

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015

Idaho FirstNet Consultation

May 21 2015

Idaho leads the nation in per capita use of cell phones by citizens. With FirstNet on the horizon, it will provide that same connectivity on a dedicated network for public safety. On May 21st, 104 stakeholders from around Idaho gathered to begin the discussion on how to deploy that network in Idaho. Many "firsts" took place at the Idaho consultation: The first team picture in a hockey rink (Idaho Steelheads), the first time a FirstNet Board Member (Jeff Johnson) shared in the keynote roles to open the event, and the first time in discussing data collection that the state team led the discussion with their strategy. Stakeholders were present from all regions of the state; two members from the Governor's Office, rural telecom representatives, elected officials, and public safety organizations.

Brad Richy opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. He pointed out that much has changed since the original concept of FirstNet was developed, and that things will continue to evolve. A goal of the Idaho FirstNet planning team was to illustrate to the federal team what makes Idaho unique, and what factors must be considered when deploying the network in our state. With that in mind we presented on

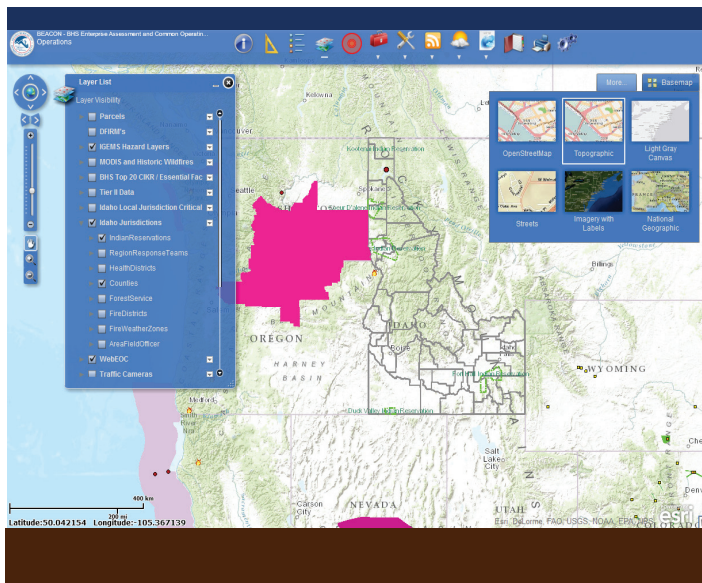


the topography and rural nature that will be a factor in this build-out.

The FirstNet team conducted in-depth discussions on current activities and strategy as well as data collection and coverage objective discussions. The audience was engaged, asked questions, provided suggestions and typically responded with "how we can make this work here in Idaho."

The afternoon started with presentations on how Idaho agencies use wireless data technology today. Paul Roberts with Boise Fire Department led a dynamic discussion on the use of technology in the workplace. He championed the use

FirstNet continued on pg. 4 »



B.E.A.C.O.N.

The IBHS Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) Program adds a new interactive mapping tool for Idaho's Emergency Management and Response partners.

Idaho's Emergency Management and Response partners in communities across the state now have a new tool to provide precise and invaluable information. The IBHS Enterprise Assessment and Common Operating Network or BEACON is a secure mapping portal that allows everyone to visualize high-quality, near real-time intelligence. BEACON combines dynamic information such as Fire Perimeters, Thermal Satellite, Advisories, NexRad Weather, Earthquakes, and traffic cameras with parcels, Tier 2, vulnerability, essential facilities, dams, and several jurisdictions such as forest service and counties, to allow any combination of overlays that would help in decision making or situational awareness.

Risk Map continued on pg. 14 »



Greetings,

I was pleased with the robust attendance at the FirstNet Initial Consultation meeting in Boise in May. Idaho had one of the best turnouts of any state. For a state with a population of 1.6 million and 84,000 square miles I was impressed to witness the time and commitment made by the responder community. To put it in perspective, as a sparsely populated state our numbers rivaled those of states like Texas – with a population of 27 million. So our attendance of more than 100 is significant.

The participation and dynamic discussions demonstrate a strong statewide commitment when it comes to maintaining the highest level of responder and communication capabilities in our geographically diverse state. As you know, the goal of FirstNet is to ensure that emergency responders have access to the first nationwide, high-speed wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. As we move forward with the implementation process we want to ensure that the data we collect helps us to build a system that works with Idaho’s

geography. FirstNet information, including information on this spring’s consultation meeting can be found on the IBHS website www.bhs.idaho.gov

Summer has arrived and that means the threat of wildfires throughout the state is ever present. Knowing the dangers and having the most up to date information is critically important to everyone in Idaho’s Emergency Management community. We are pleased to host on the IBHS webpage a link to a valuable new tool. Idahofireinfo.blogspot.com was developed by state and federal agencies in Idaho to provide the most accurate information on wildfires in our region. Think of it as a one stop shop for comprehensive fire information. The site includes links to Dispatch centers across the state. I also encourage you to take a moment and read more about the IBHS BEACON and how it can provide extensive information to maintain situational awareness in the fire season ahead.

