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

To: DES Advisory Committee

From: Greg Wilz

Topic: Department of Emergency Services Advisory Committee (DESAC) Meeting Executive Summary – November 23, 2009

Date: November 30, 2009

Adjutant General Remarks – MG Sprynczynatyk

General Sprynczynatyk expressed his appreciation for Chuck Rummel's service in representing the North Dakota Peace Officers' Association on the DESAC. He then introduced Captain Bill Brown from the Minot Police Department as the Association's new representative.

The General informed Committee members the Department of Emergency Services (DES) and the National Guard are continuing to prepare for potential disasters with the sincere hope none occur.

Division of Homeland Security Update – Greg Wilz

Operations and Planning

Operational Items

- Staff coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Guard to distribute excess HESCO, sandbags, and flood fighting equipment (pumps, ladders, vests, etc) to state agencies and local jurisdictions.

H1N1

Greg presented a summary of a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) document containing H1N1 statistics. Member Brad Erickson commented the number of cases has dropped significantly in the last three to four weeks mirroring the national trend. He said another peak may occur during February and March.

- DES is coordinating with the ND Department of Health (NDDoH) as the lead agency.
- DES is issuing and posting weekly H1N1 incident summary reports to WebEOC.
- The NDDoH Operations Center is activated Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- On November 5th, Governor Hoeven issued an executive order allowing licensed hospitals and other health-care facilities the ability to request suspension of licensed bed requirements.
- NDDoH is currently maintaining three major operations that include vaccine distribution, hotline operation, and medical supply distribution from the state medical cache.
- The ND Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is transporting vaccines statewide through a mutual aid agreement with NDDoH.

John Hoeven
Governor

Major General David Sprynczynatyk
Director - Department of Emergency Services

Greg M. Wilz
Director - Division of Homeland Security

Mike Lynk
Director - Division of State Radio

WebEOC/EmerGeo

- WebEOC training was provided to key agency heads and EOC personnel from Bismarck. Work is ongoing with the city emergency manager to set up additional WebEOC users.
- WebEOC training for Fargo personnel was provided; the officials are considering the purchase of incident management software.
- Staff participated in WebEOC Advisory Board conference calls.
- WebEOC training was provided to FEMA Public Information Officers, state agencies and new emergency managers. Since all states comprising FEMA Region VIII use WebEOC, FEMA may consider purchasing fusion software which would enable all six state EOCs and Region VIII to interface WebEOC information.
- During an onsite visit by South Dakota Emergency Management personnel, staff explained how WebEOC is structured in North Dakota. It served as a brief tutorial prior WebEOC installation in South Dakota.

Planning

- A 2009 flood chronology is in development.
- An extensive after action review process has been initiated for the spring flood event. Input was received from key agencies including Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation, Forest Service, Board of Animal Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, State Water Commission, State Electrical Board, and National Guard.
- Staff compiled and prepared a flood information products critique report that was presented during the National Weather Service (NWS) AAR conferences in Fargo and Grand Forks.
- A first draft of the Disaster Recovery Capabilities Annex has been completed. It outlines specific agency responsibilities.

Critical Infrastructure

- Bruce Kemmet, former Devils Lake Police Chief, was hired as the Fusion Center local law enforcement liaison and Kirk Hagel, former Burleigh County Sheriff Deputy, was hired as the Critical Infrastructure Program Manager/Operations Specialist. The DHS secret level clearance process has been initiated for both.
- The 2010 DHS Special Events Data Call was completed.
- A Buffer Zone Protection Plan was submitted to DHS for a Bismarck facility.
- Fusion Center Update
 - The Executive Board voted to merge the Fusion Center and Post Seize Analysis Team (PSAT) into one center located on Fraine Barracks in a facility with Top Secret capability. The new organization is named the State and Local Intelligence Coordination Center.
 - The Center is very robust with 19 positions featuring local, state, and federal representation. The Department of Homeland Security and Border Patrol will each assign an analyst in December.

Hazardous Chemicals Preparedness and Response Program

- The Division received more than 75 telephone calls pertaining to the Hazardous Chemicals Preparedness and Response Program for reporting year 2008 (calendar year 2009).
- Staff assisted 25 owner/operators complete the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory report form (Tier II) for reporting year 2008 (Calendar Year 2009).
- On July 15 and 16, 2009, the Department hosted the EPA Region VIII Regional Response Team (RRT) Meeting in Bismarck. Approximately 15 individuals representing EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, State of Utah, State Emergency Response Commission,

- Department of the Interior, and Tribal Emergency Management were in attendance.
- On July 16, 2009, the Department also hosted the 88th State Emergency Response Commission Meeting in Bismarck. In addition to regular members, the meeting was attended by participants in Regional Response Team (RRT) Meeting.
 - A staff member attended the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) Conference from October 20 to 22, 2009 in Las Vegas, NV.
 - Two staff members participated in a Pipeline Emergency Train-the-Trainer Course sponsored by the North Dakota Pipeline Association in Bismarck on November 5, 2009.

Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT)

Greg explained an IMAT is comprised of experts within the Command Staff containing the incident commander and public information, liaison, and safety officers as well as General Staff including operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration section chiefs. The purpose of the team is to assist, not take over management of an incident. The number and types of resources deployed is solely contingent upon the specific request of the particular jurisdiction. North Dakota is currently developing one team in the east and one in the west.

Extensive training is required; currently, 14 individuals have been trained and approximately 10-15 will be scheduled for training. The plan is to provide equipment necessary for members to be self sufficient during deployment.

Border Interoperability Demonstration Project (BIDP) Grant

Three of the \$4 million grants will be targeted toward states and local jurisdictions located on the U.S./Canadian and three on the U.S./Mexican border. A meeting on December 7, 2009, will be conducted in Rugby to discuss the grant even though guidance has not been provided. Greg would like attendees to explore a multi-county, possibly state-level grant that launches deployment of a fourth generation (4G) capable communications network across all eight northern border counties. The meeting will also allot time for all other demonstration project ideas in support of border security.

2008 EMPG Monitoring/Audit

DES received formal notice the federal audit revealed “no significant findings”.

Mutual Aid Template

The first draft of the mutual aid template mandated by the legislature was vetted with the four regional coordinators. It was modeled after an agreement prepared by law enforcement entities from Fargo, West Fargo, and Cass and Clay Counties. The template was crosswalked with FEMA regulations to ensure compliance with federal reimbursement guidelines. It is one standard document to which addendums may be added to meet specific needs within and among jurisdictions. The draft document will be sent to stakeholders for comment after the first of the year.

Disaster Recovery

Public Assistance Program (PA)

- Forty-six counties and four 4 reservations were included in ND DR-1829; the disaster period extended from March 13 through August 10, 2009.
- One hundred percent of field inspections have been completed and will generate approximately 5,300 project worksheets.
- The estimated federal share is \$90,000,000; approximately \$58,229,000 has been obligated.

- After costs reached the required threshold, FEMA approved the change from a 75 percent to 90 percent federal cost share on November 6, 2009.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

- The purpose is to acquire flood damaged structures insured through the National Flood Insurance program.
- FEMA approved two Cass County applications totaling more than \$10,000,000 for acquisition of an estimated 50 homes; officials are in the process of purchasing the properties.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG)

- Approximately \$15,000,000 is available and the following counties have submitted project applications totaling more than \$18,000,000:
 - Barnes County \$687,000 – 4 properties
 - Cass County \$11,037,190 – 41 properties
 - City of Crary \$67,100 – 1 property
 - City of Linton \$986,476 – 18 properties
 - City of Lisbon \$1,249,870 – 17 properties
 - City of Mott \$305,907 – 10 properties
 - City of Penn \$677,160 – 11 properties
 - City of Valley City \$1,255,815 – 13 properties
 - Emmons County \$335,567 – 7 properties
 - Grand Forks County \$625,541 – 2 properties
 - LaMoure County \$402,460 – 3 properties
 - Nelson County \$62,165 – 1 property
 - Traill County \$299,157 – 3 properties
 - Valley City Park and Recreation \$434,500 – 1 property
- The State Hazard Mitigation Team will meet this December to prioritize funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications.

Hazard Mitigation Plans

Greg indicated 20 counties have approved plans, four others are waiting for adoption by the respective county commissions, and three have submitted plans for the second time. Jurisdictions without FEMA approved plans are ineligible for hazard mitigation funding.

Individual Assistance and other needs Program (IA):

- Thirty-six counties were declared for IA.
- Registrations for assistance totaled 6,658.

Other Activities:

- The State Flood Coordination Center in Devils Lake to be held December 2, 2009, will be rescheduled during the first part of next year.

Division of State Radio Update – Mike Lynk

Mike reported, in accordance with Governor Hoeven's Executive Order, the draft North Dakota Frequency Management Plan and Signal Operation Instruction documents have been developed. He said eight meetings throughout the state had been scheduled to inform and solicit input for a final plan to be adopted by the State Interoperability Executive Committee.

