



**MEMA**

# MEMO

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MICHIGAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Published for and about Local Emergency Management Programs in Michigan



## HMGP Provides Safer Roadway and More Reliable Roadway

The State of Michigan - A 1,320 foot stretch of M-35 was recently restructured using funds from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The roadway had a history of flooding, which caused hassles for drivers and cost the state thousands of dollars.

The project was a two-fold improvement of the stretch of road. First, two 24-foot culverts were replaced with 36-foot and 48-foot culverts. This allowed necessary drainage between the wetlands dissected by the M-35 roadway.

The second phase consisted of an aggregate grade lift that was placed on the existing road surface to allow sufficient drainage to stop the continued erosion during high run-off periods. The roadway was then repaved to allow acceptable traffic conditions for the traveling public. Now the run during peak events no longer saturates the sub-base and degrades the structural integrity of the roadway.

Less flooding, along with faster drainage when flooding does occur, means safer travel conditions for the thousands who traverse the road. The repetitive roadwork that was previously required was also drastically reduced. With an estimated benefit of over \$600,000 during the project's 20-year expected use, the Michigan Department of Transportation will save \$30,000 annually.

Thanks to the cooperation of FEMA, Marquette County and the Michigan Department of Transportation, the HMGP was used to make M-35 not only more cost-effective, but also, more importantly, a safer road.

Visit our updated website at  
[www.memaonline.org](http://www.memaonline.org)

## THIRD DISTRICT ASSOCIATION UPDATES

The Fighting 3rd had a great presentation recently by Brendon Boyle from the DEQ regarding mercury spills. We also are reviewing the Debris Management Plan. The 3rd is hosting an E-Team Refresher TTT and are discussing MEMAC participation across the district. The roll-out of the 2007 grant was discussed and the emergency managers are coordinating the pick-up and delivery of the 2008 DOT Emergency Response Guidebook.

Updates included the regional initiatives through the Homeland Security grant, including:

Iosco County CAD System

MPSCS Radios for Sanilac County

Arenac County Portable & Mobile Radios

Bi-Directional Antenna's for various Counties

TERT (Telecommunicators Emergency Response Team) Equipment

Genesee County Waste Water Treatment security equipment

Saginaw County Waste Water Treatment security equipment

Up to possibly (10) Laptop computers to each county EOC

(8) Portable Cascade air systems for various counties.

The district is planning a two-day Regional Strategic Planning Retreat for the end of January and working on a Region-wide exercise set for September of 2008. In addition the group reviewed the first draft of the Regional Response Coordination Plan for the 3rd District.

Several ICS 300 and 400 classes are being conducted and the TIC plan is being completed by a contractor for the Region.

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

January 2008

Greetings to MEMA Members,

It is an exciting time for MEMA as we go into 2008 with several new board members, committees and a newly created board position (Ex-Official). I know for me I couldn't be more thankful that the MEMA members have given me the opportunity to serve as their new President.

Since I started on the board in 2003 as the Treasurer, it's been an educational experience that I'm grateful to have received. I've watched our association membership grow, meet new challenges and handle any issue with honesty, integrity and fairness for everyone. But one of the most important pieces has been building partnerships throughout the State.

My crystal ball for 2008 is glowing with new possibilities and it looks like it's going to be a busy year, however as President I can't make them all happen unless I have your help! Therefore, I challenge all members to get involved by joining a committee, offering your resources, recruiting new members, writing articles for the MEMO and assist this Board in achieving it's goals.

I would like to welcome new and returning Board Members to the table and remind all members to attend Board Meetings, as you are always welcome. Also I want to thank my great friend and out-going President Jim VanBendegom who will now serve as our new Ex-Official. I look forward to Jim's knowledge and support as we move forward.

As President I will continue to work closely with Captain Washington, Tony Katarsky and their staff at MSP – EMHSD as well as our other partners in different state agencies. Together we can and will make a strong difference in the world of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

Lt. Paul Baker, President



## ***Farmedic Program Presented at Montcalm County***

Agriculture continues to be one of the most dangerous industries in terms of occupational hazards in the United States. Annually, it is ranked in the top 3 most hazardous industries. Every year, needless injuries and deaths occur to farmers, family members, farm employees and rescue personnel. Emergency responders often lack knowledge of the nature of farm machinery, chemicals and farm structures, but education and training in the methods of farm/rural rescue are essential for proper response and safety to the rescuer and the patient.

