

DEPARTMENT OF **PUBLIC SAFETY**  
DIVISION OF **HOMELAND SECURITY**  
AND **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
JULY 2015 – DECEMBER 2016

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# THE MEANING BEHIND THE WORK



As the Minnesota Department of Public Safety- Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (DPS-HSEM) reflects on another year of teamwork with local emergency management professionals, first responders, lawmakers and voluntary agencies, I am pleased to acknowledge some milestones that helped keep Minnesota resilient.

Challenges were plentiful over the 18-month period from July 2015 to December 2016. Among them were 11 state-declared disasters due to severe weather events. One of our milestones was also a first for the state of Minnesota, with the inaugural use of the State Disaster Contingency Account in Martin County. The fund allows counties, cities, townships and tribal nations to be reimbursed for 75 percent of the eligible repair costs of storm damages to public property and infrastructure. This was the first time we were able to see just how beneficial the State Disaster Contingency Account would be for those recovering from a storm. The fund would be used 10 more times during this time frame.

Another milestone came with HSEM's investment in railway safety across the state. In our training program's two year existence HSEM staff held more than 280 training sessions about the potential dangers of transporting oil and hazardous materials by railway. More than 5,900 first responders learned proper response techniques to protect lives in the event of a derailment. Today, entry and next-level training opportunities continue in an effort to make Minnesota's 4,400 miles of railways safer.

As we neared the two-year anniversary of our training program, DPS-HSEM staff held more than 250 training sessions about the potential dangers of transporting oil and hazardous materials by railway. By June 2016, more than 5,700 first responders learned proper response techniques to protect lives in the event of a derailment. Today, entry and next-level training opportunities continue in an effort to make Minnesota's 4,400 miles of railways safe.

As emergency management professionals, many of us know that the real work begins in planning and preparing for an emergency or disaster, so we can adequately respond to an incident when it happens. That's why I am pleased to see such a robust increase in county participation of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). Training opportunities abound, and now it's even easier to register for those courses with the new Learning Management System (LMS). Another priority of mine is helping Minnesota's elected officials understand their roles and responsibilities within the incident command system when an emergency strikes.

We celebrate the milestones you will read about in this annual report, which includes the second half of 2015 as well as the entire 2016 calendar year. As we look ahead, I know we will remember the true meaning behind our mission: Keeping Minnesotans ready so they can prepare for and recover from emergencies. I am grateful for the dedicated work we have done and look forward to the continued success of DPS-HSEM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Kelly". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Joe Kelly, Director  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management

# RESPONSE



Severe weather season is a given in Minnesota and we saw plenty of it over the span of these two summer seasons. Dozens of counties and tribal nations declared local emergencies due to storms caused by straight-line winds, tornadoes, flash flooding and severe thunderstorms. Many of those local emergencies led to state disaster declarations, but one particular series of severe thunderstorms prompted a presidential disaster declaration.

## Damaging Heavy Rain and Flooding

President Obama declared a major disaster in Minnesota following damaging heavy rain and flooding in nine southern Minnesota counties September 21-24, 2016. The deter-

mination authorized Public Assistance (PA) funds for townships, cities and counties in the disaster area. The funds pay for emergency work and storm-related repairs to public infrastructure. Damage assessments conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), DPS-HSEM and county staff put the total cost at more than \$8.3 million. Eligible locations included: Blue Earth, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Le Sueur, Rice, Steele and Waseca counties. President Obama also authorized hazard mitigation funds so counties statewide can take steps to prevent or reduce risks from natural hazards. Today, DPS-HSEM staff continue to work with FEMA to reimburse the affected counties.

## Federally Declared Disaster DR-4290:

Counties	Type of Assistance	Type of Event
Blue Earth, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Le Sueur, Rice, Steele and Waseca counties	Public Assistance	Severe thunderstorms with flooding, September 21–24, 2016.
Blue Earth, Freeborn, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Rice, Steele and Waseca counties	Individual Assistance	Severe thunderstorms with flooding, September 21–24, 2016.

