



North Central News

Serving the citizens and agencies of
Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin and Jefferson Counties.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Burning Tree Page 2

MMRS TTX Page 2

CI/KR Workshop Page 4

Shelter Planning Page 4

Bioterrorism Exercise

Page 6

Moffat Tunnel Series

Page 5

OMG Comms TTX Page 6

IMT Pilot Project Page 7

WARRP Update Page 7

**Website, Calendar and
Points of Contact**

Page 8

Key Dates

Upcoming Board Meeting
dates:

May 12, 2011

June 9, 2011

July 14, 2011

Upcoming Exercise dates:

I Drill

April 2011

OMG Drills

May 2011

Mass Fatality Workshop

May 2011

OMG Advanced TTX

July 2011

OMG FSE

September 2011

Burning Tree Fire: From Brush Fire to Wildland Interface in Twenty Minutes



The morning of March 24th had the staff of Douglas County Emergency Management on edge. They were in for another red flag day and were very short-staffed. Cherie Abbott, Emergency Management Specialist for Douglas County Emergency Management, and Fran Santagata, Emergency Manager for Douglas County Emergency Management were busy catching up on routine work when the first call came in to Dispatch as a “smoke investigation-outside” in the Franktown, Burning Tree subdivision. The first unit on scene included Franktown Fire Chief Lee Willis. His size-up when he arrived at 1 PM was that there was a brush fire and that he estimated it to be about 2-4 acres burning in light to moderate fuels. Within minutes the fire began racing- it escalated from a non-threatening brush fire, to a wind-driven wildland interface fire threatening many structures. Twenty minutes into the incident, it was a 200 acre 5-alarm fire, and Castle Rock’s Deputy Chief Norris Croom arrived to assist. Chief Willis transferred command to Chief Croom so that he could concentrate on fire suppression operations. By 1:30 PM, Fran Santagata had spoke with the Incident Commander (IC) anticipation that air resources would be needed. Chief Croom agreed that the incident complexity required the use of our Call-When-Needed Rampart contracted helicopter. Luckily, Rampart had been released from the Indian Gulch fire the day before so they were ready to launch in support of this incident. Within minutes they were there assisting with the suppression efforts.



By 2 PM the EOC was activated, along with the Douglas County Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT was split, half responding to the Incident Command Post (ICP) and half reporting to the EOC. A mandatory evacuation order by the Sheriff was issued which encompassed 8500 homes and simultaneously, the Fairgrounds were opened as a shelter for people, pets and large animals. Red Cross reported to both the EOC and the Fairgrounds to assist in these operations. Salvation Army brought their canteen to the ICP to assist with feeding responders. Additional resources were requested through the U.S.F.S. Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center which included two single engine air tankers (SEAT) and a Type I helicopter. The Colorado State Forest Service assisted with the complexity analysis and Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) paperwork. Lori Hodges, Colorado Division of Emergency Management (CDEM) Field representative reported to the EOC. By 6 PM that day, the incident had over 300 responders from 40 agencies working the fire. The fire burned over 1600 acres, however, no structures were lost and there were no injuries or deaths. In addition, 150 horses and 66 residents were sheltered. The quick, coordinated response resulted in 75% containment by 8PM and 100% containment by the middle of the next day. The investigation indicates that the fire was human caused.

This well orchestrated response was not by accident. Each year Douglas County conducts a Wildland Interface Drill (I-Drill) preparing it's firefighters and residents for dealing with a wildfire. In 2009, the NCR sponsored the I-Drill which was located in the Burning Tree subdivision. The drill included the use of Rampart helicopters. Discussions with the Command Staff and line responders, gave us indication that there was a clear consensus that the collaborative training and exercising that has been conducted every year really assisted in the very favorable outcome that was experienced in this fire. Kudos and many thanks to all agencies that assisted us in this response!



MMRS Evacuation Tabletop Exercise

On January 14 the Denver MMRS held an ESF-8 Hospital Evacuation Tabletop exercise to test the Denver MMRS Region's Planning for Medical Surge. The players focused on hospital evacuation, On Scene Incident Command, Emergency Triage and Pre-Hospital Treatment, and Emergency Operations Center Management capabilities. The exercise had over 80 participants from hospitals, emergency medical services, emergency management, fire departments, and police departments.

The exercise was designed to identify planning strengths and gaps in the regional hospital evacuation coordination. The After Action Report is in draft form and will be available soon through Melinda Johnson, Denver MMRS Coordinator.



Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource (CI/KR) Capabilities for Fusion Center Workshop

The Department of Homeland Security sponsored the Critical Infrastructure / Key Resources (CIKR) Capabilities for Fusion Centers Workshop on December 7-9, 2010 in San Diego, California. Don Lyons, Co-Chair of the NCR Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee and Chuck Craig, Regional CIP Analyst attended the workshop on behalf of the NCR. Although the workshop was mainly conducted to aid fusion centers like the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) to provide support for CI/KR, there were numerous items of interest for the CI/KR community.

