



# READY RACINE



Volume 2, Issue 2

June 2007

## Special needs planning

David L. Maack, CEM, CPM  
Racine County Emergency Management Coordinator

Last fall, I spoke to a group of senior citizens, on emergency planning, at the Racine County Triad's Senior Symposium. During my time with them, we talked about special needs planning.

For most of us, we take for granted the simple things we do every day, like getting out of bed, brushing our teeth or putting on socks. But for many Americans, these simple tasks are made more complex because of a disability.

Some people are born with disabilities, others become disabled because of injury or illness, and for others, a disability is a part of growing older.

Two years ago, a thirty-eight-day hospital stay left me too weak to do those simple tasks, and I could barely walk when I was discharged from the hospital. Stairs were difficult to climb, and I was afraid of falling down because I knew that I would need help getting back up. While I was able to function during the course of a normal day, I knew that in an emergency, I would need help getting out of the house, among other things.

While we encourage all to be prepared for emergencies, there are additional considerations for

*continued on page 2*

### ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Citizen Corps update
- 3 Calendar of events
- 3 MSU holds tabletop exercise at Racine Modine
- 4 Resources
- 4 RCOEM Summer Interns
- 5 211 Racine achieves FCC accreditation
- 5 START Research Study

## Preparedness for "first responder" families

David L. Maack, CEM, CPM  
Racine County Emergency Management Coordinator

There is an expectation that those personnel who are defined as "First Responders" — generally law enforcement, fire and public works personnel — are considered to be "essential" employees and must be available 24-7 to respond to a community disaster.

In 1998, we participated in a Community Specific Integrated Emergency Management Course at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD. The pinnacle of the course was a 1½ day realistic disaster exercise in which we responded to a simulated disaster involving parts of Racine County. Afterwards, the participants were asked how many would have been personally affected and approximately one third of the hands went up.

In the Gulf Coast region, the devastation from Hurricane Katrina was so bad that countless first responders were personally affected, but the expectation was still for them to be on the job.

So what happens when the disaster affects you as a first responder and your family? Will you be available? If so, will you be dependable if you are worrying about your personal situation?

Here are some steps that you can take to help reassure you and your family when disaster strikes:

- Discuss the types of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to the various hazards that may impact us, for example, flooding and high winds.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be at your home, but elsewhere within your community.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet. These should be measured in

*continued on page 3*

those with disabilities and special needs. Pre-emergency planning can prepare both individuals and their service and support systems for the impact of emergencies, and a number of groups are working to ensure that this takes place. Both the National Organization on Disability and Ready.gov have materials available for those that have special needs and for their caregivers.

Those with disabilities and special needs should have a support network in place. It was recently reported that police called to a Long Island man's house "discovered the mummified remains of the resident, dead for more than a year, sitting in front of a blaring television set."

Where was his family? Where were his neighbors? Why didn't anyone notice anything unusual? Too often, people fall through the cracks because they do not have that support network.

According to reallyready.org, you should ask roommates, relatives, neighbors, friends, and co-workers to be a part of your network; there should be at least three people in each place you regularly spend time. Explain why you need their help and how they can assist you. Arrange for more than one person in your support network to check in on you in an emergency.

If you are dependent on dialysis or other life sustaining treatment, know the location of more than one facility, just in case you cannot get to your primary facility. Teach members of your support network how to operate necessary equipment and practice with them.

When developing your emergency plans, anticipate what your greatest needs will be and plan accordingly. Arrange your furniture so it does not block a quick exit. If you have mobility problems, ask your support network members to help you create a plan if you must evacuate a building by stairway. Everyone should be familiar with evacuation plans for multi-story buildings in case the elevators stop and also should plan how to get along if a wheelchair or other device must be abandoned.

Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the necessity for special needs planning all too clearly. Over the next several months, we will be reaching out to groups that assist or otherwise interact with people who have disabilities or other special needs.

No person should be left without a support system during a time of crisis. We encourage you to check in on families, friends and neighbors, so no one falls through the cracks.❖

## Citizen Corps update

Linda Botts



The Southeast Wisconsin Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), covering Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha counties, is looking for energetic and motivated volunteers to help supplement existing local emergency and public health resources. The MRC is focused on promoting health education in the local community and preparing for and responding to emergencies.

The MRC coordinates the skills of practicing and retired health professionals and non-medical personnel interested in health issues. Volunteers needed are doctors, nurses, CNAs, CMAs, EMTs, paramedics, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, administrative support staff, and other medical personnel.

