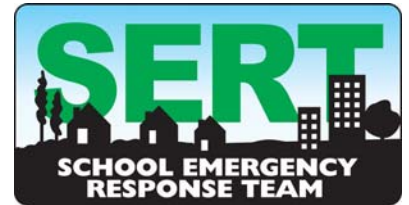


Becoming Disaster *READY*

December 2006

Fifty three Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Adult Leaders (17 Boy Scouts, 32 Girl Scouts, 4 Leaders) gave up two free days on October 26 & 27, 2006 to participate in a 16 hour Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) training program offered by Racine County Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance Homeland Security Program, Wisconsin Citizen Corps and the Center for Emergency Health and Safety in Schools.



SERT training provides youth age 12-18 with the basic skills to handle their own needs and then to respond to their home and schools' needs during and after an emergency situation. The course prepared scouts in these 7 areas:



- Emergency Preparedness - school and home preparedness, emergency preparedness kits, etc.
- SERT organization - connections with community emergency response networks, the Incident Command System, etc.
- Fire safety - hazardous material safety, fire escape plans, extinguishing small fires, installing smoke alarms, assisting with evacuations, etc.
- Emergency medical operations - first aid, CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator skills
- Light search and rescue - locating injured, maintaining rescuer and victim safety
- Emotional effects - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Emergency response to terrorism - helping to prevent acts of terrorism and bullying in the school

In addition, WE Energies made a special presentation on gas and electric safety and the course concluded with a mock drill in which the scouts put into practice their new skills as they responded to a simulated emergency.

While there was no charge for this training, the scouts did donate 99 lbs. of non perishable food to the Racine County Food Bank.

RCOEM Wins IAEM Media Awards

Racine County Emergency Management received the following media awards from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) at their annual conference:

Category B: Special Publications, Subcategory 3: Educational Campaign
1st Place-“2006 Monthly Preparedness Campaign”

Category C: Individual Media Items, Subcategory 1: News/Promotional Story
1st Place-“Local Health Officials Urge Pandemic Flu Planning”

Category A: Newsletters-Division 1
2nd Place-“Becoming Disaster Ready”

Category B: Special Publications, Subcategory 4: Reference Materials-Division 1
3rd Place-“Citizen Corps Display”

Category D: Audio Visual, Subcategory 2: Videotapes/DVD-Division 1
Honorable Mention-“Tornado PSA”

Inside This Issue	
1	Scouts Attend SERT Training
1	RCOEM Gamers Awards
2	Pet Evacuation
2	CERT Refresher Course
3	Resources
4	NIMS Update
4	Upcoming Events

Is Your Pet Ready For a Disaster?



In 1996, a train derailment forced the evacuation of the City of Weyauwega. Most residents never envisioned that they would be displaced overnight, let alone 16 days and most left without their medications and/or pets. This proved to be problematic and four days later, a very dangerous pet rescue was undertaken. About 40 National Guardsmen, using seven military armored personnel carriers, assisted in the rescue of 55 dogs, 93 cats, 38 birds, eight rabbits, and 36 "other" types of pets.

During the evacuation of Hurricane Katrina, the issue of pets once again emerged as photos of homeless dogs roamed the streets. As a result, Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 3858, the "Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006" (PETS) which amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that state and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency. The law will require all states to present the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with pet evacuation plans before receiving federal funds for emergency preparedness.

A Zogby poll from October 2005 reports that Americans, by a 2-to-1 ratio, say official rescue efforts should include plans for accommodating pets, though only 4 percent say government agencies such as FEMA should be responsible for performing pet rescues. Instead, 42 percent say animal-rights groups should conduct rescues, and 40 percent say the task should be shared among private groups, government agencies and individual pet owners. A majority - 54 percent - say they disagree with current American Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) policies that exclude pets from rescue efforts. According to Zogby International, "A big component of the public's overwhelming call for pet rescue may be found in the fact that half (49%) of all adults say they would refuse to evacuate ahead of a disaster if they could not take their pets with them."