The June 6, 2016 Cascadia Rising Functional Exercise is less than a year away. In the coming months you will be hearing more about this exercise as Idaho, Washington and Oregon prepare to test the abilities of local, state, tribal, Federal government, private sector and non-governmental organizations to jointly responded to an earthquake and tsunami. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the Cascadia Subduction Zone – what it is and how it could impact the lives of millions of people along the Pacific Coast.

Thank you for your invaluable efforts in keeping our communities safe, prepared and informed.

Best,
Brad

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

C.L. “Butch” Otter, Governor

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Boise County Conducts Full scale Exercise

For the second time in as many years Boise County planned and executed a full scale exercise. The May 16 exercise challenged response agencies to handle large scale events by coordinating resources, not only across the county, but with state and federal partners as well.

Boise County contains 1900 square miles of beautiful but isolated forest. It is home to about 6800 residents who live in or near a dozen small communities. Served by ten different fire departments, seven different EMS units, two law enforcement agencies and dispatcher from two different dispatch centers; it does not get much more challenging than that!

Boise County Emergency Manager John Roberts, supported by Central District Health, and US Forest Service staff, designed two different scenarios that would challenge both the fire and EMS responders to handle a large scale event.

The “green” scenario was a rapidly growing wild land fire. Local fire responders were backed up by US Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands staff, complete with fire equipment. The “red” scenario was a mass casualty/fatality school bus crash supported by the Ada County coroner’s staff, complete with their mobile coroner trailer - assisting Boise County coroner Pam Garlock.

146 people signed in that Saturday morning in Centerville, nearly double from last year’s count. Each agency was assigned to support either the red or the green event. After a great lunch, provided by the Salvation Army, each group responded to the other scenario, so everybody “did it all”.

Boise County has built 2 IRU’s (incident response units) trailers with VHF and UHF radio capability, and each IRU acted as independent dispatch centers for each scenario. Each incident stressed the need for, and used, the ICS system, complete with unified command. Fire fighters laid hose and pumped water and EMS responders dealt with injury simulated students (a big thank you to Meridian Medical Arts charter school), an intoxicated bus driver, and angry parents. The coroner group dealt with pieces and parts of mannequins scattered about. Everybody had plenty to do.

The “we are all in this together” environment was further cultivated as federal, state and local agencies worked side by side. Volunteer agencies such as American Red Cross, Garden Valley CERT team, Boise County ARES, and the Salvation Army all did what they would do in a real event.

When it comes to working together Boise County has bridged the gap created by difficult terrain, limited funding, and multiple levels of Government. Sheriff Ben Roeber summed it up when he said we can’t provide for the citizens of Boise County without the support of every agency represented here today!

Dale Nalder
Southwest Area Field Officer



FirstNet continued from pg. 1 »

of apps, and reminded everyone of how valuable dedicated spectrum will be to public safety. Chris St. Germaine with the Nez Perce tribe illustrated how tribal nations within Idaho currently communicate, what infrastructure they have to offer, and "win-win" opportunities in the future. Greg Warner illustrated leading edge technologies in use Bonneville County, and made the point that capacity on current commercial networks can create challenges for public safety. The demonstrations closed out with a presentation from Lt. Justin Ryan with Ada County Sheriff's Office and Robert Hugi talking about the challenges with communications they had when responding to the Hannah Anderson kidnapping near the Frank Church Wilderness.

The rural and rugged terrain in Idaho represents challenges for Idaho, but there is optimism for finding solutions that meet our



needs. Idaho is fortunate to have two members on the Public Safety Advisory Council; Sheriff Len Humphries and Richard Broncheau. This 40 person panel is authorized by congress to advise FirstNet on the deployment of the nationwide network. A project as complex as FirstNet must be developed with the input of all potential users. Much work remains to be done before we get to the network deployment stage, and our team at IBHS will continue to look for advice and recommendations on how to plan for the future of communications for public safety.

Robert Feeley, Program Manager
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New Comprehensive Fire Information Site

Idaho counties can track fire activity & information statewide

A new website created by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands makes finding information even easier when it comes to keeping your family, home and community safe. The Idaho Fire information blog <http://idahofireinfo.blogspot.com/> includes information on fire restrictions, burn bans, burn permits and current fire weather, along with helpful prevention, education and safety

information; a one-stop shop for up-to-date Idaho fire information. A link to the site can be found on the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security website www.bhs.idaho.gov



