

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

Damage Assessments, Critically Important

Conducting an assessment of damages resulting from a man-made or natural disaster event provides elected officials and emergency management personnel at jurisdictional, state, tribal and federal levels of government information necessary to enact a proclamation of disaster/emergency. The assessment of damages serves as the basis for both fiscal and functional assistance in providing life sustaining and recovery assistance to individuals impacted by a disaster/emergency event.

Damage assessments begin at the local level. When the local jurisdiction conducts their initial damage assessment, the information collected should contain specific pieces of critical information. The Idaho Damage Assessment Handbook and supporting documents outline the key data collection elements. Collecting information in the proper format will reduce the need for reassessing the damaged sites if/when requesting state or federal assistance.

Should the event be of sufficient magnitude to warrant a federal declaration, a formal Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) would be required. The formal PDA is a joint venture between FEMA, the State of Idaho, and the local jurisdiction to document the impact and



magnitude of the disaster on individuals, families, businesses, and public property and to gather information for disaster management purposes. The Governor uses the information gathered during the local jurisdiction damage assessment as the basis to start the federal PDA process and determine whether federal assistance should be requested. It also forms the basis for the federal disaster declaration.

In order to better define the various damage assessment requirements, the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security has created

[Damage continued on pg. 4 »](#)



Ragin' Stagin': Northeast Regional Exercise

Ragin' Stagin', a full scale exercise (June 6-7, 2014), was the final activity of an eight (8) month long exercise program that also included a workshop and a tabletop exercise (April 8, 2014). Using the general concepts from Operation Common Ground (June, 2005) and lead by exercise director, Mike Clements (NEAFO), the exercise design team consisting of the eight (8) northeast county emergency managers (Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton), Eastern Idaho Public Health District (EIPHD), Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS) along with other partners including Idaho National Lab (INL), Southern Baptist Disaster Relief and ARES/RACES, created Ragin' Stagin' to practice establishing and operating a regional staging area. This activity was open to the public and also provided the perfect opportunity to deploy and utilize many pieces of regional emergency response equipment that counties have acquired over the years through their ASPR and Homeland Security grant programs.

At the beginning of exercise activities, Ragin' Stagin' personnel followed the current ICS form 207 (Incident Organization Chart) and utilized their job specific tasks and responsibilities guidelines to

[Ragin' continued on pg. 5 »](#)



Greetings and Happy New Year,

Identifying and assessing risks and threats is critically important to those of us who work in emergency management. News of emerging threats in the technology sector, including malware, botnets and hacking are an everyday occurrence. The results of these incursions can cause serious harm to businesses and our communities. That's one of the reasons the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security hosted a Cyber Security Interdependency Workshop in November at the Hewlett-Packard Co. campus in Boise. The Center for Regional Disaster Resilience, within the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER), helped organize and host the summit. Representatives from the Idaho National Laboratory, Micron Technology, Hewlett-Packard, St. Luke's Health System, Supervalu Inc., Boise State University, Norco, the Idaho Army National Guard, the City of Boise, sheriff's offices statewide and roughly a dozen State of Idaho agencies contributed to a meaningful discussion on effective ways of mitigating such threats. The workshop reinforced for all stakeholders the

importance of working together to leverage our combined cyber expertise in creating a more secure and resilient state.

The public safety technology summit held in November was a great opportunity to discuss how we as a state will approach the future of emergency communications. One of the areas of discussion revolved around governance. Everyone agreed that a functional system is important for discussions on infrastructure, policy, resourcing, and operational planning. I'm looking forward to working with stakeholders to make sure Idaho's emergency communications governance structure is set up in a way that supports our state's users. With the convergence of new technology on the horizon, this has never been more important.

I was recently asked to chair of the Idaho Radioactive/Nuclear Detection Program Steering Committee. The program is supported by the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), founded in 2005, to improve the nation's capability to detect and report unauthorized attempts to import, possess, store, develop, or transport nuclear or radiological materials. In 2014 IBHS helped facilitate Rad/Nuc Detection (RND) Awareness training workshops in Idaho Falls and Boise. In the coming months the steering committee will be involved in creating documents that will outline strategy, a statewide concept of operations, equipment guidelines and a Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan.

Going forward in 2015, IBHS will build upon our strong working relationships with counties, tribes and industry stakeholders throughout the state. I look forward to what we will accomplish together, and wish each of you and your families a safe and prosperous 2015.