This past weekend, more than 30 emergency responders from Montcalm County and surrounding areas including Clarksville, Spring Lake, and Shelby-Benona Township in Oceana County, converged on the City of Stanton for more than 16 hours to learn more about farm emergencies through a training program entitled "Farmedic" sponsored by Montcalm County Emergency Services through a training grant from the Department of Homeland Security that was open to any emergency responder in the area.

Greenville Department of Public Safety Sergeant Gary Valentine, one of 3 GDPS Officers who attended the training, said the class gave emergency responders a better understanding of the hazards facing farmers today. "It allows us as responders to understand basic farm equipment and facilitate rescue efforts" Valentine stated.

Participants listened to lectures from various emergency professionals who also instructed more than 8 rescue scenario-based workshops including an arm caught in an auger, a "victim" wrapped around a PTO (power take off) shaft and a "dummy" pinned under a tractor that has rolled on it's side. Rescuers used hydraulic and pneumatic tools, along with saws and hand tools to disentangle the victims. Firefighter Dennis Bauer from Shelby-Benona Fire Department in Oceana County said, "This class gave individuals the opportunity to work with a variety of farm equipment under many situations."

The program also included a tour of the Olson Farm on N. Musson Road on Saturday who allowed rescuers to see and use some of the equipment found on a farm. Program organizer Steve VanHolstyn, Captain of Montcalm County Specialized Emergency Rescue Team (S.E.R.T.) said many area farmers were gracious enough to loan equipment to the class. "Without the cooperation of these farmers and the community, this educational opportunity would never have happened. We have been planning this program since mid February."

Farmedic Lead Instructor Carl Hein said at the end of the program Sunday night, "It is intended to help people who want to help people. And I think the students had some fun doing it."

Other participants of the training included representatives from Ionia Public Safety, Greenville Public Safety, Clarksville Fire, Berlin/Orange Fire, Shelby-Benona Fire, Spring Lake Fire, Walkerville Fire, Allendale Fire, Stanton Fire, Ronald Twp Fire, Ottawa County HazMat Team, Montcalm County EMS and Montcalm County S.E.R.T.

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# **Stanton Fire Department Receives Equipment from CEDAP**

*Steve VanHolstyn, District 6 Liaison*

The Stanton Community Fire Department has received yet another federal grant for a piece of emergency equipment; a chemical detection kit from the Department of Homeland Security.

The kit includes an Ahura First Defender handheld chemical identification device and a MSA Sirius Multigas detector.

“This equipment will be used to respond to reports of carbon monoxide alarms and leaks in a business or residence,” reported Stanton Fire Chief Brian Brasington. “We currently do not have this technology within our department and have to request assistance from Montcalm County SERT (Specialized Emergency Rescue Team) when we are called for CO (carbon monoxide) alarms.”

After receiving the initial training on the equipment, firefighters will be able to check homes for gas leaks, carbon monoxide and other substances. In addition, it will be able to be used in the event of a hazardous materials incident. Stanton Fire fighter Timothy Scott states, “This equipment will be available to any other fire department or emergency service agency that needs it. That is part of the agreement with DHS and us receiving the award; the equipment has to be available region-wide.”

“Several of our firefighters are enrolled in an upcoming Hazardous Materials Technician class sponsored by the DHS Regional Training Committee in February. This equipment has perfect timing for our personnel to be trained in the use of the equipment as well as in hazardous materials response”, stated Chief Brasington.

Stanton Firefighter Jason Nieman said he is pleased with the amount of equipment the department has been receiving through grants lately. “Receiving this equipment and training helps us better respond to the needs of the community that we serve. We can do our jobs better because of it.”

In April 2007, Stanton fire officials submitted a request for the detection equipment through the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). CEDAP is a program sponsored and funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Preparedness Directorate. The United States Army, Electronic Proving Ground, Special Programs Office administers the program on behalf of the DHS, FEMA, National Preparedness Directorate.

The estimated value of the Ahura First Defender is between \$25,000-\$49,000. There is no estimate available on the Sirius detector. The department expects the operating cost for this equipment to be \$35.00 a year for a case of 144 sampling vials and \$120 every 5 years for the lithium batteries.

