



Nevada Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management

July 2016

Nevada Division of Emergency Management's June News & Highlights...

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The Division of Emergency Management's monthly newsletter for July.

We hope that you find these newsletters helpful and we welcome any feedback to help us to support you in our overall mission.

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- ◆ The southern Nevada field operations staff participated in the Strip Resort Emergency Managers Council meeting giving a short presentation on the overview of DEM and its efforts to support Clark County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The Council meets to promote emergency management capabilities and to address issues the Las Vegas Strip resort industry may be confronted with by focusing on a collaborative approach.
- ◆ DEM Homeland Security Section successfully administered the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security meeting. The Commission voted to apply de-obligated funding to projects NCHS-123, 124, and 125 with the additional stipulation that should funding become available from FFY14 de-obligations, projects NCHS 126 and 129 to be considered.
- ◆ Planning, Training & Exercise Section manager spoke at the Nevada State Firefighters Association annual convention in Hawthorn, NV. This was based on a request to speak about the Virtual Search Planning (VSP) process and to provide instruction on the methodology and analysis that goes into the VSP Program
- ◆ Operations Chief continued to work on the Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee meeting planning and logistics, answering emails, contacting members polling for quorum, etc. Preparation of the agenda and supporting documents for Friday July 15 NRS 414A Regulation Public Workshop.
- ◆ The field operations staff participated in the US Dept. of Emeryg sponsored PIO-Focused tabletop exercise for Southern Nevada local and state government officials, public information officers, and other response and support organizations. The scenario featured an escalating event as a result of a simulated traffic accident involving two trucks: one transporting diesel fuel and the other transporting low-level radioactive material that was not breached in-route to the Nevada National Security Site. Participants demonstrated a thorough knowledge of emergency public information procedures and cooperation among each other.
- ◆ DEM Hazard Mitigation Officer participated in developing the multi-state Incident Commanders Earthquake Handbook. Three States participated in this Working Group Meeting in Reno.
- ◆ Recovery and Preparedness staff working with the Recovery Framework contractor to develop procedures for incorporating the framework into the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (SCEMP) in support of ESF 14 and the EOC.

An update from Dave Drew, DEM Satcom Operator

Have you ever looked out behind the DEM building and wondered what the strange looking Yukon XL (Suburban) vehicles with R2D2 and a little buddy on the roof do? They are specialized Satellite Communications (Satcom) vehicles which have the capability to transmit/receive telephone, internet data and FAX over satellite and/or cellular based systems – just about anywhere. They can also cross-band divergent radio systems. The Satcom vehicles generally provide these services to wildland fire management personnel in areas where there is very little or no such services available.

Though deployed on several different assignments, most incident-related use the Satcom vehicles have been during wildland fires. Often, these incidents are in very remote locations. Last fire season they were deployed to five different fires for multiple-day assignments each. This year they have been deployed once so far. The fires are all either in Nevada or they immediately threaten Nevada's borders.

The Satcoms can network the incident management software system known as I-suite with the internet. Incident management teams assigned to wildland fires with federal involvement are required to use this rather cumbersome system. By networking the I-suite system with internet capability their work becomes much smoother and more efficient. Providing telephone service (where there isn't any) also makes their jobs much easier. Management personnel are able to converse about issues and situations without the limitations of two-way radios.

Internet availability can be provided via Wi-Fi. This helps incident management personnel with communications by other means than the two telephone lines we provide. Connectivity typically needs to be password protected as too many users slow connection speeds considerably – especially if someone decides to watch a Netflix selection. We get lots of sad and/or angry looks when we advise personnel that only management personnel can use Wi-Fi. We also swear personnel to secrecy when they are given the password.

The national wildland fire resource ordering system is massive. There are requirements for all resource requests and demobilizations to be in writing and signed. On one deployment, the Satcom replaced couriers travelling 2 ½ hours over dirt roads, then 75 highway miles (one way) to deliver requests for resources. Needless to say, the incident management team was very happy because their requests were filled faster and couriers were reassigned to fire line or ICP duties when the Satcom was able to simply FAX the requests.

Cool stuff – right? So what! For example, the recent Hot Pot Fire north of Battle Mountain was 123,000 acres. The Satcom was assigned to support a “spike camp” (a remote camp supporting resources in remote areas of an incident – did I mention remote?) at a place named Clover Springs – there was not any clover or a spring visible. Clover Spike Camp supported 500 personnel at the height of the fire. That number dwindled to about 100 closer to the end of the incident. Now they didn't have to drive down the road to call out. The incident command post in Battle Mountain could contact them. The management staff there were very happy to receive communications. They also had internet access for fire related work.