Idaho to take part in Cascadia Rising Functional Exercise June 2016

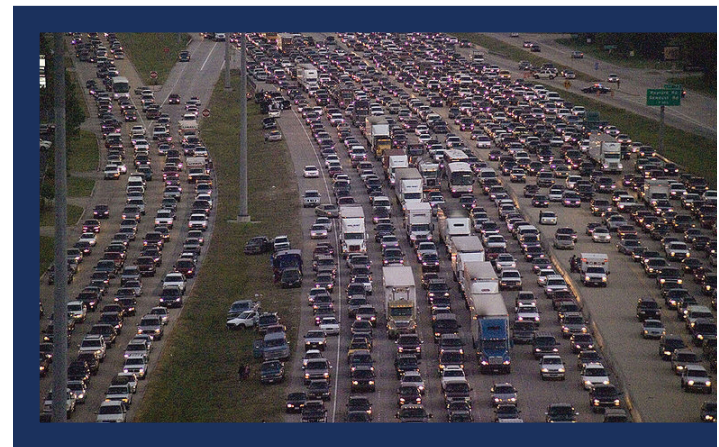
Agencies and organizations in the State of Idaho are preparing to participate in the Cascadia Rising 2016 Functional Exercise which will be held the week of June 6, 2016. This exercise is intended to test the ability of local, state, tribal, Federal government, and select private sector and non-governmental organizations to jointly respond to an earthquake and tsunami. The scenario involves a 9.0 magnitude earthquake which occurs along the length of the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) fault with an epicenter 95 miles west of Eugene, Oregon. The earthquake triggers a tsunami which impacts the entire Pacific Basin.



The Cascadia Subduction Zone plate interface is a giant fault (approximately 700 miles long) that runs along the Pacific Coast from Northern California through Oregon and Washington and into British Columbia. The world's largest quakes occur along subduction zones. The most recent one was the East Japan earthquake and tsunami of 2011 that killed 16,000 people. Based on scientific evidence and a few Native American and First Nations oral stories, it is believed that the last known earthquake that occurred along the Cascadia Subduction Zone happened in January 1700. It was estimated to be on the order of magnitude 9.0, followed within minutes by a large tsunami. Stresses have now been building along the Cascadia Subduction Zone for more than 300 years.

More than 8 million people live and work within the projected CSZ earthquake damage zone in Washington and Oregon. It is estimated that an earthquake and tsunami of this magnitude could result in over 10,000 deaths and more than 30,000 injured

people. Damage from the earthquake and subsequent tsunami will also likely result in extensive road and bridge damage, air, rail and seaport transportation disruption, infrastructure damage (water & wastewater systems, dams and levees, electric power and natural gas systems, hospitals and schools), and communication systems disruption. Over 1 million residences may be damaged. Some estimates suggest that 1 million people may need short-term

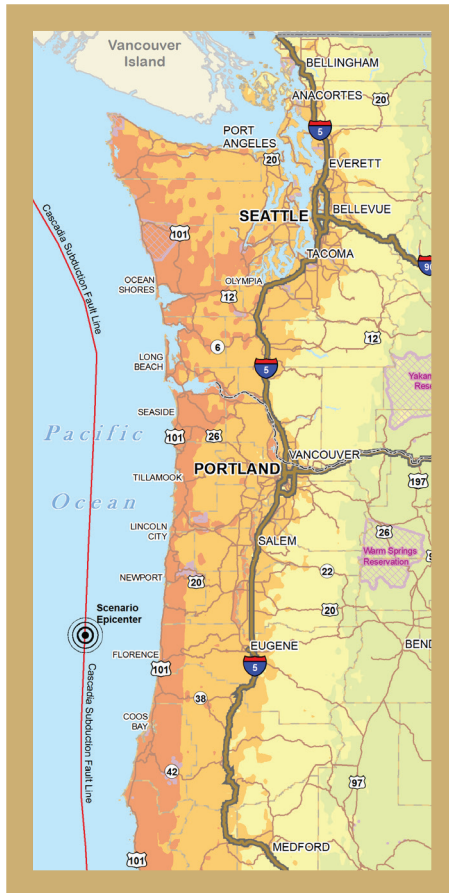


sheltering.

So, why is Idaho participating? It is likely that the Idaho emergency responder community will be asked to assist our neighbors in Washington and Oregon. This assistance should be well coordinated in order to avoid contributing to problems within the affected areas. In addition, Idaho may also be directly impacted by the cascading effects of such a disaster. As evidenced during the 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the mass evacuation of thousands of people can have impacts in neighboring states. In addition, transportation disruption may impact the availability of critical supplies and resources, including food, to Idahoans.

This exercise provides us with an opportunity to test the state and local plans, policies and procedures which would have to be implemented during this type of disaster. In addition, the exercise provides an opportunity to interface with our partners in Washington and Oregon, as well as our federal partners such as FEMA Region X. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and Idaho Military Division have committed to participating in the exercise and have invited participation from the counties and tribes in the North Central and North Areas of Idaho. An Initial Planning Meeting was held on May 28, 2015, and the planning process has begun. Stay tuned as more information will be forthcoming.

