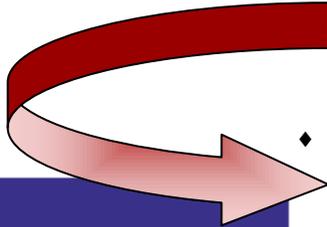




Nevada Department of Public Safety

Division of Emergency Management

May 2016



Nevada Division of Emergency Management's April News & Highlights

In this Issue:

The Division of Emergency Management's monthly newsletter for May

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 April
 - ◆ NDEM and ESF Partners participate in stimulated exercise for America's PrepareAthon
 - ◆ Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribal Nation Recovery Update
 - ◆ Interview with Mary Beth Sewald, President and CEO of Nevada Broadcasters Association
 - ◆ NDEM Profile: Paul Burke, Planning, Training and Exercise Supervisor
- ◆ The Southern Nevada Field Operations Liaison conducted a site assistance visit to the City of Las Vegas Emergency Management. Topics of Discussion included: VG17, EMPG Grant, EMAP, scheduled preparedness (exercise) activities, updated local EOP, local staff needs, and general issues and concerns.
 - ◆ PT&E Planning Staff assisted the City of Mesquite in the initial development of a new Emergency Operations Plan. During this technical assistance and outreach visit, Planning Staff took a tour of the city's key resources and public buildings, sat with city leadership to understand their communities desires, and formed a plan to move forward with a comprehensive EOP plan. Over the course of the next several months DEM Planners will be working with Mesquite in both the plan structure, and the eventual exercise of the plan to insure it meets the communities needs.
 - ◆ Mitigation staff participated in Desert Research Institute Climate Forum - Climate Resilient Mitigation Activities (CRMA) are the top priority for FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation 2016 Grants. Climate Resilient Mitigation Activities are eligible under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs to support communities in reducing the risks associated with climate change. These activities are: Aquifer Storage and Recovery, Floodplain and Stream Restoration, Flood Diversion and Storage, and Green Infrastructure Methods. These activities can mitigate any natural hazard; however, the activities are focused on mitigating the impacts of flood and drought conditions.
 - ◆ As part of an all day public safety training tour with state and local agencies the Carson City Chamber's leadership group stopped at the Nevada National Guard Complex to tour the Division of Emergency Management's building. The group was briefed by several state agencies on their preparedness measures and responsibilities should an incident or disaster occur in Nevada.
 - ◆ Members of NDEM including the Chief attended the semi-annual Single Point of Contact (SPOC) conference in McLean, VA. The purpose of the conference was to provide an opportunity for state and territory SPOC and their teams to engage with FirstNet through a two-day working session focused on stakeholder engagement and preparation for State Plan delivery and broadband network deployment; SPOCs informed and up-to-date on consultation and outreach activities, State Plan development and delivery, and other FirstNet current efforts; and SPOCs provided with updated outreach tools and messaging for stakeholder and elected official engagement
 - ◆ Fiscal/Admin staff are working on the Biennial Report on Internal Controls, which summarizes the results of agencies' self-assessment of their actual and written internal control procedures. Staff members are reviewing business practices to improve efficiency and effectiveness, including processes for stale dated checks, year-end projections, and internal controls.