For example: Some state level fusion centers are expanding their liaison officer program to include private CI/KR representatives.

Many have developed a separate liaison category for the CI/KR liaison officer, which excludes these officers from some key protection information such as LE Sensitive information. The CI/KR liaison applicants still receive some background investigation and must sign a non-disclosure statement. This model provides the fusion center with screened and trained sector experts to receive, provide, and to develop CI/KR information.

Washington State, for example, has three liaison officer categories: Law Enforcement, Fire Protection, and CI/KR. Both Washington State and the State of Indiana have CI/KR outreach programs which involve the executive, operational, and security levels of private sector critical infrastructure. Indiana has provided a separate CI/KR portal on their Web EOC site. This CI/KR access to the State's Web EOC has been instrumental in attracting CI/KR members to their public-private partnership.

Information available on the Web EOC includes general CI/KR information on a daily basis and operationally valuable information during an incident such as road closures, weather alerts, and power outages. Indiana requires CI/KR members to sign on once per month and so far only two members have dropped off the system.



Guidance on Planning for Integrating Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters



FEMA

On November 1st, 2010, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued *Guidance on Planning for Integrating Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters (FNSS Guidance)*. This guidance was developed in consultation with the Red Cross and other key stakeholders, and reflects an inclusive approach to sheltering that parallels the Red Cross commitment to

impartiality. It provides guidance to local emergency managers and shelter operators on how to develop plans that serve people with disabilities and others with access and/or functional needs during disasters. The *FNSS Guidance* promotes shared goal of integrating people with access and/or functional needs into general population shelters when possible. It also recognizes that individuals who need continuous medical supervision or acute, life-sustaining medical care, or individuals who are a danger to themselves or others, may need to be served in a health care setting, including medical needs shelters. The *FNSS Guidance* does not establish new legal obligations but instead is a guide for integrating service delivery to people with access and/or functional needs in general population shelters.

The FEMA *FNSS Guidance* calls on all levels of government and community partners (including the Red Cross) to work together to plan for and provide services for people with functional and/or access needs during a disaster. Thus, the Red Cross will be planning with local and non-governmental partners to meet the anticipated functional and/or access needs in general population shelters.

The full document can be found at http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/odc/fnss_guidance.pdf.

Jefferson County Public Health Sock Monkey Bioterrorists Attack Exercise



On February 17, 2011, public health agencies conducted a Regional exercise to test the ability to identify and obtain resources needed in response to a bioterrorist attack. The participants included local public health agencies (LPHAs) and the state health department.

The exercise was built around the scheduled transfer of expired medications from Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) to Lutheran Medical Center for destruction. The exercise simulated that Lutheran Medical Center needed medical countermeasures to respond to a bioterrorist attack in Jefferson County, which was carried out by a relatively unknown terrorism group: the Sock Monkeys. The exercise tested (1) the process for assessing the regional and statewide availability of needed resources, (2) the process for providing supplemental staff to an affected LPHA through mutual aid, and (3) the communications required to sup-

port the transfer of those resources to the affected LPHA.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stipulates that the needed supplies must be unavailable through other avenues before the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) will be released to the affected jurisdiction. To evaluate the regional capacity to meet this requirement, the exercise tested the process for assessing the regional and statewide availability of needed assets. On the morning of February 17, 2011, JCPH sent a request to the participating LPHAs for resources that were needed in response to the simulated bioterrorism attack.

The contacted agencies assessed their own supplies and those of their jurisdictions' ESF #8 partners. They reported those results to JCPH, which tallied the results to determine the regional availability of the identified resources. Any remaining needs were then passed onto the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). CDPHE then simulated a statewide assessment before walking through their process for requesting the SNS.

THANK YOU TO THOSE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES!

- Boulder County Public Health,
- Broomfield Health and Human Services, Public Health and Environment Division,
- Clear Creek County Public Health and Environment,
- Denver Public Health,
- Denver Environmental Health,
- Elbert County Public Health,
- Jefferson County Public Health ,
- Tri-County Health Department ,
- El Paso County Public Health,
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.



Moffat Tunnel Exercise Series



Several counties within the North Central Region have been collaborating on an exercise series at the Moffat Tunnel, which is a 6.2 mile long tunnel that begins west of Rollinsville in Gilpin County and ends near Winter Park in Grand County. The initial meetings occurred last summer with Amtrak and Union Pacific regarding a full-scale mass casualty exercise at the tunnel. Since that time, the planning team has grown to include Boulder, Jefferson, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Grand Counties, as well as the Northwest IMT, Jefferson IMT, Boulder IMT, the Foothills RETAC and the Colorado Division of Emergency Management. Amtrak and Union Pacific have been excellent partners in this planning team as well, to ensure a better understanding of the dynamics of the tunnel and the unique safety considerations involved in tunnel operations. The planning team has conducted a series of trainings and two tabletop exercises to prepare for the full-scale exercise now scheduled for Saturday, May 14th.

