

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2012

The Charlotte Fire; Successes and Lessons Learned

On June 28th at approximately 2:30pm under Red Flag Warnings a wildland fire started that rapidly spread to 1038 acres destroying 66 homes and 29 out buildings in its path. The Charlotte fire is the most devastating wild fire Bannock County and the City of Pocatello has ever faced and might well go down in as one of the worst fires in Idaho history.

Although few words will comfort those who lost everything, several positive elements emerge from the ash of this tragedy relative to emergency response and preparation. First and foremost there were no lives lost and for that matter there were no significant injuries. 130 responders coordinated the safe evacuation of a population of 5688 residents and stopped the fires advance in four hours. Secondly, while one hears of the 66 homes destroyed there were in excess of 2000 homes and \$472 million in property that was saved.

As one of the Incident Commanders in a unified command structure I would like to highlight four programs consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Response Framework and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security that played a critical role in the success of the Charlotte Fire response.

Charlotte continued on pg. 4 »



Brigadier General Bill Shawver Steps Down at BHS; Colonel Brad Richy Assumes Post

After nearly five years of serving as director of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, Brigadier General William Shawver stepped down to take a job in the private sector. His last day in his BHS role was Friday, July 27.

Shawver, a 37-year veteran of the Air Force and the Idaho Air National Guard, has concurrently served as Assistant Adjutant General, Air, and Commander, Idaho Air National Guard since 2010. He will remain in his command role, serving as a traditional Air National Guard member.

"It's hard to believe that almost five years has passed since I was named the director," said General Shawver. "Working with the folks in the BHS in support of local elected officials, county/tribal emergency managers, first responders, and the residents of this great State has been the highlight of my 37 years of government service. My sincere appreciation to Governor Otter and Major General Saylor for this awesome opportunity to serve with the finest Idaho has to offer."

Idaho Adjutant General Major General Gary Saylor has appointed Colonel William B. "Brad" Richy as Shawver's successor in the

Richy continued on pg. 2 »



Governor Otter and Major General Saylor thank Brigadier General Bill Shawver for his service as BHS Director.

role of Idaho BHS director, leading the bureau's 65 personnel. Richy, 54, served as commander, 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard. He began his military career in 1977 and joined the Idaho Air National Guard in 1988. He holds a master's degree in business administration and is a recipient of the Bronze Star and numerous other military awards and decorations. The colonel is a command pilot with over 8,000 flying hours. He has flown 15 types of civilian and military aircraft, most notably the A-10 Thunderbolt II and the Boeing 747, which he flew in his civilian career as a pilot for United Parcel Service. His first day on the job with Idaho BHS will be Monday, July 23.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Colonel Brad Richy as the new Director of BHS, said General Saylor. "He brings

proven military, managerial and leadership experience to this position. I have known Colonel Richy for 25 years and he has my complete respect and trust. I know he is up to the task of leading BHS into the future."

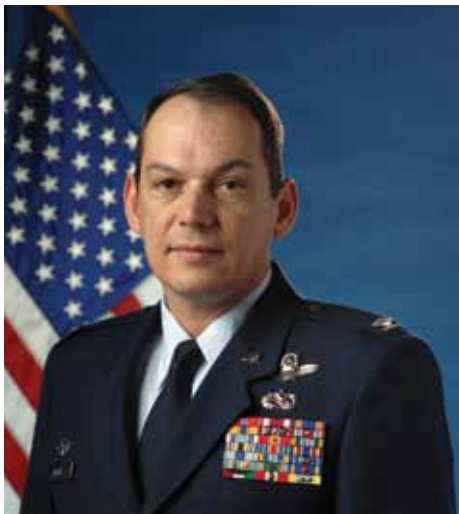
"I look forward to this great opportunity to serve the State of Idaho in a crucial role," said Richy. "The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security will continue its solid legacy of service in emergency management, and I will work diligently to uphold the outstanding working relationships General Shawver has cemented with first responders and elected leaders around the state."

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter praised Saylor's decision to appoint Richy, as well as Shawver's work at Homeland Security.

"The Bureau of Homeland Security is the

key State agency tasked with working closely with local government authorities to address disaster response and emergency preparedness throughout Idaho," Governor Otter said. "General Shawver has done a masterful job of addressing the unique needs of communities in every corner of our state. He departs from that role with my thanks and great appreciation for his skills. I also know that Colonel Richy will continue that important work requiring both a diplomat's tact and patience and a seasoned leader's discipline and operational awareness."