There are many benefits to joining the MRC, such as enabling communities to meet specific health needs, bolstering public health infrastructure, augmenting health needs in an emergency or disaster, free training in personal preparedness and response and community roles, and extending and sharpening response skills.

The MRC is a specialized affiliate of Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown safety and security.

**For more information about the Southeast Wisconsin MRC, email [SEWIMRC@yahoo.com](mailto:SEWIMRC@yahoo.com) or contact Linda Botts (262) 605-7903.**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



June 3-9	Rip Current Awareness Week
June 14	Heat Awareness Day
June 16	Amateur Radio Recognition Day
June 24-30	National Lightning Safety Awareness Week
July 25-29	Racine County Fair
August 7	National Night Out
September	National Preparedness Month
October 7-13	Fire Prevention Week
October 10	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

*Preparedness continued from page 1*

- tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.
- Have an out-of-state friend or relative as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
  - Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to quickly evacuate.
  - Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 9-1-1.
  - Check your insurance coverage. Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. See if there are insurance providers available which cover basement flooding.
  - Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.
  - Use a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio. Remember to replace its battery every 6 months as you do with smoke detectors.
  - Take First Aid, CPR, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and other disaster preparedness classes.
  - Develop a support network with other first responder families.

Many of these are simple steps that can go a long way in ensuring your preparedness when disaster strikes. They will also pay big dividends if you have a comfort level knowing that your family is OK and able to cope until you can come back home. ❖

## MSU holds tabletop exercise at Racine Modine

Kaitlyn M. Ulmer  
Racine County Emergency Management Intern



Funded through a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant, the Michigan State University Critical Incident Protocol (CIP) – Community Facilitation program hosted a tabletop exercise at Modine Manufacturing's Headquarters in Racine on May 10. As the final component of the CIP program, the exercise's scenario is a complex emergency at a local company. Participants exercise by discussing the proper course of action to take. Modine personnel and Racine city and county officials actually conducted the exercise, with observers from other public and private agencies.

During the four-hour exercise, participants discussed several objectives. These included such things as defining the responsibilities of emergency responders, effectively making quick decisions and communications, as well as establishing a plan for business continuity. These concerns varied as the emergency scenario progressed from threatening calls to explosions and eventually to a hostage incident. Over the course of the workshop, it became clear that no matter what the situation, the public and private sectors need to have a plan for each possible development, even as the situation grows progressively worse.

Another point of discussion was communication to employees, the public, and the media. In a crisis, critical information must be released but speculation should not be reported as fact. Toward the end of the practice scenario, the media pressured the company to come forward with additional information. The media also placed a terrorist spin on the story, causing even more difficulty for the company. While information is valuable to the public, it is also necessary to ensure that the information people receive is accurate.

At the conclusion of the scenario, the group discussed resources available to employees who find it difficult to return to work. Prevention tactics were also a topic of discussion, as well as having plans in place in the event of an actual terrorist attack. Also addressed was the issue of finding contractors for critical recovery work, if needed. Various sources for the funding of this work were also considered.

*continued on page 5*

## Resources

**Free NFPA Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for people with disabilities:**

<http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=824>

**Emergency Preparedness in American Sign Language (ASL):**

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/deaflink.htm>

**Where am I? Find Latitude & Longitude:**

<http://www.satsig.net/maps/lat-long-finder.htm>

<http://stevemorse.org/jcal/latlon.php>

<http://geocoder.us/>

<http://www.gorissen.info/Pierre/maps/googleMapLocationv3.php>

<http://www.geocode.com>

<http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/gazetteer>

**Latitude/Longitude Conversion Tool:**

<http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/bickel/DDDMSS-decimal.html>

**"Zoomable" And "Rotatable" Maps:**

<http://www.flashearth.com>

**New! Online disaster game launched:**

[www.stopdisastersgame.org](http://www.stopdisastersgame.org)

<http://www.stopdisastersgame.org/playgame.html>

**New NFPA Sparky the Fire Dog® game:**

<http://www.sparky.org>

**The Actual Game (Look And Learn) Can Be Downloaded For Free At:** <http://www.riskwatch.org/kids.html#>

**CAMEO Suite- New Versions Available:**

<http://cameochemicals.noaa.gov/>

**Chlorine Safe Work Practices:**

[http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health\\_and\\_safety/by\\_topic/assets/pdf/chlorine.pdf](http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/by_topic/assets/pdf/chlorine.pdf)

**Firescope Field Operating Guidance:**

<http://www.firescope.org/ics-8x11-fog.htm>

## RCOEM welcomes interns

Two new interns are working with Emergency Management: Marc Khatchadourian, a public relations major at Marquette University; and Kaitlyn Ulmer, an English major at UW-Parkside.