Members were informed the Interim Public Safety Committee will study the needed infrastructure necessary to move from E911 to the Next Generation 911 system capable of transferring and receiving all data via internet protocol. Mike said the Interim Taxation Committee will study the issue of 911 fees.

He reviewed all staffing changes including a December retirement. Mike indicated the new information technology position attracted several quality applicants and interviews will take place the first part of December.

State Radio Projects – Mike Lynk

CAD

The go live date for State Radio and Highway Patrol's mobile testing remains the end of March beginning of April 2010. The CAD status report was discussed and is available in the attachment labeled "2009Q3-CAD-LPOreport-final.doc".

State Baseline Map

Mike provided a Project Charter specifically outlining the first chapter of the project. It is contained in the attachment labeled "2009-11-17-BMAP-Charter-Signed.pdf".

An MOA with NDDOT has been executed to complete a "proof of concept". NDDOT is currently collecting imagery of McHenry County. The county is about average size and is 100 miles from Bismarck. This initial work will serve to produce estimates of total cost and time to complete the county by county schedule of work.

Communication Tower at Wales

Under an MOA, NDDOT will set up the structure; an existing disassembled tower in the Fargo area will be reconstructed at a Wales location.

The communications gap study to identify tower locations needed in the state to provide approximately 95 percent coverage is in its initial phase.

Message Switch Upgrade

The message switch software upgrades the transfer of information from the National Crime Information Center to a web based system. NCIC validation, auditing, and training will become an electronic process. Two attached documents describe the projects and are labeled "NCIC Business Case.pdf" and "NCIC Charter.pdf".

North Dakota Emergency Services Communication Coordinating Committee (ESCCC)

Duties of the committee were expanded by the legislature to: 'Serve as the governmental body for coordinating and implementing E-911 services and internet protocol (IP) enabled emergency networks'.

North Dakota's E-911 federal grant totals approximately \$913 million. A decision was made by the Committee to provide ITD those funds in order to help build the infrastructure backbone required to support the state's Next Generation 911 capability. Committee members will research criteria developed in New York and South Dakota to develop PSAP standards to provide consistent Next Generation 911 operations and service throughout North Dakota.

In a separate issue, Jerry Bergquist, President of the ESCCC, indicated the 10 percent local match for local radio programming can be generated from 911 fees.

2009 Flood Recovery Update – Greg Wilz

Greg pointed out the FEMA Joint Field Office (JFO) will transition to a processing center on December 4; at that time, approximately 90 percent of the project worksheet processing will have been completed. He stated the processing center is slated to close March 30 and the few remaining employees will be moved to Fraine Barracks.

Weekly telephone conferences hosted by federal and state personnel have been held with local applicant agents to deliver up-to-date information and answer questions. If a question requires research, there is an attempt to provide the answer within 24 hours.

Members were told money flowing to jurisdictions has increased. Currently, close to \$2 million per week is being distributed. This disaster was first to deploy EMMI, the new federal fiscal software; technical problems have caused delays. Added to regular glitches, long periods of down time have occurred and the system will be shut down again for five days beginning the evening of November 24. When the dollar threshold was met for the 90/10 cost share, the system reprocessed each project worksheet causing further delays and a mountain of additional paperwork.

There are isolated examples in which jurisdictions unknowingly, yet clearly violated federal law in an endeavor to correct damaged sites. DES will continue to help resolve those issues.

Informational packets containing recovery guidelines and a flow chart demonstrating correct procedural steps in solving problems and obtaining answers were developed to assist local officials. Guidance focused mainly on environmental reviews, insurance commitments, improved/alternate projects, and inundated roadways and grade raises. A similar packet was distributed to participants attending the ND Association of Counties Annual Conference.

MG Sprynczynatyk told members approximately 4,000 project worksheets were written in the 1997 disaster which took FEMA two years to process. In comparison, this disaster produced more than 5,000 project worksheets with a potential 50,000 damage sites but within approximately half a year, 75 percent of the project worksheets have been processed.

Homeland Security Grant Update – Deb LaCombe

Debbie discussed the status of all Homeland Security Grants based on the attached spreadsheet labeled DESAC "11-23-09.xls".

Open Discussion

A question was raised concerning standardization of EOCs. Greg responded by indicating it was an excellent idea that needed to be explored through a collaborative process between DES and the ND Emergency Managers' Association but not through the legislative process.

When asked, the attendee from the National Weather Service said the El Nino weather pattern was cause for a forecast of dryer conditions this winter translating into potential moderate but not severe flooding.

Next Meeting

General Sprynczynatyk scheduled next meeting for an end of February or first part of March.