



READY RACINE



Volume 2, Issue 3

September 2007

September is National Preparedness Month

Racine County Executive William McReynolds has proclaimed September as National Preparedness Month in Racine County.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is sponsoring the fourth annual National Preparedness Month (NPM) this September to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.

The month will focus on several different areas of emergency preparedness, including Back-to-School, Business Preparedness, Multicultural Preparedness and Home and Family Preparedness.

Racine County Emergency Management (RCOEM) and the Southeast Wisconsin Citizen Corps Council will be sponsoring several events including "Staying Safe No Matter the 'Whether'—Citizen Preparedness" forums in Sturtevant and Burlington and distributing informational material on citizen preparedness. In addition, RCOEM, will be hosting "Ready Racine," a mass evacuation tabletop exercise which will bring Racine County and City officials together to address the mass evacuation of a densely populated area.

The theme for National Preparedness Month in Racine County will be "Get a kit, make a plan, be informed and get involved." Racine County residents are encouraged to:

- **Get a Kit:** An emergency supplies kit should include items such as water, medicines, a flashlight, non-perishable food, blankets, a battery powered radio, spare batteries and a first aid kit. These supplies should be sufficient for 72 hours.
- **Make a Plan:** Be sure that emergency plans are in place and regularly practiced so when the time comes, you and those around you know where to go and what to do in case of an emergency.
- **Be Informed:** Know where to locate the local fire department, police station and nearest hospital as well as how to contact them (via phone or internet) in emergency situations. Also, stay informed on current threats and risks in the area.
- **Get Involved:** Participate in community preparedness activities. Help prepare, protect, respond and recover from all-hazards affecting everyone in your community.

If you would like to sponsor an event or schedule a speaker, contact Racine County Emergency Management at 262.636.3515. ❖

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Southeast WI Counties Receive Regional Cooperation Award

The Emergency Management Offices in Southeast Wisconsin received a "Salute to Local Government - Regional Cooperation" award from the Public Policy Forum for their work on a regional evacuation plan template which will serve as a statewide model. The award was presented at the Public Policy Forum's 15th annual "Salute to Local Government" breakfast on Wednesday, June 20, 2007. ❖

Amateur Radio & Emergency Communication

James Markstrom, KB9MMA

Amateur radio operators are federally licensed individuals who specialize in radio communications. Many are active in disasters and often participate in organizations such as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). In Wisconsin ARES/RACES are combined into the same entity.

Amateur radio operators, often called "**Hams**," have the knowledge and experience to establish organized radio communications networks, with government and emergency officials. These Hams can be called upon during a failure or overload of normal communications systems. Hams working with ARES are trained in standard federally recognized procedures including the Integrated Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

As seen following hurricanes, storms and other crises, Hams are able to provide communications among multiple government and volunteer agencies as are needed. This strength in interoperable communications has been proven again and again over the years. Local amateur radio organizations have continued to develop communications tools for both voice and data. These tools allow off-the-grid communications such as email, voice, satellite and GPS tracking technology.

Not only active in times of crisis or disaster, Hams also help organizations in need of communications when they are involved in large scale and community oriented activities. ARES provides communications during the Racine County tornado siren tests and also the Spirit of Racine Triathlon. From the Hams' perspective, such events are ideal interagency communications exercises. For federal agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard, to local agencies, such as fire, police and hospitals, Hams can help bridge communications gaps.

The Hams provide their services and equipment freely to their communities. They are "Amateurs" only in that they are not paid, but their service in a disaster can be priceless. Hams have found that public service events are an excellent opportunity to practice working together. Organized training situations also provide invaluable training. ARES tests its emergency communications and interoperability with government and volunteer

organizations in Racine County during the nationally organized annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET).

With the understanding that preparedness is one of the most important parts of working together, the Hams also participate in the tabletop planning, after-action reports and other exercises of various agencies and organizations. The Racine County ARES can meet with you to help establish communication plans and procedures. It also offers a "**Ham 101**" course for the various agencies and organizations as an introduction to working together.