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

- ◆ The State Search and Rescue Coordinator was asked to assist the State of Mississippi in providing planning assistance for a missing 55 year old male subject who was suffering from depression as well as multiple physical disabilities. The subject had been missing for 24 hours prior to the request without being located. Using a process known as Virtual Search Planning developed within DEM, the incident was researched and a solution to locate the missing subject was provided to Mississippi SAR resources. The subject was located within 45 minutes of receiving the DEM Data. In spite of the subject being deceased when located, the event was the 44th in a series of solved cases using this method.
- ◆ The DEM Exercise Officer finalized and distributed invitations to the Mass Migration Workshop to be held in Clark County on May 17. This event continues to occupy a majority of the Exercise Officers time and effort. This workshop is in support of the larger VG-17 event and the DEM's efforts to look at mass migration issues should a large event in California force refugees to Nevada. Nevada is one of a few, if any, states looking at how it would handle the migration of one million or more persons across state lines due to a natural disaster.
- ◆ DEM Homeland Security Section, on behalf of the HSA, made final submission of data nominations for the FFY2017 National Critical Infrastructure Prioritization Program (NCIPP) Data Call. A total of 15 critical infrastructure submissions were uploaded into the Infrastructure Data Collection Application within the DHS IP Gateway System for consideration of placement on the Level I/II Critical Infrastructure list. Nominations were made consisting of Individual assets, clusters, and systems which will now be adjudicated by the Office of Cyber and Infrastructure Analysis. The adjudication phase will run from May 2 through June 10, 2016.
- ◆ Earthquake Economic Resiliency Forum - Held at the El Dorado Resort Casino in Reno. Discussion topics included: The Problem-geologic background for the Reno/Carson City/Tahoe/Truckee corridor, Aftermath and Recovery, Economic Resiliency, Next Steps. Speakers from Nevada Seismology Laboratory, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, University of Otago, New Zealand, Napa, CA, Emergency Management Program Director from Salt Lake City, California Seismic Commission and City of Reno.



NDEM Staff Worked with ESF Partners in a Simulated Exercise for America's PrepareAthon!

The Nevada Division of Emergency Management hosted a three hour exercise in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) on Thursday, April 28, 2016, from 0900 to 1200 called: US Ecology Remix.

The division conducted the exercise at the end of April to support spring's National Preparedness Month, specifically America's PrepareAthon! A day dedicated across the nation for practice and preparedness actions of various disasters and emergencies.

The purpose of the NDEM's exercise is to test our current procedures, fine tune existing processes and implement new plans to ensure the most efficient and effective to ensure the make the necessary adjustments uncovered during this exercise.

The top priorities to include:

- Testing the NDEM operations function
- Reworking the US Ecology Incident with new content
- Practice the resource request process, recently upgraded by operations
- Exercise NDEM's revised State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in the SEOC
- Work with ESF's partners to test the flow of information and resources request through the Operations Branch.



Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribal Nation Recovery Update

On September 8, 2014, the Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribal Reservation suffered an intense thunderstorm that created a flash flood event which resulted in damage to homes and property. Many residents were trapped in their homes, as they were caught off guard by the unusual depth, volume and speed of the floodwaters. A Declaration of Emergency, pursuant to state law, for the Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribal Reservation was issued on September 9, 2014.



This Declaration activated state resources to assist local and tribal governments through the State Emergency Operations Plan and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (FEMA Region IX) provided a team to assist Nevada in conducting a local, state, tribal and federal technical assistance and preliminary damage assessment. The comprehensive preliminary damage assessment analysis was conducted and revealed that severe damage occurred and that debris removal, emergency response and other protective measures resulted in substantial costs.

FEMA collaborated with Moapa and State staff to finalize the scopes of work on five projects related to two flood control structures, the recreation area near Dead End Dam, where the scouts have an annual jamboree and the irrigation system for the farm. The initial period of performance for permanent work projects ended May 5, 2016. Moapa's project manager has submitted requests for time extensions for all the permanent work projects due to challenges gathering required information, staff turnover and the arduous environmental and historical review process.

The tribe has plans to complete work on several projects in the next 12 months:

