



# Nevada Department of Public Safety

## Division of Emergency Management

March 2016

### Nevada Division of Emergency Management's February News & Highlights

#### In this Issue:

The Division of Emergency Management's monthly newsletter for March .

We hope that you find these newsletters helpful and we welcome any feedback to help us to support you in our overall mission.

- ◆ NDEM News and Events for March
- ◆ Emergency Manager's 2016 Workshop
- ◆ Karen Hall's Interview
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- ◆ Nevada Commission on Homeland Security Update
- ◆ Introduction to the NDEM's new Field Operation 's Branch

- ◆ The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a component of the Department of Homeland Security, announced the availability of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Notices of Funding Opportunity. Nevada will receive \$3,734,500 in the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), \$2,962,000 in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and \$4,491,408 in Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding. Applications for all three of these programs were distributed Statewide by NDEM and made available to all eligible applicants.
- ◆ The Southern Nevada Regional staff participated in the day-long Mesquite full-scale exercise. The exercise provided a mass casualty event involving high school students as well as barricaded subject individuals. Over 125 participants from area fire departments, the Mesquite Fire and Police Departments, Mesa View Hospital, local Community Emergency Response Team, city officials at the Emergency Operations Center, and local high school actors /victims validated several local capabilities and exercise objectives.
- ◆ Ops Chief attended a meeting at the Regional Emergency Operations Center regarding the new Intergrated Public Alert Warning System/Emergency Alert System uses and Collaborative Operating Group (COG) development statewide. Attendees included Aaron Kenneston, Melanie Groner (AlertSense), Adrienne Abbott (NBA) and Chris Magenheimer (Contract asst to Aaron). Chris will be visiting local jurisdictions in person to assist them with training and registration with FEMA to become part of a COG in their area. NDEM's Ops Chief will assist with mutual aid / Memorandum of Understanding development, education and implementation.
- ◆ The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee joined Mineral County's Local Emergency Planning Committee in Hawthorne and conducted a co-meeting to discuss statewide and local hazard mitigation planning and project initiatives. Nearly all voting members from both groups were in attendance.
- ◆ The Preparedness Manager, Lead Planner and Exercise Officer attended the VG-17 Initial Planning Conference in Sacramento. Discussions were held with CalOES, FEMA and the VG-17 Contractors regarding collaboration and coordination on the planning for the exercise.
- ◆ Members from Ecology and Environmental, Washoe County Emergency Management, and NDEM held the initial planning meeting for the Statewide Recovery Framework Project.

## Nevada Division of Emergency Management's February News & Highlights Continued...

- ◆ 2016 Notice of Opportunity for Pre-Disaster Mitigation was released today by the Department of Homeland Security. Available funding for this nationally competitive grant is \$90,000,000. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program makes available Federal funds to State, Local and Tribal Governments to implement and sustain cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding from future disasters. This PDM program strengthens National Preparedness and Resilience and supports the national preparedness goal of mitigation, as specified in the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8).
- ◆ A meeting was held to discuss the WebEOC deployment schedule and what is necessary to get Version 8.0 rolled out prior to the VG-17 exercise. The needs include a temporary employee to assist with the development of the program, some coordination with Intermedix for assistance with development and training, internal assistance with developing and scheduling training on the new system, and installing the add-ins such as Mapper Pro and WebFusion.
- ◆ FEMA Region IX week long monitoring visit: Reviewing the agency's programmatic and financial protocols and processes to ensure compliance with federal grant requirements in all grants DEM receives by DHS and FEMA. Grants, Recovery, Financial, and Planning, Training and Exercise staff all contributing in writing and verbally to the sample questions requested by FEMA.
- ◆ The Preparedness Manager, Lead Planner and Exercise Officer attended the VG-17 Initial Planning Conference in Sacramento. Discussions were held with CalOES, FEMA and the VG-17 Contractors regarding collaboration and coordination on the planning for the exercise.
- ◆ The EMAP Manager reviewed and updated several of the 64 EMAP Standards for eventual submission of the 2016 EMAP Annual Report. The Nevada EMAP Program is on track to maintain EMAP accreditation.

