



# READY RACINE



Volume 2, Issue 1

March 2007

## First on the scene...

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When there is a car accident, a fire or a medical emergency, we expect that police and fire will be first on the scene. But in reality, the first responder to most emergencies is not police and fire, it is you and me.

This was a point I recently made to two diverse audiences. The first was a group of students who were participating in Student Emergency Response Team training in Greendale. These students gave up a Saturday to learn first aid and CPR and how to respond to disasters.

Over and over, I reminded them that, because they are likely to be first responders, it was important for them to know what to do.

The second group was school administrators who attended a two day school preparedness conference.

As I talked about the Golden Hour in emergency response, I asked them, who would be the first responder if there was a fire. Most said the fire department, but a few argued that the police would probably be there first. I then asked about a medical emergency or an armed intruder, and by then, almost all said that the police would be the first responder.

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## Cyber-Security & you

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It is hard to keep track of all the issues that exist related to cyber-security and how it affects you as an individual or business. There is no way to cover everything in a few paragraphs but here are some things to remember as you use your computer online.

The most amazing thing that many people still believe is that they don't have anything on their system or network that anyone would want so they aren't at risk.

Everything on the Internet has a value to people who do bad things on the Internet. In the world of phishing, viruses, spam, hacking, spy bots and other nasty things, everything on the Internet has a value for the bad folks using the Internet.



The data on a PC is just one target. Whole networks of PC's are being taken over by criminal elements to launch attacks on the Internet. Remember that many of the most dangerous people on the Internet don't have a lot of computing resources so they use other people's computers to do the damage. That type of issue means that people that are doing bad things can use a lot of very expensive technology at no cost and makes it nearly impossible to find them because their system could be a single PC anywhere in the world that just happens to control thousands of PC's in many places.

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One gentleman, however, said that he would probably be the first responder and he was absolutely right!

We have the mindset that police and fire are first responders, and they are. But we forget that we too, by default, become first responders to incidents that occur when we are there. And in many disasters, citizens can be on their own for up to three days before help arrives. If you were in that situation, what would you do? Could you survive? Could you help others around you?

In emergencies, the **Golden Hour** is the first sixty minutes after the occurrence of a major medical trauma. The victim's chances of survival are reputed to be greatest if he or she can be treated within that period. Therefore, actions that we take can either help or hinder that person's chance of survival.

Initial steps that we take include identifying the problem, isolating the area and keeping spectators away, calling for help and, if possible, rendering first aid. The more training that we have, the better we are to be prepared and the less likely to panic. Therefore, I encourage everyone to take a first aid and CPR course and to keep your training current.

In addition, we offer a 21-hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program for adults and a 16-hour Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) training for our youth. This training teaches basic emergency response skills like light search and rescue, medical triage and fire suppression. At the end of the course, students put these new skills into practice through a disaster simulation where they respond to an "emergency."

When completed, they will be better prepared to help themselves and their families first, then their co-workers or neighbors, and finally the community.

There are only so many firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians; and, during a large disaster, these services would be strained. Citizens who are trained can help stabilize situations so police and fire can respond to areas that are more critical. The more people who can care for themselves and help their neighbors, the better off we all are.

This year, commit to taking emergency training; starting a Neighborhood Watch group; and volunteering with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, your local police and fire department, or any other group that makes emergency preparedness a part of its mission.❖

## Citizen Corps Update

Linda Botts



There are many exciting changes in store for Citizen Corps this year. As the Southeast Wisconsin Citizen Corps Council moves into its second year, we have a new funding system and have tightened the focus of our outreach initiatives.

Due to our proximity to Milwaukee, our council has been included in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant. We will get \$54,000 under the UASI grant to be used by June 30, 2008. This will allow us to build the local Citizen Corps program.

We will also be able to hold a minimum of ten Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes throughout Racine and Kenosha Counties, continuing to train and prepare our community in disaster mitigation and response. Our second CERT refresher was recently held and we will continue to sponsor additional CERT refresher courses for those who have attended our CERT classes.

Our focus for the upcoming year includes several priorities. Chief among them is community outreach. Safety Fairs are being planned for both Racine and Kenosha and look for us at the County Fairs. We will also be launching the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) and Fire Corps.