As a result of both the Weyauwega train derailment and Hurricane Katrina, we continue to educate groups about the three "P's" of evacuation-**People, Pets and Pills**. Take all three with you if you are asked to leave an area. If you have pets, you should develop a plan to care for your pet in the event of an emergency. Develop a "Pet Emergency Supply Kit" and have a way to transport your pet. Most importantly decide in advance where you can take your pet if you must leave your home. Most public shelters will not accept pets and many hotels/motels do not either. For more information on pet preparedness check out the following websites:

Humane Society of the United States

www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/disaster_preparedness_for_pets/index.html

Homeland Security

www.ready.gov/america/downloads/pets.pdf

CERTs Come Together For First Refresher Course

Thirty two CERT volunteers came together for the first time since their initial training to take part in the first CERT Refresher Workshop, held on October 21st at Gateway Technical College, Racine Campus. The curriculum included training in Incident Command System (ICS), Gas and Electric Safety, Severe Weather Safety, and rescue techniques. Racine County Emergency Management, WE Energies, and the National Weather Service presented information in the workshop.

This is the first CERT Refresher class held in Wisconsin. CERTs from Racine, Kenosha, Washington and Dane Counties, and from Illinois and Indiana, participated. The feedback was very positive, and the class ended with participants suggesting training that they would like to see in future refreshers, including enhancement and extension of the original CERT curriculum.



The next Refresher workshop is scheduled for February 24th at the Kenosha County Center. Additional CERT classes will be scheduled for next year also. If you would like more information about CERT training or are interested in attending the February CERT Refresher, please contact Linda Botts, Lbotts@co.kenosha.wi.us or (262) 605-7903 for more information.

Resources

PANDEMIC FLU RESOURCES:

Isolation and Quarantine Toolkit

Seattle & King County (WA) is an Advanced Practice Center for Emergency Preparedness. In this role, they have established the Planning & Managing for Isolation & Quarantine Response Web Toolkit to support local public health jurisdictions in their efforts to plan for and manage a large-scale isolation and quarantine response. The Toolkit is designed for all types of users and is separated by topic for the ease of use and navigation. Areas covered include legal issues, working with community partners, planning, and managing an isolation and quarantine response center. It is available online at: www.isolationandquarantine.com

TRAINING:

No-Cost Training Resource

There are a number of free training resources available from the Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) including "Aggression Management" and "Accident Preparation and Response Tutorial" Examples of additional PERI online training and resources are listed under categories such as Homeland Security/Terrorism, Emergency/Disaster Management and Hazard Mitigation, Risk Identification and Analysis, Safety and Health, Technology Risks, and Benchmarking and Performance Measurement.

<http://www.riskinstitute.org/peri>

Free Software for Training and Exercising Emergency Management Leaders

A computer-based simulation system for training and exercising emergency management decision makers is now available to emergency response personnel nationwide. The Automated Exercise and Assessment System (AEAS)-Individual has been released by Applied Research Associates, Inc. (ARA) to provide single person training in several critical incident scenarios, including an avian influenza pandemic. Because development was sponsored by the National Guard Bureau, AEAS is available for free to emergency response personnel through a download on the AEAS Support Portal (<http://www.mya eas.com/>)

OTHER:

Are You Really Ready?

The Federation of American Scientists compared the new Ready.Gov site to an archive of the previous version and carefully evaluated the content for accuracy, completeness, comprehensibility, and applicability. The result was the creation of a www.ReallyReady.org

Floodsmart.Gov Web Site a Valuable Resource

The FloodSmart Web site is the official Web site of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which is administered by FEMA. The site has myriad resources for home and business owners. www.floodsmart.gov

Crisis, Disaster, And Risk Management

This is a guide to Web information resources for researchers working on topics in crisis and emergency management: <http://www.gwu.edu/gelman/guides/sciences/crisis.html>

Need To Convert?

A handy new website for converting street addresses into lat/long format is located at <http://www.nfipnextgen.com/NGLocation/address.do>

ADA Guide for Local Governments

"An ADA Guide for Local Governments Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities" is available at: <http://www.ada.gov/emergencyprep.htm>

Improving Security At The Workplace

The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation recently launched a new "[Protect Your Workplace](http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/distributable.html#work)" (http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/distributable.html#work) campaign that highlights avenues to protect workplaces from both physical and cyber threats.

The Catastrophe Readiness Clearinghouse

Sponsored by a grant from the Allstate Foundation, provides tools to empower families, individuals, and small businesses to more effectively plan their own strategies for responding to potentially catastrophic events.

www.catastrophereadinessclearinghouse.org

