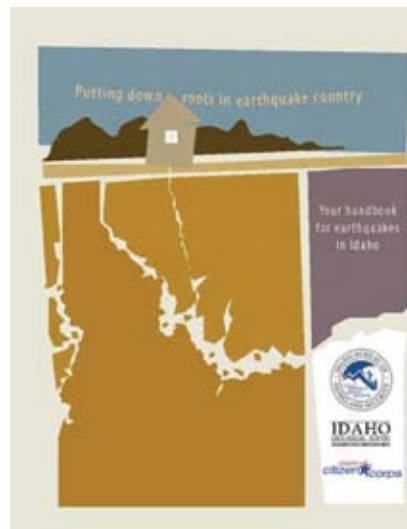
The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) is proud to highlight the Great Idaho Shake Out to be held October 20,

2011. The Great Idaho Shake Out is a collaborative venture between BHS and the Idaho Department of Education. We are encouraging families, businesses, state agencies, local governments, schools, and individuals to log onto <http://www.shakeout.org/idaho/> and register to participate in the Great Idaho Shake Out. Earthquakes do happen in Idaho and the bureau supports the "Drop, Cover, and Hold" method to protect you during an earthquake. The Great Idaho Shake Out gives all Idahoans a designated date and time to practice the drill and prepare for an earthquake. The goal of the



drill is to educate citizens on immediately dropping to the ground, getting under a table or desk, placing your arm over your head and protecting yourself from falling debris; not running and taking the chance of having something fall on them.

Sticking with our earthquake preparedness theme BHS hired retired Capital High School Earth Science Teacher Linda Selvig to create classroom activities based upon the "Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country." A copy of this publication can be downloaded at <http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Preparedness/Hazards/NaturalHazards/Earthquake.aspx>. The activities are based upon Idaho specific



earthquake information found in "Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country" and supported by information found in various places on the web. Linda has worked to gather these separate activities and pieces of information, while developing some of her own activities, and compiling them all into one location for ease of use by Idaho teachers. These activities will be available in a downloadable form from the BHS website and also on CD upon request. The activities are designed to be completed in class at little or no cost to the teacher and meet the board of education's standards for curriculum. Release date for the "Putting Down Root in Earthquake Country" classroom activities is late September.

The Idaho Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (IDAVOAD) is excited to announce that registration is now open for the annual conference held in McCall, Idaho at the Seventh Day Adventist Camp Ida-Haven. The conference will be



September 18-20, 2011 and the agenda is packed with dynamic speakers focusing on functional needs populations. We've invited Lewissa Swanson from US Health and Humans Services to speak on Children in disasters, Kara Kink from the Idaho Office of Refugees, Sabrina Edington from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, JoAnn Oram from FEMA Region X to speak on Functional Needs populations, and we still have a potential speakers spot open. BHS Training and Exercises Program Manager Coleen Rice will be conducting a 1/2 day table top exercise for the attendees on the final day. To register for this conference please contact me via email at [hnovich@bhs.idaho.gov](mailto:hnovich@bhs.idaho.gov) or phone (208) 422-3015 and I will forward you the registration and draft agenda. To learn more about IDAVOAD and their mission please go to <http://idavoad.org/index.htm>.

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# ANNOUNCING AN EXCITING NEW PROGRAM

## Public-Private Partnerships

Local, state and federal Public-Private Partnerships are vital to filling gaps in Emergency Management that neither government nor the private sector can manage alone. These partnerships create a vehicle for cooperation that includes resources, volunteers, information and expertise.

These fundamental needs cannot be met without the “Whole Community” We will be able to enhance our service to our neighbors, citizens, first responders and those affected by disasters when public and private sector representatives work together on the same team.

be members of your Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC’s) or your training, exercise or planning committees. This program will provide a mechanism to ensure these relationships are established and maintained at the local and the state levels.

### What can the private sector do?

Some of the things the private sector can do to be better prepared are to make a business continuity plan, store file back-ups off site, encourage employee family disaster plans and become involved with their Emergency Management partners.

### What will the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security do?

BHS is providing a single point of contact (POC) dedicated to this program. The POC will coordinate with our private sector partners to guide them in their business emergency planning, and coordinate with local and state jurisdictions along with the private sector to bring them together as a team.

