



Ensuring a safe and secure homeland for all North Dakotans

■ September 2009 Regional Response Coordinator Update:

Equipment Highlights:

The Lenco Bearcat **armored vehicles** should arrive in ND the latter part of October and will be located in Fargo and Bismarck. 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.

Personnel Highlights:

Wayne Baron has retired effective September 1.

NW Regional Coordinator, **Bob Wetzler**, is back to work full time as of September 1. We thank **Harold Haugstad** for his assistance and support for hazardous materials related issues during Bob's recuperation. Harold has resigned effective September 1. All jurisdictions that had been temporarily reassigned to another coordinator are back to their original region and point of contact.

Training Highlights:

The **basic radio training course** curriculum is in its final stages of development. Train-the-Trainer courses are scheduled in each region to create a fleet of trainers to be available to our first responders this fall. The course dates and locations are:

Fargo – September 29; Grand Forks – October 1; Bismarck – October 6; and Minot – October 8.

For more information on this course opportunity, call Ken Jarolimek at 701-328-8106 or go to www.nd.gov/des/training/ to register.

There is a new project that is ongoing at this time to create an Incident Management Assist Team (**IMAT**) in North Dakota. The intent is to have a team of individuals trained to respond for technical assistance to jurisdictions who have an event where they may need support. There will be more information released on this project regarding specific positions to be filled and training that will be available over the next several months. Training will be coordinated through our Training Division.

There was a Train the Trainer for **hazardous materials operations level course** offered in Minot last month through the North Dakota Firefighters

Association. There will be another offered in Fargo this month. NDFA will have trainers available to provide hazardous materials operations level training.

There are hazardous materials operations level courses scheduled over the next few months in Dickinson, Jamestown, and Devils Lake that are geared for regional operations level response.

In closing:

Further information will be gathered regarding other regional teams and assets that can be utilized for various incidents focusing on Phase II planning to include Search and Rescue teams, Urban Search and Rescue teams, Underwater Rescue Teams, and structural collapse team capabilities. This information may include existing teams, locations, capabilities, and gaps within each region for enhancement consideration to avail these teams for regional deployment. If you have information to share regarding teams in your area, contact your regional coordinator.