

NDEEM



Nevada Division of Emergency Management Homeland Security

Q2 - 2013

Nevada Emergency Management Achieves Key Step Toward National Accreditation



The Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security's operational plan for preparedness and response to disasters was granted conditional accreditation today by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

To achieve conditional accreditation, the Nevada program documented how it meets national standards for a state's disaster preparedness and response system. In December, the state invited a team of trained EMAP assessors from other states and localities to review its materials to verify compliance with all criteria in the *Emergency Management Standard*. Review of the assessors' report on that evaluation resulted in the EMAP Commission granting

conditional accreditation.

"Nevada has achieved an important step in the accreditation process and we are pleased to see the program striving to meet national standards," said Barb Graff, Director of the Seattle Office of Emergency Management and chairperson of the EMAP Commission. "Jurisdictions that work toward and achieve compliance with these standards are at the forefront in ensuring they have an established, viable system in place to deal with disasters."

Conditional accreditation is an interim step to full accreditation for state programs. It requires follow-up and correction in specified areas to fully meet national emergency preparedness program standards. The state program has up to nine months to complete corrective steps and seek full accreditation.

EMAP is a voluntary accreditation process for emergency management programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters based on national standards. EMAP recognizes the ability of state and local governments to

bring together personnel, resources and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to an emergency, in addition to obtaining the ability to measure those capabilities. This forms the foundation of the nation's emergency preparedness system. EMAP is the only accreditation process for emergency management programs.

Working collaboratively since 1997, state, local and federal emergency managers developed EMAP to provide quality standards and a process for determining compliance. The *Emergency Management Standard* by EMAP creates a structure for strategic planning for improvement coupled with methodical, verified assessment by experienced peers from other jurisdictions, which results in stronger capabilities and accountability. The EMAP process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in 16 areas, including: planning; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations, and corrective actions; and communications and warning.

A message from the Chief...

Collaboration. Cooperation. Coordination. Competency.

These are the 4 C's of emergency management. They are skills we all must develop and maintain in this age of diminishing federal, state and local funding. Emergency Management officials personify the 4 C's. We are charged with a mission that is complex given the assignments that we are responsible for on a daily basis. We must continue to find new ways to work more effectively with each other and our communities. Our expectation is that each of you is equally committed to moving into this new era of emergency management in Nevada with tenacity. We look forward to these new challenges knowing that the whole community of Nevada emergency management is in lockstep with each other. I hope that you find these newsletters helpful and we welcome any feedback to help us to support you to perform the mission we all believe in.



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Operations

During the first and second quarter of state fiscal year 2013 the NDEM Operations Section responded to 118 incidents.

- * We coordinated 31 out-of-state local fire department responses to wildfires to 8 different states (CA, OR, ID, MT, UT, WY, SD, NE)
- * We helped bring to successful conclusion 5 search and rescue efforts.
- * Took 9 hazardous materials reports.
- * Assisted Elko, Esmeralda, Washoe and Clark Counties with flash flooding incidents.
- * Provided coordination and incident planning technical assistance regarding the Statewide Drought Emergency
- * Supported the Nevada National Guard at the National Guard Association of the United States (NAGUS) convention in Reno
- * Operations is sending two staff members to Augusta, GA for the WebEOC Conference
- * The SEOC was partially activated for the Northern NV flood/wind event in November
- * 118 Duty Officer calls (Wildland Fire, SAR, Haz-Mat)
- * SEOC Training
- * Gained approval to receive live feeds from ABC, NBC and CBS out of Las Vegas. This greatly increases our ability to maintain situational awareness to support Southern Nevada.



State Emergency Operation

Center Technology Upgrade

The State Emergency Operations Center is newly equipped with systems that allow for increased situational awareness and better interaction with participants conducting video conferences and presentations. Where there were previously technology voids, new systems increased input and display of valuable information. In a nutshell, the technology enhancements that will assist in conducting emergency operations and provide for additional capabilities in conducting daily business.



Homeland Security

Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

The Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (CHS) continued to support the funding of risk-based programs and projects in Nevada. The overall amount of Federal grant funds available to Nevada to address preparedness and prevention activities continues to fall. Between Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 and FFY 2012, the level of Homeland Security Program (HSGP) funding has diminished considerably, from \$20,508,913 in 2006 to \$4,628,239 in 2012. This represents a 75% decrease in available funding over a six year period.