Updates on DR-4290 can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4290>

In addition to public property, many home and business owners, along with renters, were significantly affected by these storms. An initial assessment found more than \$10.1 million in damages to private property, which prompted Gov. Dayton to request Individual Assistance (IA) for those struggling to recover. While his initial request was denied, an appeal assessment found \$3.9 million in additional damages, bringing the totals for this disaster to approximately 1,500 homes and \$14.5 million in damages. Two months after the storm hit, FEMA approved Gov. Dayton's appeal for Individual Assistance in seven Minnesota counties: Blue Earth, Freeborn, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Rice, Steele and Waseca. The last time Individual Assistance was approved in Minnesota was during the 2009 Red River floods.

The following DPS Blog post provides an in-depth explanation of the IA process:

### Have damages from September's flooding? Read this.

If you had first-hand experience of last September's torrential rain and the flash flooding that followed, you probably don't want to be reminded about the flood waters rushing into basements, destroying furnaces, water heaters, and even foundations. But as temperatures plummet around the state, having intact walls and foundations and working heating systems is more important than ever.

Fortunately, seven counties have been granted with Individual Assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Blue Earth, Freeborn, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Rice, Steele and Waseca. That means if you're a homeowner, renter or business owner in one of those counties and have damages from the flooding, federal money is available to help you on the road to recovery. It's important that you register with FEMA as soon as possible to see if you qualify for Individual Assistance aid.

Individual Assistance comes in the form of grants and does not need to be repaid. It can include reimbursement for temporary housing and basic expenses, along with repairs of damages to items like furnaces and water heaters, and

replacement work on damaged structures. There are several different ways to apply for the funds:

- Visit FEMA's disaster assistance website.
- Get the FEMA mobile app.
- Call 800-621-3362.

There are a couple of things to remember about Individual Assistance. First, making a claim with your insurance (if you have flood coverage) will not automatically sign you up for disaster assistance. You'll need to do both. Second, when you're ready to register for Individual Assistance, you'll want to gather the following information so your application doesn't get denied:

- Your Social Security number.
- The address of the damaged primary residence.
- A description of the damage.
- Your insurance information, including policy number.
- Your current telephone number.
- Your mailing address.
- Your bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds.



# RESPONSE

## State Declared Disasters:

Counties	Dates of Disaster	Type of Event
Martin County	June 22, 2015	Severe thunderstorm with straight-line winds.
Cass, Crow Wing and Todd counties	July 12–13, 2015	Severe thunderstorm with straight-line winds.
Pennington County	August 12, 2015	Hail and straight-line winds.
Blue Earth and Nicollet counties	June 14-18, 2016	Severe thunderstorms and heavy rains.
Itasca County and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	July 5, 2016	Severe thunderstorms and high winds.
Aitkin, Benton, Carlton, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Traverse counties	July 9–11, 2016	Severe thunderstorms, high winds, tornadoes and flooding.
Chippewa County, the Upper Sioux Indian Community and Yellow Medicine County	July 16, 2016	Severe thunderstorms and high winds.
Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Lake, St. Louis counties, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	July 19–21, 2016	Severe thunderstorms, high winds and flooding.
Cass and Crow Wing counties	August 4, 2016	Severe thunderstorms, high winds and flooding.
Renville and Wabasha counties	August 10–11, 2016	Severe thunderstorms and high winds.
Norman County	August 28–30, 2016	Severe thunderstorms, tornadic winds and flooding.

## After the Storm: How Minnesota Disaster Assistance Works

Summer storms come as no surprise in Minnesota. What may be a surprise is how quickly they can turn ugly, as Martin County experienced June 22, 2015. Thunderstorms and straight-line winds caused as much as \$60,000 in damage in the towns of Ceylon, Fairmont, Sherburne and Welcome.

Historically, the costs of storm damage were borne solely by city and county governments. In cases with greater destruction, the legislature would meet to make decisions on disaster assistance. Because so much of Minnesota’s storm damage takes place in the summer, that often meant calling

a special session, which is not the most cost-effective or efficient way to handle the situation. This time, Gov. Dayton was able to approve the first-ever use of the State Disaster Contingency Account without a major federal disaster declaration.

The money comes from a fund designated by the Legislature in 2014 to handle situations exactly like this one — where damage is not great enough to trigger a federal disaster declaration, but is more than the county can handle on its own. Assistance covers repairs to publicly owned utilities and infrastructure. It also takes care of debris removal from public property. The state pays 75 percent of the cost. Local applicants cover the remaining 25 percent.