Dave Drew, DEM Satcom Operator continued...

Many people wonder about the value of a bunch of desert – especially since it has burned before. First, there are many inhabited structures in the area. During the Hot Pot Fire, the town of Midas was directly threatened and evacuated. There are also several mine operations in the area. Additionally, the area of this fire has been the subject of considerable rehabilitation since it last burned. I'm told by a BLM source that between BLM, Nevada Department of Wildlife, ranchers and various sportsmen's organizations over a million dollars has been invested in the previous fire area for cattle and various wildlife including a winter range for Nevada's largest deer herd. Because much of the feed burned, there is considerable concern about the survivability of many deer if next winter is harsh. Fortunately, the Hot Pot Fire burned between habitats for the endangered sage grouse. There were also several areas



inside the fire perimeter that didn't burn. This seems to be because of the reseeded techniques in these areas – in particular, suppressing cheat grass growth in combination with drill seeding "good" plant species. The Satcom's role makes fire operations much more efficient and safe by providing improved communications with the outside world.



Nevada has several public safety radio systems within its borders. Some of them are incapable of connecting with one another. The Satcom has a powerful system that can provide this connectivity. For example: during the Run-a-Mucca motorcycle rally there is considerable law enforcement presence. Many State and Washoe County law enforcement agencies that assist can't communicate via radio to local Winnemucca and Humboldt County agencies. The Satcom allows them to talk seamlessly over a common channel on their own radio systems.

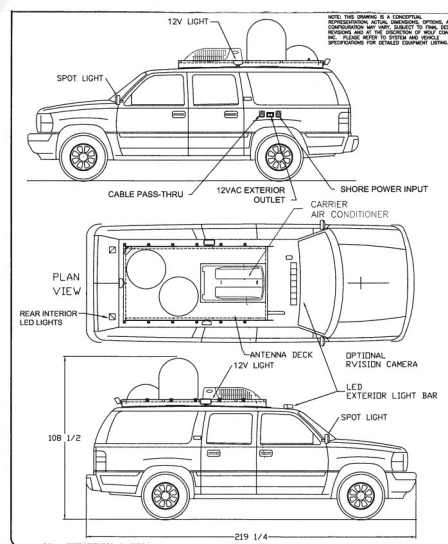
Another good example is the Nevada Day Parade. In the past, agencies that have different radio systems have been issued hand-held radios to communicate with one another. That is fine until an officer is monitoring the crowd from a motorcycle going about two miles per hour. This is not a good time to take your hands off the handle bars to answer the radio. Enter the Satcom. Radio systems are connected on designated channels, allowing personnel to communicate using their everyday equipment. In the motorcycle officers case, it is a button on the handle bars. These folks were very happy about this capability.

Should you be interested in these or the other capabilities of the Satcoms, please let Kelli Baratti or Kirsten Sherve know and a "tour" can be arranged.

If you are interested in a view of the Hot Pot Fire "exploding" at 10,000 acres per hour (UNR estimate) check out the view from a fire monitoring camera located above the town of Midas at:

<https://youtu.be/sOp0BXcsKk4>

The cameras were a joint effort by UNR and BLM, and were actually used to help direct air resources to protect Midas.



Chief Todd Moss, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District / Bomb Squad

Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM): What area do you cover? What sorts of calls are in your squad's mission area?

Chief Todd Moss, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District/Bomb Squad (TM):

Tahoe Douglas Bomb Squad covers Douglas County, the City of South Lake Tahoe, Carson City, the Capitol, and State Legislature. We are contracted with these areas and provide EOD related training for IED/WMD awareness, search procedures, SWAT booby trap scenarios, EMS procedures after hostile events, and explosives awareness through demonstrations.

The majority of our calls for service are explosives sweeps for political or special events. We have seen an increase in these requests due to the awareness of hostile events seen nationally. We have access to Explosive Detection Canines (EDCs), which make the sweeps more efficient and timely. During peak times, these assets can be stretched thin across northern Nevada. We are currently exploring avenues to acquire more EDC assets as the need increases. We also respond to suspicious packages, hoax devices, military munitions, and recovered explosives (old dynamite and commercial fireworks). We also provide support to the local SWAT teams with explosive breaching and robotic capabilities.

DEM: What organizations does your squad partner with to achieve its mission?

