



MEMA

MEMO

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MICHIGAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

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“Emergency Volunteers Employment Protection Act” (SIB 1199)

On March 11, 2008, Senators SWITALSKI, SCHAUER, PRUSI, ANDERSON, KAHN, JACOBS, GLEASON, BRATER and PAPPAGEORGE introduced a bill to grant employment protection rights to volunteer emergency responders. This bill includes licensed volunteer Emergency Medical Personal and Certified Fire Fighters.

The bill states an employer shall not terminate an employee who is acting as a volunteer EMT or a volunteer firefighter responding to an emergency, who is absent from or late to his or her employment.

The MEMA membership met in April at the Homeland Security Conference and discussed the issue. The membership voted unanimously to support this bill and President Paul Baker will be sending a letter to each of the bill sponsors and our local representatives.

MEMA encourages local Emergency Managements Directors to write their Senators and Congressmen as well to support this very important legislation.

Scott Corbin, MEMA Legislative Liaison

MIVDF Adds Third Mission

The Michigan Volunteer Defense Force added a third mission in late-2007. The MIVDF will now Support Michigan with certified Community Emergency Response Teams.

Approximately 50 MIVDF troops attended CERT training at Camp Grayling in January 2008. The battalions are now reinforcing that training with all of the troops in their assigned units. Some units are now listed on the Citizens Corps/Michigan CERT teams web site.

Speaking of web sites, the MIVDF invites you to visit its new and updated website at the old web address, www.mivdf.org. At the bottom of the home page, there is contact information.

The Michigan Emergency Management Association applauds MIVDF for its efforts in community preparedness and looks forward to a long and productive relationship in future years.

Captain Charles Pfister
MEMA Member since 2007!!

**MEMA's strength is in its numbers.
Why not recruit a new MEMA member
today?**

Next MEMA Meeting

The MEMA Board of Directors will meet on May 20th at the Ingham County EOC. As always, the MEMA membership is welcome to attend MEMA Board meetings.

Visit our updated website at
www.memaonline.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

May 2008

Greetings to MEMA Members,

As we return safely from another Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference it was wonderful to have the opportunity to network with the MEMA membership as well as meeting many new members.

This year's conference was the best ever! With many new and returning information packed presentations and speakers, it was a great time with many positive comments and pleased attendees. Once again, and I can't say it enough thanks to all the MEMA members that helped in the planning, set-up, instruction, monitoring etc... without everyone's assistance and the many great people at MSP EMDHS that were involved it simply couldn't have been this great. We've "*Bridged the Gap*" once again!

I was pleased with the turnout for the first of two annual meetings. The attendance was good and participation was excellent. We've achieved the goals set for that meeting as well as offering our members another benefit.

My crystal ball for 2008 is still glowing with new possibilities and with the forward motion of our current MEMA board the "MEMA Train" is running well. It's so exciting to be able to be part of a group of people that continually serve for the betterment of the organization and their fellow members. Thank you all and have a safe and enjoyable spring.



Paul Baker – MEMA President

P.S. I think my advice for the next President is going to be that during these conferences wear a pair of "roller blades" just to keep up with it all and of course to keep up with Jerry McCoy and Jim VanBendegom who never sit or slow down!



Lapeer County Skywarn Classes Continue to Grow!

Since 2001, the Lapeer County Skywarn Class has exceeded 100 attendees. This year was no exception! Even though 2007 was our record year, with 172 attendees, we came very close to that this year with 162.

The EC of Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association, Doug Donner, puts in a lot of time and work into making the registration process as smooth as possible for the attendees. His goal has always been to make sure that each attendee leaves the workshop with their own official "Lapeer County Skywarn Card" (meaning that he always had a lot of people typing, printing, tearing, etc. while the attendees were in the workshop).

Each year, we look at ways we can make the event even better for our guests. With that, an "on-line registration" form was created for the 2007 class. This has allowed 90% of the work to be done prior to the event. In addition to saving A LOT of work the night of the event, it also gives us more detailed spotter information (since the system requires that all data be completed before it will accept their registration). We don't "require" attendees to pre-register, we just encourage it to save themselves a lot of time standing in line. It has proven to be one of our greatest enhancements to this annual event.

Another enhancement started this year – making NOAA All Hazard radio available for purchase by our attendees.

Our newly formed CERT Team took on this challenge and ran with it! A vendor was contacted and agreed to put some radios on consignment to us. We started out small – 20 radios! By the end of the evening, all of those had been sold and according to CERT Member David Hoffman, "...we could have easily sold another 20 of them!" If an attendee wasn't able to purchase one that night, information was given to them that they could take home and easily order from.

I hope that everyone takes advantage of the great program the National Weather Service offers each year! I truly believe that the Skywarn class is one of an Emergency Managers easiest forms of mitigation and preparedness tools we can provide to our residents!