The BHS will also assist in creating protocols for the private sector role in the state Emergency Operations Plan, integrate assistance to and from private sector partners into state protocols, create opportunities for information sharing with the private sector, and ensure the private sector has the opportunity to participate in state training, planning and exercising.

The Bureau of Homeland Security is committed to making this new Program a success. We will be seeking information from our government and private sector



Public-Private Partnerships are vital to filling gaps in emergency management that neither government nor the private sector can manage alone

Under the National Response Framework, the private sector is identified as business and industry, trade organizations, voluntary, academia, nonprofit, faith-based, and other non-governmental organizations.

### Why these partnerships?

- Preparation allows for quicker response and recovery reducing impact to our communities.
- Businesses are better prepared which can help save lives, company assets and the business itself.

Many of the jurisdictions in Idaho have already established relationships with our private sector partners but in an informal manner that may not be utilized in times of emergency. Private sector may already

### What can the public sector do?

The public sector can coordinate with the private sector to begin working together as a team, create protocols for assistance to and from our private sector partners, integrate the private sector into Emergency Operations Plans (EOP’s) and include the private sector in training and exercises.

partners for contacts, as well as input on making this Program beneficial for all of us. If you have contacts, ideas, or would like additional information, please contact me.

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# GIS – Forward Thinking

As I transitioned to the GIS Program a few weeks ago, I reveled in the idea that the BHS GIS program had room to mature. One of the reasons this was so appealing was well stated by a GIS colleague of mine, Greg Babinski, who wrote, "The maturity level of our processes relates directly to the effectiveness of our GIS." With this concept, we have a path forward.

Concepts such as Capability Maturity Model can be applied to GIS technology, steering a program that utilizes ad hoc processes towards defined processes that provide consistent performance. As we strive to implement the latest in GIS technology and utilize it in an enterprise concept we must address the issues of; Data consolidation, understanding application potential, data management, considering business needs, framework goals, and access to GIS functionality.

## Support

While enhancing the GIS capabilities of BHS is an important effort, supporting the Emergency Operating Center (IDEOC) and programs within BHS, as well as our partners in local government during disasters, is the overarching tenet of the GIS Program. Current

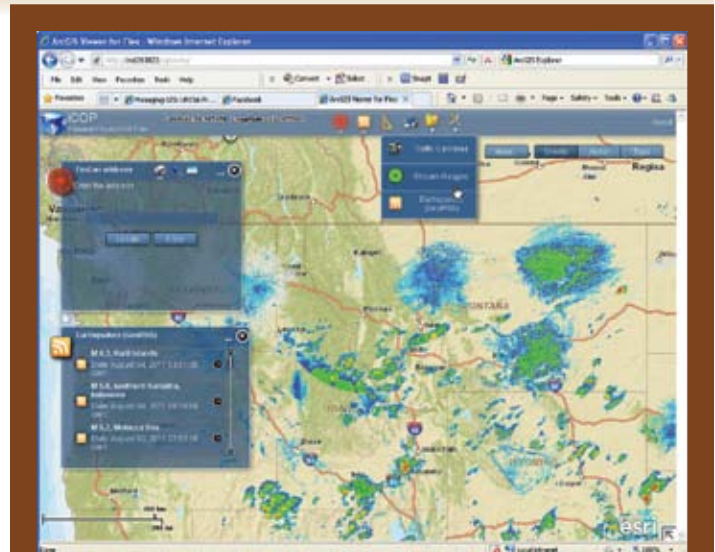
support activity includes map projects for Training and Exercise, Mitigation, and recently a 34" x 40" laminated wall map for use during the Washington County Exercise. Maps of Fire and Flood Events and Damage Site Assessments are two other types of support that are available for county emergency managers and the IDEOC. Maps can be provided in hard copy, pdf, or pmf (Published Map File) format. Pmf files allow users to open maps in a map project environment which allows printing, identifying,

and layer on and off control by using ArcReader. Free downloads are available at: <http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/arcreader/download.html>. ArcReader can also be used online without installation by creating a free account.

## On the Horizon

Flex viewer technology currently being developed will provide free and secure web access to a series of interactive maps. The flex platform gives users GIS functionality without licensing or installing software. Incident data combined with dynamic data sources available in the latest data sharing formats create a real time Common Operational Picture.

