



READY RACINE



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Tornadoes Hit Racine County

2010 will go down as the **Year of the Tornadoes** in Racine County.

On Sunday, June 27th, a small EF1 tornado hit portions of Sturtevant, Mt. Pleasant and the City of Racine. Funnel clouds were reported near Sturtevant by local law enforcement at around 1:25 pm, and a warning was issued. The tornado path was 4.5 miles long, and the tornado was on the ground for 8 minutes. Damage was minor.



Another tornado hit the Sturtevant/Mt. Pleasant area on Tuesday, October 26th. While we were bracing for two days of high winds, this early morning tornado, which spun up during rush hour, caught many by surprise-even though there was a tornado watch in effect and a severe thunderstorm warning had just been issued.

This EF1 tornado was on the ground for 6 minutes and traveled 6.35 miles, ending in the City of Racine. CNH and the vacant Sapko building sustained damage, along with an old barn. In addition, several motorists were trapped in their cars because of high voltage lines which came down.

Finally, on November 22nd, an EF1 tornado hit the Union Grove area, causing millions of dollars in damage to the Racine County Fairgrounds, Shepherds Home and School, businesses and homes.



Emergency personnel worked late into the evening clearing debris and restoring power. By the next morning, the smell of fresh pine branches and the sound of chain saws permeated the air.



Grove Gear took the brunt of the hit. The tornado ripped off 30,000 square feet of roof. Fortunately, no one was injured, and remarkably, the company was partially up and running within 24 hours.❖

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Fight for Air Climb

Tichigan and Rochester firefighters recently participated in the 2010 *Fight for Air Climb*, held at the US Bank building in downtown Milwaukee.

Firefighters climbed 1034 steps in **FULL GEAR** to raise funds to support the American Lung Association mission of saving lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

19 firefighter teams from around the state participated in this year's Firefighter Challenge, including Tichigan FD and Rochester FD.

The Tichigan FD team placed 9th (out of 19 teams) with an average team time of 13:55. Tichigan team members included: Kyle Kierstead, Mike Marmurowicz, Travis Giannini, Burt Peterson, Tom Nehring and Amy Bowser.

The Rochester FD team placed 12th with a time of 16:22. Rochester team members included: Eric Schemmel, James Nickel, Chris Hansen, Robert Dahlberg, Michael Schnell and Mark Henningfeld. The two teams raised a combined total of \$1645.

The 2010 Presenting Sponsor was Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and the *Fight for Air Climb* is a fundraiser for the American Lung Association in Wisconsin. ❖



Rochester Fire Department Team

Citizen Corps corner

Moira Moon



Welcome to Moira Moon the new CERT Coordinator.

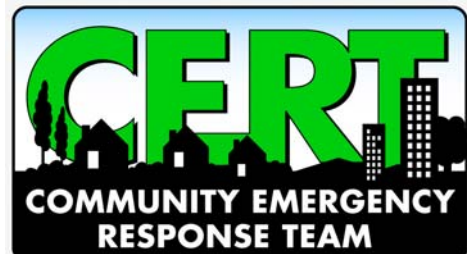
Moira is originally from East Kilbride in Scotland. She came to the United States after her marriage in 1975. She had 4 sons here, before returning to Scotland with them in 1988.

As her sons reached maturity they returned to the US. When her oldest son married and later had a son, Moira decided to come back to America to be near her children and new grandson. She now has 5 grandchildren, 3 boys and 2 girls.

Moira coordinates the CERT training classes. She feels strongly that this training gives people the tools to cope and help out in an emergency situation.

She describes the CERT trainers as “wonderful, dedicated people who are very passionate about their subject”.

Moira believes everyone can benefit from CERT training. ❖



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 2-4	Governor's Conference on EM
Mar 13	Daylight Savings
Mar 14-18	Flood Safety Awareness Week
Apr 11-15	Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week
April 14	Statewide Tornado Drill
April 19	Spotter Seminar-Racine
May 2-6	National Air Quality Awareness Week
May 11	NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Day
June 5-11	National Rip Current Awareness Week
Jun 9	Heat Awareness Day
Jun 19-25	Lightning Safety Awareness Week
Nov 6	Standard Time
Nov 7-11	Winter Awareness Week
Dec 2-3	SKYWARN Recognition Day

Engaging the Faith-Based Community

David L. Maack, CEM, CPM, WCEM

I had the privilege of being a plenary session keynote speaker at a Faithful Readiness conference sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security. The purpose of the conference was to engage the faith-based community, looking at ways that they could participate in emergency preparedness and response.



In my address to the group I explained that I receive two types of calls-how will something impact us or how can we help. In most cases, both require the church or organization to spend some time on the front end preparing-either to limit their exposure to a particular threat/event or to assist them in reaching out in the aftermath of the threat/event.