The process works like this:

- A storm or other natural disaster strikes, destroying public infrastructure and property.
- The county government declares a local emergency, approximating the dollar amounts of damage, costs of debris removal and extent of protective measures needed.
- The county provides information to DPS-HSEM and requests a joint preliminary damage assessment. The assessment helps determine eligibility for aid.
- DPS-HSEM reviews the county's request against statutory criteria and submits a recommendation to the governor's office.

Since it was first used in Martin County, many other counties, tribal nations, cities and townships have successfully navigated the state disaster process and many of those communities are on their way to recovery.



# RESPONSE



## What does DPS-HSEM do when there's a "really bad day?"

Like most state agencies, DPS-HSEM usually hums along, doing work that benefits Minnesotans. Then, a "really bad day" strikes and we go into response and recovery mode.

Sometimes the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is activated and we coordinate with state agencies and our other partners to give affected counties the assistance they need. Every time, one or more of our Regional Program Coordinators (RPCs) go where the action is, providing vital support to local decision-makers and situational awareness to the SEOC. As liaisons, RPCs are the main point of contact for emergency managers with state-level questions, which may include the processes for disaster declarations and damage assessments. They may also help facilitate resource requests such as incident management teams and voluntary agencies.

The RPCs involvement doesn't stop when the immediate crisis is over. RPCs assist with damage assessments, attend city council meetings and gather necessary documentation for potential state and federal aid. They are there throughout the recovery process, helping local jurisdictions navigate the complexities of state and federal aid.



## Lightning Predictive and Warning Systems: When will lightning strike?

Maybe you've been there. You're coaching a child's ball game at the local park and a storm is looming. A little rain won't hurt, but what if there is lightning? Is it safe to finish the game?

Many communities give coaches and game officials guidelines for avoiding the risk of lightning strikes. These methods are subjective and may cause confusion during practices and games.

The City of Woodbury decided to use a more reliable system to protect the public in 2016. With funds from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the city installed a lightning prediction and warning system at Bielenberg Sports Center and Eagle Valley Golf Course.

Each site has a sensor station and an alarm station. The sensor station measures variables including the electrostatic charge in the air to predict the threat of lightning in the vicinity. The alarm station processes the data, compares it to parameters preset by the city and sends tone and voice alerts when warranted. The City of Woodbury added signs at the sites to tell the public what to do when an alert is given. These measures take out the guesswork and result in consistent protection of the public.

If your community is interested in learning about hazard mitigation programs and planning, contact us at [hazard.mitigation@state.mn.us](mailto:hazard.mitigation@state.mn.us).