Colonel Tim Marsano/Robert Feeley
Timothy.marsano@us.army.mil /
rfeeley@bhs.idaho.gov
208-422-5268 / 208-422-3033



Greetings,

As I step into the role of director of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security it has been a pleasure to meet the people who dedicate themselves to making Idaho safe. Idaho's strength comes from the team of citizens, first responders, emergency management, elected officials and others who make up our public safety network. I am excited for the new opportunity, and looking forward to new challenges.

I tip my hat to Brigadier General Bill Shawver, from whom I take the reins. His leadership of the bureau over the past five years has been instrumental in increasing emergency management capability in Idaho.

My philosophy for this position centers on communications and open dialogue between all stakeholders. Tomorrow's challenges require it, and that is the way ahead. I look

forward to continuing our positive and productive relationship with the Idaho Emergency Managers Association, who constitutes the backbone of emergency managers at the local level.

I will continue to use this newsletter as a forum to provide information on important topics that are taking place in the world of emergency management and homeland security. As always BHS is striving to provide the highest quality emergency management and homeland security support to all Idahoans. Please feel free to contact me (brichy@bhs.idaho.gov) or any member of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security team if you have any ideas on how we can better support you or improve the focus of this ongoing publication.

Thanks,
Brad

Brad Richy, Colonel, State of Idaho Military Division
Director, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
Direct Line: 208.422.3001
Admin Asst: 208.422.3035



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

Maj. Gen. Gary Saylor, Adjutant General,
Idaho Military Division

Col. Brad Richy, Director, Idaho Bureau
of Homeland Security
208-422-3040

Robert Feeley, editor
(208) 422-3033

Blake Holgate, design editor
(208) 863-8464

The Role of Local Government in Critical Infrastructure Protection

Local government plays an important role in the national strategy for critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR) protection. The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) published in 2009 outlines a national strategy for protecting the nation's critical infrastructure assets and systems. It also describes the roles of local and tribal governments necessary for implementing this strategy. The NIPP states, "Local governments represent the front lines of homeland security and more specifically, CIKR protection and the implementation of the NIPP partnership model." While this may come as a surprise to you, it's important to remember that local government has been working with critical infrastructure owners/operators on emergency management issues long before the NIPP was created.



Critical Infrastructure protection requires much more than identifying and protecting a series of nationally significant assets. It requires effort to identify assets and systems and to understand their interdependencies and relationship to our communities. While it is easy to frame our perception of critical infrastructure by considering only those assets and systems that have significant impact on a national or regional basis such as a major port, national research facility, or 500 kV power transmission line; we need to look beyond those and focus our state and local efforts on the assets and systems that have the most significant implications and critically to our communities. The overarching goal of the NIPP is to: "Build a safer, more secure, and more resilient America by preventing, deterring, neutralizing, or mitigating the effects of deliberate efforts by terrorists to destroy, incapacitate, or exploit elements of our Nation's CIKR and to strengthen national preparedness, timely response, and rapid recovery of CIKR in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other emergency." This national goal easily translates to the local government perspective by emphasizing the importance of making the systems that sustain our communities and allow them to prosper more resilient.

Local government has formally been working with critical infrastructure owners/operators ever since the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) became law in 1986. EPCRA instituted Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) as a vehicle to collaborate with various organizations, agencies, departments, and the private sector for emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and prevention activities. The National Infrastructure Protection Plan seeks to employ similar collaborative processes that extend beyond those issues related to toxic chemicals and hazardous materials. At the local level, LEPCs should provide the nucleus for developing and implementing the critical infrastructure protection program within local jurisdictions.

Local government should focus its efforts for CIKR protection in the following areas:

- Leverage LEPCs to act as a focal point for promoting coordination of protective and emergency response activities, emergency preparedness, and resource support.
- Facilitate the exchange of security information to include threat and risk assessments and unclassified//for official use only information among trusted CIKR partners.
- Identify CIKR assets, systems, and interdependencies for inclusion in risk and vulnerability assessments and appropriate emergency operations, recovery, and mitigation plans.
- Establish continuity and contingency plans for critical functions.



The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security will be seeking input into the development of the state infrastructure protection strategy and a metric for identifying and categorizing critical infrastructure assets and systems from a state and local perspective. If you are interested in participating in this effort or have questions, please contact the bureau's Critical Infrastructure Program Manager, Dave Jackson.

Dave Jackson, Critical Infrastructure Protection Program Manager
djackson@bhs.idaho.gov
208-422-3047

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2009). National Infrastructure Protection Plan. Washington D.C. (p.23).

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2009). National Infrastructure Protection Plan. Washington D.C. (p.1).