Finally, the Southeast WI Medical Reserve Corps will be receiving a \$10,000 grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). For more information on the Southeast WI Citizen Corps program, contact me at [SEWICC@goRacine.org](mailto:SEWICC@goRacine.org).



**Sign Up Now...**

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Tornado Awareness & Spotter Seminar**

**Monday, April 16, 2007**

**6:30 pm-9:30 pm**

**Gateway Technical College**

**Racine Building-Huron/Erie Rooms (#104)**

**901 Pershing Drive, Racine**

**To register, contact:**

**Racine County Emergency Management-636.3513**

## A NEW LOOK, A NEW NAME

**Ready Racine** is an award winning quarterly publication of the Racine County Office of Emergency Management. In 2007, we have changed both the name and the format of the publication but it will continue to contain the same great content. We hope that you enjoy this new look and find the information helpful. If you have story ideas, let us know.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2	Racine County Quarterly EM Meeting
March 11	Daylight Savings Time begins
March 19-23	Flood Safety Week
March 28-29	Governor's Conference on Homeland Security & Emergency Management
April 9-13	Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week
April 12	Statewide Tornado Drill
April 16	Racine County Tornado & Spotter Seminar-Gateway Technical College
April 26-27	ICS 300-CATI
May 16	NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards Day
May 17-18	ICS 400-Racine Police Department
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
November 4	Standard Time begins
November 12-16	Winter Awareness Week
December 7-8	Skywarn Recognition Day



Here are some things to think about related to cyber-security.

Just because your Internet provider has told you it has a firewall and protective software it doesn't mean that you are safe. First off, many of the Internet service providers require that for their protection to work you need to install software from their site that works in concert with what they are doing. Most people miss that simple piece of information so they think they are OK, but in reality they are open to all the bad stuff. Check the main page of your Internet service provider to see what its recommended protection strategy is and what it may have available for your computer to keep you safe beyond what the provider is doing.

The days of a single product doing everything to protect your system or network is over. Increasingly antivirus products are including more types of protection, but many of the products on the market still do one piece better than the rest. There are products for sale and some that are free. Increasingly, users are using a combination of products to monitor their system.

Every antivirus and anti-spyware product requires the user to update the product daily to be safe. There are many people who installed a product a few years ago that let their subscription lapse or didn't upgrade to the new version so they aren't getting automatic updates. An Internet protection product even a few days out of date with updates can be at risk.

All products have something in their main screen that allows the user to check status either with written information or some type of graphic indicating status. Make sure to check that regularly to make sure the auto updating is working. Some products don't auto update so the user has to manually click something to get the updates. Make sure to understand what the product(s) you use require for the product to be up to the latest level of protection.

Finally, watch how your system is working. If you notice that your relatively new PC is running really slow either all the time or at some points in the day, have it checked out. There are increasingly more cases of performance issues being caused by things being placed on PC's that have taken control of the system or are using a lot of the processing power to do bad things.

The Internet continues to be a location of many wonderful things. Increasingly, it can be a dangerous place to connect your PC without being protected. Not doing anything isn't a safe option. If you connect to the Internet someone will try to see what they can do to use the data or system itself. ❖

## Resources

**Introduction to Hydrogen Safety for First Responders** on-line course:

[www.hydrogen.energy.gov/firstresponders](http://www.hydrogen.energy.gov/firstresponders).

**Shield4492** provides more than 1,200 Law Enforcement links to free open source Internet sites useful in developing investigative leads.

[www.shield4492.com](http://www.shield4492.com)

**Shoreline, WA Public Safety Info publication**

[http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare/docs/Eric\\_Corner/07-03-01\\_Shoreline.pdf](http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare/docs/Eric_Corner/07-03-01_Shoreline.pdf)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services "**Tabletop exercises for pandemic influenza preparedness in local public health agencies**" report

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/states/tr319.html>

**Locate and track registered offenders**

[www.FamilyWatchDog.us](http://www.FamilyWatchDog.us)

**WISER, version 2.3**, is now available! Download if from:

<http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov>, or access the online version at <http://webwiser.nlm.nih.gov>.