TM: We are part of the Northern Nevada Bomb Technicians Task force. This includes Tahoe Douglas Bomb Squad (Tahoe Douglas Fire District and Douglas County Sheriff's Office), Consolidated Bomb Squad (Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Reno Police Department, and Sparks Police Department), Elko Bomb Squad (Elko Police Department), FBI, and the ATF. Together, we have 16 Bomb Technicians that provide service to 13 of the 17 counties in Nevada—approximately 69,500 square miles with 600,000 residents. All of the Northern Nevada Bomb Squads are part-time, which means our primary mission is as police officers, deputies, investigators, and firefighters. When there is a bomb call, we retrieve the EOD vehicles and respond whether on duty or off.

DEM: What are the training requirements for a member of your team?

TM: Once appointed to the bomb squad, the wait to go to Hazardous Device School (HDS) is between 18-24 months. The reason for the wait period is that there are 466 accredited bomb squads with 3,054 certified bomb technicians nationally and only one school. During this time, the candidate must be able to obtain a secret clearance from the FBI and take the one week Hazardous Materials Technician course. The candidate is held to the same hourly training requirements as a bomb tech. We are mandated to train a minimum of 16 hours a month in EOD related scenarios, which does not include maintenance of equipment or explosive inventory checks. Also mandated is a 40 hour class in advanced or special EOD procedures every year. HDS is located in Huntsville, AL., at the Redstone Arsenal and is a six week program. Every three years, the bomb tech must go back to HDS for a one week recertification program. As one can see, the additional time requirements for the bomb squad can create a time management juggling act between work and family life.



TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Chief Todd Moss, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District / Bomb Squad Continued...

DEM: How is your squad funded?

TM: The parent agency of each bomb tech is financially responsible for their employee(s). Local public safety organizations have to budget for the overtime or creatively staff during training days and calls for service. We rely heavily on grants, specifically the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). With the development /implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directives 17 and 19 in 2007 (Countering Improvised Explosive Devices and Combating Terrorist Use of Explosives in the United States), national bomb squads saw an increase in grant funding. With the aid of the HSGP, we were able to increase our capabilities with additional equipment and obtain FEMA Type I status. The majority of these equipment grants came in 2008-2010. From 2010 until now, HASP funding for Northern Nevada bomb squads has been minimal to nonexistent. Another concerning trend seen is the ability of Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant recipients having the ability to obtain further funding through the HASP, while non UASI areas continue to go unfunded. The inability to have routine funding for equipment updates, repairs and advanced training decreases our ability to provide Nevada with progressively developed practices and techniques.

DEM: What are the biggest challenges facing your squad going forward?

TM: First, the ability to purchase and sustain existing equipment. Second, succession planning. We have four of our six bomb techs eligible to retire from one year to five years out. Losing over forty years of experience, coupled with finding the "right person for the job" is concerning.

DEM: How can others learn more about what you do? Do you provide demonstrations?

TM: They can visit our website, tahoefire.org, for general information or can email me at tmoss@tahoefire.com. We do provide demonstrations. Since we share the Douglas County Rifle Range with the public, we like to limit the amount of demonstrations. Please email with interest and we can schedule a day.

Nevada's Dam Safety Program

Goal: In the State of Nevada, the State Engineer is charged with dam safety pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 535. The goal of Nevada's dam safety program is to avoid dam failure and thus prevent loss of life and destruction of property. This is accomplished by careful review of new dam applications, on-site inspection of the dams being built, review of as-built drawings and QA/QC reports and finally, through periodic visual inspections of the structures themselves.

Guidelines: Hazard designations for dams are assigned based on downstream hazard potential in the event of a dam failure (NAC 535.140). A high hazard designation is assigned to a dam if there is reasonable potential for loss of life and/or extreme economic loss. A significant hazard designation is assigned to a dam if there is a low potential for loss of life but an appreciable economic loss. Lastly, a low hazard designation is assigned to a dam if there is a vanishingly small potential for loss of life and the economic loss is minor or confined entirely to the dam owner's own property. These hazard designations are initially determined at the time dam design plans are reviewed, however, hazard designations can and do change as downstream conditions alter as a result of development. The hazard designation is not dependant on type of dam and in no way reflects the safety or condition of the dam.

Dams can be further categorized as unsafe/emergency or unsafe/non-emergency structures. The definitions of these categories are self-explanatory. A structure in poor condition and in need of rehabilitation with a low hazard downstream designation may be categorized as "unsafe/non-emergency" structure, whereas a dam in need of rehabilitation with a significant or high hazard downstream designation may be categorized as an "unsafe/emergency" structure.

Members of Nevada's Dam Safety Program with support of USACE recently completed a dam awareness video http://water.nv.gov/data/dams/NV_Dam_Safety_Video_Final_1080p.mp4

DEM Profile Bud Marshall, Supervisor, Southern Nevada Region...