1. During the storm, the hay storage, pole barn had several stacks of hay bales displaced by the flood water surge. The force of the surge toppled the stacked hay which fell against the pole barn columns causing the structure to lean and become unstable. The bidding process is complete and a contract to raze and rebuild the hay storage barn is being drafted.
2. On the southwest end of the reservation there is an earthen flood control structure that is currently known as Segmiller dam. As a result of the incident the Segmiller structure experienced a breach that blew out a 55 linear feet (LF) wide section of the structure near the right side abutment releasing water detained behind the structure. The breach has been repaired by the tribe but, an engineer will evaluate the repair to determine if additional work is necessary.
3. The Muddy River runs through the reservation. The section of the river that flows through the farmed areas of the reservation overflowed its banks and flooded the adjacent farmland. The force of the floodwaters destroyed approximately 121 recently planted trees that were part of a river restoration program supported by the NRCS and EPA. Additionally the flooding of the river damaged approximately 18,000 LF of a drip irrigation system to support the plantings. The grants were made to the Applicant to restore historic wetlands along the river and to reestablish the riparian habitat along an approximately 1.75 mi. section of the river that flows through the active agricultural areas of the Moapa Paiutes Reservation. The cost to replace/ replant the lost trees and drip irrigation equipment is the responsibility of the tribe, and therefore, is eligible based on FEMA Recovery Policy 9524.5
4. At the Sewage lagoons, the west (northwest) side berm faced the floodwater surge, which flowed over the top destroying the fence and depositing approximately two feet of dirt, mud, and silt into both of the wastewater ponds. The east side berm was severely eroded by overflowing water from the pond and by rushing floodwaters in the Lincoln Street drainage channel which runs parallel, adjacent to the east side berm. The entire length was in imminent danger of collapse due to the scouring and erosion action from the Lincoln Street Channel as it carried flood surge down to the Muddy River south of the lagoons. The tribe took emergency protective measures to save the berms from collapse and are consulting with IHS regarding the permanent repair of the sewage lagoon and, once complete, repair the surrounding fence.
5. Farm & Greenhouse Perimeter Fencing -The primary purpose of the fencing was to keep livestock and other large animals from the agricultural fields. The fence was over 90% destroyed. It is determined not cost effective to repair the fencing as much of the fence is buried under dirt and debris. The project is to remove the damaged fencing, reuse or recycle what is there and replace the rest of the fencing.



An Interview with Mary Beth Sewald President and CEO of the Nevada Broadcasters Association



Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM): Tell us about yourself and your career prior to joining the Nevada Broadcasters Association (NVBA).

Mary Beth Sewald (MBS):

I am a native of Missouri but have called Nevada home for 25 years. After graduating from the University of Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia, I moved to Las Vegas and began my broadcasting career at KNEWS Radio and then moved to KSNV Ch. 3 where I worked for 24 years. I started at Ch. 3 as a part time Associate Producer of News on the overnight shift, and worked my way to General Manager of KRNV News 4, the NBC affiliate in Reno, NV. In January, 2015, I began as President & CEO of the NVBA.

NDEM: What does the NVBA do?

MBS: The NVBA promotes and advocates for the Broadcasters of Nevada, while serving the public. The Association acts as a lobbying arm both in Carson City and Washington, D.C. We proactively lobby on important issues affecting the TV and Radio Broadcasters of Nevada along with the broadcast industry as a whole. We work closely with the FCC, the Nevada Congressional delegation and State/Local legislators to advocate on initiatives important to Nevada's Broadcasters and the communities we serve.

In addition, the NVBA is the primary communications liaison between Nevada's Radio and TV stations along with governmental agencies and non-profits. The Association facilitates important programs such as AMBER Alert, the Emergency Alert System (EAS), coordinating with Nevada's Division of Emergency Management and first responders, on various communications initiatives, especially during times of emergency or disaster. The NVBA also publishes the statewide EAS Local Operation Plan for Nevada.

The NVBA provides a wide variety of services to our TV and Radio Members, including the FCC "Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program" required by the FCC for stations to maintain their licenses. We also facilitate political debates and the Governor's "State of the State" which is broadcast live across most of Nevada's Radio and TV stations.

Through the generosity of the Broadcasters of Nevada, The NVBA also provides an economical way for our government agencies and non-profits to get the word out about important public education campaigns such as the *"See Something, Say Something campaign which is part of a national effort to raise public awareness of the indicators of terrorism and violent crime, and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity."*

The NVBA also hosts an annual Nevada Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame Gala in August, honoring a select few of Nevada's Broadcasters, along with honorees who have also given back to the broadcast industry and to Nevada through philanthropy, business, community activism or political service.

NDEM: Who are your members?

MBS: Members of the NVBA include the Radio and TV stations across the state of Nevada. We have also instituted an Associate Membership, made up of our partners and various agencies and businesses in the state. I am also excited to say that we will be starting a new Student Membership in the coming months as well.