Sue Welch
Regional Programs Coordinator



Col Tim Marsano retires

Col Tim Marsano, the Public Affairs Officer for the State of Idaho Military Division/Idaho National Guard is retiring after more than 30 years of federal and state service. Many of you may remember Col Marsano when his duties included serving as the PIO for Idaho BHS and its predecessors, the Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services and the Idaho Bureau of Hazardous Materials back in the early 2000s until 2010. Tim says he's looking forward to his military retirement but will

be jumping right back into the Idaho civilian working world. "It was great to be a part of Idaho's emergency response community," said Marsano. "There are so many dedicated professionals at the local, state and regional levels. I had the pleasure of getting to know many of them and I'm confident Idaho's in good hands when it comes to preparing for disasters, responding to them and then recovering from them." We wish Col Marsano the best in his new endeavors.



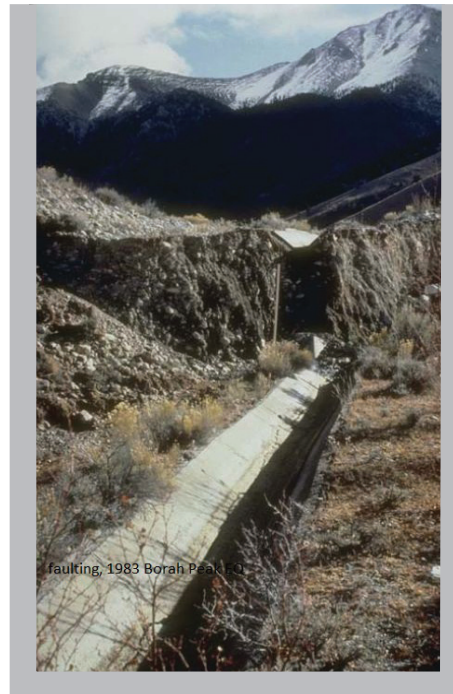
Earthquakes: Always in Season

In Idaho we have a flood season, a fire season, and a winter storm season but one significant threat has no season. Earthquakes, of all sizes, can and do occur at any time, all across the state. Earthquakes are caused by forces known and unknown, but mostly by shifts and movements in the earth's crust.

The seismic risk is high in Idaho with the entire state falling within the moderate to high risk categories. Idaho is ranked 6th in the nation for such, according to the United States Geological Survey or USGS. The Idaho State Hazard Mitigation Plan lists earthquakes in the top three hazards and the State Emergency Operational Plan includes, as one of its planning scenarios, a realistic and plausible seismic event in eastern Idaho.

The list of vulnerable infrastructure, building stock and population demographics is endless. Who is responsible for protecting these assets and resources? All levels of federal, state and local governments and the citizenry at large are responsible for self-protection,

infrastructure protection, resilient communities and robust recovery efforts. However, as we've recently seen in China, Nepal, Italy, Virginia and Japan, recovery is painfully slow and very expensive in both



socio-economic and political terms.

Earthquakes are not like fires or floods. There usually is no notice. The danger is complacency, denial and fear. We, as emergency managers, must embrace the enormity and complexity of planning, response and recovery. In contrast to the sophisticated and well-rehearsed earthquake programs in other states, Idaho has significantly smaller staff and experience. It is imperative that we institutionalize our efforts across multiple agencies, disciplines and socio-economic strata which might include responsible legislation toward even minor seismic-resistant building codes and perhaps Cabinet or sub-Cabinet levels of government.

Our readers are encouraged to remain prepared for any size of seismic event with planning and exercising of those plans. Be aware of opportunities for structural and non-structural seismic retrofitting, in the workplace, schools, hospitals and nursing homes, along with government buildings and any structures where live and work.

[Earthquakes continued on next page »](#)

Earthquakes continued from pg. 6 »

Learn about, register for and participate in the Great Idaho Shakeout coming October 10, 2015. Practice the preferred DROP, COVER and HOLD ON maneuver for your personal protection during an event. Consider maintaining emergency supplies (food, water, sanitation and medical) at home enough to last 30 days without general services. We need to reinforce our plans for staff and the families of staff as well as Idaho citizens, businesses, government and infrastructure.



Tonight, tomorrow, next week, next month might be the start of earthquake season in Idaho. Be ready.

Mark Stephensen
IBHS Mitigation Section Chief

Official Participant

Join Us

in the
World's Largest
Earthquake Drill.



October 15, 10:15 a.m.

Shake
Out™

Rob Mace is the new data collection and outreach member of the Idaho State & Local Grant Implementation (SLIGP) team. Rob will be reaching out to first responders, counties and Tribes in Idaho to obtain pertinent information needed for the FirstNet program. Rob is a native of Teton, Idaho and grew up working on a farm. Rob joined the Idaho Army National Guard as a Combat Medic in 2000 and completed two tours in Iraq with the 116th Brigade Combat Team in 2005 and 2010. Rob now flies Apache helicopters for the 183rd at Gowen Field. Contact Rob at IBHS at rmace@bhs.idaho.gov



STEVE HAYWARD RETIRES

As I look back over my almost twelve years with the bureau, I feel very blessed to have been selected from several qualified candidates and then given the opportunity to work with and for a most wonderful assortment of people from throughout the



Gem state. For me, this has truly been some of the best of times both in my professional and personal life.