## 2016 Emergency Manager's Workshop Partnering in Emergency Preparedness

NDEM's training section hosted the 2016 Emergency Managers Conference in Minden, Nevada. This year's theme, "Partnering in Emergency Preparedness." Over 120 people were in attendance at the conference with a large diversity of expertise represented. The presentations covered a variety of topics from the introduction to the new Emergency Preparedness Association, Planning for Vulnerable Populations and Inter-Tribal Emergency Response Commission were three out of 10 presentations. The venue gave a great opportunity for emergency management professionals throughout the state to network.



## Meet Karen Hall, Management Analyst II

### Nevada's Homeland Security Section

Karen Hall currently serves as a Management Analyst II for the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, and she brings with her a wealth of personal and practical experience in related fields. In this role, she supports the Division's efforts related to Homeland Security initiatives for the state, which consists of supporting the Homeland Security Commission and its numerous subcommittees, managing aspects of the Homeland Security Grants Program, providing statewide information to the federal Department of Homeland Security, and much more.

This is a remarkable set of tasks, especially given that she is the only full time employee responsible for these efforts within the Division.



Born in southern California before relocating with her family to northern California then northern Nevada, Karen brings with her vast experience in various industries and programs related to public safety. Her mother worked for the Carson City Fire Department for two decades, and she grew up around first responders. After receiving a degree in biology from UNR, her professional career added to these personal experiences substantially.

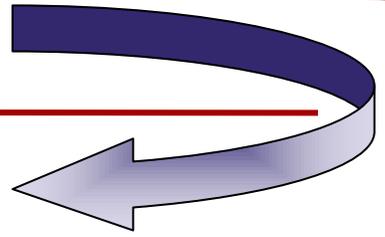
Her professional aspirations led her into the healthcare field, where she focused as a manager of research analytics and supply chain logistics for several northern Nevada hospitals. "Hospital work is emergency management," Hall says, noting the on-call nature of the job, the need to provide resources immediately in emergency situations, and developing long-term plans in order to build the capacity necessary to build and sustain capacity for a community and region. Always seeking personal improvement, Hall received a Masters of Business Administration to build upon her management skills.

Following her time in healthcare, Hall joined the Nevada Department of Public Safety, which provided her even more direct experience in emergency management and homeland security. She first served as an office manager for Parole and Probation before coming to the Division in 2012. In these positions, she learned why she enjoyed working in various capacities in the public safety and emergency management fields, stating, "no matter what you are doing, you are helping people."

Since joining the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Hall has sought to assist in the provision of a more streamlined process to the Homeland Security grants process, stating, "if you are not on top of it, things don't get done, and people don't get the money they need." In addition to her work with Nevada's Homeland Security efforts, Hall also sought out the responsibility of Deputy Chief of the Planning Section during activation of the State Emergency Operations Center. In this role she has learned a lot, but she still desires to grow. "Planning is crucial," Hall says of her role during activation. "And we have an opportunity to make the process better."

Hall aims to be a part of improving this process, and her background and experience will allow her to be a key part of the effort. She has a proven capability in managing logistics during emergencies, in improving relationships, automating and streamlining systems, and even planning during activation, as seen during her time in the Planning Section during the Moapa floods, the industrial fire in Beatty, and several other real and training incidents. She looks forward to continuing to build relationships and build capacity with partners throughout the state.

# An Interview with Vance Payne, Nye County Emergency Manager



**Nevada Division of Emergency management (NDEM):** Tell us about your background before become the Nye County Emergency Manager?

**Vance Payne (VP):** I started my response background with the Beavercreek Fire Department, Beavercreek, Ohio in 1977. My training and experiences there were broad and rich. They included 25 years as a paramedic, also, life safety inspector, specifications writing, purchasing, fleet management, safety officer, incident investigation, contract negotiations, risk analysis, ISO management, etc. I co-developed a hugely successful Fire Academy at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. That job really taught great lessons of fiscal management, course development, policy interpretation, honed teaching skills, personnel development, and the “art of making a deal” among numerous agencies and groups. After leaving the department in 2004, I went to work for Simplex-Grinnell doing inspections on water-based fire protection systems, performing life safety inspections of large properties, fire pump testing, and repair. I transferred to the Las Vegas office in 2005. In 2008, I became Nye County’s Workplace Safety and Training Officer, working directly for the Emergency Manager. This position allowed me the opportunity to share previous skills in an emergency management capacity. In June 2012, I was appointed Emergency Manager of Nye County.