Thanks,
Brad

Brad Richy, State of Idaho Military Division
Director, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
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Admin Assistant: 208-258-6591



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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Idaho Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (IDVOAD) Conference - 4 C's in Action

Cooperation – Communication – Coordination – Collaboration

The Idaho VOAD is the state chapter of the National VOAD and consists of volunteer organizations active in disaster response throughout the state of Idaho. Idaho VOAD is the forum where volunteer organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle to help disaster survivors and their communities.

The Idaho Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (IDVOAD) annual conference was held on September 21, 22 and 23, 2014 at Camp Ida-Haven near McCall, Idaho. The theme for the conference this year was the 4 C's In Action – Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, Collaboration because the best time to coordinate, communicate, train and prepare is before a disaster happens.



Information was presented regarding Volunteer Cost Match, and Sharon Hawa of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children traveled from Virginia to speak about the role of her organization in reuniting families during disasters.

The conference was concluded with presentations by the participants who were given cards at registration listing the VOAD agencies. They were given an assignment to gather information about those organizations and present it to the group so there was a better understanding of what each organizations does.

Overall the conference was a huge success in helping all the agencies understand how the 4 C's can be implemented to bolster future responses.

Mary Marsh
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Over fifty participants from a diverse group of agencies attended the conference. Among the attendees were volunteer agencies, county emergency management, health districts, and tribal, state and federal organizations. Also attending were representatives from Montana, Washington State, Oregon, Wyoming, and California.

The focus of the two day agenda was for participants to learn how important the 4 C's are and to create a better understanding of what can be accomplished when the whole community works together. An exercise was held throughout the conference which focused on the ability of agencies to communicate with each other and other critical partners during a disaster. The exercise provided the participants the opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans and capabilities for a response to a large mass care incident in Idaho. An emphasis was placed on using WebEOC in which all the participants were given a login and instructions so each participant could make at least one entry. The introduction of WebEOC to the group provided an understanding of the uses of the IDAVOAD WebEOC Board.



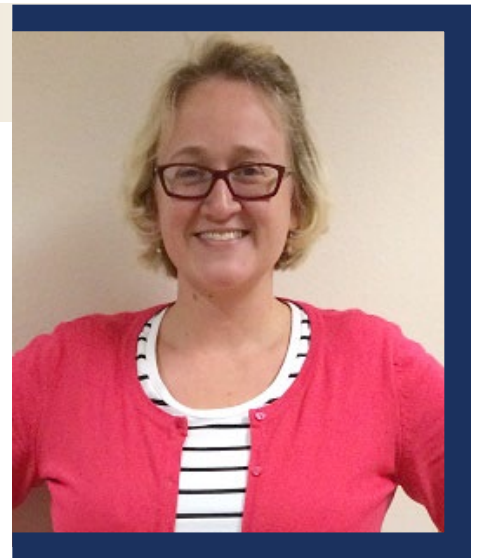
Maija Reed is BHS Employee of the Quarter

Each Quarter the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security profiles a valued team member whose work ethic and demeanor embodies the mission and values of IBHS.

Maija Reed, is a Program Assistant with IBHS. In the short time Maija has been with the bureau she has made a significant difference in the processes and procedures that affect the entire organization. Maija always has a can do attitude and is happy to help with projects that are outside her normal duties. She is anxious to learn and takes great pride in her position.

Her daily duties are numerous and she completes them seamlessly. She studied and tested to receive her Ham Radio license on her own time in order to serve as a resource if needed. She has trained to be the Message Unit lead in the Emergency Operations Center, and has completed all her PDS and NIMS training.

Maija is professional and effective, is exceptional in demonstrating customer service and teamwork, and is a great pleasure to work with.



Damage continued from pg. 1 >

a Damage Assessment Handbook. This should assist in the consistent and efficient compilation of critical damage assessment information.

NOTE: This handbook and all forms and annexes are available on the BHS website (www.bhs.idaho.gov) in the Response and Recovery Section.

This handbook was written to provide the user a quick reference for documenting at-risk locations and conducting an assessment of damages resulting from a man-made or natural disaster event.

The handbook describes the 4 types of assessments and when and why they should be conducted. They are: Baseline Assessment, Rapid Assessment, State Assessment, and Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment.

Additionally, a variety of tools are presented in order to provide options of how to best collect the required information. Due to the nature of an incident, the best collection tool could vary from paper, photographs, measurements, spreadsheet, mobile application or a separate portable device. No matter what the tool, the required information is the same. The tool options/recommendations include:



Damage Assessment "To Go" Kit (documented with paper and/or spreadsheets)



Juniper Mesa Mobile Device



Mobile Device and Bluetooth GPS (MAC or Android devices)

Remember, an assessment of damages provides elected officials and emergency management personnel at jurisdictional, state and federal levels of government information necessary to enact a proclamation of disaster/emergency. A proclamation of disaster/emergency activates emergency provisions, rules and processes associated with the level of government enacting the proclamation of disaster/emergency.