One member of the fire department will travel to a training facility to learn how to operate the detection equipment. The costs associated for this training is included as part of the grant award.

**Why not recruit a new MEMA member today?**

**Have them visit [www.memaonline.org](http://www.memaonline.org)**

# Animal Diseases at Fairs & Exhibitions

## Reducing the Risks

During the 2006 and 2007 fair seasons in Michigan, there were a few animal disease outbreaks that prompted quarantine situations. In addition, there is frequently a risk of individual animals becoming sick during a fair. In response to some of these issues, we have scheduled several regional workshops in Michigan to help individual county programs develop and implement appropriate safeguards and plans.

These regional workshops are a joint effort between Michigan State University Extension, MSU Dept. of Animal Science, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture, Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, and Michigan Farm Bureau.

The workshops will be an interactive approach to developing and implementing animal health and biosecurity plans for local livestock exhibitions. Considerable time will also be spent in providing information on dealing with potential disease outbreaks and possible animal quarantine situations. MDA officials will also be available to discuss regulatory policies and requirements.

Who should attend: Fair board members, show superintendents, Extension staff, FFA/Agri-Science teachers, veterinarians, and any other interested individuals.

The dates and locations for these workshops are as follows:

January 23, 2008	Escanaba – Delta County Extension Office
January 24, 2008	Gaylord – Holiday Inn
January 30, 2008	Lawrence – Van Buren Careers Center
January 31, 2008	Grand Rapids – Kent County Extension Office
February 5, 2008	Frankenmuth – Fisher Theatre Museum
February 6, 2008	Saline – Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds
February 7, 2008	East Lansing – MSU Pavilion Classroom C/D

All of the programs will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. There is no charge for the workshops.

However, **reservations are requested** so as to make suitable plans for hand-out materials and refreshments. **Please complete and submit the reservation form below by January 18, 2008.**

An abridged version of the workshop will also be held at the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions Annual Convention in Grand Rapids on Friday, January 11. For information on this convention, please contact E.J. Brown, Executive Director of MAFE, at 517/371-2000 or e-mail to mifairs@yahoo.com

For further information or to register contact Kenneth Geuns, Extension Specialist, Dept. of Animal Science, 1287 Anthony Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824. Phone: 517/353-2924 or e-mail to geuns@msu.edu.

***(Please detach and return)*** -----

### Animal Diseases at Fairs & Exhibitions: Reducing the Risks

Registration:

*I will attend at this location:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Escanaba \_\_\_\_\_ Frankenmuth \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Gaylord \_\_\_\_\_ Saline \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Lawrence \_\_\_\_\_ E. Lansing \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. Rapids \_\_\_\_\_

Please return by January 18, 2008 to:

Kenneth Geuns, Dept. of Animal Science, 1287 Anthony Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824.

or e-mail rsvp to: geuns@msu.edu

# Community Approach to Medical Surge

Byron I. Callies  
MS, CEM, PEM, MEP

Over the past years communities throughout Michigan have been struggling to develop plans to address catastrophic events that result in extremely high number of sick and injured. As a foundation, the Modular Emergency Medical System concept was initially adopted by the Regional Defense Bio-Terrorism Networks to provide a framework for planning for such events. Soon after, the concepts were included in MDCH-OPHP work plan requirements for local health departments. Along the way, emergency management became involved.

Even though the MEMS concepts were standard, how communities chose to implement the concepts has not been. For example, in some communities the health department takes the lead for all MEMS planning activities. In other communities, the health department takes the lead for Neighborhood Emergency Help Centers and hospitals take the lead for Acute Care Centers. No options is wrong; any option that works... works. Different dynamics of each community do not allow for complete standardization of processes. Nonetheless, what each of us, I would assume, have realized over the past years through planning, training, and exercising our medical surge "plans" in preparation for such societal-changing incidents is that we can't do it alone. Fill in we to fit where you are... we (public safety), we (hospitals), we (health departments), we (communities) cannot produce an effective response to such incidents alone. Unfortunately, we are challenged by systems and processes that do not create an environment of collaboration that would allow us to effectively prepare for these incidents.