# SERVICE



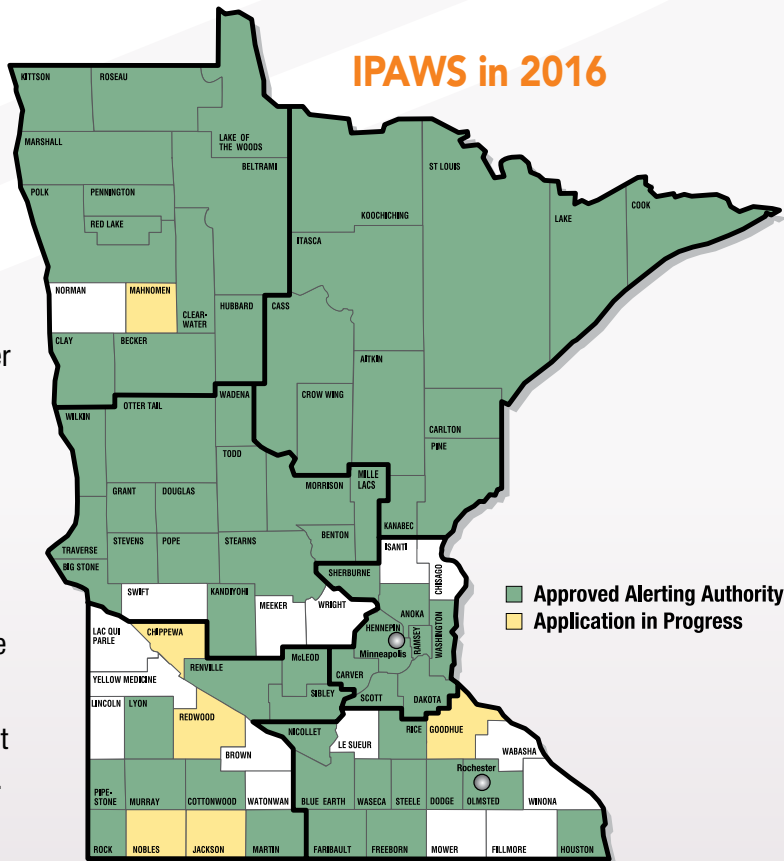
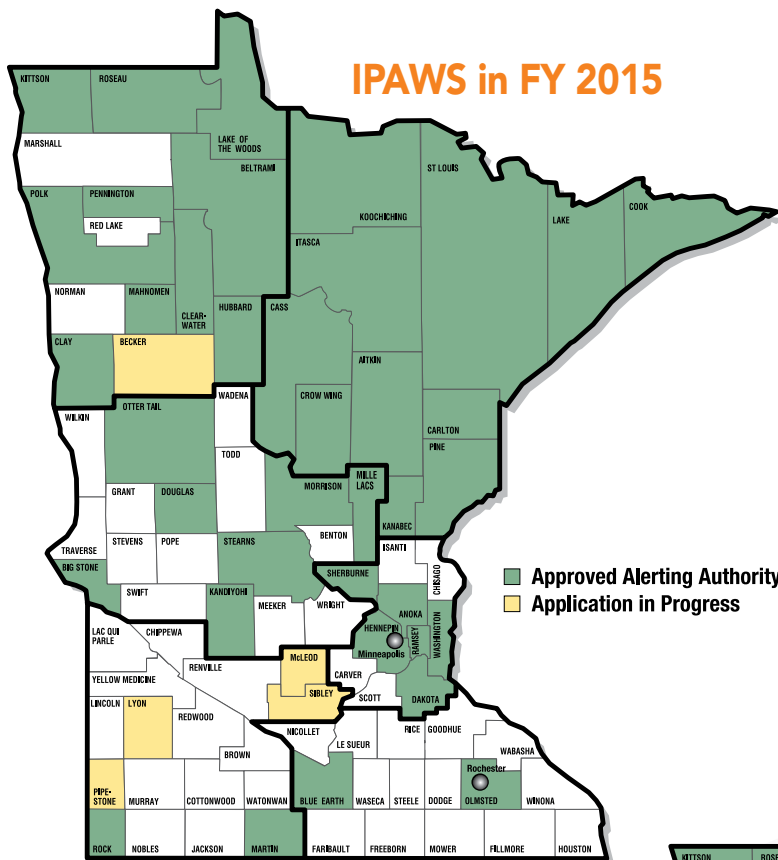
## STATE TEAMS

### Thinking about that oil train? So are we!

Oil trains: Even if you see them every day, you probably don't give them much thought. Nor should you — unless one of them derails, like the March 2016 incident in Callaway when a propane tanker truck collided with freight train. And if that happened, you'd want your first responders to know exactly what they're doing, right?

That's why DPS-HSEM provides oil transportation awareness training to local jurisdictions — law enforcement, fire departments and emergency medical services — across the state.

Each awareness course runs about three hours and covers rail and pipeline safety, a general hazardous materials overview, response and cleanup. The St. Paul Fire Department wrapped up their awareness training at the end of June 2016. They included a hazardous substance incident exercise scenario in the city of St. Paul, so participants could hone plans for responding to an event of that size. So next time you see an oil train, don't give it any thought — except to know DPS-HSEM is working hard to train first responders to keep you safe in an oil train-related emergency.



## IPAWS Alert and Warning

Things have changed quite a bit in one year for the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) under the Statewide Emergency Communications Board. IPAWS provides state, tribal, county and city authorized professionals the opportunity to issue alerts and warnings under certain circumstances. The messages are sent through mass notification systems like the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) on cell phones. The following maps show just how many more counties were approved for IPAWS.

- Participation grew to 71 percent of counties having IPAWS message capability, that's 62 of 87, an increase of 27 percent from 2015.
- Twelve workshops on the Public Alerting Authority Best Practices Guide, with a total of 238 persons attending.
- The guide was approved by the State Emergency Communications Board (SECB) and released in November 2015.