NDEM: How has the NVBA worked on statewide emergency management and homeland security efforts in the past?

MBS: The NVBA has always embraced our role and partnership with Nevada's Homeland Security and NDEM with great pride and honor. It is our duty to facilitate communications to the public, especially during times of emergency. The roles the NVBA and Nevada's Broadcasters play are of paramount importance when it comes to keeping Nevadans informed and safe, ultimately saving lives. The NVBA has provided media training to various agencies and we are exploring an expansion of these services that entails the NVBA becoming an accreditation facility for any city, county or state agencies that may benefit from media training in any capacity.

Interview with President and CEO of the Nevada Broadcasters Association Continued...

NDEM: Chapter 414 of the Nevada Revised Statutes defines broadcasters as first responders. Why is it important for broadcasters to be recognized as first responders?

MBS: I should define the role of broadcasters as “First Responders”. This characterization does not mean we are in a position of providing medical care or emergency response, as our firefighters or medical first responders. The designation is more a factor of the nature of being “First Informers”. Because Broadcasters are the primary source of communicating potentially life-saving information, this designation enables those technical personnel to enter into areas that would normally be off-limits, if the critical need arises, so that they can service technical facilities to keep stations on the air.

NDEM: Tell us about your role in the response efforts following the 2011 tragedy at the Reno Air Races?

MBS: At the time of the 2011 Reno Air Race accident, I wore three hats. I was the General Manager of KRNV News 4. I was also on both the Board of Directors of the Reno Air Racing Association and the NVBA. This terrible accident was a perfect storm of all three of my affiliations coming together and in the blink of an eye, I had clear concerns about conflicts of issue to consider.

From an Air Race Board member standpoint, I knew the importance of controlling and maintain the accuracy and amount of information released in crises such as these. In addition, the overriding, primary duty of broadcasters and the NVBA was to inform the public about this tragedy, educate the public to avoid the areas in an effort to mitigate traffic so that emergency responders could get through to provide treatment and transportation to those critically injured.

At the end of the day, the first responders, firefighters and emergency medical personnel, all performed their duties with quick precision and saved many lives that day. All the local broadcast radio and TV stations worked together and provided important information the public needed to know, to avoid the roadways association with the Stead Airfield, and also all Reno hospitals providing care for the injured. It was a terrible, tragic accident. But Nevada’s First Responders and Broadcasters all ran toward the crisis and worked together to serve the public in the respective ways they were so superbly trained and ready for.

NDEM: What did you learn about the importance of public communications during emergencies from that event?

MBS: It was a tough day for me personally, since I knew the pilot who crashed, and I knew so many people who were spectators on the ground where the plane went down. But being in leadership roles in all three aspects that surrounded event/crisis management and communications, I learned the importance of good training, quick, clear thinking and an ability to immediately prioritize and make good decisions while under extreme pressure and personal grief. This is also where experience, common sense and an ability to compartmentalize, come into play and determine the outcome.

Simultaneously, I was communicating with everyone from the Air Race Board leadership, state, local and federal elected officials, the FAA, NTSB, first responders, news personnel at KRNV News 4, and injured fans and friends on the ground.

Even so, it was easy to prioritize the primary need. Everything boiled down to one thing: Inform the public. I knew I had to maximize my positions in all three areas of expertise to inform the public so our emergency personnel could save lives, treat the injured and avoid any further injuries or issues. This tragedy and how it was handled across all levels from first responders, emergency personnel and first informers, was the embodiment of the importance of public communications during emergencies.

NDEM: How should emergency management partners throughout the state think about emergency communications? How should they build capacity to inform the public before, during, and after emergencies and disasters?