*Mary Stikeleather, PEM
Lapeer County Emergency Management
MEMA 3rd District Liaison*

Osceola County's Founding Director Dies

Long-time emergency management supporter and pioneer Edward "Ned" Seath passed away recently. Along with his career in law enforcement, Ned was known for being the motivating force in establishing Osceola County's Civil Defense program in 1978, well before most other programs became active.

During his term as Director from 1978 - 1986, he was known for his proactive and innovative approach to emergency services that was well beyond what was expected of the traditional 'disaster office'. His personal style of using EMD's unique resources and influence to positively influence community emergency services remains the founding principle of the department to this day and ensured that emergency management never had to be 'sold' to justify its existence.

Ned remained involved in emergency management until his passing, serving as Deputy Director under Dallas Jenks from 1986 – 1998. He was actively serving on the 9-1-1 Authority Board as the Citizen At Large. According to 9-1-1 Dispatchers, they are unaware of any time during his service that he failed to acknowledge the local 'civil defense' tests.

Mark Watkins, Osceola County

Report from the Mighty 2North

Changes

There have been several changes in 2N this year. We lost a stand-alone program in Region 2N earlier this year. The City of Fraser decided to opt out of maintaining their own program and has folded into the protection and welcoming arms of the Macomb County Program. We also saw a change at the helm for the City of Warren's program. Lt. Dennis DeVooght was promoted to Captain at the end of 2007 (congratulations) and after several tries, the City of Warren appointed Lt. Kevin Sommers (our condolences) as their Emergency Management Coordinator.

Exercises

It is a little early in the year to report on much exercise activity. Macomb County conducted a Table Top with the management and staff of the Mt. Clemens Regional Medical Center. The scenario required the complete evacuation of the facility. What fun. Several other regional and local exercises are in the planning stages including one with Selfridge ANG Base and TACOM (Tank Command-Warren).

Grants

Several local jurisdictions within Macomb County have received a grant of \$352,500 thanks to the work of Congresswoman Candice Miller. The grant will allow for additional equipment purchases of 800 MHz radio equipment. Two additional grants in the amounts of \$666,401 and \$987,000 were awarded to jurisdictions within Macomb County for the same purpose thanks to the actions of Sen. Carl Levin and Sen. Debbie Stabenow. Thanks to the work of our representatives, these funds will make Macomb County and the jurisdictions within fully operational under the State's Interoperable 800 MHz System.

Outreach Activities

Macomb County Emergency Management will be participating in the Macomb Mall's "Law Enforcement Day" on May 10th. We will have our display on Emergency Planning and will be passing out our Planning Workbooks. We are also planning our first "National Preparedness Day" at Lakeside Mall on September 27th. Local Police, Fire, Military, RACES, Salvation Army and other organizations will be participating both indoors and outside in the parking lot with demonstrations and public information kiosks.

Planning and site assessment for the Macomb County SNS/CRI Project is nearing completion. An exercise of Distribution Node and POD activation with SNS assets will be conducted this June. The Macomb County Transportation Mutual Aid Compact has been completed and signed between Macomb County Emergency Management and all of the County's School Districts.

Nothing reported from Oakland and St. Clair Counties at the time of this report.

Pete Locke, PEM
MEMA 2N District Liaison

After nearly 6 years of service with the Citizen Corps and CERT programs, Mr. Gary Zulinski is changing career paths. Gary was the first Citizen Corps program manager for the state of Michigan. He was instrumental in getting the Citizen Corps and CERT programs off the ground in Michigan. He then joined Eastern Michigan University's staff and helped establish the Teen CERT program. While at EMU, Gary remained active in Citizen Corps working with the Region 2 Citizen Corps Council, state wide Focus Group and numerous other Citizen Corps programs and functions. Gary's knowledge with the Citizen Corps and CERT programs will be greatly missed, but he will always be just a phone call away! Thanks for all the hard work over the past 6 years Gary Thanks for all the hard work over the past 6 years, Gary.

Sgt. Kevin Sweeney

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....

Jim VanBendegom has been working hard with our supplier to build the MEMA store inventory so members can purchase MEMA shirts and hats (and perhaps other items). Several items were available at the Homeland Security Conference and we plan to have the store items available at the Fall Conference as well.

Jim and I will be meeting with our supplier to work on getting MEMA items posted on the MEMA website so members can purchase items online. We have struggled with this issue for some time, and believe we may have come up with a secure solution. Look for more news in the future!!

As always, I encourage everyone to look in your first responder communities and recruit MEMA members. At \$30 a year, a MEMA membership is a great value. Our Board of Directors will continue to try to keep you updated on the latest news in emergency management.

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 prbake@kalcounty.com with your idea(s).