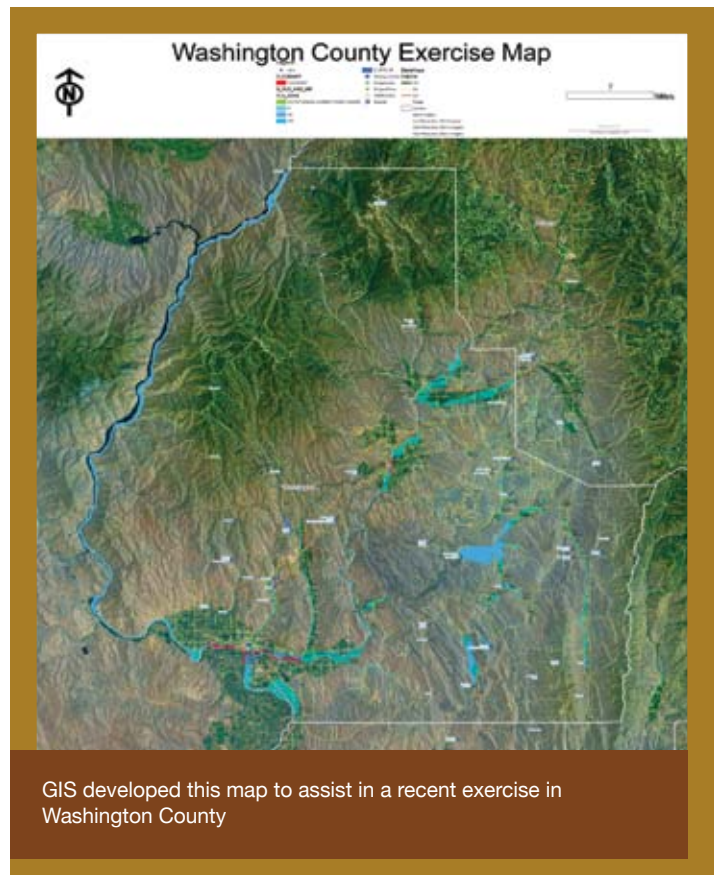
For questions or feedback please email me at: [brose@bhs.idaho.gov](mailto:brose@bhs.idaho.gov). Thank you.



The Flex Viewer application is assisting BHS in mapping hazards and data for a common operating picture for emergency management



The clickable map for web use will have many applications on the BHS website



GIS developed this map to assist in a recent exercise in Washington County

Becky Rose  
GIS Program Manager  
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## GRANT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

As Idaho moves forward with the much delayed 2011 Homeland Security and Emergency Management Grants there are some important changes to this year's grant programs. First is the overall reduction in the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). In 2010 the Idaho received approximately \$6,613,200 in SHSGP funding, in 2011 the total SHSGP is \$5,137,205 a reduction of \$1,475,995. The prognosis for 2012 is a continued decline SHSGP funding. Needless to say this is a significant change in SHSGP funding and will have an impact in Idaho's overall Homeland Security Enterprise.

Other SHSGP and Emergency Management changes include an emphasis on "Whole Community" preparedness. This involves three components; the completion of a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). The THIRA will be a required element of both the Homeland Security Grants and the Emergency Management Performance Grant, ideally being incorporated into the jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The second component is validation of the jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan using the Comprehensive Planning Guide (CPG 101 v.2). And third the Typing of Equipment and Training using standardized Resource Typing.

An additional change that will have an effect on the grant programs is the Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) requirements for use of federal funding. In the rush to push the SHSGP funding down to the local level, in the early years of the program, EHP was virtually ignored. As the program matures the EHP regulations are now being more strictly enforced. Starting in 2011 all equipment purchased with grant funds will need to undergo an EHP review. BHS will be developing additional procedures to assist subgrantees in the review process that will be in place before as the 2011 grants roll out.

By the time this goes to press the 2008 HSGP grant will be closed, the subgrant applications will prepared and projects will start being prepared for the next grant cycle. Please take this time to read the 2011 Grant Guidance so that you are informed of the changes and are able to plan accordingly.

Thank you to all who work so hard to help prepare the State and make this program successful.

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