# SERVICE

## Time to Evacuate? Time to Shelter? Here's How You'll Know.

When disaster strikes and it's time to evacuate, seconds count. The sooner you know what's going on, the better your chances of survival. Experts in DPS-HSEM know this, and they support communication upgrades that save lives.

One of the newest tools in the public safety arsenal is a locally-issued, wireless emergency alert (WEA) that goes to newer-model cell phones. It's changing the way you find out when, where, how and why evacuation — or some other emergency action — becomes necessary.

These alerts are just one component of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) coordinated by Minnesota's Statewide Emergency Communications Board. The IPAWS committee chair is Bloomington Fire Chief Ulie Seal. He led members from DPS-HSEM and the Emergency Communications Networks division, along with our partners to update our emergency-alert plan.

IPAWS is actually a national system created to provide the president of the United States the ability to alert and warn the whole nation. It's the one used by the National Weather Service to issue warnings about tornadoes and severe-weather events. The state of Minnesota uses it for AMBER alerts. In the unlikely event of an incident at one of our two nuclear generating plants, a WEA would provide people with information on how to protect themselves.

Counties, larger cities and tribal nations may also become authorized users by meeting requirements and entering an agreement with FEMA. Authorized users can issue warnings in several categories:

- Civil Danger Warning, which may include instructions to avoid an area
- Evacuation Immediate
- Shelter in Place Warning
- Civil Emergency Message



A WEA must be used only to warn the public of an event that is urgent, severe and certain. Examples include a hazardous materials spill, a train derailment and fire, or a toxic-chemical spill.

A WEA will make your phone vibrate and send a tone — much like the one you hear on TV when there's an emergency alert for weather conditions. These warnings won't go out unless it's time for you to do something, so you'll need to act on the advice you receive.

Instructions may be to evacuate the area, in which case there will be directions. (You'll want to drive away from fumes following a chemical spill, for instance...not toward them.) You might be told to shelter in place, which means go inside, close the windows and doors, shut off the air conditioner, and follow other safety procedures. There might be something called a Civil Danger Warning, or a Civil Emergency Message. You might be told to boil your water before using it, or to avoid a certain, dangerous area in your town or county.

The key is to pay attention, because under the worst circumstances, these alerts have the potential to save lives.

# COMMUNICATION



Public education and awareness is a crucial component to keeping Minnesota ready for emergencies and disasters. DPS-HSEM takes this primary responsibility seriously by providing numerous online and written resources to encourage preparedness efforts. We also take opportunities to spread our message in person with various campaigns.

## **Minnesota State Fair (August 2015 and 2016)**

DPS-HSEM's emergency kit bag reminds fairgoers of the essential items needed should they need to evacuate their home at a moment's notice.

## **National Preparedness Month (September 2015)**

The focus of this campaign reminds Minnesota families of the importance of making an emergency plan and communicating it with loved ones. The grassroots effort also encourages families to get involved in community emergency preparedness.

## **Winter Hazards Awareness Week (November 2015 and 2016)**

DPS-HSEM and our 87 county emergency managers educate the public about common winter hazards that we may forget about during our gorgeous summer months. Those hazards include winter storm risks, indoor/outdoor winter safety, winter fire safety and winter driving safety.

## **Severe Weather Awareness Week (March 2016)**

Being prepared for severe weather should come just as naturally as the storms roll through the state. DPS-HSEM and our 87 county emergency managers remind families about weather alerts and warnings, severe weather events like lightning, hail, floods, and heat waves. This is also when two tornado drills are conducted on one day to get people in the mindset they need to be prepared. The following DPS Blog highlights the different ways Minnesotans can stay prepared during severe weather season.

## You've Got to Ask Yourself: Do You Feel Lucky?

It's one of the most famous movie lines of the 20th Century. Inspector "Dirty Harry" Callahan of the San Francisco Police Department holds a handgun that may or may not be loaded. He's looking at a cornered bank robber who's trying to retrieve his shotgun to challenge Callahan.

Knowing the bad guy isn't sure whether Harry's 44 Magnum has a shot left in it, he tells the man, "...you've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel lucky?'"

You know weather emergencies arise unexpectedly in communities like yours. Watches and warnings tell people about problems, but they don't prevent disaster. Things like tornadoes, floods and snowstorms tend to be seasonal, but they don't follow timelines. Flash flooding can happen anytime, with no warning.