**Chemical Response Tool** is a chemical response encyclopedia and decision support aid, developed with support from the US Coast Guard Research & Development Center.

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

**Radiation Dose calculators and conversion programs**

[http://www.philrutherford.com/radiation\\_software.html](http://www.philrutherford.com/radiation_software.html)

**Need a speaker?**

The Wisconsin Terrorism Awareness Program has citizen volunteers that can put on a 20 minute, one hour or two hour presentation. To request a presentation or for more information, please call the Volunteer Center of Racine County, Inc. at 262-886-9612.

## Achoo!! Pandemic flu planning & nonpharmaceutical interventions

Racine County, like many other business entities, has been working hard on developing a pandemic flu plan to ensure that the County can deliver **basic** services during a pandemic flu outbreak.

A pandemic flu spreads quickly because most people do not have immunity to that particular viral strain and it would take up to six months to develop a vaccine. Therefore, the easiest way to prevent the spread of the flu virus is to limit contact between people.

Experts say that the pandemic will come in waves and that the waves would last for 6-8 weeks. However, for planning purposes, they recommend "*that communities be prepared to maintain interventions for up to 12 weeks, especially in the case of Category 4 or Category 5 pandemics, where recrudescence epidemics*

*may have significant impact.*"

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released the **Interim Pre-pandemic Planning Guidance: Community Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Mitigation in the United States—Early, Targeted, Layered Use of Nonpharmaceutical Interventions.**

Besides creating a new term--Nonpharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)--to describe tactics such as social distancing, this 108 page document outlines three major goals for mitigating a community-wide epidemic:

1. delay the exponential growth in incident cases and shift the epidemic curve to the right in order to "buy time" for production and

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- distribution of a well-matched pandemic strain vaccine,
- 2. decrease the epidemic peak, and
- 3. reduce the total number of incident cases, thus reducing community morbidity and mortality.

There are four major recommendations found in this guidance:

1. **Asking ill people to voluntarily remain at home** and not go to work or out in the community for about 7-10 days or until they are well and can no longer spread the infection to others
2. **Asking members of households** with a person who is ill **to voluntarily remain at home** for about 7 days
3. **Dismissing students from schools** (including public and private K-12 schools as well as colleges and universities) and school-based activities and closure of childcare programs for **up to 12 weeks**,
4. **Recommending social distancing of adults** in the community, which may include cancellation of large public gatherings; changing workplace environments and schedules to decrease social density and preserve a healthy workplace to the greatest extent possible without disrupting essential services; and ensuring work-leave policies to align incentives and facilitate adherence with the measures outlined above.

These recommendations pose major challenges to all employers and citizens, because 30-50% of the workforce can be affected either directly or indirectly. Adverse impacts include:

- Economic impact on the community, businesses and families
- Potential disruption to all employers, including businesses, non profit agencies, churches and governmental agencies
- Access to essential goods and services may be limited (e.g., food, supplies, medical care, child care)
- Disruption of school-related services (e.g., school meal programs, child care)
- Major absenteeism from work

The challenge for most employers is to maintain a basic level of service with a reduced workforce. During a pandemic flu outbreak, Racine County, as a business entity, will deem all personnel essential until notified differently. The expectation is that all well personnel

will report to work. However, the reality is that we will be faced with employees who are sick, employees who must care for sick family members and employees who have either dependent children or dependent adults to contend with.

This is where pre-planning comes in. Racine County's pandemic flu plan provides options such as flexible shifts and telecommuting as ways to deal with some of these issues. However, employees also have the responsibility to make contingency plans that cover matters that each of us should consider:

- Assess what your needs will be during a pandemic flu and begin preparing for that.
- Have at least a two-week supply of food.
- Periodically check your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home.
- Have any nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including a thermometer, pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, and other over-the-counter medicines that you and your family use on a regular basis.
- Designate one person in the household who could be the caregiver if anyone in the household becomes ill with pandemic influenza. Develop an alternate plan for someone to be the caregiver if that person becomes sick.
- Have a back-up plan to care for dependent children and adults in the event that schools and day-care facilities are closed.

Steps that we can take prior to an event, such as a pandemic flu, help ensure that we are ready when it does take place. ❖

