

# Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2013



Haz-mat technicians are assisted by their team as they prepare to make entry.

## Major Exercise Tests E. Idaho Special Teams

A major exercise, coordinated by BHS, was conducted over three days in April in Idaho Falls. The scenario involved the response and coordination of three different types of special teams, as well as the activation of the county and state Emergency Operations Centers. Based upon the scenario, the Region 7 Hazardous Materials Response Team (hosted by Idaho Falls Fire Department), the Idaho Falls Police Department Bomb Squad, and Idaho Technical Rescue Team 3 (hosted jointly by Idaho Falls and Pocatello Fire Departments) all had the opportunity to work through the complex scenario together.

The exercise began with local law enforcement serving a warrant on a residential location. In the serving of the warrant, the officers determined the location to be a potentially dangerous drug lab. Following protocol, they backed out and called in the Region 7 Hazardous Materials Team. The team deployed to the site, set up their equipment, and prepared to make entry to contain the hazardous materials that were simulated to be inside.

An entry team made their way into the house in protective gear and using their self-contained breathing apparatus. The exercise design team had hidden dummy explosives in the house to test if the hazmat team would find them and what they would do if they did. The team did find the simulated explosives, backed out, decontaminated their team, and called the Idaho Falls Bomb Squad.

Exercise continued on pg. 3 »

## KOOTENAI COUNTY OEM

The Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is keeping busy with a myriad of programs and activities due to the direction and positive support they receive from their Board of County Commissioners. The office has a staff of 3.5 employees and 78 active volunteers that work diligently at preparing the county to effectively respond to and recover from any disaster situation they may be faced with.

*Here are some of the highlights of what OEM has been up to:*

OEM has provided oversight of an aggressive FireSmart™ Program by partnering with local, state and federal fire service agencies, the County' Community Development Department, the LEPC and private property owners to increase awareness of the hazards associated with wildfire in the Wildland Urban Interface areas of the county, and to mitigate those hazards wherever possible. Kootenai County and the LEPC have



OEM along with US Army Corps of Engineers meet with local stakeholders to discuss flood mitigation strategies in the Dudley area.

Kootenai OEM continued on pg. 4 »



Greetings,

The BHS mission to lead and support Idaho and its citizens in all aspects of disasters and emergencies, is something I take very seriously. I believe the application of that mission should permeate everything we do. Tying all the various aspects of emergency management together can sometimes be a challenge, but is becoming increasingly important. Today, it is important to ensure we remove the “stovepipes” that prevent cohesion and strategic planning. We must commit to continually adapting to the ever-changing environment that effectively and efficiently protects the lives and property of the people of Idaho.

Those involved in emergency management are familiar with the emergency management cycle. Plan, organize, train, exercise, evaluate, improve, and then begin the cycle again. Its purpose is to identify, improve, and refocus, on current and projected capability shortfalls and guide sustainable development to close the shortfalls. This important cycle is the foundation for directing my planning staff to look at this as a statewide system. The system must

be reflective of our identified hazards and the capabilities we need to respond to those hazards. Additionally we also need to have a measurement system with an eye towards assessing those capabilities to see our strengths and deficiencies, so that we can direct our resources appropriately.

Allocating limited resources to enhance our strengths, while correcting our deficiencies, will be a challenge. My approach will take a coordinated effort between state, tribal, and local organizations. We must work together with the tools at our disposal to develop a state strategic plan that will guide our budgeting and program organization. This strategic plan will also guide our investment justifications, or application for federal grant funding opportunities. From here, our Grants Management Branch will draft sub-grantee guidance that follows the gap analysis, and our Area Field Officers will assist local and tribal jurisdictions in building the necessary capability. Our Plans Section Chief, Dave Hall, is currently presenting this concept at Emergency Management Workshops throughout the state.

The State of Idaho has been given incredible opportunities through the various grants we receive. Since September 11, 2001, the grants were significant enough to accomplish most of the things we wanted any given year. However, as we move into a future where those funds are likely to be reduced from previous years, we must appropriate the funds that provide a blueprint for investments that will make our state, local and tribal jurisdictions more capable to dealing any hazards they will face.

I welcome your comments and suggestions as we build this process. I have no doubt that all of us can agree that through strategic planning and a coordinated effort, this system will strengthen us collectively, while ensuring we are able to support our state, our citizens, and all aspects of emergency management.

Respectfully,

Brad

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This newsletter is the official newsletter of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. This quarterly publication is intended for the use of the State of Idaho's emergency management community, legislators, government officials and others who are interested in learning about Idaho's emergency management techniques and procedures.

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Exercise continued from pg. 1 »

The bomb squad soon arrived on scene and suited up in their protective gear to make entry. As they did, the exercise controllers set off a flash bang to simulate an explosion. This simulated "explosion" trapped several members of the bomb squad in the residence. As the exercise closed for the day all the participants got together to go through the day's events to determine what went well, and what things needed to be improved upon.



The Haz-Mat Team set up a location to test and identify substances found on the scene.