People die in these situations. Vehicles float away. Family members get separated. Cell towers blow down and water mains break. Gas lines break and fires start. Responders try to manage the chaos, but they can't be everywhere. And some of the worst things happen because people are unprepared. They aren't ready because they didn't believe it would happen to them. Maybe they felt lucky.

Those who plan are ready to survive a few days on their own. They're in less danger, they recover sooner and they suffer less.

And you can do it. Here's a start:

### Create an Emergency Kit

Get a waterproof container. Put in a three-day supply of water and non-perishable food. Toss in a first-aid kit, a flashlight or two, plastic bags, toilet paper and some hand tools. Consider medications you can't be without, the needs of your pets, and whether you might want to get someone's attention with a whistle, or sanitize something with rubbing alcohol. Once you make your kit, you'll add to it over time. Then you'll want to put one in your car. When you start asking yourself, "What if..." you'll figure out what you need.

### Make a Plan

If disaster struck when you were at work, one child was at school, another at soccer practice, another family member on the road and the cell phones didn't work, how would you find each other? Would friends or relatives know where to look for you? Is contact information stored anywhere other than inside a device that may not work? An extensive communication plan is the best idea. Write it down and keep it safe.

### Stay Informed

Do you know what kinds of weather hazards have affected your community in the past? Are you ready to handle them again? When you travel, you probably know whether the hotel has a pool. Do you know whether it has a tornado shelter?

Knowing what to do — how to plan and survive — can keep you (and the people you care for) safe in an emergency. More likely than not, someone is counting on you. Time spent on getting informed now, will keep you from feeling helpless later.

You can't spend your life anticipating every imaginable horror; you'd never experience happiness. But hoping you're lucky doesn't work, either.

It's funny how things work. The more you prepare, the luckier you get.



# ACCOUNTABILITY



## Performance Measures

Type of Measure	Name of Measure	FY 2014	FY 2016
Results	Percentage of counties with certified emergency management directors	77%	↑ 82%
Results	Percentage of state agencies with certified emergency coordinators	87%	↑ 100%
Results	Percentage of counties with approved and adopted hazard mitigation plans	61%	↑ 80%
Quantity	Certification and professional development training hours	20,250	↑ 32,656
Results	Exercises conducted	266	↑ 374
Quality	Percentage of federally evaluated Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercise objectives met	100%	↑ 100%
Quantity	Facilities filing hazardous chemical inventories	6,672	↑ 6,906
Quantity	School safety center training hours	2,514	↑ 11,110
Results	Rail route fire departments trained (of 190)	7	↑ 187
Quantity	Rail and pipeline oil transportation safety training hours	420	↑ 17,115

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety Biennial Performance Report — August 2015





## Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Exercise

If you live anywhere near one of Minnesota's two nuclear generating plants, you know there is just the sliver of a chance that something could go wrong. But did you know that DPS-HSEM holds rehearsals twice per year to practice our response to just such an emergency?

We bring together representatives from state agencies, Xcel Energy, nearby cities, counties, the state of Wisconsin and volunteer agencies in the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) to practice the plan created in case there is a radiological emergency. Simultaneously, emergency responders field-test certain elements of the preparedness plan near the plant itself.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) exercises, and they actually attend one of them to evaluate our response (similarly, Xcel has to pass these FEMA-mandated exercises to keep their plant operation license). That's why we do two per year: The first, you could say, is a dress rehearsal, which gives us a chance to test our radiological emergency response plan and work out any kinks before FEMA sees it. The second REP drill took place in June 2016. We successfully demonstrated the exercise requirements with no issues identified by the evaluators; not one! To date, Minnesota is the only state to accomplish that feat.



## Northern Lights: And we're not talking the Aurora Borealis

During the week of October 17, 2016, the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) in partnership with DPS-HSEM participated in a radiological preparedness exercise. The exercise was held at Camp Ripley's Emergency Management Training Center with more than 200 participants from both public and private agencies. The Northern Lights exercise was the first time that longer term recovery issues were emphasized in a federal or state radiological preparedness exercise.

Exercising radiological preparedness events are important because planning helps minimize the risk to the health of the residents of Minnesota. The exercise scenario focused on issues and priorities that may take place three weeks after an incident at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. Because of lessons learned during the exercise, we will update plans and procedures, build further coordination between state and federal agencies, and improve preparedness efforts.