Charlie Cox, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Amtrak, provided multiple response organizations a free 4-hour course on train safety and operations in August and September 2010. Following the trainings, we conducted the first tabletop exercise for all response organizations on both the Gilpin County and Grand County sides to allow them to work through various stages of the mass-casualty train derailment scenario. Amtrak, Union Pacific, Denver Water, EPA, and various other partners were on hand at this exercise to offer assistance and technical support as needed for command to make the key decisions that will be needed with a mass casualty incident involving a train derailment within the tunnel. Additionally, this tabletop exercise allowed us to move forward on communications planning and command procedures since the tunnel spans two counties with different communications systems.



Because of the complex nature of emergency medical care for an incident involving a train derailment, the participants of the initial tabletop requested a second tabletop specifically centered around the EMS activities of the incident. This tabletop occurred on March 21st in Georgetown. Paul Garvey, who has been acting as the planning team's Communications Unit Leader, provided an overview of the communications plan developed for the full-scale, as well as recommendations for long-term communications in the tunnel area. Additionally, the Foothills RETAC was able to test their Mass-Casualty Plan, which was just finalized.

To prepare more fully for the full-scale exercise on May 14th, Amtrak and Union Pacific will have hands-on training available on both sides of the Moffat Tunnel in the weeks leading up to the full-scale exercise. The train will be available on the Grand County side at Tabernash, between Fraser and Granby, from May 5th through the 7th. Times for training are between 9am and 6pm each day. The train will then move to the wye at the East Portal of the Tunnel in Gilpin County, and be available for training from May 9th through May 13th, same times. The recommended time frame for the training is one hour to walk through the equipment, with more time available as needed for backboard operations or extrication.

Additionally, Charlie Cox will be offering more of the 4-hour trainings on train operations and safety between May 9th – 11th. If interested in attending either the classroom training or the hands-on training, please contact Charlie Cox by email at: cox@amtrak.com.

We are just about one month away from the full-scale exercise. Therefore, responder numbers are going to be more crucial. If you or your agency is planning to participate in the exercise, please contact Lori Hodges as soon as possible to ensure adequate numbers. She can be reached at 303-656-5023 or by email at: lori.hodges@state.co.us.

Operation Mountain Guardian Communications Tabletop Exercise

The OMG Communications Tabletop Exercise took place February 23, 2011. It is one of the building-block exercises leading to the Operation Mountain Guardian Full-Scale Exercise scheduled for September 23, 2011. This exercise is a part of the Regional Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan. This requirement had been established through a Regional Workshop amongst regional partners as a needed building block step to improve the communications target capability within the metro area.

All building-block steps are measured against the overall OMG exercise purpose, goals and objectives. The purpose of this particular exercise was to provide an opportunity for Regional emergency response agencies to gain an understanding of communications challenges related to multiple terror attacks. The exercise focused on an evaluation of current communications capabilities, an understanding of Regional interoperable communications and the readiness to participate in a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary, and multi-agency full-scale exercise. The Regional Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan (TICP) was used as the guiding document for the TTX concept of operations.

The OMG Communications TTX preparation and conduct involved key personnel from 84 North Central Region agencies. The goal of the exercise was to validate the Regional Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan (TIC Plan) based upon multiple attacks within the North Central Region and the need to coordinate limited interoperable resources.

Players were assigned to four geographic-based scenarios to work together under the guidance of Regional Communications Unit Leaders to develop an effective Incident Command Structure and corresponding Communications Plan using the ICS Form 205. Players were challenged in a planning environment that had limited resources, multiple jurisdictions and the need to collaborate with three other high priority ongoing incidences. The After Action Report is drafted and will be finalized within the month. Interested parties can access the AAR at www.ncrcolorado.org.

OMG Communications TTX Objectives

- Review the capability of existing communications infrastructure
- Examine existing plans, channels and procedures
- Understand the Regional Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan
- Demonstrate the ability to manage and prioritize Regional communications resources
- Assess the ability to establish a viable communications plan



FEMA Region VIII All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (IMT) Pilot Project

The **FEMA Region VIII All-Hazards Incident Management Teams Pilot Project** was initiated in the fall of 2009 with the following objective: *“To collaborate with Federal, State, Local and Tribal partners to build Type-III Incident Management Team response capabilities that will enhance emergency preparedness and response for all hazards through a regional approach.”*

FEMA Region VIII is made up of the following six states: Colorado, Utah, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

In order to move this pilot program forward, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provided Region VIII with an initial \$250,000 grant for the recruitment, training and creation of State and Tribal teams. Working with FEMA Region VIII, the Denver Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) accepted the responsibility of Grant Administrator for those grant funds within the grant guidelines provided by DHS.