Day two gave the participants a break, and the controllers the opportunity to partially demolish the house. The house, owned by the City of Idaho Falls, was slated for demolition anyway and was a great opportunity to use it realistic prop for urban search and rescue operations. A crew and two excavators carved away parts of the house, and then pushed it off its foundation.

Prior to the demolition the exercise team placed dummies throughout the house for the collapse search and rescue team to find the next day. The following day, the Idaho Technical Rescue Team 3 deployed to the scene to attempt the rescue of the "victims." This was a highly difficult and dangerous task given the fact that the house was in fact collapsed.

They started their efforts by setting up shoring to prevent the house from shifting. The team divided into units each working to make entry on a side of the house. It did not take long for the team to

find and rescue the first two victims, but the third was a challenge. Eventually they used a camera mounted on a pole to find the location of the final victim and to retrieve him from the rubble.

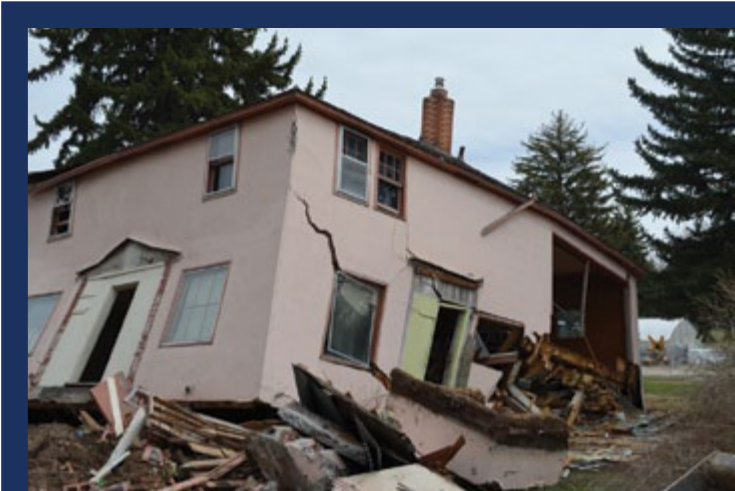
Again the participants gathered to conduct an after action review on how their processes worked and could be improved.

Exercises involving this many partner organizations and this level of realism and complexity are not common, and the participants came away with valuable lessons learned that will allow them to be more effective in future operations. BHS and the hosting departments have given significant funding, training, and equipment to assist in developing these special team capabilities, and this exercise was proof that the funding has developed significant and impressive capabilities.

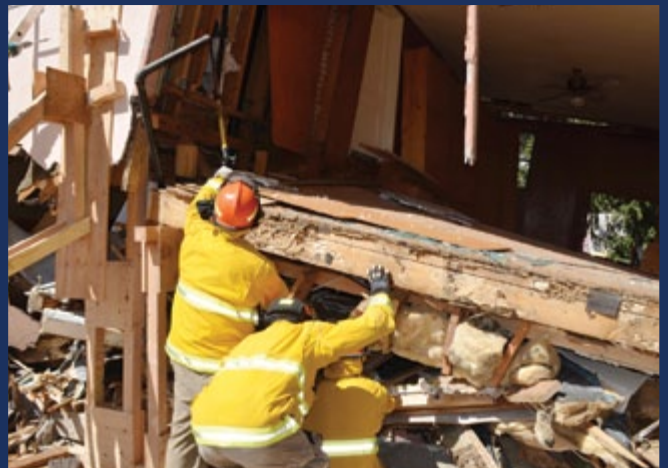
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Idaho Falls Fire Department personnel check out a "victim" who was rescued from the scene.



In between the two days of the exercise, the house was partially demolished to use it as a realistic prop for urban search and rescue operations.



Using a pole mounted camera, the team finds the third and final "victim".

successfully secured grant funds from the U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands to create defensible space around homes, create fuel breaks that protect local, state and federal property from wildfires and that enhance ingress and egress along public roadways. To ensure grant compliance, OEM and local Fire Agencies entered into a MOU, whereas Fire Services provide periodic inspections of property to ensure property owners who participated in and benefited from FireSmart™ are maintaining their properties for a minimum of 10 years. Kootenai County is quickly approaching 5000 acres of hazardous fuels treated land. The FireSmart™ program has proven its success by greatly reducing the amount of calls Fire Services receive requesting response to wildland fires.



Over the past 10 years, Kootenai County OEM has applied for and received over 9.5 million dollars in grant funding from the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, FEMA, Department of Commerce, Idaho Department of Lands and the U.S. Forest Service for various emergency management projects.

A major collaborative accomplishment funded through the Homeland Security Grant Program has been the new countywide 700 MHz communications system, which allows Kootenai County's emergency response agencies and hospitals to communicate directly with one another as well as reaching well into our neighboring counties. This significantly enhances the county's emergency response capabilities and public safety. Ongoing efforts are underway to extend our county's response reach well into Spokane County, Washington to further enhance regional capabilities. The significant infrastructure upgrade has been superbly managed with prudent purchasing and effective placement of

equipment by Kootenai County Sheriff's Office's 911 Director Brad Coughenour and Communication Manager Bob Kesson. Municipalities, Law Enforcement, Fire Services, Public Works, EMS and OEM have purchased their 700 MHz mobile and portable radios through local budgets, Homeland Security and Fire grant funding.