My journey started with a visit from my friend and SEAFO, Ken Fagnant informing me that I should apply for a new regional position being offered by the bureau. Having previously worked for the American Red Cross for two years in Ken's area, I was already familiar with the territory and felt this was a great career

opportunity. I was fortunate enough to be chosen as the SE regional exercise coordinator for IBHS and became one of seven (affectionately known to each other as the 7 dwarves...each with our own appropriate nick name) regional exercise coordinators. Over time as our numbers shrank to three and training was added to the scope of work, I had the continuing good fortune of being retained which meant assuming additional territory (NEAFO) ...and what beautiful territory it is! Now as I prepare to exit, I leave as the last of the original seven and one of two current regional programs coordinators currently working with 3 AFOs, 24 counties and one tribe.

During my time with IBHS, my regional travels and responsibilities have allowed me to participate in numerous preparedness activities with a broad coalition of dedicated individuals representing local, regional and state organizations and agencies all with a common focus of making the state we hold dear better prepared to face today's emergency preparedness challenges. I am especially grateful for the all the backing I have always enjoyed over my tenure from the

local jurisdictions and county emergency managers as we worked together to develop and conduct beneficial exercise activities in support of local goals and objectives.



As a final thought, I offer up a 'virtual' giant group hug to all I've had the pleasure of working with and say that I look forward to staying in touch with you as I move forward into a new and exciting chapter of my life. Bon Voyage!

Steve Hayward
Regional Programs Coordinator

Val Larsen

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is pleased to announce the appointment of Val Larsen as the IBHS Logistics Manager. Prior to coming to IBHS, Val spent 35 years in the Idaho Army National Guard, the past 31 years working full time in the logistics community as a Unit Supply Sergeant and Property Accounting Officer for the 116th Cavalry Brigade and Idaho's Joint Force Headquarters where he recently retired as a Chief Warrant Officer. Val brings to his role significant experience in logistics and accountability planning and management including key roles in major brigade sized deployments to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California and Kirkuk, Iraq, in

support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for his service.



Val just celebrated 31 years of marriage to his wife Sheila, who was raised in Brigham City, Utah. They have four sons aged 30, 28, 25 & 19, and two grandchildren. They're excited to welcome their third grandchild later this month. Val enjoys spending time outdoors, working in the yard, tinkering with computers, and being with his family. He's busy learning the specifics of IBHS logistics and finding ways he can put his experience to work in support of the Bureau's mission. He looks forward to meeting with IBHS stakeholders to provide expertise and support going forward.

RRT 2 Operation Defending Dogwood

The Regional Response Team 2, 101st Civil Support Team, Lewiston Police Department and Lewiston Fire Department participated in a multi-day exercise called “Operation Defending Dogwood” in late April 2015. The exercise tested the skills and abilities of all agencies involved. The event was coordinated by Army North and was used to evaluate the operations of the CST and RRT 2.

Each year during the last week of April, two very large events take place that draw thousands of people into Lewiston. They’re there to enjoy Art Under the Elms, held on the Lewis Clark State College campus along with a 5K and 10 K race that draws more than 3,000 participants. The objective of the exercise was to discover a plot to violently disrupt activities during the Dogwood Festival, eliminate the threat to the community and restore confidence for the upcoming events. The exercise began when the Lewiston Police Department received Intel that there was a person of interest who was planning a potential terrorist activity and served a high-risk search warrant with their SWAT team. Upon entry of the residence the SWAT team apprehended the suspect and during the entry came upon an unknown chemical lab and was contaminated due to booby traps set by the suspect.

RRT 2 and the CST were deployed to the scene due to the suspect having possible CBRNE type materials at the residence. The two teams worked together to conduct a unified operation that included entry, hazard identification, collection of evidence, identifying other potential hazards, medical monitoring and decontamination. On the first day of the exercise, teams were on the scene for over 8 hours setting up denomination, conducting entry, product sampling, chemical identification and evidence collection. Due to evidence and information gathered during the first day, it was determined that the suspect had set up a van with radioactive materials along the race course and on day two both teams again coordinated a unified operation to secure the scene, perform entry, identify the hazards, collect evidence and perform decontamination of the entry teams.

The exercise tested the abilities of all the agencies involved and showed how adequately trained and prepared all agencies are. The event did identify areas for improvement, but showed the community that emergency responders are properly equipped and trained to handle such an event if one were to occur.