Charlotte continued from pg. 1 »

The first is a local mutual aid program developed in response to the 1987 "Johnny Creek Fire" called GIFF (Gateway Interagency Fire Front) This program brought together all the local fire agencies including the BLM and USFS to address interoperability and coordination concerns. Over the years since the Johnny Creek Fire GIFF has addressed;

community to maintain local control of the incident and greatly reduce the overall cost to manage the incident.

Nearly every incident has communication issues and the Charlotte Fire is no exception but the 700MHz statewide system, with pre-designated interoperability talkgroups,

coordinate the massive evacuation effort while maintaining solid control of the perimeter. I am convinced that their ability to coordinate their efforts saved lives. Additionally, the Bannock County Sheriff was able to receive real-time updates and provide agency oversight and direction while returning from Coeur d' Alene. Multiple fire agencies converged in a greatly expanded ICS organization and mirrored communications structure that utilized the County Wide Interoperability Talkgroups iB-OPS. These two structures allowed for an efficient, organized and coordinated fire response which greatly reduced property loss and rapid control of the fire which prevented its spread to the \$472 million in threatened property. The unified command was able to coordinate law and fire efforts utilizing the interoperable talkgroups iB-REG and iB-OPS.

In the light of full disclosure, if it sounds like I am the NIMS sales person at your door, I am! I have swallowed these concepts hook line and sinker, pardon the fishing pun, but I am a student and instructor in the principles of NIMS and a firm believer in all four of these programs. Each of these greatly contributed to the success of this catastrophic incident and reduced the impact it had on our community.

But alas not is all perfect. I have always said there is no such thing as a perfect incident and the Charlotte Fire is no exception, so where do we go from here.

I would suggest that each community start developing their Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) in line with the National Response Framework and the State Emergency Operations Plan. This is your



command, coordination, training, PPE, equipment, activation, communications, public education and code adoption issues. My fellow BLM IC, who has operated in many jurisdictions, put it best when he said "our response was as good as it gets for an initial response". No agency/community can staff for events of this magnitude and when we call for help it is important to have worked out many of these issues ahead of time.

The Incident Command System (ICS) is the second program. ICS is nothing new to emergency responders but the ICS facilitated the rapid integration, deployment and coordination of a significant number of resources from throughout the state. The use of the ICS was an integral factor in reducing the chaos of the initial response.

The third program was the ICS Academies, sponsored and delivered by BHS, and relates to the development of state and regional Type III All-Hazard Incident Management and Support Teams (IMAST). Through this program our region has developed a multi agency, multi discipline IMAST team that was able to provide most of the command and general staff positions in the ICS structure in order to effectively manage and support the incident for the four days following the initial response. This allowed our

greatly improved communications during the initial response. First and foremost the communications network was able to mirror the ICS structure. This allowed each specific component of the command structure to have clear accessible internal communications while having integrated and immediate access to other components in order to coordinate efforts and share information. Multiple law enforcement agencies converged on iB-REG and were able to



avenue to a coordinated tiered community, state and nation wide effort to provide essential services to your community during disasters. This is in effect you're GIFF for each essential service and your mechanism to iron out the interagency and inter-jurisdictional issues that GIFF has ironed out over the last 25 years.

I would encourage all communities to truly embrace the concepts of ICS and integrate those nontraditional agencies, the often overlooked; public works, water, street, utilities, animal control, health agencies and the list goes on, into your command structure. They offer valuable resources and special knowledge and skills. Greater integration of effort equates to improved coordination of response.

Few agencies or departments in the state, if any, have the resources necessary to field an IMAST and still have the resources available to engage in mitigation efforts. Regional, multi disciplined and jurisdictional IMAST's need to be developed that can rapidly deploy to an incident within their region with the ability to assist or manage an incident during the first 72 hours or until the state IMAST or one of the federal teams can support.



Finally, Idaho has an exceptional shared 700MHz system with tremendous capabilities that are currently grossly underutilized. The Charlotte Fire only touched on the proverbial "tip of the iceberg" of the systems true capabilities. The Charlotte Fire utilized agencies from all around the state and these agencies could have easily communicated on the State Wide Interoperability "EVENT" Talkgroups utilizing their own agency radios if the policies, protocols, procedures and training were in place to facilitate the

process. I cannot emphasize enough that each response agency or department in every community needs to be involved in its District Interoperability Governance Board (DIGB) and support the efforts of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) in its efforts to capitalize on the systems true potential.