OEM is proud of its ongoing EOC readiness project funded by EMPG and SHSP grant funds. This project is well into its third full year and is set to culminate with a Full Scale Exercise in April of 2014. The point person for this program is Kerren Vollmer who has been under contract to enhance the county's EOC capabilities and is doing a truly remarkable job. EOC staffs confidence has increased and they are more comfortable reporting to the EOC for an actual incident or exercise due to this project.

An outline of the EOC Readiness Project includes:

The EOC was put through their paces in a Functional Exercise in April of 2012. In order to reach that point, the following was accomplished in preparation:

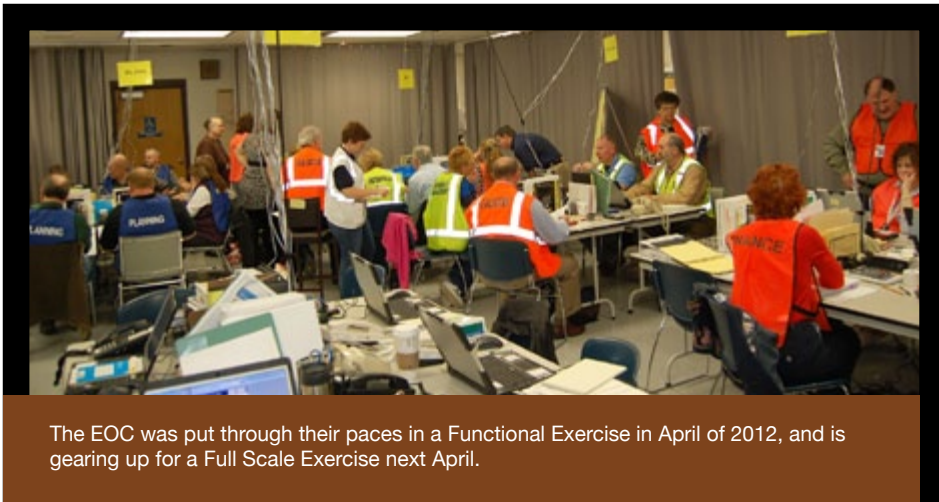
- EOC 101 and EOC Section Specific training was developed and conducted
- Each EOC Section was trained as an independent group and participated in a Tabletop Exercise concentrating on their Section's responsibilities in order to reinforce the training received
- The EOC SOP received a complete re-write based on the findings of each tabletop exercise prior to the Functional Exercise being conducted
- All EOC Staff were briefed on the various resources available to them in the EOC including orientation on various emergency plans
- All EOC Staff Were registered and trained in WebEOC
- All EOC Staff are registered to receive notifications through the county's Reverse 911 system
- All EOC Forms were placed on WebEOC
- The County's Mapping Tool was trained to EOC member's and is accessed via WebEOC

- A separate PIO Board was created within WebEOC

As the EOC heads towards its Full Scale Exercise next April, the following actions are underway or have already been accomplished:

- An aggressive round of trainings and tabletop exercises will commence in the Fall in preparation for the Full Scale Exercise
- A Social Media Unit has been created within the PIO Section
- EOC Staff Notifications are now accomplished through the county's Reverse 911 System and confirmations of availability are then made by the EOC member by logging into WebEOC from home (or work) and selecting their availability or non-availability status. This utilization of available technology greatly streamlines the initial call-out process making staffing the first operational period much more effective and timely
- A new bank of 24 laptop computers were procured for the EOC and training. This was a joint purchase with the Sheriff's Office which is where the OEM Office and EOC are physically located. These laptops are stored in a, "charging rack" in the EOC and receive automated network updates as they occur. This ensures that when the computers are needed in the EOC or for training purposes, that there will be no delays waiting for network updates to take place before the computers become functional.
- Most EOC Command and General Staff members recently participated in the MGT 411 EOC/ICS Interface course. We were very fortunate to have a large number of the county's Incident Commanders attend, providing an excellent forum to further enhance communications and to better understand the expectations that Incident Command and the EOC have of one another.

Our EOC is staffed with over 70 trained individuals. This takes into account for a fully staffed operation at two shifts per day 24X7 during a significant event. Other than the OEM Office, virtually all EOC Staff are volunteers. There is a three-way split



The EOC was put through their paces in a Functional Exercise in April of 2012, and is gearing up for a Full Scale Exercise next April.

of who makes up this workforce. The split includes partner agencies (police, fire, public health, etc.), citizen volunteers, and staff from various county offices, which have the approval of their department head or elected official. Over two hundred volunteer hours have been donated to support the EOC's mission so far this year. That is the equivalent of 25 eight hour shifts!