Travis A. Myklebust
Fire Chief
Lewiston Fire Department



2015 HAZARD MITIGATION GRANTS

On June 6th Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Director Brad Richy announced the opening of the FY2015 Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant program to all eligible Idaho applicants. The announcement letter stated, "[t]his grant participation opportunity can provide risk reduction to individuals and property from natural hazards, while simultaneously reducing reliance on Federal disaster funds." These sub-grants are used to protect lives and property from those natural hazards such as floods, wildfire, earthquakes and landslides that are prescribed in the various County All-Hazard Mitigation Plans.

The HMA grants include both Pre-disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance sub-grants to eligible agencies of state, county and municipal government agencies, tribes, special purpose districts and certain registered non-profit organizations with like-government service. There are opportunities for both hazard mitigation projects as well as planning projects for county all-hazard mitigation plan renewals and other planning-type projects.

Successful sub-applicants will demonstrate and document a feasible and necessary hazard mitigation project, a sufficient outcome that will effectively protect lives and/or property and the ability to both manage the sub-grant and cost match requirement. In addition, the sub-applicant will be able to show a favorable (better than 1:1) cost-benefit ratio for the entire project.

Due to FEMA's delay in issuing the announcement, the application period was shortened to 90 days. The Letters of Intent, which were due June 30, 2015, are being processed. If you have extenuating circumstances and need to submit your letter now, we can in most cases accommodate you. Please contact Mark Stephensen, IBHS Mitigation Section Chief mstephensen@bhs.idaho.gov The sub-applications themselves must be entered into FEMA's eGrants system by no later than July 31st. The approved projects will be prioritized by a review



Archive Photo - City of Lewiston Pre-disaster Mitigation Grant Stormwater project: An example of Hazard Mitigation Grant funds put to use

committee on or about August 14th. IBHS will submit the over grant application to FEMA on August 21, 2015. Announcement of the sub-awards are anticipated sometime in December or early January.

This grant program has provided well over \$16 million to Idaho cities, state agencies and counties over past 8 years. The funded projects have enabled these entities to avoid nearly \$64 million in losses and damage. Any and all agencies are encouraged to provide letters of intent to IBHS as soon as possible in order to ensure adequate time for proper evaluations. If you have questions or would like to request the announcement letter, please contact either Mark Stephensen, (208)258-6544, Susan Cleverley, (208)258-6545, or Mary Mott, (208)258-6521.

Response and Recovery Branch Chief, Fred Abt is the IBHS Employee of the Quarter.



Fred has one of the most demanding and critical positions within the Bureau and consistently demonstrates an untiring dedication, attention to detail, follow through, and commitment to all challenges regardless of the complexity. Fred is motivated, resourceful, and has exceptional interpersonal skills that have yielded successful interactions between IBHS staff, state, local and outside agencies. Fred, as IDEOC Emergency Manager, is also the Idaho

Bureau of Homeland Security's primary contact during time of emergency and/or disaster. As Branch Chief, we appreciate Fred's dedication and willingness to go above and beyond regardless of tasks or obstacles. Fred has been with IBHS over 10 years, and his perspective is valuable to all our staff. Congratulations to Fred on being named Employee of the Quarter.

New Plans Section Chief Autumn White



The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is pleased to announce that Autumn White (formerly Roberts) has been selected as the new Plans Section Chief. Autumn takes over from Dave Hall who moved to a position with the American Red Cross.

Autumn has worked for the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security since 2010. She served in the Training & Exercise section for two years and has since worked in the Plans Section for the last three years.

Previous to working at the Idaho Bureau Homeland Security, Autumn worked for Gem County Emergency Management and the Emmett Police Department.

Autumn has a Bachelor's degree in Disaster Services from Thomas Edison State College and has just completed her Master of Arts in Emergency and Disaster Management from the American Military University. She expects to have her Master's Degree awarded by the end of summer. Autumn brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position that will benefit Idaho.

The Plans Section is vital to IBHS as this team develops and maintains our THIRA process, Strategic plans, State Preparedness Report, Long term disaster recovery plan and Idaho Emergency Operations Plan. Autumn also assists Counties and Tribes in the development of their local and

tribal emergency operation plans and maintain the State plans library. These many plans are the foundation upon which all of the programs in IBHS are built upon.

Autumn is a newlywed as of June 14th, 2015. Congratulations to Autumn and her husband Cole.

Please make a note for your contact lists that Autumn's new surname is White. We at IBHS wish to congratulate Autumn on her promotion and marriage.

Brad Richy
Director

Todd Herrera
Preparedness & Protection Branch
Chief

The IBHS Plans Section is pleased to announce that the Emergency Planner position has been filled by Teresa Luna. Teresa hails from the Department of Administration, bringing a wealth of knowledge about the workings of Idaho state agencies and Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning. Her experience will support the Plan's Section mission to provide COOP planning support to state agencies as well as coordinate state emergency operation planning activities.