# ACCOUNTABILITY

## Goodbye, TRT. Hello, Learning Management System!

DPS-HSEM's Training and Registration Tracking (TRT) system provided great service for many years, but it was time to retire. The new Learning Management System (LMS) enables learners to view professional training requirements (Learning Paths). If you have not registered for an account through the new LMS, do so now, as training is a key component of the HSEM mission of Keeping Minnesota Ready. Register at [hsemtrainingprograms.com](http://hsemtrainingprograms.com).

## Emergency Management Certificate Program

DPS-HSEM coordinates the state's emergency management certificate program. It combines comprehensive emergency management training from the FEMA Emergency Management Institute online independent study program with classroom courses offered by HSEM. This program provides foundational learning in the National Incident Management System and the key operational activities of emergency management. Additionally, components of professional development are addressed including decision making, leadership, communication, and problem solving. Emergency management personnel seeking the certificate hail from state and local government, volunteer organizations, and the private sector. In-person courses offer the added

benefit of learning with emergency management peers and developing relationships with others in the public safety community. In 2015, 87 students earned the state certificate. That number jumped to 92 students in 2016.

## Training and Exercise Plan

The National Preparedness Goal contains 32 core capabilities. These capabilities are grouped into five mission areas: prevent, protect, mitigate, respond and recover. In fiscal year 2016, DPS-HSEM conducted regional and state planning workshops to produce the annual multi-year training and exercise plan (TEP). The TEP is part of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) strategic planning phase. HSEEP is based on a model of continuous improvement.

The TEP outlines state priorities and establishes a statewide calendar of training and exercise events. Emergency management personnel across the state can use the TEP to improve capabilities across the mission areas through coordinated training and exercise activities. These activities mirror real-world emergency situations and offer opportunities to network with mutual aid partners and support agencies. Emergency management personnel can test and evaluate emergency plans through coordinated training and exercises in order to make improvements to those plans.



# TEAMWORK



## **SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER Washington County Emergency Management**

The Minnesota School Safety Center (MnSSC) partnered with Washington County Emergency Management (EM) to deliver a full complement of training and exercise modules to the five independent school districts and private/charter schools within the county. Washington County EM has established itself as the emergency planning and safety best practices subject-matter expert and first point of contact for their schools. Their teamwork has included:

- Hosting multi-district Multi-Hazard School Emergency Operations courses.
- Performing multiple school facility safety and security assessments.
- Facilitating a large-scale tabletop exercise (TTX) on disaster reunification.
- Hosting numerous other TTX at host schools.
- Researching and recommending school safety best practices.

## **International Charter Schools Emergency Operations Planning**

The MnSSC reached out to charter schools serving culturally focused communities, especially those serving recent Somali, Hmong and Latino populations. These schools have a great need for emergency operations planning and safe facility assessments. Supporting these schools in safety planning and linking them with their local public safety partners has been a focus of the MnSSC.



## Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Schools and Mille Lacs Tribal Emergency Management

The MnSSC partnered with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Schools and Mille Lacs Tribal Emergency Management to redevelop their emergency operations plans. The planning processes also involved the Tribal Emergency Response Commission, police, emergency medical services and fire departments. Schools were deeply engaged in the development of these plans. A coordinated and comprehensive multi-hazard emergency response plan was produced as a living document for the five Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Schools.

## Welcoming a New Generation

As an organization, DPS-HSEM sees the importance of helping students understand the field of emergency management. As a way to bridge academic theory and emergency management, HSEM developed an internship program. As interns, students strengthen their understanding of emergency management concepts, build key contacts and gain confidence to further prepare them for future job opportunities in the field of emergency management and homeland security.

During the summer of 2016 HSEM had its first intern working on completing a bachelor's degree in emergency management. The intern successfully completed 200 hours while learning about the five branches that make up HSEM.



## Integrated Emergency Management Course

During the fall of 2015 and winter of 2016 Carlton County participated in an Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC). First responders, senior and elected officials, and emergency management professionals participated in five events. The events consisted of one workshop, three seminars and a tabletop exercise that incorporated three core capabilities around planning, operational coordination and public information and warning. This county wide and multi-jurisdictional training provided an opportunity to exercise the plans created by agencies making up Carlton County.