Some of our EOC Volunteers also volunteer to serve on either OEM's Speakers Bureau or on the ARES/RACES Amateur Radio Group.

Speaker Bureau volunteers visit with various groups including civic, faith, scouts, etc, and provide them with instructions in Emergency Preparedness. The speakers are excellent at tailoring their presentations to the needs of their audience. As an example, there is a recurring presentation provided to the Area Agency on Aging where some of the unique needs of seniors are emphasized. The Speakers Bureau also provides presentations to our first response agencies to ensure that they and their families are prepared.

Kootenai County's ARES/RACES Amateur Radio group is comprised of dedicated men and women who stand ready to serve in whatever role is asked of them during an emergency. They staff the Communications Unit in the EOC where they can provide communications between the EOC and a myriad of outside response agencies as well as critical facilities such as the 911 Center or Kootenai Medical Center. Another valuable service they provide is

remote communications from the field when necessary. One of the enhanced communication services they can now readily provide is digital, "packet" communications. Utilizing this system, text messages and attachments, such as documents and photographs can be transmitted much like an e-mail across radio channels in the event regular internet is not available. The bottom line is that with this group of radio enthusiasts, if emergency communications are critically needed, they have the skills, knowledge and expertise to provide resources and support, wherever and whenever needed.

The OEM staff members are Bonnie Kesson, Doug Fredericks, Tammy Klingler and Sandy Von Behren who coordinate programs that support all functions of emergency management.

Bonnie serves as OEM Clerk providing general support to staff during day to day operations. Bonnie assists Manager with Volunteer Program processing applications and maintaining training files.



Over two hundred volunteer hours have been donated to support the EOC's mission so far this year, here they are honored during the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast.

Bonnie is responsible for ensuring the EOC's inventory is adequately stocked with supplies and that equipment is functional. Bonnie updates point of contact information for OEM's staff, volunteers and partner agencies. Bonnie serves as the Document Unit Leader in the EOC.

Doug is the Resource and Preparedness Specialist who maintains resource database, coordinates the county's training and exercise programs, and oversees the Speakers Bureau preparedness program. Doug coordinates flood support efforts when required and assists with emergency planning. Doug also assists partner agencies in designing and facilitating exercises. Doug serves as Logistics Chief in the EOC.

Tammy Klingler is the newest addition to the OEM team, filling the position of Program Assistant II. Tammy provides administrative support to the manager assisting with budgeting, grants administration, program management, and facilitates office scheduling. Tammy serves as recording secretary for various committees, and serves as EOC Coordinator in the EOC.

Sandy is the OEM Manager overseeing OEM's day to day operations. Sandy collaborates with partner agencies and departments to coordinate mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts and programs. Sandy manages multiple grant funded projects and programs that enhance the county's emergency management capabilities. Sandy serves as EOC Manager in the EOC.

The OEM Office is tucked somewhat quietly away in the basement of the Sheriff's Office constantly planning and preparing for all hazard events. Due to OEM's strong partnerships and volunteers' commitment, there is confidence that Kootenai County has a team that is ready for the challenge of coordinating disaster response and recovery whenever called upon.

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# What is IdWARN?

What would you do without your water? A resource that is so critical in our daily lives is often taken for granted that it will be available without interruption. In the event of a natural or human caused disaster, water is one of the most critical resources needed to begin moving forward.

Idaho's Water-Wastewater Agency Response Network, referred to as

IdWARN is a formalized system of "utilities helping utilities" to address mutual aid during emergency situations. IdWARN's mission is to promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance for public and private water/wastewater utilities.

Utilities require specialized resources to recover or sustain operations during

disasters. Utilities must provide their own support until state and federal resources are available. Government response agencies and critical infrastructure rely on water supplies. There is NO charge for membership. All member utilities volunteer their time to develop and maintain the network.