**NDEM:** How does your background in fire help you in your current role as Emergency Manager?

**VP:** I believe the Fire Service is a good teacher of command presence, command and control, resource allocation, priority planning, and TEAM management. All of those skills have a place in my role as an emergency manager.

**NDEM:** What programs and responsibilities are incorporated into your current position?

**Vance Payne:** The Nye County Emergency Manager wears many hats. The divisions include training support, workplace safety, Animal Services, Nye County Ambulance, material support to nine fire departments, two HazMat Teams, training site management, and all of the traditional emergency management functions.

**NDEM:** What are the main challenges of coordinating response to emergencies in such a large and often rural county?

**VP:** The biggest challenge to emergency response in Nye County is “communication.” And, that challenge is inclusive of before, during, and after any event. We believe that the reasons include distances (Nye County is comprised of 186,000 square miles and is a six hour drive time from top to bottom), weak technological infrastructure, lack of public awareness, apathy, lack of personnel, and consistent training.

**NDEM:** What sorts of efforts have you put in place to ensure that the communities within your county are prepared?

**VP:** Regular reflection of our Hazard Mitigation Plan keeps our department focused on the problems. In our rural/frontier communities, live presentations have given us the best results. Twenty involved and prepared individuals in a town of two hundred can have a profound effect. Thinking smaller has been productive.



## An Interview with Vance Payne, Nye County Emergency Manager Continued...



**NDEM:** Nye County experienced a major incident with the industrial fire near Beatty last October. How are your communities doing today?

**VP:** Thanks to a transparent and well communicated investigation, the towns of Beatty and Amargosa Valley have had a significant reduction in their fears and apprehension. Governor Sandoval has demonstrated his commitment to these communities and our State by keeping relevant departments and Nye County officials working toward long term containment, mitigation, and monitoring of this industrial site.

**NDEM:** How did the industrial fire incident change the way you operate and think about Emergency Management?

**VP:** This incident reinforced my belief in and adherence to decision-making based on tactical priorities driven by sound strategy. Information and its sharing was a shortcoming that we recognized early. The solutions are easy, but the execution will take commitment and constant monitoring. And, finally, I thoroughly know that building familiar networks will save the day and are worth the trouble of going out of my way to maintain!

**NDEM:** What other events or hazards are you focusing on right now?

**VP:** A side note to the Industrial Fire was the flooding event that occurred at the same time. There were numerous rescues that occurred, including a nighttime helicopter rescue by Metro Search and Rescue, of two individuals who came close to losing their lives in the flood. This has highlighted a drastic need for top water rescue training in the middle of the Mojave Desert. We have since met with Las Vegas Technical Rescue and built an equipment needs list and will be training with them and instituting similar go/no go policies. Additionally, the condition of Nye County Ambulance and the closure of Nye Regional Hospital requires us to stay vigilant in our monitoring and problem-solving. This continues to be a very disturbing and disruptive problem in central Nevada and Nye County.

**NDEM:** How do you work with local, state, federal, and tribal partners to accomplish your mission?

**VP:** Communication, communication, communication! This takes enormous effort and time, but is critical. If I am to have a working relationship with someone, I can't do it just through a phone call or an email. Face to face interaction takes you beyond a "relationship." It builds awareness, understanding, and hopefully friendship. That is one of the many things I love about our business and our State. Our population allows this to happen. All I have to do is "do it!"

**NDEM:** How can Emergency Management partners throughout the state work together better to build and sustain resilience after an emergency or disaster?

**VP:** I have talked this for as long as I've been here. Resilience means many things to many people, but to me it means normal. Normal is easy to achieve if everything is common. Common is easy to replicate through redundancy. The more processes, equipment, and plans we share, the more common they are, and the more redundant they will be, statewide. I think that when our own house builds resilience, we are well on our way to community resilience.