CHS met in regular open meeting five times in 2012. During these meetings, CHS heard several reports and briefings from state and local government officials on the status of several HSGP funded projects and provided direction to stakeholders on efforts to address local and statewide preparedness efforts. A summary of these meetings included the following:

- ◆ The CHS meeting was held at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department at the request of Chairman, Governor Sandoval, so he and the Commissioners could receive an in-depth counterterrorism briefing and a capabilities demonstration of the Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center (SNCTC).
- ◆ A discussion about Presidential Policy Directive - 8 (PPD-8), which describes the Nation's approach to preparing for threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the United States.
- ◆ The Commission heard a report on recent Congressional legislation and the passage of the Public Safety Broadband Bill, House Resolution (HR) 36303 (the Act). The Act provides for deployment of infrastructure leading to the creation of a nationwide public safety broadband network. States have the option to build their part of the network, which will be partially funded with federal funds.
- ◆ The Governor's request for an assessment of how Nevada's public schools are doing in regards to security following the tragic school shooting deaths that occurred in Newtown Connecticut. A survey was prepared by the Nevada Threat Analysis Center (NTAC) in conjunction with the NDEM, and was sent to all public schools in the state. Results of the survey were discussed at the February 2013 meeting .



UPDATE—Homeland Security

Nevada Commission on Homeland Security Adopts 10 Priorities for 2013

Governor Brian Sandoval, Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security, along with all members, determined their top 10 priorities for projects to be potentially funded in the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2013 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). Each Commissioner presented their list of priorities and a summarized ranking was compiled:

- 1) Intelligence and Information Sharing (Prevention)
- 2) Cybersecurity
- 3) Public Information and Warning
- 4) Operational Coordination
- 5) Critical Communications
- 6) Intelligence Information and Sharing (Protection)
- 7) Community Planning
- 8) Threat and Hazard Identification
- 9) Public Health and Medical Services
- 10) Infrastructure Systems

The Commission also heard presentations related to school safety survey results from the Nevada Threat Analysis Center (NTAC), the Washoe County School District, and the Clark County School District outlining the current status of schools within the State of Nevada. Of particular interest to members of the Commission were the vulnerabilities in the current school environment, with emphasis on training and exercise at all levels.

Governor Sandoval requested a report that denotes the types of resources that the State may use to assist the Nevada Department of Education for increased school safety measures. Nevada Division of Emergency Management Chief Chris Smith will provide a report at the next meeting.

Washoe County Sheriff and Vice-Chair of the Commission of Homeland Security, Michael Haley reported on the status of the State of Nevada Public Safety Broadband grant application to the Federal Government. As chair of the Nevada Public Safety Broadband initiative, SONNet, he indicated that the grant application process is now in peer review with hopes of that process being completed in late April 2013.

A presentation on the Nevada Citizen Corps program and the importance of the services provided within that umbrella was given by Rick Martin, Chair of the Statewide Citizen Corps Council. He emphasized the accomplishments of Nevada's Citizen Corps and the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). In a report from Bertral Washington, Chief of the Clark County Fire Department and chair of the Critical Infrastructure Committee, specific information was given to support the importance of the three Silver Shield Critical Infrastructure programs in the state working together to protect key resources and infrastructure that supports the citizens of the state.

Nevada Army National Guard Lieutenant Colonel David Sellen provided a capabilities overview of the 92nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (CST). He spoke about the ability for rapid deployment, first responder assistance, provision of both medical and technical advice, and identification of state and federal military response assets. Commission members thanked the Nevada National Guard for its dedication, training and service to ensure the safety and security of the public.

Monthly ESF Presentations

Every month NDEM operations section schedules a speaker from one ESF function to give a short training/presentation. These monthly presentations giving a brief overview of each ESF position's responsibilities and mission during a disaster or incident.



State Hazard Mitigation



Pittman-Pecos

Pittman-Pecos Project in Henderson, NV

The City of Henderson applied for funding under FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant cycle of 2007. The application was selected at a national competitive review and funded in 2008 after an Environmental Review by FEMA. The City of Henderson completed the project under budget in 2011. This the first completed project that the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee reviewed and prioritized for the national competitive process. The current Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee membership toured the completed project at its quarterly meeting in November 15, 2012.



Silver Jackets

The Silver Jackets is an innovative program that provides an opportunity to consistently bring together multiple state, federal, and sometimes tribal and local agencies to learn from one another and jointly apply resources to reduce flood risk.

The Silver Jackets teams are state led interagency teams. Often, no single agency has all the answers, but often multiple programs can be leveraged to provide a cohesive solution.

Silver Jackets team is a partnership between federal and state agencies to coordinate and support mitigation of, response to and recovery from flood events.

The lead agency is US Army Corps of Engineers.

Reduce the Fuel—Reduce the Risk

Nevada Wildfire Awareness Week May 4 – May 11

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) natural resource specialist Ed Smith, the manager of UNCE's Living With Fire program, said this year's message is a call to action. Reducing the fuel around homes and other structures is critical to survival during a wildfire.

There are three factors that control wildfire behavior: weather (relative humidity, wind, air temperature, etc.), topography (steepness of slope, aspect, slope position, etc.) and fuel (amount, continuity, height, moisture content, etc.). Together, these three factors determine the ease in which a wildfire will start, direction it will go, how fast it travel, length of its flames and how difficult it will be to suppress. Of these three factors, only the fuels can be changed in order to reduce the wildfire risk.