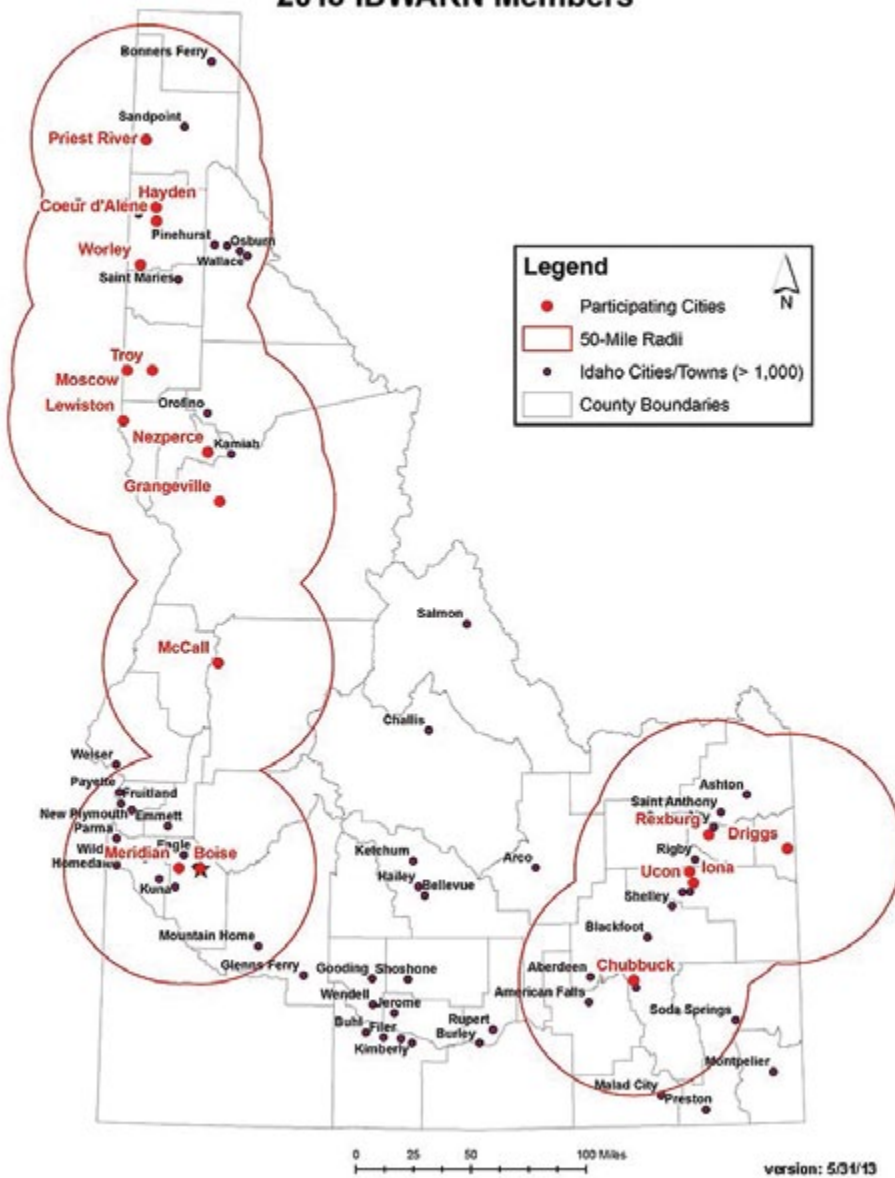
The project's infrastructure consists of a secure web-based data bank of available resources and a practical mutual aid agreement designed to reduce bureaucratic red tape and get the resources you need quickly in an emergency. Periodic planning meetings and mutual aid agreements established before disasters occur allow for quick access to resources that will be eligible for federal reimbursement at a later date. The agreement allows for utilities to share equipment, personnel, and other resources needed to respond effectively to a crisis while also addressing necessary issues such as indemnification, workers' compensation, and reimbursement. All members can request or send resources during an emergency but are not obligated to do so if they decide not to for any reason.

No utility is too big or too small to benefit from IdWARN. Each additional member enhances the probability of a successful response to an emergency. Every member has equal rights regardless of the size of the utility.

Is your community a member of IdWARN? Membership in IdWARN meets the Department of Homeland Security requirements and compliments your communities other emergency response plans. For more information visit [www.idwarn.org](http://www.idwarn.org).

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2013 IDWARN Members



# SPECIAL TEAMS CONDUCT EXERCISE FOR BASE OF OPERATIONS

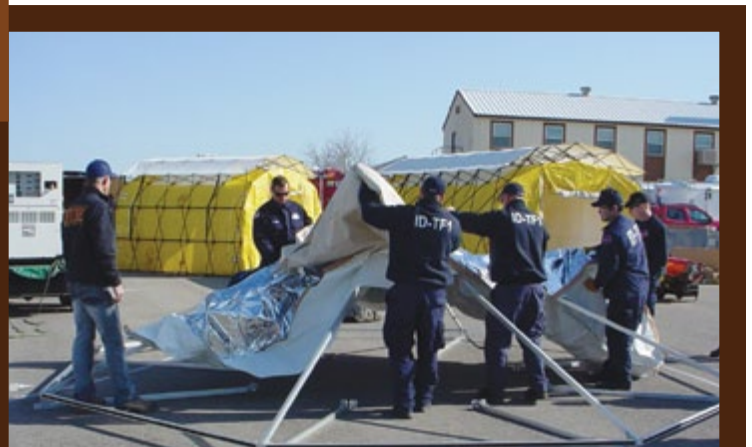
Special teams from across Idaho converged on Gowen Field recently to exercise setting up an Incident Command Post and a Base of Operations. The exercise focused on building the capability to be able to deploy outside the state in support of disaster or emergency operations.

Idaho currently has several distinctive capabilities that might be utilized by other states in a disaster scenario: we have six (6) Regional Haz-Mat Teams (Type 1), five (5) Regional Bomb Squads (Type 2), three (3) Collapse Search and Rescue Teams (Type 1), and one (1) Type 3 All Hazard Incident Management Team.

logistical burden of the requesting/receiving State. Additionally, a self-sufficient capability will preclude these critical assets from having to house or stage miles away from their designated work area, lessening their effectiveness. This capability will increase special team on-site effectiveness while reducing the logistical burden on the requesting/receiving state during a time of duress.