We Hams strongly encourage you to participate in the 2007 SET training drill on October 6th. ❖

If you would like to get involved with amateur radio in Racine, contact Jim Markstrom, Emergency Coordinator-Racine County Amateur Radio Emergency Service at 262.909.3996 or by email at EC@RCARES.org. You can also check out their website: <http://www.rcares.org>.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



September	National Preparedness Month
September 11	Staying Safe No Matter the "Whether" forum
September 20	Staying Safe No Matter the "Whether" forum
September 26	Ready Racine Mass Evacuation Tabletop Exercise
October 7-13	Fire Prevention Week
October 10	Int'l Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
October 25-26	READY training (Sturtevant)
October 13	Citizen Corps Safety Fair (Burlington)
November 4	Standard Time begins
November 12-16	Winter Awareness Week
December 7-8	Skywarn Recognition Day

2008

Mar 09	Daylight Savings Time begins
Mar 17-21	Flood Safety Awareness Week
Apr 7-9	Governor's Conference on Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Apr 21-25	Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin
April 24	Tornado Drill Day
May 14	NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards Day
Jun 1-7	Rip Current Awareness Week
Jun 12	Heat Awareness Day in Wisconsin
Jun 21-22	Amateur Radio Recognition Days
Jun 22-28	Lightning Safety Awareness Week
Nov 2	Standard Time begins
Nov 10-14	Winter Awareness Week
Dec 5-6	Skywarn Recognition Day

NEWS BRIEFS

The City of Burlington has a new police chief. **Lt. Scot "Ike" Eisenhauer** was recently appointed to fill the position vacated by former **Chief Dave Walsh** who took the police chief's position in Appleton.

Art Scola, Sturtevant Public Safety Director, has retired. **Captain Sean Marschke** is serving as the Interim Public Safety Director.

Chief Ray Littman, Town of Waterford Police Chief, has retired.

Ken Hinz, Town of Waterford Public Works Director, recently hosted an annual public works luncheon. Ken is working on developing a public works mutual aid plan.

Racine County and the **City of Racine** will participate in a joint pandemic flu tabletop exercise to test their respective plans. Both plans are similar in nature and address continuity of operations.

"Emergency Responders & the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community" Training

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

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a unique course, "Emergency Responders and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community: Taking the First Steps to Disaster Preparedness." It was the first time that this course was offered in Wisconsin with the purpose of bringing members of the deaf and hard of hearing community together with first responders/emergency managers so these two groups could foster a better understanding of each other's needs, both before and during a crisis situation.

The course itself was very interesting. There were two instructors—a first responder who could hear and the other, a member of the deaf and hard of hearing community. All presentations were translated into American Sign Language and real time translation and assistive listening devices were provided for the hard of hearing.

Members of the deaf and hard of hearing community have challenges that the majority population simply do not understand, and many first responders are not prepared or equipped to address their needs in a catastrophic incident. By bringing the two groups together, several things can occur.

First, the two groups can begin building relationships before disaster strikes. First responders need to be aware that there is a deaf and hard of hearing population within our community and that the deaf and hard of hearing community needs access to information, training and hazard warnings. In addition, first responders need access to both information and training to better serve that population.

Second, the deaf and hard of hearing community needs to understand that there are limitations to what first responders can do during a catastrophic event. Like the majority population, they need to be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours, maybe longer.

Finally, first responders need to understand the unique needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community. Many deaf and hard of hearing individuals may have difficulty hearing warnings and communicating with first responders.