MBS: Communications between emergency managers and the public during times of crisis, can, and very often does, mean the difference between saving lives and losing them. I would take that “communication during times of crisis” philosophy and move it two steps further. Emergency Communications should start “before” an emergency happens, and should continue long “after” the emergency is over. In more rural areas, people are theoretically more self-sustaining and able to survive emergencies. However, in the more metropolitan areas, such as Las Vegas, people are more reliant on, and expect the availability of a grocery store down every street, the luxury of always having access to power and clean water. What if all that went away? Much like the Air Race accident, tragedy can strike in the blink of an eye. While we hope tragedy never strikes, it behooves us to be ready. Emergency Management partners throughout Nevada should think about emergency communications in terms of three simple steps: Before, During and After: Educate, Inform, Repeat.

Interview with President and CEO of the Nevada Broadcasters Association Continued...

Before: Educate. Emergency Management Partners, in conjunction with the NVBA, should form a public education partnership plan (PEPP). This plan first outlines the primary Threats most likely to occur in Nevada, as determined by the appropriate Nevada emergency management agencies. (I.E. Terrorism, Earthquake, Flood, Wildfire, Power Outages, etc). Second, partners should collaborate and craft public education messages relative to those threats. Those messages then air on all Nevada radio/TV stations via the NVBA. These messages would “Educate” (in a non-inflammatory way,) the public about the basics of preparedness as they relate to the primary Threats as determined by NDEM. This campaign could even run throughout Nevada public schools in a fun, creative, event-driven way, reaching and informing the youngest Nevadans.

During: Inform. In the event of an emergency, predetermined agencies, first responders, military leaders and NVBA leadership would gather at a specified location or joint information center where information would be gathered, assembled and disseminated through designated channels to Nevada media. The NVBA would coordinate communications between emergency management partners and NV media who would then inform the public of specific emergency actions, evacuations or other life-saving or security information. These communications would sustain throughout the duration of the given emergency.

After: Repeat . After emergencies happen, many times the public is left with less information than they really need to recover and cope with the aftermath. My proposed Public Education Plan should include information and resources people can access in order to recover and achieve normalcy again. These resources would vary based on geography, severity and reach of the incident. Local broadcasters still maintain a deep connection and trust with the communities we serve and would play a critical role in continuing the education campaign, shoring up the recovery process of the communities we serve, maintaining calm, and facilitating a faster, smoother recovery. Emergency Management Partners should build capacity to inform the public before, during and after emergencies and disasters via a joint media center where Nevada officials, i.e. the Governor, could address Nevadans on all Nevada radio and TV stations simultaneously. There was once such a facility, which I believe is being considered for update and relocation.

NDEM: What are the opportunities to partner between emergency management officials and the NVBA throughout the state?

MBS: There are several partnership opportunities between emergency management officials and the NVBA. First, the NVBA provides a public education program by which all Nevada agencies are able to broadcast their community outreach messages on radio and TV across the state. This program has been heavily utilized by the National Guard, Homeland Security, NDOT, Health and Human Services and the Las Vegas Metro Chamber, to name a few. The NVBA outreach program is a vastly effective and cost-efficient way to get your public education message to all Nevadans.

The NVBA also provides media training on every level, from the simple writing of a press release, to media 101, to media training and emergency communications. The ultimate goal is for the NVBA to be the accreditation arm of media training and credentialing for the state of Nevada. Other opportunities include a collaboration with emergency managers to craft a statewide emergency communications and public education plan.

NDEM: What are your major upcoming objectives and initiatives while serving as the president of the NVBA?

MBS: The NVBA exists to promote and advocate for the Broadcasters of Nevada while serving the public. To that end, my major objectives and initiatives are to grow the influence and effectiveness of the Association both politically and economically, through the many strategic partnerships we are forming. In addition, we also lobby on behalf of the broadcasters of Nevada and the industry as a whole, both in Carson City and Washington, D.C. There are several pieces of legislation we hope to effect in the upcoming legislative session. The broadcasters of Nevada arguably provide one of the single most valuable services to our communities. We educate, inform, entertain and serve our communities through our own public outreach. We are an economic driver, bolstering the economy and local business through local advertising and news stories. We support charitable organizations and often provide public awareness through local news stories and public service announcements. Broadcast journalists cover news stories important to our communities, schools, hospitals, government agencies and businesses. Broadcasters are the backbone of our communities and I could not be more proud and humbled to serve an industry that so well serves the people.