While that is the case, the City of Lansing and Ingham County (includes all the "players" not just government) have moved beyond some of these barriers to create a community medical surge plan... not an emergency management plan, not a health department plan, not a hospital plan – a community plan. A variety of reasons suggest why these communities were able to overcome some (note some not all) of these barriers to achieve a united approach to addressing medical surge; I like to believe we had the right champions come together with enough humility to understand we needed each other because our citizens needed us. We needed each other because we could not address such catastrophe alone.

While I will not get into the details of the plan, I will touch on some areas I think are important to point out as accomplishments. First, was the recognition of redundant processes that increased the need for manpower across the community. As we all recognize, manpower availability will be very problematic. By centralizing these processes, we expect to have better control and accountability while decreasing the manpower needed to manage functions, such as:

Personnel Management (credentialing, registration, allocation, etc.); Staging Management(vehicles, personnel, medication, etc.); Family Assistance Management; Family Care Management (for responder families); Casualty Transportation. [Note: While we have agreed to centralized processes, we still need to conduct planning to make the processes "real." We intend to begin to put these in place this year.]

Another area of success I would like to recognize reflects the fact that the community as a whole falls within the jurisdiction of two different emergency management programs. Overcoming jurisdictional focus, the programs have united to share the workload. As an example, the City of Lansing EOC will provide support to hospitals and Acute/Alternative Care Centers, whether in Lansing or in Ingham County. Alternatively, the Ingham County EOC will provide support to the health department and Neighborhood Emergency Help Centers, whether in Ingham County or in Lansing. I do understand, that many of you do not have this opportunity, but for our community this was a tremendous step forward in establishing a system to manage medical surge incidents.

Many of you are doing good things in the name of preparedness. Many of you are already working together as a community. As a citizen of this state, I appreciate that. Still, over the past years I have found much planning that is organization-centric, even in this community. (And, why not, we get focused to look out for our organization!) So, I must admit, the collaboration that it took to achieve a united medical surge plan is refreshing to see. Maybe we can keep doing it...

Final thought... the time we have been give to prepare is not free time. Men and women are giving their health and their lives in order for us to have this opportunity. I urge you to press on with the role you have in this current war to prepare your communities, I urge you to press on with sincere and collaborative planning. God bless.

## **THE MEMA MISSION STATEMENT**

**To support and enhance emergency management in the State of Michigan by representing emergency management at the local, state and federal level; promoting emergency management program standards; encouraging sound legislation supporting mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery issues; and developing unity among emergency management professionals.**

### **From the MEMA Treasurer....**

Paul Baker and I recently met to exchange the materials from the Office of the Treasurer and I am working with the bank to get the signature cards taken care of so we can purchase postage to mail out membership invoices and membership cards. Paul was nice enough to print all of the materials prior to transferring them to me so once we get the official documents handled we can get the membership materials mailed for 2008. In the meantime, new members and returning members are always welcome to visit the website at [www.memaonline.org](http://www.memaonline.org) to fill out the MEMA application for membership.

I look forward to serving the MEMA Board and our many members across this great state. If you have questions, issues, or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Jerry McCoy**

**MEMA Treasurer**

*Mailing Address:* Montcalm County Emergency Management  
Jerry W. McCoy, Director  
655 N. State St.  
Stanton, MI 48888

### **MEMA Committees Need MEMA Members to Make Things Happen**

The Michigan Emergency Management Association is the recognized representative of local emergency management programs statewide. The Association has a great deal of responsibility. Working closely with the MSP Emergency Management Division, public safety and human services partners statewide, and reaching across state borders to foster national relationships with fellow emergency management organizations and entities, MEMA truly can and does make a difference.

We're all busy. And busy is a good thing. But being busy means we have just that much more need to both share information and collectively work together to make positive and progressive changes in our communities, our state, and our nation.

The list of MEMA Committees at the left provide some great opportunities for you, the MEMA member, to offer some help to your colleagues and your profession. Why not pick an area that you are interested in and give the Officer (or the Chair) in charge of that committee a call. You may be able to give a few hours of incredibly important time to a function that desperately needs your input to get something done.

Remember, too, that if you have an issue or a project you feel MEMA should get involved in, email Bob Johnson at [bjohnson@sterling-heights.net](mailto:bjohnson@sterling-heights.net) with your idea(s).