For additional information please go to our website at: www.bhs.idaho.gov or Contact Don Taylor (Recovery Manager) at: BHSRECOVERY@bhs.idaho.gov, (208) 258-6508



begin organizing the parking lot and adjacent open spaces of Madison High School in Rexburg to safely conduct and manage the multi-day, regional staging operation. During the nearly thirty (30) hour operation, designated participants were able to try different positions within the ICS organization chart helping to enhance overall skill development of staging staff members.

As equipment and personnel began to arrive, the formal check in and demobilization process for equipment and personnel was conducted and continued throughout the duration of the exercise. After being checked in, much of the requested equipment including: generators, portable light plants and inflatable tents with related supplies, were quickly put to use in

support of the many needs and activities scheduled for the two day event. Other arriving equipment and personnel without designated operational tasks were directed to their assigned locations for static display and public awareness presentations. This diverse display of personnel and equipment provided the visiting public and elected officials a comprehensive view of the many resources and response capabilities that are either located in eastern Idaho or that can be requested when needed.

Not wanting to miss a perfect occasion to conduct preparedness education, planners scheduled several training opportunities for participants and other interested individuals during the exercise which included: helicopter landing zone training (Air Idaho

and Lifeflight), cost recovery workbook training (Don Taylor – IBHS), and resource ordering and cost accounting training (Mike Clements – NEAFO). Citizen visitors were also able to meet with and receive safety messages and demonstrations from public and private partners through individual company safety outreach programs.

In the final analysis, Ragin' Stagin' was a great success. The exercise not only furnished a realistic environment for emergency management personnel to practice running a multi-day staging operation but also provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the equipment and skills of the men and women who make up the northeast Idaho response community.

The Idaho Silver Jackets



The Idaho Silver Jackets is an interagency group comprised of State and Federal agencies that work as a team to find solutions to address flood risk in

Idaho. We have prepared a program guide to provide an overview of the many flood risk related programs and resources available to the State and local governments to assist with advance preparation, response, and mitigation after a flood event. You can find that on the IBHS website www.bhs.idaho.gov

The Idaho Silver Jackets interagency team is dedicated to working collaboratively with the State of Idaho and appropriate stakeholders in developing and implementing solutions to flood hazards by combining available agency resources, which include funding, programs, and technical expertise. Current Idaho Silver Jackets member agencies include Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho

Department of Water Resources, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NOAA National Weather Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Geological Survey. The Idaho Silver Jackets team was established in 2009 as part of a nationwide U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiative under its National Flood Risk Management Program.

Agencies comprising the Idaho Silver Jackets are available to answer your questions about the National Flood Insurance Program, Idaho's State Hazard Mitigation Plan, levee safety and programs, emergency response, and other programs and technical assistance.

The name 'Silver Jackets' is symbolic. When responding to disasters, agencies wear different colored jackets. For example, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wears red and the Federal Emergency Management Agency wears blue. The 'silver' jacket signifies all agencies working collaboratively together.



State of Idaho Silver Jackets Core Team: a life-cycle flood risk management team reducing flood risk through integrated planning, response and recovery: Toni Turner, USBR; Bruce Sandoval, NRCS; Megan McKay, USBR; Ryan McDaniel, IBHS; Brandon Hobbs, USACE; Molly Wood, USGS; Amanda Siok, FEMA; Keri Sigman-Smith, IDWR; Ellen Berggren, USACE; Mark Stephensen, IBHS; Troy Lindquist, NOAA NWS; Susan Cleverley, IBHS; Corey Loveland, NOAA NWS; and Jay Breidenbach, NOAA NWS.

-Idaho Silver Jacket Program Guide, October 2013

Todd Herrera

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is pleased to announce the appointment of Todd Herrera as the IBHS Preparedness & Protection Branch Chief. Prior to coming to IBHS, Todd was the Emergency Manager in Canyon County for the last ten years. Todd brings to his role significant experience at the County level and a keen understanding of local issues and challenges faced by counties throughout Idaho.