NDEM Profile Paul Burke, Planning, Training and Exercise Supervisor

Within the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Paul Burke is known as a man who wears many hats. His primary role within the Division is as the Supervisor of the Planning, Training, and Exercise program, where he oversees a staff of five in maintaining NIMS compliance for the Division. Additionally, he serves as the state Search and Rescue Coordinator, a voluntary appointment that coordinates resources and support for county Search and Rescue efforts, manages the state Search and Rescue Board, and develops Search and Rescue training for the state. During activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, Paul is qualified to serve as the SEOC Manager, the Operation Section Chief, and the Planning Section Chief.

While these roles cover an enormous breadth of the Division's day-to-day and emergency response activities, his current roles are merely a continuation of his lifetime interest and long career in various aspects of public safety, emergency response, and emergency management. From his early childhood in Tucson, Arizona, through his time with the military, in Alaska law enforcement, or in emergency management in Nevada, Paul has developed numerous important skills that help the Division serve communities throughout the state. While he has benefited from a diverse career of experiences, though, one constant has been his passion for Search and Rescue.

Growing up in Arizona, Paul's next door neighbor was the coordinator for Pima County Search and Rescue. From an early age, Paul showed an interest in the program, and assisted his neighbor in whatever ways that he could. As he grew older, he learned more about the field of Search and Rescue and decided he would volunteer for the organization his neighbor led.

When Paul was 18, he joined the United States Air Force as a Security Policeman. First stationed in Tacoma, Washington, Paul found ways to keep himself busy during his time in the military: he finished his degree, he volunteered for Tacoma Mountain Rescue, among other things. After a move to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, Paul started looking toward pursuing a civilian law enforcement career, and by the time he was 22, he had left the military and graduated from the academy to become an Alaska State Trooper.

Being an Alaska State Trooper was "almost like being on a fort on the frontier," Paul says. There were many tiny villages throughout the state, and the Troopers provided many crucial government roles when they visited those villages. In addition to law enforcement activities, the Troopers assisted residents with their healthcare needs, they helped the schools with disciplinary problems, and they helped other access government services and benefits. In his role as an Alaska State Trooper, Paul even provided eulogies for local villagers even though he may have never had the opportunity to know them personally.

As with his current role with the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Paul served in many capacities throughout his two-decade career with the Alaska State Troopers. He was a member of the tactical dive team. He was a sniper on the Special Emergency Response Team, a team he would eventually lead as well. He served as a polygraph examiner, an investigator, and even patrol officer for a short time. Not surprisingly given his current duties, Paul also ran the Search and Rescue program for his department as well, a team that handled over 800 calls a year.

During his time with the Alaska State Troopers, Paul had many experiences and opportunities, but one that stands out: the environmental disaster associated with the Exxon Valdez oil tanker in March of 1989, which released hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil into the water. Paul was the first law enforcement professional on the scene of the event, and he was able to observe the response and recovery efforts that followed. "It was the first time I'd even seen a response under the ICS structure," Paul says, a structure that he would see countless times in the years that would follow.

After his retirement from the Alaska State Troopers, Paul moved to Nevada and went into Search and Rescue full time. He worked with the National Association of Search and Rescue and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children as well. In this capacity, he worked major disasters, he traveled the country assisted in searches, and his expertise has allowed him to speak on the subject internationally as well.

Though he and his family enjoyed living in Nevada, he and his wife began to feel the urge to return to Alaska. He would get his chance in 2007 when he was appointed as the Chief of Police in Nome, Alaska, where he worked to rebuild the Department until October of 2008 when family concerns brought him back to Nevada. By January of 2009, Paul was hired on full time at the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, where he has served ever since. As one of the Division's longer-term team members, Paul provides remarkable experience and perspective to Division operations. His background in law enforcement, Search and Rescue, and more have proven to be extraordinarily useful and valuable to our partners throughout the state as well. Because of both, he is an effective advocate for the state's role in emergency management, and he is eager to help the agency evolve into the future.



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