The scenario was an EMAC deployment to a major earthquake disaster. The request was to provide technical rescue for collapsed structures and hazardous materials releases. In a Haz-Mat team EMAC deployment one of the six teams would provide the equipment, while all teams would provide personnel, so that no one team is stressed for personnel at home during the deployment.

Properly stowing all equipment is an essential part of the demobilization process. The exercise ended after all equipment was packed, accounted for, and reloaded on appropriate apparatus. The exercise lasted about 8 hours and was a positive step in developing Idaho capabilities to deploy out of the state.



Through the Emergency Management Compact (EMAC), signed by all 50 states, there is a mechanism for states to support other states that are in need of resources.

Prior to a grant received from the National Emergency Management Association, these assets were not self-sufficient if they were to deploy. This means that they require logistical support from the requesting/receiving state for housing, food, and sanitation. With the grant, BHS was able to purchase equipment to provide that self-sufficiency, and the exercise was an opportunity for those teams to become familiar with the equipment.

The Base of Operations capability will allow special teams deployed from Idaho on an EMAC request to be self-sufficient for a 72 hour + operational period, significantly reducing the



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# Fire Destroys Grain Elevators in Craigmont

A fire was first discovered in the Hinrich Trading Company garbanzo bean elevator at about 2:25 p.m. on Sunday May 12 and quickly spread to three Columbia Grain bins. Craigmont Fire Department Chief Rick Samsel established command and immediately began to request additional resources. Initial priorities were to ensure life safety for responders and area

Department of Lands fire response and logistical support.

While the various fire response agencies were extremely busy trying to contain the fire, law enforcement agencies including Lewis County Sheriff's Department, Idaho County Sheriff's Department, Idaho State Police, Nez Perce Tribal Law Enforcement

and a maintenance shop were totally destroyed, along with additional damages to another Columbia grain bin and numerous private residences.

Although the smoke from the various grains continued to fill the sky, the fire was declared contained at 11:00 P.M. that same evening. This event was 5 to 6



residents, contain the fire, prevent it from spreading, and evacuate threatened area residents.

The City issued a Disaster Declaration, opened their Command Center at the Idaho Department of Lands office and requested county assistance. There is a Lewis County - wide mutual aid agreement with the various fire departments and those resources were requested first, to include Kamiah, Winchester and Nezperce Fire Departments, along with Craigmont Quick Response, the City of Nezperce Ambulance and the Winchester Quick Response Unit. With a shower of embers and spot fires that continued to threaten the community, additional non-mutual aid resources were requested to include Culdesac Fire, Cottonwood Fire, Wheatland Fire, Asotin County Fire and the Fire Departments from the Cities of Lewiston and Clarkston, along with Idaho

and Idaho Fish and Game officers were all assisting with life safety, scene control and security, road closure, access restriction, and the notification and evacuation of the north side of Craigmont. Crowd control was a continual effort. Avista crews were quickly available to evaluate the threat to infrastructure and maintain critical electrical service to the wells providing the necessary water for suppression.

Lewis County issued a Disaster Declaration notifying the state that an emergency existed that might require state financial assistance to cover extraordinary expenses. Craigmont High School was opened as a collection site for those residents that were evacuated and the American Red Cross was requested to provide food and refreshments for the responders and the residents that had been evacuated. The Hinrich elevator and warehouse, two Columbia grain bins,

hours longer than a typical response for the area, and included a vast number of resources. During the recent AAR (after action review), several significant findings were shared. Major strengths included the fact that there were no deaths and very few minor injuries; the availability and initial response time for the various resources was outstanding; destruction was contained to only five buildings; incident command was established and communicated; leadership at both the city and county level was extremely supportive; there was mutual cooperation through-out all responding entities and the entire community; declarations were issued; the various response organizations had similar training and understanding; the county's trained Public Information Officer was available, and participation in the AAR (after action review) was positive.

Community continued on next page »



# PSC Hosts Idaho's First COMT Training

First responder communications can make or break any response to any incident at any level. Having a technical staff capable of assisting is just one critical component to ensuring that response flows smooth regardless of the conditions.

The week of May 6th through the 10th, the Public Safety Communications Branch, PSC, hosted the state of Idaho's first All-Hazards Communications Technician, or COMT training. The COMT course trains emergency responders on practices and procedures common to radio communication technicians during all-hazards emergency operations. This course will help communications technicians work within the Incident Command System (ICS) organizational structure. Thirteen technicians completed the weeklong training which covered everything from mobilization to deploying and configuring technology that could be employed on an incident.

The COMT course is coordinated through the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator or SWIC's office, and is delivered through the Department of Homeland Security's, Office of Emergency Communications. The instructors for the course, Dan Wills and Jim Millsap, brought a wealth of knowledge from past incidents including response to the 9/11 Twin Towers Collapse.