Marc has worked with Emergency Management since January, both in Racine and Waukesha County. His past experience includes working as an Emergency Medical Technician with the Village of Elm Grove EMS Department, volunteering for the Red Cross on their First Aid Service Team and working at a YMCA camp as a medical officer.

Marc also competes with the Marquette University Rowing Team, serving as co-president.

Marc likes emergency management because it gives him "an opportunity to help save lives on a new level [he has] never experienced before."

Kaitlyn joined Racine Emergency Management in May. Most of her writing experience stems from her work with UW-Parkside's student newspaper, The Ranger News, on which she serves as editor-in-chief.

Although Kaitlyn came into the internship with little emergency management experience, she has recently researched various emergency-related issues.

When she is not working on flyers or press releases, Kaitlyn enjoys writing and performing poetry. She has self-published a collection of her poems and hopes to win a poetry contest she recently entered. ❖

In an e-mail sent to participants, CIP program director Brit Weber, wrote that “only a small share of communities use tabletop exercising that incorporates a business to work with area public sector agencies jointly. Being in the greater Racine area is a plus for [an] organization due to the area’s progressive emergency preparedness planning, collaboration, and commitment.”

The CIP program works to build public-private partnerships for the management of critical incidents, using an all-hazards approach in joint planning, training, and exercising. One of the accomplishments of the exercise was the collaboration between the public and private sectors involved. “When something happens, we can all work together when the lines of public and private sectors are blurred,” said David Maack, the coordinator for Racine County Emergency Management. ❖

## 211 Racine achieves FCC accreditation



Kaitlyn M. Ulmer  
Racine County Emergency Management Intern

After her husband tried to run her over with his truck, a young woman who was nine months pregnant called 211 Racine looking for help. The operator quickly arranged for someone from the Women’s Resource Center to pick the woman up at her home so that she could get to safety, away from her husband.

Answering calls such as this one and directing people to resources for health and human services is the primary function of 211 Racine, a non-emergency service number. Like its counterpart 9-1-1, 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember telephone number that gives callers a quick response when one is needed. Also, the fact that people only need to remember three digits to get assistance increases its accessibility.

The 2-1-1 service reaches approximately 196 million people (over 65% of the total U.S. population). 211 Racine refers Racine County callers to physical and mental health resources; support services for the elderly and persons with disabilities; help for children, youth and families; and employment assistance.

In Wisconsin, twelve 211 service lines have been approved by 211 Wisconsin Inc. However, only three of these are accredited by the Federal Communications Commission — Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Racine. To celebrate its recent accreditation, 211 Racine hosted a luncheon on Tuesday, May 15. At the event, they demonstrated the use of the system and thanked all those involved with getting 211 Racine off the ground.❖

## RCOEM participates in START research study

Kaitlyn M. Ulmer  
Racine County Emergency Management Intern

Because Racine County Emergency Management received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security to prepare for a terrorist threat, we recently participated in a study about community preparedness for terrorism-related events. This study, which is part of the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), is being conducted by a research group at the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU-Boulder).

Focusing on community and agency preparedness for terrorist attacks and other major community disasters, this project is part of a larger three-year research effort to explore society’s preparation and response to a possible terrorist threat. Approximately 100 individuals around the U.S. will be contacted by the completion of the study.

A graduate research assistant from CU-Boulder, Christine Bevc, interviewed Emergency Management Coordinator David Maack. During the interview, she asked questions about the cooperation between our organization and other organizations that have homeland security responsibilities; planning, training, and other preparedness efforts in the Racine community; and his opinions on how well these programs are working. The details of the interview, however, must remain confidential because the study is still in progress.

The primary goal of the project is to improve general knowledge about the origins, dynamics and impacts of terrorism and focus on how to make our nation safer in the event of a terrorist threat. The study is funded by the Department of Homeland Security through a grant to START, which conducts societal and behavioral science research on terrorist threats.

Established in 2005, START seeks to inform those who must make decisions on how to disrupt terrorist networks, reduce terrorist activity, and prepare society for a terrorist threat. The three main areas of research for the START program are terrorist group formation and recruitment, terrorist group dynamics, and the social aspects of terrorism. The program strives to discover what strategies can be used to slow the formation and recruitment of terrorist groups, to anticipate terrorist actions, and to encourage prevention and recovery when faced with a possible terrorist threat. ❖