



## November 2009 Regional Response Coordinator Update

### Equipment Highlights

- The Lenco Bearcat armored vehicles have arrived in ND. This was a shared commitment among the four regions to enhance protection for our SWAT teams that respond regionally in ND purchased through the last regional grant process.
- An ambulance bus that can transport 18 non-ambulatory patients at a time has been purchased from regional response grant funds. It is stationed with FM Ambulance in Fargo but is available statewide.
- Four fire departments (one in each region) have been equipped to be operational level departments via the regional response grant process. Those departments are in Devils Lake, Williston, Dickinson, and Jamestown.
- The Jamestown/Valley City Special Operations Team has ordered a new team transport and command truck. The truck is under construction and should be delivered in November or December. This truck was purchased with regional response grant funds.
- All four bomb squads in the state were awarded regional response grant funds for equipment such as new bomb suits, a radio control unit for each robot so that they would no longer need the tether to operate them, and new x ray equipment to examine unknown objects and explosive devices.
- The four anchor fire departments completed the RFP process for a **truck acquisition** for regional hazmat response. The bid letting in each region is anticipated to be complete in November. This was a collaborative project with feedback from the Hazardous Materials Technical Resource Committee.



### Personnel Highlights

- **Wayne Baron** retired effective September 1. We welcome **Debbie LaCombe** as our new section chief as of November 1.
- NW Regional Coordinator, **Bob Wetzler**, was back to work full time as of September 1.
- As in the past, reimbursement requests should be sent to NDDDES – Attn: **Karen Hilfer**.
- Quarterly progress reports should now be sent to NDDDES - Attn: Denise Geffre.

### Training Highlights

- The **basic radio training course** is available to responders anywhere in the state free of charge. Travel costs (mileage, etc.) are the responsibility of the individual attending or the organization to which the individual belongs. There is a group of instructors that are available in each region. To set up a course in your location, contact your local emergency manager or our NDDDES Training Division at 701-328-8100 – ask for Ken or Bruce. There is an online version that will be available in November.
- A **Train the Trainer for Hazardous Materials Operations Level Course** was offered in Minot and Fargo in cooperation with the North Dakota Firefighters Association and the International Association of Fire Fighters. NDFA will have trainers available to provide hazardous materials



operations level training.

- Hazardous Materials Operations Level training was conducted this fall in Dickinson and Jamestown. Additional training will be scheduled in Devils Lake during the first quarter of 2010.

### Planning Highlights

- The Hazardous Materials Technical Resource Committee is developing draft proposals directed towards Hazardous Materials Administrative Rules and Response Protocols. The drafts documents should be completed and ready for review by the Policy Network in early 2010.
- There is an ongoing project to create two Incident Management Assist Teams (**IMAT**) in North Dakota. The intent is to have a team of individuals trained to provide assistance structuring the Incident Command System to jurisdictions who have an event where they may need support. We have had several individuals that have taken IMAT training position courses over the last few months. In addition, we are currently working on development of an IMAT Administration Policy which will be approved by an oversight committee. The committee's objective will be to oversee and recommend improvements to the development of IMAT Policies and Procedures. Those procedures will include: team member recruitment, selection, training and evaluation, team activation, mobilization and demobilization as well as individual/Agency expense and reimbursement policies.

### In Closing

We have started moving forward on preliminary work on Phase 2. Work has begun to help facilitate the formation of a Search & Rescue Technical Resource Committee with members from SAR disciplines throughout the state. This committee would review current training and needs identification to improve capabilities as well as enhancing and developing equipment thresholds and response protocols. The committee would provide recommendations to the Policy Network.

Thank you for your assistance and commitment to public safety. Together we can achieve our vision of an integrated CBRNE response throughout North Dakota.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Bomb Squad	Search & Rescue	All Hazards
SWAT	Urban-Search & Rescue	
HAZCHEM	Structural Collapse	
	Underwater Search & Rescue	

**Robert Wetzler – NW Regional Coordinator** ▪ **Joe Lies – SW Regional Coordinator**  
**Dwight Stewart – SE Regional Coordinator** ▪ **Becky Ault – NE Regional Coordinator**