Teresa began in late and May and is immersed in IBHS NIMS and ICS training. She is currently involved in reviewing documents, and assuming the administration responsibilities for the Emergency Operations Planning Template (EOPT). EOPT is used by county, tribal, and state agencies for planning collaboration. Teresa will be available to provide support to county and tribal emergency managers for Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) revisions.



Call if you can, Text if you can't

What is SMS and interim text-to-911?

Full NG911 (Next Generation 911) deployment is still in development and will likely be so for several years going into the future. The interim solution was developed as a way to allow 911 to be activated via SMS text messaging prior to full NG911 development. The interim Text-to-911 solution utilizes the most commonly available texting technology, carrier native Short Message Service (SMS) texting. Carrier native SMS is a feature provided by the carrier, and not third party texting or messaging applications (apps) that may be installed on the mobile device.

The interim Text-to-911 service provides support for wireless subscribers to send 911 SMS messages to PSAPs and for subscribers to receive text replies from PSAPs. Wireless customers with SMS service are able to send emergency text messages to a PSAP by using the single code “911” as the destination address of the SMS message. This will only work if there are no other recipients (MMS or Multimedia Messaging) on the “to” listing. Over 37 million individuals are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability. There are also countless wireless users who are not deaf or hard of hearing who use text as a routine means of communication. Additionally, there may be circumstances, such as domestic violence or in-progress incidents in which a voice call is not practical or dangerous to make.

Is Text-to-911 service mandatory?

Not at this time.

What are other causes of a “bounce-back” message?

There are a number of reasons including:

- The 911 message was not sent as an SMS message.
- The wireless carrier is currently unable to properly relay the SMS message.
- The PSAP has lost connectivity to its Text-to-911 service.
- The PSAP Text-to-911 service is in overload mode.
- The caller or subscriber is roaming.

Will we receive location information on Text-to-911 calls?

Minimally, your PSAP will receive Phase I information. Consult with the individual wireless carriers and TCCs about

additional location information that may be available. As with all 911 calls, information verification will be important in Text-to-911.

How do I tell my citizens they can text to 911?

Each 911 system should plan communication/public education of their community in a manner that meets its deployment needs and schedule.

1. Some may opt to deploy one carrier at a time and advise the public of each deployment.
2. Some may not release information until all four major carriers are deployed in their service area.
3. Some may wait for a period of time after deployment and delay making the announcement for internal or policy reasons.

No matter how or when you decide to educate your community's public, public education is **very** important in deploying Text-to-911 for a number of reasons, including:

1. It does not provide location service in the same level that E911 does.
2. It is not real time.
3. It should only be used when a voice call cannot be made.
4. Only the carriers that have been deployed in the PSAP's service area will work for the area the PSAP covers, which makes it very important for citizens to know the limitations of their text capabilities.
5. A person initiating Text-to-911 in an area that has not deployed the service will receive a bounce-back message telling them to make a voice call to 911.
6. It is important for people who use smart phones to recognize that Text-to-911 will not work on messaging applications that may “look” like SMS texting, but are actually “over the top” applications using features that are not SMS texting, such as iPhone messaging.
7. Because the features and applications can vary significantly between devices, consumers should be made aware that they are responsible for knowing what the limitations and functions of their individual devices are.

911 continued on next page »

PSAP directors and managers will need to work closely with their neighboring PSAPs to establish systems for relaying out-of-jurisdiction information that may be received via Text-to-911.

Will my PSAP receive other data such as pictures with text messages?

No, the current solution of to receive Text-to-911 is an interim solution only and pictures and other data cannot be transmitted to the PSAP. Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) message is not supported by the current solutions. If a MMS message is sent to 911, the sender will receive a bounce-back message directing them to place a voice call to 911.

Can a non-initialized cell phone Text-to-911?

No.

What do I do if someone abuses Text-to-911?

Follow same process s with voice callers.

Is my PSAP going to see a significant increase in workload with Text-to-911?

The data is not clear yet. Call volume impacts, based on current trials and deployments of Text-to-911, have shown that concerns about PSAPs being overwhelmed by texts to 911 have not been substantiated. As of January 2014, there is no indication that Text-to-911 causes significant numbers of text messaging for emergencies.

Craig Logan
Idaho 9-1-1 Program Manager

*Acknowledgements:
Resource materials fro m NENA and the FCC were utilized throughout this document, their contribution and information is greatly appreciated.*

9-1-1
Call if you can,
text if you can't.



Mary Quarles joins IBHS as the new Grants Finance Section Chief. Mary has more than twenty years of Idaho State Government experience. Her experience includes eight years of auditing and twelve years of Fiscal Management. Mary also has significant experience in Federal Grants Management and Administration including finance, procurement, auditing for compliance, and monitoring sub-recipients for compliance.

Mary enjoys all things outdoors but especially fishing. She is the mother of three exceptionally wonderful children who provide her much joy and grief. Mary has two dogs, three cats and five chickens that share her house in Horseshoe Bend.