During the 2009 and 2010 fiscal years, UASI in conjunction with Region VIII, worked to develop an All Hazards Position-Specific Instructor Qualification Program, a Training and Exercise Plan/Calendar, a Region VIII Resource Typing document and outreach to the National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG) for the purpose of finding similarities in the training, Task Books and IMT positions that were currently established. During the 4th quarter of FY2010, Historical Recognition was completed for those persons who were currently performing in those position-specific jobs as well as for those selected to be Position-Specific Instructors. An initial Team Readiness Matrix was completed for all existing State teams and a Gap Analysis was also completed. In October 2010, an additional grant of \$250,000 was provided by DHS to continue the project. Denver UASI remains as Grant Administrator for both the 2009 and 2010 grants.

In the second quarter of FY2011 the following program objectives were met:

1. Conducted two AHIMT Position-Specific Academies, training over 120 students
2. Conducted three Advanced AHIMT Team trainings (31 students)
3. Conducted one Tribal Liaison Officer course to bridge any gaps in Tribal, State or Federal communication (18 students)

Plans for the remainder of FY2011 include:

1. Completion of one additional AHIMT Position-Specific Academy
2. Complete an updated Gap Analysis via the Annual Incident Commander meeting
3. Seek Position-Specific “Trainee” opportunities with established AHIMT and NWCG Teams
4. Utilize existing AHIMT teams in a mentoring role during exercises and scheduled events
5. Secure additional DHS grant funding for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year to complete the initial Pilot Project proof of concept via Regional participation in a National Level Exercise (NLE) scheduled to be held in Utah in 2012

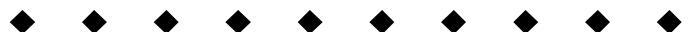


Wide Area Recovery and Resiliency Program

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in partnership with the Denver Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) is embarking on a collaborative program designed to reduce the time and resources required to recover from a catastrophic chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) incident.

The program’s kickoff event, which was held on February 16, 2011, was attended by over 290 federal, state and local agencies, as well as representatives from non-profits and the private sector.

The North Central Region’s Recovery Committee will be an important partner in the creation of the end product which will be a recovery framework to be shared nationwide. For more information on the program or to find out how you can become involved in this important initiative please visit: www.warrp.org or contact Garry Briese gbriese@brieseandassociates.com or Rose Lynch roselynch2@comcast.net.



Calendar of Standing Regional Meetings

Week of the Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	1300-1430 -- Special Needs 1300-1500 EMS	1300-1600 -- Incident Operations		1400-1600 -- Recovery Committee 1330-1530 GIS Project Committee	
2		1200-1300 -- Onsite Incident Management 1300-1430 -- Training and Exercise Committee 1430-1600 -- Credentialing	0900-1100 — Front Range Emergency Manager Forum (odd months) 1300-1430—EOC Committee	0930-1200 -- NCR Board Meeting 1300-1500-- Citizen Corps	1100-1230 — MMRS/ Medical Committee
3		0900-1100 -- Mass Fatalities Committee	0900-1100— Communications Committee 1300-1500 -- Mass Care 1500-1700 -- Foothills RETAC	0900-1100 Animal Health 1200-1330 MMRS Steering Committee (Even Months) 1400-1600 UASI Working Group (Even Months)	
4		1000-1130-- Info Sharing		0900-1100-- CIP Committee	

Points of Contact for Standing Committees

Animal Health- Carla Zinanti (czinanti@jeffco.us)
 Citizen Preparedness and Participation- Cherie Abbott (CAbbott@dcsheriff.net)
 Co-Chair Becky Martinez (rmartinez@brightonco.gov)
 Communications- Gary Pasicznyk (Gary.Pasicznyk@denvergov.org)
 Critical Infrastructure Protection- Stu Pike (Stuart.Pike@ucdenver.edu)
 Emergency Operations Center- Scott Field (scott.field@denvergov.org)
 Training and Exercise- Mark Schuman (mschuman@nwfd.org)
 Co-Chair Dan Eamon (dan.eamon@ci.longmont.co.us)
 Fatality Management- Andrea Pope (Andrea.Pope@co.arapahoe.co.us)
 Incident Operations- JJ Elliot (jelliott@cityofwestminster.us)
 Information Sharing- Norris Croom (ncroom@ergov.com)
 Medical- Melinda Johnson (Melinda.johnson@rmpdc.org)
 Co-Chair Shirley Terry (shirleyterry@comcast.net)
 Planning- Scott Kellar (skellar@co.arapahoe.co.us)
 Public Information- VACANT
 Public Health- Michelle Askenazi (maskenazi@tchd.org)
 Recovery- Dave Daley (Dave.Daley@southmetro.org)

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