Events are being planned across the state by your local, state and federal firefighting agencies, UNCE and other organizations. For a complete list of all Wildfire Awareness Week events taking place in Nevada, visit the Living With Fire [website](#) and click on the Wildfire Awareness Week page.

Nevada's 2013 Statewide Exercise Program



State Emergency Operations Center

Nevada's statewide exercise program has several significant exercises in the coming months that will test high priority core capabilities as identified by the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security. On May 23rd the 2013 State Exercise Series uses an earthquake scenario in Reno for the full-scale exercise "Urgent Solidarity." This is the culmination of a series of Tabletops and Functional Exercises with public and private sector participants in Northern Nevada as well as FEMA Region-IX testing for the first time in five years our regional earthquake plans, which are also being updated during the process. Critical and Operational Communications severely tested.

On March 6th the third and final Tabletop Exercise in the implementation of the Community Cybersecurity Maturity Model, a DHS sponsored 14-month Cybersecurity program, had participants from Clark County, Washoe County, Carson City, and the state. Participants were senior leaders from both the private and public sectors. This Tabletop occurred at the State Capitol and in the NV Energy building in Las Vegas simultaneously. Cybersecurity, a new Core capability and high priority for Nevada, was tested in a systematic and comprehensive way.

Another significant exercise was the full-scale exercise known as "Exercise Encore." The Southern Nevada Health District is leading this project as the capstone event in a series of medical-health focused exercises that have utilized various biological and pandemic scenarios impacting citizens in Southern Nevada. This exercise is scheduled to run for two-days in Mid-June.

Finally, in Mid-July a two-day Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise, part of the DHS Cyber Storm IV series, will find five specific State Government Departments being tested in a scenario where the State's own IT Enterprise system is impacted. This two-day event is a pre-requisite for Nevada to be considered for future Cybersecurity operational exercises that DHS sponsors, such as Cyber Storm V in 2014-2015.



SEARCH and RESCUE

Search and rescue statistical data collection is a requirement under the Nevada Revised Statute 414.210. The responsibility for the establishment of a data collection point resides with the NV State SAR Coordinator and the collection point is a web based application accessible by any agency through the NDEM Website. The data is used in the planning for and execution of search operations within the state and is particularly relevant during the initial stages of search planning. The data does not calculate overall costs associated with SAR, but assists the Sheriff and their SAR staff in understanding the overall SAR mission within Nevada. For more information contact Paul Burke, Planning, Training and Exercise Manager, 775-687-0432, or email him at PBurke@dps.state.nv.us.



State Exercise Officer's BLOG

State Exercise Officer's BLOG

Pre-planning for the Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW) is required from every jurisdiction so that the most essential and effective schedule will be produced that tests your priorities. It starts by identifying information resources necessary, such as elected and/or appointed jurisdictional officials, relevant disciplines (police, fire, hospitals, non-government and volunteer organizations, etc.). With stakeholders jurisdictions should review the results of previous exercises, jurisdictional assessment and preparedness reports that help make up the State Preparedness Report (SPR). Other information needed is the state Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security's set of Core Capability priorities. With this information your jurisdictional stakeholder group should analyze your own jurisdiction's essential capabilities that need to be trained for and tested in an exercise. You control what your jurisdiction's needs are!



The new HSEEP guidance suggests jurisdictions use the "progressive approach" in developing your schedule so that the smaller steps necessary to have an effective training and exercise program occur first. An example would be if previous exercise results state that ICS training is needed for local emergency personnel, First Responders, and community stakeholders, this should be evident by scheduling your training needs early in the new schedule. If it is a plan that needs to be updated, that also needs to be scheduled for completion before training to the new plan or testing it in a new exercise.

For exercises, schedule a series of discussion-based (E.g., Workshop or Tabletop) exercises months prior to an operational exercise (e.g., Functional or Full-Scale). Such a series leads to many lessons learned and improvement for participants prior to the "Big Day."

Jurisdictions need to bring with them to the State's TEPW this well thought out list of training and exercise needs so that Emergency Managers can see and share each others' proposed schedule making the coordination of scarce training and exercise resources possible. At the TEPW jurisdictions will be asked to work together toward readiness in a more regional fashion (which is "real-world") sharing resources to meet each jurisdiction's training and exercise needs. The end product is our State's Multi-Year training and Exercise Plan (MY-TEP), which is a Grants requirement.

The State Training Officer, Michele Candee, mcandee@dps.state.nv.us, is looking at the third week in September for the State's TEPW. She is also a great resource to ask about your training needs. As always, I am available to answer all questions regarding exercise planning needs.

FEMA just published the new HSEEP Toolkit (NEXS, DDS, and CAP databases). It's at the same website: https://hseep.dhs.gov/DHS_SSO/?ReturnUrl=%2fhseep_em%2ftoolkitHome.aspx If you need to gain access, request to be a User from FEMA then I can help you get started.

For comments and or questions feel free to email me at: tcary@dps.state.nv.us .

Best Regards, Tim Cary

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