## Nevada Commission on Homeland Security Approves Homeland Security Grant Program Projects

During the February 12, 2016 NCHS meeting, commissioners determined the top five priorities for investments to be funded with the approximately \$4.5 million awarded to the State of Nevada by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Based on the DHS funding criteria, the top five priorities for the state were identified:



1. Cyber Security (Mission area: Protection)
2. Intelligence and Information Sharing (Mission area: Prevention)
3. Public Information and Warning (Mission area: All)
4. Operational Coordination (Mission area: All)
5. Operational Communications (Mission area: Response)

The DHS grant program allocates grant funding that enhances the ability of states, as well as local, tribal and territorial jurisdictions and other regional authorities in the preparation, prevention, and response to terrorist attacks and other disasters. Localities can use grants for planning, equipment, training and exercise needs. These funds are used to support the following top-five priorities determined for the state by the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security:

- ◆ **Prevention** - Prevent, avoid or stop an imminent, threatened or actual act of terrorism.
- ◆ **Protection** - Protect our citizens, residents, visitors, and assets against the greatest threats and hazards in a manner that allows our interests, aspirations, and way of life to thrive.
- ◆ **Mitigation** - Reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters.
- ◆ **Response** - Respond quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs in the aftermath of a catastrophic incident.
- ◆ **Recovery** - Recover through a focus on the timely restoration, strengthening and revitalization of infrastructure, housing and a sustainable economy, as well as the health, social, cultural, historic and environmental fabric of communities affected by a catastrophic incident.

### Upcoming meetings:

- \* Detailed Budgets with Narrative, Updates Project Proposals, Travel Addendum & Updated Grant Proposal - Deadline 3-14- 2016
- \* Urban Area Working Group Meeting - 3-28-2016
- \* Homeland Security Working Group 3-29-2016
- \* Final Investment Justifications Due— 4-5-2016
- \* NCHS Finance Committee 4-7-2016
- \* Nevada Commission on Homeland Security – 4-15-2016
- \* Nevada Commission on Homeland Security – 5-6-2016
- \* Final Investment Justification due to Federal Department of Homeland Security by NDEM - 4-25-2016



## Introducing the Field Operations Branch

The Field Operations Branch is a newly created branch within the Preparedness Section of the NDEM organization. This is the result of combining the two existing Southern Nevada liaison officer positions in Las Vegas with the Tribal/Rural liaison officer position in Carson City and changing their working title to Field Liaison. The other major change assigns each Field Liaison to a specific region of the State of Nevada giving them responsibility to liaison with all political subdivisions (counties, incorporated cities) and the federally recognized tribes within their assigned region.

Each Field Liaison has the same standardized preparedness role ***before*** an emergency and response role ***during/after*** an emergency. Typical preparedness role includes providing emergency management technical assistance in planning, training, exercises, resource management, grant management, hazard mitigation, as a few examples while typical response role includes initial/continuous situational awareness, preliminary damage assessment, emergency management response and recovery technical assistance, etc.

The ultimate purpose of the FOB is to provide an increased, direct customer service capability within NDEM while at the same time creating a force multiplier capability for existing NDEM programs and projects out into the field with increased interaction with assigned jurisdictional and tribal stakeholders.

The three geographical NDEM regions within Nevada are: West, East and South (see map) having an approximate similar number of jurisdictions, tribes and special or critical infrastructure facilities (military installations, universities, dams, etc). Bud Marshall, the Branch Supervisor, is assigned to the South Region. Kendall Herzer is assigned to the East Region. The West Region is currently vacant and expected to soon be filled by a candidate in the hiring process.

The Field Liaisons will have common and consistent job descriptions, roles and responsibilities. They will be expected to not only get to know their assigned local emergency management organizational strengths and areas for improvement but to also get to know the local jurisdictional/tribal leaders, response and recovery capabilities, threats and hazards, historical facts and culture, and planned community/tribal events.

The Field Liaisons will work with all political subdivisions and tribes within their assigned regions conducting an increased number of on-site staff assistance visits, providing or coordinating emergency management program technical assistance, and attending preparedness events (planning meetings, training courses, and exercises), public meetings, and special community/tribal events.

There are several distinct advantages of creating the FOB, the most important having an increased NDEM physical presence within Nevada's jurisdictions and tribes providing emergency management technical assistance and services. Other advantages include: increasing NDEM's role as a "customer-centric" organization; increasing two-way flow of information between NDEM and Nevada's jurisdiction and the tribes; and increased on-site presence during emergency response and recovery activities.

Even though Nevada is a large geographical state (the 7<sup>th</sup> largest state in land area at 103,641 square miles) with 17 counties, 19 incorporated cities and 27 federally recognized tribes the Field Liaisons of the Field Operations Branch intend to "shrink the information and technical assistance distance" by becoming a valued member/partner of each jurisdiction and tribe.



Visit us online at [www.dem.nv.gov](http://www.dem.nv.gov)

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