

**Legislative Coordinating Commission**  
**Preparedness for Terrorism and Disasters Working Group**  
**Monday, December 10, 2007**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Room 318, Capitol**

**Present**

Rep. Chris DeLaForest  
Rep. Carolyn Laine  
Rep. Ryan Winkler  
Sen. Terri Bonoff  
Sen. Linda Higgins  
Sen. Warren Limmer  
Karen Anderson  
Rocco Forte  
Dr. Michael Osterholm

**Excused:**

Steve Andreasen

Rep. Winkler called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm. A quorum was present.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

Sen. Higgins moved to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2007 meeting.  
**MOTION PREVAILED.**

**II. 2008 Republican National Convention Training and Preparation**

Matt Bostrom, Assistant Chief of the St. Paul Police Department (SPPD), gave an overview of SPPD security preparation efforts for the 2008 Republican National Convention (RNC). Chief Bostrom stated SPPD security planning efforts are underway and on schedule. He noted the response was not St. Paul specific and would be a regional effort.

Chief Bostrom explained that SPPD has worked closely with the Secret Service in security planning for the RNC. He noted a written operational plan will likely be completed last due to the number of unknowns as well as the number of stakeholders involved. He cited it is important to ensure the right people are involved in the security planning process including representatives from fire life safety, hazmat and transportation. Finally, Chief Bostrom pointed out the RNC convention is a security event, not a catastrophic event and will be treated as such. Chief Bostrom stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

**III. Emergency Management Training: St. Paul**

Tim Butler, St. Paul Fire Chief and former St. Paul Emergency Management Director, gave an overview of emergency management training from a local perspective. Chief Butler reviewed the Minnesota Emergency Management Act, which outlines training requirements for each political subdivision.

Chief Butler then reviewed the training and certification requirements laid out in the Minnesota Emergency Management Director's Handbook. He pointed out the classroom training in the certification process is essential for a coordinated response as it builds networks between responders. Chief Butler reviewed the federal training requirements including National Incident Management System (NIMS) and reviewed the state incident command system Minnesota Incident Management System (MnIMS).

Chief Butler spoke to initiatives within St. Paul, which included the creation of a Department of Emergency Management and a citywide Emergency Management Council. Chief Butler then addressed challenges emergency managers face at the local level, which include local government aid cuts and sustaining the 800 mhz radio system. Chief Butler stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

#### **IV. Emergency Management Training and Response: Minnesota Higher Education**

Allan Johnson, Associate Vice Chancellor of Facilities for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), and Don Beckering State Director of Fire/EMS/Safety Center for MnSCU gave an overview of MnSCUs emergency management training and response efforts. Mr. Johnson stated the hands on education and training of first responders occurs on the campuses.

Mr. Beckering gave an overview of the All Hazards Plans, which provide the framework for response to both natural and man made disasters. Mr. Beckering spoke to the three primary sections of the All Hazards Plans which include an emergency preparedness plan, a continuity of operations plan and a crisis intervention plan. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Beckering stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Greg Hestness, Assistant Vice President of Public Safety and Police Chief for the University of Minnesota and Lance Ross, Assistant Director of Emergency Management for the University of Minnesota, gave an overview of emergency preparedness and response efforts at the University.

Chief Hestness explained the University's Operational Plan highlighting the mission, priorities and scope of the plan. He noted the focus of their emergency preparedness was on risk mitigation, emergency response/incident management and operational continuity. Chief Hestness then spoke to the implementation of their emergency response efforts as a result of the 35W bridge collapse, bomb threats on campus and active shooter planning. Chief Hestness and Mr. Ross stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

#### **V. Emergency Management Training Projects, MN National Guard**

Lieutenant Colonel Eric Waage, Chief Interagency Operations Officer for the Minnesota National Guard, Colonel Rich Weaver, Camp Ripley Post Commander, and Colonel Eric Ahlness, Director of Government Relation for the Minnesota National Guard, gave an overview of the emergency management training efforts and training facilities for the Minnesota National Guard.

Lt. Col. Waage explained the history of emergency management in the military noting it evolved separately from other institutions. Currently, the military is in the process of integrating their emergency management system with other institutions by utilizing NIMS, attending state and federal training sessions, and completing emergency management certification requirements.

Col. Weaver described the National Guard training facility, Camp Ripley. Currently, at Camp Ripley an effort is underway to improve urban training capabilities. He stated that in the spring of 2009 construction will begin on a Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, which meets training needs of soldiers and of emergency management organizations. Col. Weaver pointed out other state entities currently utilize Camp Ripley for training purposes. He stated they are going to build the facility to meet soldier training needs, but have discussed adding fire training and an Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Col. Ahlness addressed the National Guard utilization of the Arden Hills Ammunition Plant as their state headquarters and an EOC. He stated the state could potentially partner with the National Guard to utilize the facility for EOC purposes as well. Col. Ahlness also noted the facility could be utilized for emergency management training on a limited basis.

Col. Ahlness then gave an overview of a gap analysis completed by the National Guard for the 35W bridge collapse and the Southern Minnesota floods. Results of the analysis include: improving communications, upgrading local armories to serve as EOCs or as an emergency housing facility and the continuation of the development of their infrastructures. Lt. Col. Waage, Col. Weaver and Col. Ahlness stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

There being no further business Rep. Winkler adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm.

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Senator Linda Higgins, Co-Chair

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Representative Ryan Winkler, Co-Chair