The staff of PSC maintains and configures communications equipment for state agencies on a daily basis, however responding to an incident and working within the ICS structure is a new experience for most of the group. Their staff offers decades of combined experience in communications, and adding incident communications to their repertoire is a natural extension of their abilities. Currently, PSC is maintaining a small cache of reserve communications equipment which includes portable repeaters and base radios, handheld radios,



Thirteen PSC technicians completed the weeklong training for incident communications support.

and a communications tower trailer complete with repeaters across three frequency bands.

Whether it's day to day operations, or a wild land fire, incident communications technicians are critical for maintaining the voice and data communications required to properly respond to an incident.

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As with any incident of this size, there were opportunities for improvement. Suggestions included communications planning, developing responder accountability in terms of the number of resources committed to the incident, and a review of dispatch protocols. Another potential improvement is that a Regional Mutual Aid Agreement needs to be established. This regional mutual aid agreement would outline what resources could be available, identify rates, and establish guidelines for requests. Pre-fire plans for specific facilities may be something to develop in the future as well.

The cause of the fire is still undetermined. Thankfully the facilities were insured. The insurance adjustors are busy

gathering information and determining the eligibility of the various expenses. Depending upon the outcome, both companies hope to rebuild in the very near future. This was a complex event and a major fire. The cooperation of the various agencies was remarkable, and the most important take-away was that there was no deaths or serious injuries.

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# Mitigation Section Update

Your help is needed! The State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) is nearing completion. A draft revision is available for review and comment at <http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/>. As one of the public outreach activities for the SHMP revision, BHS will coordinate interactive hazard presentations with various agencies Saturday, June 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at The Discovery Center of Idaho, 131 Myrtle Street, Boise. The event is called Disaster Days.

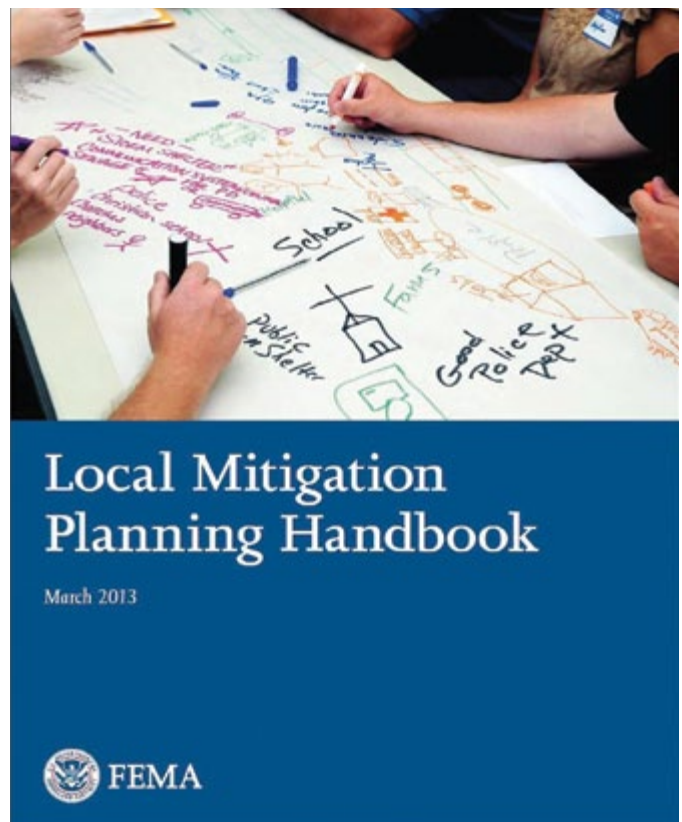
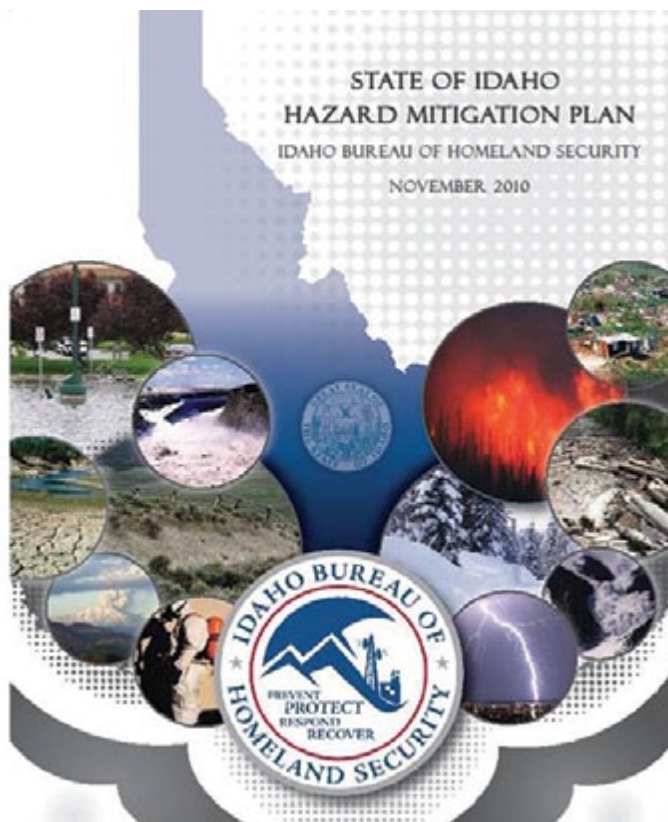
The BHS Mitigation Section is calling for wildfire mitigation success stories. Please submit your good ideas to [BHSMitigation@bhs.idaho.gov](mailto:BHSMitigation@bhs.idaho.gov). The Valley County Fire Working Group has been awarded a \$6,000 Firewise grant for a woody debris collection program. Valley County residents are notified via fliers and newspaper ads to bring their woody debris to bins located in several areas around the county or to the county landfill at no charge from Memorial Day weekend through the end of June. Again in October, the county landfill will accept woody debris free of charge. This campaign is a repeat of last year's successful fuel reduction effort where homeowners reduced their fuel load by tons.