When it comes to his profession, Bud Marshall believes that if you are going to do something, you should do it right. That means you need to treat the customer with respect first and foremost, and equally important is attention to detail throughout your efforts. These two principles have been fundamental to him throughout his career, including his time in the Preparedness section of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management.

Bud learned these values growing up working for his father's business, and during the same time his future career ambitions were shaped by the exciting shows on television. Many of the shows that were attractive to him as a young child were shows that involved the military, police officers, and firefighters. As he grew old enough to stop working for his father and start pursuing a career of his own, all of these professions were attractive to him, and all of them played important parts of his life in the decades that followed.

After high school, Bud joined the US Army, serving as a member of the Military Police in Fort Riley, Kansas. After his time in the Army, he went back to Ohio for college, where he focused on Law Enforcement Administration. He didn't leave the military behind, though, nor did he abandon his passion for public safety: he embarked on a 26-year career in the National Guard and a full career in the emergency response, emergency management, and homeland security professions.

While serving in the Ohio National Guard, Bud began work at a local hospital. Through this position, he joined the local Volunteer Fire Department, earning skills and confirming his passion for public service in public safety. During the same time, he also became a commissioned police officer for a local force. Soon, though, he would be faced with a difficult decision when he was offered two jobs at around the same time: he could either take a full-time position with the National Guard, teaching ROTC cadets at a college in Ohio, or he could accept a position at the State Emergency Management Agency in Ohio. Bud chose to stay in the National Guard, but to pursue the new opportunity within emergency management, which has been a part of his career ever since.

In Ohio, Bud became the state Exercise Training Officer. In this position, he would assist Ohio's efforts to ensure preparedness for the state and with local and regional partners. Even early on his focus was ensuring preparedness for both man-made and natural disasters, eventually heading up Ohio's efforts with the Domestic Preparedness Program.

Because of his success in Ohio and his growing expertise around the theory and practices of domestic preparedness, Bud would leave the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and join the United States Department of Justice's Office of Domestic Preparedness. Here, serving as the Exercise Program Manager, Bud carried out a similar mission that he had in Ohio, but on a national level. This position was not only a professional highlight for Bud, but it also brought together all of his professional skills and experience to date: military, fire, police, and emergency management. For nearly four years he applied these skills to help ensure that cities, counties, states, and territories were prepared for and ready to respond to emergencies and disasters of any kind.

Bud left the Department of Justice in 2004, going to perform a similar function for a national contractor. This position brought him to Nevada and California, and eventually he decided that not only did he want to return to public service, but he also enjoyed his time in Nevada. By 2006, he was working full time for the Nevada Division of Emergency Management as the State Exercise Officer in Carson City. In 2009, he took another opportunity to become a supervisor in the same section, which eventually brought him to help formalize the Division of Emergency Management office in Las Vegas.

DEM Profile Bud Marshall, Supervisor, Southern Nevada Region...

In his current role, Bud serves as a key coordinator for the state. In addition to his day-to-day role as a supervisor for the Division and his emergency capabilities when the State Emergency Operations Center is activated, Bud is also tireless in developing new concepts for improving the agency. He developed the first SEOC Standard Operating Procedures and later updated the streamlined version of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. He organized the Las Vegas office and team; he has developed a budding liaison program for the state; and, as a member of the current Emergency Management Professional Program through the Emergency Management Institute, Bud is also working on reestablishing a robust Integrated Emergency Management Course, which could potentially have national and statewide implications. Bud was also recognized by the Division for his role in managing the State's EMAP accreditation, which was received in 2014 and has been sustained in the years that followed.



Throughout his incredible career in national security, public safety, emergency management, and homeland security, Bud's fondest professional memories have been when he has been able to see the teams and systems he has built go into actions. Whether it was his military police unit responding to an emergency or a community that he has trained going through a major exercise, Bud is proudest of watching a team he built get tested and be able to identify their strengths and weaknesses and grow from the experience. This clearly reflects the professional values and dreams that he was taught as a young child: respect the customer, pay attention to detail, and serve the public.



The Nevada Emergency Preparation Association

The Nevada Emergency Management Coordinating Council, which acts as an advisory body to the Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management, announced today the establishment of the Nevada Emergency Preparation Association (NEPA). NEPA is a new non-profit membership association created to enhance collaborative efforts across all public and private organizations in alliance with state, county, local and tribal emergency management communities.

IT'S EASY, JOIN TODAY!

Visit us online at www.dem.nv.gov

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