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Resources

"**Tips For First Responders**" is an 11-page, color-coded, 4.5 x 5.5-inch field guide offers information on how to assist persons with a wide range of disabilities. These tip sheets provide information about many types of disabilities you can use during emergencies as well as routine encounters. They are not meant to be comprehensive, but contain specific information that you can read quickly either before or while you are actually responding to an incident. http://cdd.unm.edu/products/tips_web020205.pdf

The Weather Channel website has a fill in the blank **Family Preparedness Plan**:
http://www.weather.com/ready/familyplan.html?from=wxready_welcome

"**Sheltering People With Disabilities: Draft Space and Layout Considerations**" Universal Access Committee. Connecticut. Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Jan 2007.
http://www.ct.gov/demhs/lib/demhs/emergmgmt/planningguides/space_layout

National Weather Service **Weather Brochures/Booklets**: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures.shtml>



Training continued from page 3

There were some exercises that each group worked on and then they reported out to the entire class. As the day progressed, first responders/emergency managers in attendance learned more about the deaf and hard of hearing community, including the challenges they face, while members of the deaf and hard of hearing community learned more about preparedness.

The most challenging part of the day was when we were broken into groups, equally divided between hearing and deaf/hearing impaired and we were tasked to solve a solution. The catch? We didn't have access to translators. Communication was definitely a challenge and each group needed to work at including the other.

Overall the training was worthwhile and hopefully we will continue building bridges with the deaf and hard of hearing community.

For more information, check out: www.cepintdi.org. ❖

Upcoming Citizen Corps Events

Community Outreach

- 9/11/07 Citizen Preparedness forum (Sturtevant)
- 9/20/07 Citizen Preparedness forum (Burlington)
- 10/13/07 Safety Fair (Burlington Town Hall)

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 9/ 8 & 15/07 | Salvation Army-Kenosha |
| 9/10, 12, 14/07 | Pleasant Prairie |
| 10/27, 11/3 & 10/07 | Putzmeister, Racine |
| 10/27/07 | CERT Refresher (Racine) |

Medical Reserve Corps

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| 9/22/07 | Orientation meeting, Mequon library |
| 9/29/07 | MRC Training conference, Milwaukee |
| 11/15/07 | MRC Exercise |

READY Training

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| 10/25-26/07 | READY training for Boy/Girl Scouts |
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SafeAssured™ ID Program

David C. Voss
Volunteer Center of Racine County

Unfortunately...we live in a time where our kids' safety is threatened more than ever before! And minutes matter.

There are 80 million kids in America under the age of 20. They are our most precious resource, and they need to be kept safe and secure. The U.S. Department of Justice reports over 2,000 children are reported missing each day; thankfully the vast majority of these children are recovered quickly. However...MANY are not!

The Volunteer Center of Racine County is a proud sponsor of SafeAssured™ ID. SafeAssured™ ID is the most comprehensive, technologically advanced youth identification solution in the industry. In the event that your child goes missing, SafeAssured™ ID provides families with the power to deliver media and law enforcement with IMMEDIATE, holistic, and ready-to-broadcast information unique to the missing youth.

Each guardian will receive an encrypted SafeAssured™ mini-CD which provides a single storehouse of details containing personal identification information essential for location efforts. The data can only be accessed when the parent/guardian presents the mini-CD to law enforcement. There is NO database stored.

The Volunteer Center has trained Retired and Senior Volunteers who love operating the system and enjoy working with the kids (it takes about 6 minutes per child) and we have the capability of using up to 4 systems at one time. Our goal is to have as many children enrolled as possible! And our hope is that no one will ever have to use it. But if they do, the information will be readily available.



Sheriff Bob Carlson inputting data into SafeAssured ID system

In addition, both Racine County Sheriff Robert Carlson and City of Racine Police Chief Kurt Wahlen have endorsed the SafeAssured™ ID system as the most complete and secure identification system available.

HOW SafeAssured™ ID PROTECTS CHILDREN:

SafeAssured™ ID keeps private information safe and in the hands of parents. SafeAssured™ responds to the need for immediate action upon discovery that a person is missing. The information contained on the mini-CD reveals a child's life-like qualities as no still picture can. SafeAssured™ ID provides you with:

- Digital photograph and scanned finger prints
- Streaming video showing movement and gait with both close-up and distant shots that are TV ready
- Audio file providing the child's voice inflection and accent
- General physical characteristics of the child

For more information on how to sponsor a SafeAssured™ ID event or for a demonstration, please contact Dave Voss at 262-886-9612 or by email dvoss@volunteercenterofracine.org. ❖