The Charlotte Fire started in the jurisdiction of a volunteer fire district with an annual operating budget of less than \$100K per year. These programs helped this district quickly and effectively respond to what could have been an even more catastrophic event. This fire could have started anywhere but the issues are the same. We are all busy with our daily jobs and the programs I propose sound like a lot of effort and work, and for what many may think are a low frequency risk, and you're right. Rome wasn't built in a day and neither will the implementation of these programs. The time to start is now! We owe it to our community.

David Gates – IC
Assistant Chief-Operations
Pocatello Fire Department

Gail Baird Selected as Summer Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Gail Baird for being selected as the summer Employee of the Quarter. Gail's selection was for her continued excellent performance within the BHS Recovery Section. Gail came on board at the bureau in June of 2008 and has worked in the Recovery Section as well as in the Preparedness and Planning Branch. Her supervisor, Don Taylor, noted that she consistently demonstrates "exemplary work and superior ability."

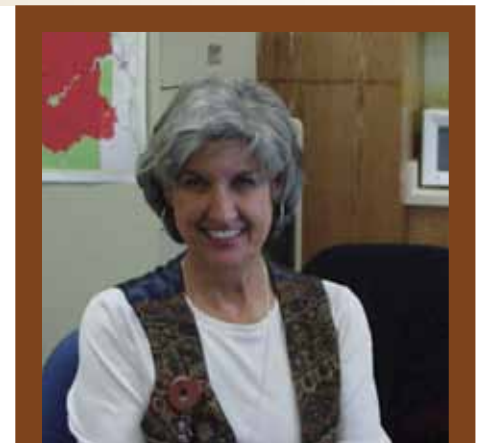
In her position within the Recovery Section Gail works to assist state and local jurisdictions in recovering from disasters. Her ability to rapidly assess each situation, take on additional responsibilities, accurately document and respond appropriately has proven invaluable.

Over the past few months she has: Streamlined the Disaster declaration process and provided expertise resulting in the successful Idaho's first appeal (in recent

history) of an applicant's ineligible project. The ineligible determination was overturned resulting in approval of an applicant's several hundred thousand dollar project. In addition Gail has provided assistance in closing several disasters over the past several months.

Gail has shown herself to be an exceptional steward of state funds. Her outstanding attention to detail has allowed for an efficient and effective accounting of all eligible costs. Her efforts have and will continue to maximize the State's and applicant's reimbursement of disaster costs.

She continues her efforts in the education and training of state agencies and in-house customers with improved reconciliation techniques. These efforts have increased accuracy, reduced disaster grant duration and increased the ability for every applicant to recover from each disaster. In all aspects Gail has shown herself to be professional,



Gail Baird from BHS's Disaster Recovery Section has been selected as the Summer 2012 Employee of the Quarter

productive and a pleasure to work with. Congrats Gail on the well-deserved award.

Don Taylor, Recovery Section Chief
dtaylor@bhs.idaho.gov
208-422-3008

NOW THAT WE HAVE THE INFORMATION, How Can We Use It?



This year, BHS prepared electronic files containing the Idaho Tier II Hazardous Chemical reports in the CAMEO format, and distributed them to county Emergency Coordinators, Tribal authorities, as well as other emergency planners and responders statewide. CAMEO (which stands for Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations) is a free software suite available at the following link:

www.epa.gov/osweroe1/content/cameo. BHS also provided the Tier II facility information plotted in MARPLOT, the mapping application within CAMEO, allowing users to view location information relative to the facilities.

These valuable tools can also be used for emergency planning and response for ALL hazards. MARPLOT, through its drawing tools, allows users to create new map data, and save it to specific overlays. Emergency planners may find this function useful in developing mitigation plans, preparing evacuation scenarios, mapping potential flood-zones, or identifying wildfire burn-zones. Responders can use the program to assist in developing Incident Action Plans, identifying response routes, locating nearby resources, and assessing potential risks and vulnerable locations. Additionally, 2010 Census data is available for download, at no cost, allowing for the quick assessment of population and household information within an identified area. And, any of this information can be stored and linked as a record within the CAMEO database.

Another important feature of CAMEO and MARPLOT is that, once downloaded, both programs operate independent of any Internet or server connection—all of the information is stored locally. This feature can be critical for responders in emergency events in which Internet service is disrupted, or simply unavailable.

Helping maintain public safety is a responsibility we all share. Proper planning for potential disasters allows for quicker response and recovery, and reduces impact to our communities. If you would like additional information on how to use this data for your All-Hazard Planning, Mitigation, Response and Recovery needs please contact Jarod Dick at 208-272-4491 or jdick@bhs.idaho.