WUI mitigation efforts have been shown to be effective, and limited damage to Colorado Springs. See the report "Lessons from Waldo Canyon" and companion video "Creating Fire

Adapted Communities: A Case Study from Colorado Springs and the Waldo Canyon Fire" at <http://wildfire.blog.nfpa.org/2013/03/fire-adapted-communities-coalition-announces-release-of-wildfire-report-and-video.html>.

A new Local Mitigation Planning Handbook has been released by FEMA and is available at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7209>. As of today, there is no official announcement for the FY13 Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant. We are anticipating the announcement at any time. FEMA is at the mercy of Congressional appropriation and we will keep you informed. We currently have 18 planning and 7 project applications totaling nearly \$3,000,000. FEMA Region X is requiring the use of OMB SF424 A and C forms for HMA budgets attached in eGrants. HMA Unified Guidance requires the submittal of detailed budgets with back-up documentation. These standard forms used throughout Federal government programs and have a simplified budget. The companion Assurances forms SF424B and D are pre-loaded in eGrants and required for submittal of sub-applications.

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# Sue Welch is the Summer 2013 Employee of the Quarter

Nominated by her peers and appreciated by all, Sue Welch is recognized as the BHS Summer 2013 Employee of the Quarter. Sue began her career with the Bureau as the North / North Central Training and Exercise Coordinator in April of 2009. With her positive attitude, prior knowledge of and experience with law enforcement, fire services and public health, as well as her acute communications skills, Sue has become an exemplary representative of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security.

Sue works closely with the various counties and tribes to make sure that she meets their needs while still accomplishing grant guidance and requirements. She has a very diverse group of individuals to work with and for, and she manages this so well that the majority of them believe she gives them each her undivided and preferential treatment. Debi Ruppe, BHS North Central Area Field Officer says, "I estimate that in my area alone she's been responsible for the development, presentation and review of more than 20 different types of exercises. I frequently receive compliments on Sue's performance and quite frankly Sue is just a pleasure to work with. "

Sue continually looks for opportunities for growth and improvement and is considered one of the best Haz-Mat Duty officers serving the Bureau. Jerry Zumalt, Idaho County Disaster Management Coordinator had this to say about her: "Sue 'gets' the big picture and she has earned my thanks and support as an outstanding Bureau of Homeland Security employee and a valuable colleague."

Sue is able to welcome a broad spectrum of participants through making people feel comfortable, by clearly



communicating that she values and accepts differing perspectives, and by displaying respect for a broad range of style and experience. According to Bob Howard, Director of Bonner County Department of Emergency Management and President of the Idaho Emergency Mangers Association, "The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and the citizens of Idaho are extremely lucky to have Sue Welch on their team."

When you see Sue, please join in congratulating her on the job well done and the well-deserved award.

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## CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE & KEY RESOURCES UPDATE

The vision of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) is to work towards a safer future through effective partnerships committed to saving lives, protecting property and serving the people of Idaho in all matters of disaster services. One way in which BHS is working to achieve this vision through a partnership with PacifiCorp, the Franklin County Sherriff's office, Idaho State Communications, and Franklin County Emergency Management. This partnership between public and private sector has been created to facilitate a reliable and efficient means of communicating emergency warning messages to Idaho citizens living in the flood inundation zones between Oneida Dam and Idaho Highway 34 in Franklin County.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), public and private sectors will work together to develop a potentially lifesaving message that can be sent out if and when needed. PacifiCorp and Idaho State Communications are collaborating to create a unique message that will be used to notify citizens in the affected area in the event of an emergency at the dam. Using the ISAWS program, State Communications when alerted can and would send out this predesigned message to those citizens that have registered with ISAWS. All citizens living within the Oneida Dam flood inundation zone are asked to register so they will receive these notification messages. ISAWS is a voluntary alert system and has been used in Idaho since April of 2011 to notify citizens of emergencies and disasters. Registration is simple and easy and can be done by going to [www.isaws.org](http://www.isaws.org).

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