Mary says she applied for the Fiscal Section Chief position because she felt it was specifically written for her. She is enthusiastic and looks forward to her role in assisting with the administration of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Federal grant programs, and providing excellent customer service to the Bureau's partners, personnel and sub-recipients.

MEET THE NEW FACES IN NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO



Mike Neelon accepted the position as Latah County Disaster Services Coordinator, October 1, 2014. A California transplant, Mike and his family moved to the area and he became part of the Latah County Sheriff's office in 2001. Mike plans to update various plans including the Emergency Operations Plan EOP and All Hazard Mitigation Plan; continue to support the LEPC and identify various communication needs, updates and projects.



Bryant Wolfe accepted the position as City of Lewiston and Nez Perce County Emergency Manager on March 16, 2015. Bryant, an Idaho native and business owner will complete his Master's Degree in EM in December. He and his family have recently moved to the area and look forward to being a productive part of the community. Like so many other Ems, Bryant plans to update the County EOP and All Hazard Mitigation Plan; continue to support the area LEPC and identify and prioritize any communication needs and projects.



Bob West accepted the position as Lewis County Emergency Manager, May 1, 2015. Originally from California, Bob and his wife Tonie have been full time area residents since 2008. Bob has a history with Southern California Edison and owning his own business. He and Tonie are very involved and committed to the area and community services. Bob's goals include an update to the County Emergency Operations Plan, continued support of the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the prioritization of various communications updates and projects.

BEACON continued from pg. 1 »

During the 2013 and 2014 fire seasons BEACON was used in the Idaho Emergency Operations Center to visualize the activity of multiple fires. With the 2015 season upon us BEACON can now be used statewide as an additional resource to greatly enhance situational awareness.

IBHS applications such as WebEOC Significant Events and Hazmat, the Juniper Mesa Preliminary Damage

Assessment and CIKR apps - update databases that can be viewed in the interactive map as well. There are many useful tools and the user can switch between basemaps (topo or streets) and satellite imagery.

In emergency management having the most up-to-date and thorough information can be an essential tool in saving lives and property. If you have questions or would like more information

about BEACON please contact Becky Rose, GIS Section Chief.

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BEACON

Idaho State University receives important distinction in Emergency Management

Idaho State University has become the second university in the nation to receive accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). "This accreditation validates that Idaho State University is prepared to handle any emergency," said Emergency Management Coordinator Carol Prescott.

To achieve accreditation, emergency management programs document compliance with a set of industry recognized standards for disaster preparedness and response systems, and undergo a peer-review assessment by EMAP trained assessors, according to EMAP officials. The accreditation process evaluates emergency management programs in 16 areas, including planning, resource management,

training, evaluations, communications and warning, and emergency exercises. EMAP is the only emergency management accreditation program in the nation.

Idaho State UNIVERSITY

To become accredited, ISU officials created mitigation plans to reduce risks and hazards and conducted extensive emergency training, including annual training exercises simulating situations such as earthquakes or hazardous waste spills. Officials also created plans for areas throughout campus for recovery in case of an emergency, to ensure the vital services would be maintained.

"Carol and her team in Public Safety and across the campus did an exceptional job ensuring ISU's programs are not only compliant with the standards, but are truly executable in the event of an emergency," said Associate Vice President Phil Moessner.

Along with ISU, Virginia Tech University was recently accredited. Other agencies accredited this year include the State of Connecticut, The British Virgin Islands, Saint Charles Parish, Louisiana, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Montgomery County, Maryland, the USACE Kansas City District, the USACE Seattle District and Dixie County, Florida.



IBHS is pleased to welcome Payson Reese in his new role as Lincoln County Disaster Coordinator. Payson lives in Shoshone Idaho. Along with his role as the Lincoln County Disaster Coordinator, he is President of the Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln County Historical Society and the Lost N Lava Cowboy Gathering. He also works part-time at Ace Hardware and 2nd Time Around Antique Mall where he works with his mother in the family business. Payson was born in Sun Valley, Idaho and then moved to Buhl, Idaho where he graduated from Buhl High School.

He went to the College of Southern Idaho and graduated with an associate's degree in basic emergency medical services. He joined the Buhl Fire Department where he was a volunteer firefighter and was active on the EMS Division until 2008.

In his spare time he likes to work in his yard and garden and do woodworking projects. He is very excited to step in to the role of the Lincoln County Disaster Coordinator and looks forward to working with all the great people in the County, Region and State Levels.

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



More than 21 people attended the June 4th Mini-EMW (Emergency Management Workshop) in Fairfield, Idaho hosted by Sheriff Dave Sanders. Central Area Field Officer Gary W. Davis invited speakers to present on timely subjects including Public Private Partnerships, Red Cross Sheltering, new grants protocol and the help available through the PIER Team (Public Information Emergency Response). EMWs are hosted by the six AFOs roughly once a quarter providing local emergency managers and county officials with important information on keeping their communities safe and securing funding for critically important projects.