



ND Department of Emergency Services

"Ensuring a safe and secure homeland for all North Dakotans"

February 2010 Regional Response Coordinator Update:

Regional Response VISION: *An Integrated CBRNE response throughout North Dakota*

Phase 1

Bomb Squad
SWAT
HAZCHEM

Phase 2

Search & Rescue
Urban-Search & Rescue
Structural Collapse
Underwater Search & Rescue

Phase 3

All Hazards

Equipment Highlights:

BOMB:

- All four bomb squads in the state were awarded regional response grant funds to update equipment such as new bomb suits, a wireless radio control unit for each robot and new x-ray equipment to examine unknown objects and explosive devices. Currently, each team per region is acquiring a smaller robot and transport vehicle, allowing for the more rapid deployment with specialized teams throughout ND. Plans have been developed by the ND Special Operations Committee who provided recommendations for equipment and training to augment regional teams to leverage Phase 1 response capabilities in this response area.

SWAT:

- The SE and SW regions have acquired armored vehicles. The placements are a result of last year's Phase 1 enhancement process. In the current year, the NE and the NW will be acquiring armored vehicles. This capability enhancement was a shared commitment among the four regions to leverage protection for our SWAT teams that respond in ND.
- The Jamestown/Valley City Special Operations Team has acquired a new team transport and command truck.

HAZCHEM:

- Devils Lake, Williston, Dickinson and Jamestown fire departments have been equipped to the operations level during the past few years by way of the regional response grant process. Along with the anchor departments of Grand Forks, Fargo, Bismarck, and Minot, they are in the process of acquiring Quick Response Assessment Team vehicles. The Quick Response Assessment Teams will provide initial scene assessment and can offer recommendations to the local incident commander for the best means of managing the event, considering life safety issues and the protection of property and the surrounding environment. The vehicles will be furnished with hazardous materials first response equipment targeted at CBRNE events. Our regional team members have endorsed the need for an initial/quick response vehicle. This was a collaborative effort with feedback from the Hazardous Materials Technical Resource Committee. In addition, the four anchor fire departments completed the RFP's and bid letting process for the acquisition of hazardous materials trucks capable of a technician level regional hazmat response. The trucks are in the process of being built and should be delivered during the third and fourth quarters of 2010.

Mass Casualty:

- In the event of a Bomb, Swat or HazChem incident requiring the transport of numerous patients, an Ambulance Bus that can transport 20 non-ambulatory patients is currently in

place and stationed with FM Ambulance in Fargo purchased last year. A second Ambulance Bus is in the process of being acquired and will be stationed with Metro Area Ambulance in Bismarck. The resources are logistically stationed on the east and west sides of the state, but are available statewide.

Planning Highlights:

- The Hazardous Materials Technical Resource Committee is developing and revising draft proposals directed towards Hazardous Materials Administrative Rules and Response Protocols. The draft documents should be completed and ready for review by the Policy Network during the first or second quarter of 2010.
- There is an ongoing project to create an Incident Management Assist Team (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. The Policy Network will serve as an Oversight Committee and will recommend improvements to the development of IMAT Policies and Procedures. Procedures are under development for team training and evaluation, activation, mobilization and demobilization as well as individual/Agency expense and reimbursement policies. There will be an IMAT team training and tabletop exercise in March.

Phase 2:

- Since we initially began our regional response initiatives, we have been focusing our efforts towards Phase 1 capability enhancements. We have now started moving forward on Phase 2, which enhances Search and Rescue capabilities. Basic definitions of Phase 2 search and rescue capabilities are in draft form, as well as the identification of national resource and response standards guidelines. Plans include risk assessment and hazard analysis for Phase 2 response capabilities through a jurisdiction based survey.
- Work has begun to help facilitate the formation of a Search & Rescue (SAR) 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.

In Closing:

- As always, if you have questions regarding regional response, or would like to schedule a visit to your area for a regional response update, call your regional response coordinator. We would be happy to visit with you, your LEPC, Board of Commissioners, City Leaders, and/or Emergency Responders. Together we can achieve our vision of an integrated CBRNE response throughout North Dakota.

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