As a result of the conference, I committed to working with the faith-based community in Racine County, and on January 22nd, we partnered with the City of Racine Mayor's Office of Strategic Partnerships and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare to present a forum on preparedness for our churches and faith-based organizations. 46 individuals representing churches from across Racine County attended the seminar.

Pastor Ron Auch, Prayer House Assembly of God-Kenosha, shared his own church's experience recovering from the January 7, 2008 tornado which did over \$1 million in damage to his church. Pastor Auch explained that he had a

new appreciation for insurance coverage and that they were displaced for close to 10 months.

Prior to the tornado, the church did not have an emergency plan, a weather radio or a back-up of their computer files. Since then they have addressed those issues, installed a sprinkler system and hosted Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. In addition, they reached out to their subdivision and provided weather radios to their neighbors, along with some gift cards.



Participants then looked at two separate plans-an emergency response plan and a church recovery plan which would involve inventorying assets and identifying alternate locations. Finally, we discussed ways that churches could partner with the community.

After major events like Hurricane Katrina, many people want to help. Too often that means they want to donate food, clothes and stuff. Unfortunately, food, clothes and stuff are usually the last things needed and can easily overwhelm relief efforts.

I encouraged the churches to work with sister churches in the region or area affected and to ensure that they have already identified a legitimate need and are taking responsibility for those efforts. As I told the group, nobody needs a prom dress when they have just lost everything. But unfortunately, it seems the prom dress is the first item donated.



Locally, churches and faith-based groups can also help bridge gaps in the community. First, churches are in a good position to help meet the needs of their own congregants. Second, they can be a great help by reaching out to a recovering community. In addition to the spiritual care that churches may offer, they can also assist in addressing the felt needs of the community.

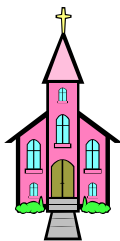
Many churches have large buildings that could be used as shelters, while others could be reception or family assistance centers. They could provide day care or elder care, assist in making meals, and provide housing to outside volunteers.

In addition, churches could organize volunteers to help survivors salvage personal property or clean up damaged property. What a church can do will depend on the church's size, mission, skill set, etc. Some may do more than others, but every little bit helps. If a church even offers to reach out to its surrounding area, it contributes to that area's recovery effort.

By working together with the faith-based community we can help our communities become truly united in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disaster. ❖

Tool Box

- **Light Our Way:** A Guide for Spiritual Care in Times of Disaster for Disaster Response Volunteers, First Responders and Disaster Planners: www.nvoad.org/articles/Light_Our_Way_LINKS.pdf
- **Open for Business:** www.disastersafety.org
- **Be Ready Sunday:** www.readyalabama.org/be_ready_sunday.html



Resources....

Ready Responder Toolkit

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the availability of [Ready Responder](http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/responder.html) (www.ready.gov/america/getakit/responder.html), which is a website dedicated to all-hazard readiness and planning for emergency responders and their organizations. FEMA offers the [Ready Responder Toolkit](#) to supply organizations with a series of planning tools to help prepare their personnel and families for emergencies.

The toolkit provides resources on how to develop an organizational preparedness plan; promote individual, family, and organizational preparedness; and engage other entities in these efforts. There are also sample newsletter articles, media pitch templates, and other press materials that can be used to develop and distribute internal and external preparedness messaging.
(Taken from the EMR-ISAC CIP INFOGRAM)

Businesses With Preparedness Plans More Likely To Survive Disasters

One-fourth of all businesses that close because of a disaster never reopen, according to the Institute for Business and Home Safety. However, businesses that have and implement a disaster preparedness plan typically have less damage, loss and downtime than those that do not.

Have a business continuity plan that includes: a pre-identified relocation site; means to retrieve data, including employee, customer and vendor records; a strategy for contacting people, such as a call-down tree; and a method for operating effectively with a smaller staff of key individuals.

FEMA provides a step-by-step approach to emergency planning, response and recovery for companies of all sizes in the Emergency Management Guide for Business and Industry, available free in the FEMA publication library at <http://go.usa.gov/xbF>. Additional preparedness information is available at www.Ready.gov/business.

Building Collaborative Disaster Planning Processes Between Hospitals and Emergency Management

This free integrative training covers the development and maintenance of pre-incident plans ensuring the efficient distribution of patients, the sharing of information and resources, and the coordination between state and local agencies with hospitals and others responding to the medical needs of disaster victims. Additional topics include patient and resource tracking, credentialing systems, deployable federal resources, principles of community emergency planning, and more. www.acep.org/collaborativeplanning