The after-action report identified strengths including:

- Good cross-jurisdictional communication.
- Agencies have a history of working well together.
- A recognized need for obtaining consistent, shared accurate information presented timely and through a variety of media outlets.

Identified areas for improvements included:

- Adding resources on a continuous basis to the emergency operations plan library.
- Continually inviting additional partners, such as the Chamber of Commerce, to participate in trainings.
- Ensuring all county employees know about and are connect to Everbridge, a mass notification tool.

# TEAMWORK

Carlton County will continue working together on areas for improvements.

Other IEMC highlights include:

- Cook County, Grand Portage Band, Thunder Bay, Ontario and Minnesota conducted a FEMA mobile IEMC course with DPS-HSEM support from September 14- 17, 2015 in Grand Portage.
- Otter Tail County IEMC held a presentation on October 27, 2015, by Director Kelly on Senior Officials Roles and Responsibilities. On April 21, 2016, Otter Tail County conducted a final IEMC Emergency Operations Center training and functional exercise, followed by an after-action report. This concluded the second mobile IEMC with Emergency Management Director Patrick Waletzko.
- Dakota County's IEMC program conducted an Incident Command System 300 course on May 10, 11 and 12, 2016, a debris management course May 18, as well as a first responder tabletop exercise (TTX) June 16. Dakota County conducted an IEMC first responders TTX on June 23. Their IEMC program will continue into 2017.

- Koochiching County, International Falls, Fort Francis, Ontario; and HSEM held an initial mobile IEMC meeting on March 22, 2016 and will schedule events into 2017.
- Stevens County conducted a post-IEMC TTX on April 27, 2016, in Hancock. It also conducted a Stevens County Emergency Operations Center exercise in Morris on June 29, 2016, during a scenario that involved the simulated derailment of a BNSF train carrying crude oil. More than 400 people from state, county and city agencies worked to test their emergency response plans.





# TEAMWORK

## Elected Officials Training

For a community to be prepared for its next emergency or disaster, everybody from individuals and households to the most senior elected official, needs to know what they will do during that bad day. To address an identified readiness gap, DPS-HSEM developed a slate of offerings to help elected and other senior officials understand their roles and responsibilities and give them some skills to help their jurisdiction through incident response and on to full recovery.

The program, which can be incorporated into the IEMC or offered independently, consists of the following modules:

- Roles and responsibilities during emergencies and disasters.
- State and federal recovery programs.
- Public information.
- Review and tabletop exercise.

Each discussion-based seminar takes about two hours to complete, so the time commitment for mayors, council members, board chairs, department heads and others is manageable. The lessons can be taken a la carte or in sequence.

Since the inception of the program, Director Kelly has presented 39 sessions to representatives of 29 counties across the state.

## Vigilant Guard

In August 2015, the Minnesota Army National Guard conducted a full-scale exercise — Vigilant Guard — that was years in the making. DPS-HSEM worked with the Guard and state emergency management partners to make this complex exercise possible. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) conducted virtual emergency operations in response to simulated scenarios involving a large-scale HAZMAT event and simultaneous severe weather disaster. The exercise provided opportunities to test the notification systems used to activate the SEOC and the SEOC's information sharing system, DLAN. Additionally, state emergency management personnel evaluated the emergency operations plans and procedures used in response to the demands of the exercise scenarios.

# ABOUT DPS–HSEM



## Our Mission:

DPS-HSEM helps Minnesota prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The primary purpose of the division is to build communities prepared to respond to emergencies, with resilience to quickly recover from the effects of disaster.



## Our Vision:

*Keeping Minnesota Ready*

## Our Organization and Leadership Team:

Located in downtown St. Paul, HSEM's staff of approximately 70 employees work in one of five branches.

Director	Joe Kelly
Deputy Director	Kevin Reed
Administration and Grants Branch Director	Jon Huspek
Operations Branch Director	Joe Neuberger
Organizational Development Branch Director	Cathy Clark
Preparedness Branch Director	Kevin Leuer
Recovery and Mitigation Branch Director	John Moore





Emergency management certificate recipients recognized at the 2016 Governor's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference. A total of 179 people completed an emergency management certificate program in 2015 and 2016.







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