Todd started out in public safety when he was 16 years old as an Explorer Scout with the Boise Police Department. Todd says he discovered that he thoroughly enjoyed public service and the excitement of the job. Todd served a mission for the LDS church in Australia before

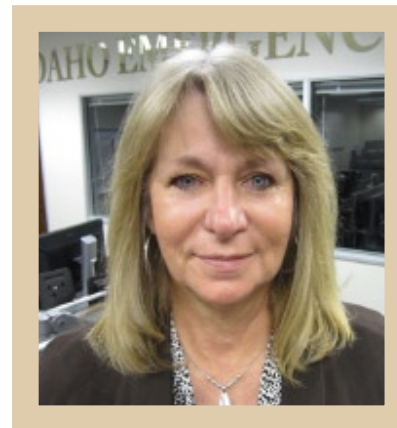


coming home and starting his 28 year law enforcement career with the Caldwell Police Department, Lewiston Police Department and Canyon County Sheriff's Office. Todd has spent the last 25 years working for the Canyon County Sheriff's Office in Patrol, Detectives and Administration. Most recently he worked as the Lieutenant managing Sheriff's Support Services, County Emergency Management and the County-wide radio system.

Todd has been married for more than 21 years to his wife Jodie, who was raised in Soda Springs. Todd has four children. Three daughters aged 19, 16 & 14 and one 10 year old son. His oldest daughter is to be married on December 20th and he is excited for this new chapter in his life. Todd enjoys spending time outdoors, hiking, camping, fishing and geocaching. He looks forward to meeting with IBHS stakeholders to provide expertise and support going forward.

Karen Wallen

Karen Wallen has been promoted within the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security to Grants Management Branch Chief. Karen originally came to IBHS in 2005 starting in the Military Division accounting office where her myriad duties included processing Grant Authorization Number (GAN) payments. Karen then moved to the State Military Division where she still had a support role for various grant programs. Previously, Karen managed the Idaho Guard and Reserve Grant program, and served as budget analyst for Public Safety Communications. Three years ago Karen transitioned back to IBHS as the Finance Section Chief for the Grants Management Finance Office. Karen's objective moving forward is to help further strengthen the partnership and guidance role with Idaho's 44 counties and Tribes.



After 25 years of working in the travel industry, Karen has discovered she is very happy working in Public Service and has derived a lot of satisfaction in working with all units of government for Emergency

Management. Karen grew up in Wyoming and Utah, has two grown children who live out of state, and four great nieces and nephews who live in Boise, for whom she volunteers as "Auntie" babysitter anytime.

Idaho Public Safety Technologies Summit



Boise, Id. – Close to 140 people attend the Idaho Public Safety Technologies Summit at the Grove Hotel. Two full days of subject matter expert presentations included an expansive report on the future of FirstNet



The event was a joint venture of the Idaho Association of Counties, the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and the Idaho Sheriffs' Association.

Idaho Cyber Security Summit



Idaho Lt. Gov. Brad Little gives welcoming remarks at the Idaho Cyber Security Summit at the Hewlett-Packard Co. Campus in Boise, Idaho



The November 13, 2014 Idaho Cyber Security Interdependencies Workshop drew approximately 150 state, local, tribal, territorial and private-sector representatives.



The Center for Regional Disaster Resilience and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) helped organize the summit

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CALL FOR HISTORIC PHOTOS

The Idaho Military Division, of which the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is a component, is in the process of assembling a photographic history for the period 1990-2014. This 25-year span is significant for both the U.S. Armed Forces and for state and national emergency management organizations, since there have been many changes, reorganizations and improvements that took place during this period.

If readers of this article have photographs they would like to share as part of this project, please submit them to Elizabeth Duncan, IBHS Public Information Officer eduncan@bhs.idaho.gov by Jan. 15. While it's been said that "a picture is worth a thousand words," that's not necessarily the case here. We need good-quality photos that also have information attached, specifically the who, what, where, when, why and how of the photo.

Photos considered for this project should show how the Idaho BHS has assisted Idaho communities with significant preparation, mitigation, response or recovery projects.

While we'd prefer photos that show IBHS personnel working on these projects, that's not imperative. For instance, a photo that shows significant projects in their initial stages (say, damage from a flood) could be useful as long as the caption provides the who, what, when, where, why and how info. Even better, a quote from an official involved with the project would make the photo pop that much more.

Photo example:



Idaho Air Guardsmen Senior Airman Zebediah Baney and Staff Sgt. David

Armstrong (left) explain the road closure situation to a Ketchum resident during the Castle Rock fire disaster in Blaine County, Summer, 2007. As the result of an Idaho BHS mission request during this declared emergency, approximately 90 Air and Army Guardsmen were deployed for three weeks in August and September. They assisted the Blaine County Sheriff's Office by manning traffic control points, alerting deputies of citizen infractions and providing roving patrols to look in on evacuated homes, working to prevent looting. "If this thing goes nasty and we're evacuated, they're watching our house," said a Blaine County resident.

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