Mary Marsh
Public-Private Partnerships Section Chief
208-422-5723
mmarsh@bhs.idaho.gov

Idaho Emergency Operations Center (IDEOC) Logistics Section

The IDEOC is part of the Idaho multiagency coordination system (MACS) that provides federal, state and jurisdictional interagency coordination and decision making; resource coordination; and situational awareness during all-hazard emergency events/incidents regardless of the degree of complexity or duration. The IDEOC is activated at some level for all potential and actual major incidents or emergencies. Last quarter's newsletter described the Plans Section. This quarter is about the Logistics Section.

The Logistics Section consists of the section chief and deputy, the request unit, mission unit with EMAC specialists, the resource unit, the facilities unit and the service branch including information technology, warning, WebEOC and radio units. The Logistics Section is responsible to make sure that the IDEOC and the incident have the resources that are needed to manage the effects of the disaster. In many of our smaller state disasters, The Logistics Section Chief handles all requests and missions while IT makes sure that the systems have what is needed to manage the disaster. Many of the positions are only activated in larger statewide events.

The request unit is responsible for receiving requests from local emergency operations centers and ensuring that the requests make it to the appropriate unit to be responded to; whether it is an inquiry regarding the situation or a request for a resource.

The mission unit writes the mission assignments and project agreements to supply the needed resources to the disaster site. This unit works with the local jurisdictions, state agencies and other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact to get the appropriate

paperwork filled out and signed. They track the mission's progress and report that information to the situation unit for the situation report and incident action plan.

The resource unit tracks all resources used during a disaster event including the equipment and the personnel. This unit operates the check in/out function for the Idaho Emergency Operations Center.

The facilities unit is responsible for ensuring that the IDEOC staff has safe and secure facility to operate in. They ensure that sanitation is taken care of and if meals are provided during an event, to make sure that the food is set out and staff notified of its arrival.

The warning specialist sends out alerts to let the staff know that they need to respond to the IDEOC in the wake of a disaster in which staff is not in the office through the Idaho State Automated Warning System (ISAWS). This specialist also can activate the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and/or ISAWS to alert the public of a disaster event and the precautions or actions that need to be taken.

Information technology ensures that staff has functioning technological equipment that is needed to run the IDEOC operations; including computers, phones, etc. These specialists setup accounts and passwords for new staff and fix any issues with the operating systems.

WebEOC specialist keeps the WebEOC system functioning. During an event this specialist makes sure everyone can log into the system and fixes any issues that may occur with the WebEOC system.

Radio specialist is responsible for the radio equipment and microwave system in the state of Idaho.

All of the Sections and Units in the IDEOC must work closely to create an efficient response to the requests of the local jurisdictions in order to save lives and property during a disaster event. If you are interested in more information on the IDEOC or are interested in being a reservist in the Logistics Section please contact Cherylyn Murphy.

Cherylyn Murphy, IDEOC Program Coordinator
cmurphy@bhs.idaho.gov
208-422-3020



Improving the Critical Infrastructure Food and Agriculture Sector Surveillance and Detection Capability

The systems and nodes of the Food and Agriculture Sector include a wide range of assets that are difficult to protect given the rural setting and significant amount of land required. Recently, a number of ranchers have had cattle killed or stolen. While these attacks may seem small and inconsequential individually, together they represent a significant loss with noticeable impacts to the food and agriculture systems and ultimately the price of food for all of us.

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security recently partnered with the Idaho State Police Brand Inspector to improve the State's surveillance and detection capability needed to protect the food and agriculture system. BHS leveraged 2009 Homeland Security Grant funding

allocated to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Program to create a cache of outdoor covert surveillance equipment to be managed and deployed by the Idaho State Brand Inspector.

The equipment cache includes 2 covert outdoor surveillance systems, 2 portable infrared license plate capture cameras, 5 infrared motion detection cameras, and 10 Acorn scouting cameras. The cache also includes 4 digital cameras, and 2 metal detectors to assist in investigations. This equipment cache can also be made available to assist local law enforcement investigations by contacting Larry Hayhurst, Idaho State Brand Inspector at 208-884-7070.

This project also provided 10 radios to the Idaho Department of Agriculture to access the Idaho State Police Valley All Call radio frequencies. These radios will enable the Agriculture Inspectors from the Idaho Department of Agriculture report crimes and communicate law enforcement-related issues in a timely and efficient manner so that the appropriate response can be taken within the limited window of opportunity.

This small project significantly increases the statewide capability to conduct surveillance, detection, and investigation operations for agricultural crimes throughout Idaho.

Dave Jackson
Critical Infrastructure Protection Program Manager
djackson@bhs.idaho.gov
208-422-3047



BHS recently partnered with the ISP Brand Inspector to improve the State's surveillance and detection capability.