

THE PROTECTOR

KENTUCKY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A newsletter dedicated to emergency management in Kentucky.

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BOONE COUNTY WATER RESCUE AND VERTICAL SONAR SCANNING

By: Dale Appel, Captain - Boone County Water Rescue

Over a period of years, Boone County Water Rescue has been trying various ways to improve Port Security and Homeland Security issues on the Ohio River. We have discovered vertical sonar scanning gives us far better sonar imaging than the traditional horizontal sonar scanning.

In the Counties of Boone, Kenton and Campbell, along with the Cities of Covington, Newport and Cincinnati, we have documented yearly sonar images of all the bridge piers, water intakes and power plants which enables us to recognize any suspicious objects that may pose a structural threat. Vertical sonar scanning will provide us an advanced pathway concerning Port Security, safety and improved preparedness concerns on the Ohio River.

I'm excited to report that two of our members, Sgt. Ken Purcell and Mike Bean, the team's topmost sonar operators, have made the feature article in Ocean News Magazine. Ken and Mike are the front-runners throughout the United States in imaging with side scan sonar.

Editor's Note: In 2011 Mr. Appel was awarded the Intergovernmental Unity of Effort Award from the N. KY Area Development District for his tireless efforts and teamwork accomplishments.

For more information about Boone County Water Rescue, visit www.bcw-r-ky.com.



ONE TEAM - ONE MISSION: PROTECT OUR COMMONWEALTH



KYEM

Kentucky Emergency Management

Unbridled Pursuit of Excellence

2012 Annual KAMM Conference

By: Geni Jo Brawner, KYEM Mitigation Planning Manager

Several Members of the KYEM Hazard Mitigation team attended the 2012 Annual Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers (KAMM) Conference at Kentucky Dam Village State Park, September 17-20, 2012. The theme this year was Growing Resilient Together and had over 50 speakers sharing their expertise and experience. KYEM hosted two workshops, the first on Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Application Development and the second on the Commonwealth Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Planning System (CHAMPS). Each session was well attended and shared valuable information with conference attendees. The HMA Application workshop educated eligible applicants on how to write successful mitigation grant applications. "One thing I hope participants brought back from the conference is we have mitigation grant monies available and we don't want anyone to miss out on an opportunity to apply," said Leslie Kennedy, State Hazard Mitigation Program Manager.

During the CHAMPS workshop, attendees were given an overview of how the system is being used statewide for Mitigation Planning and Projects and how CHAMPS v2 will help develop Long Term Recovery efforts across the state. The mitigation team also attended several workshops and heard HMPG applicants present on their projects and also encouraged others to apply. The workshops met the KAMM goal of focusing on initiatives and activities on innovated strategies attendees could take back to their communities so they can grow effectively.



Private Sector Plays Key Role in Recovery

By: Buddy Rogers, KYEM PIO

Embracing the "Getting Business Back in Business" concept, Kentucky's Private Sector Working Group (PSWG) concluded a two-day workshop held in Somerset, July 9-10.

Led by Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM), the meeting drew dozens of representatives from private sector organizations and associations from across the state and local communities. The meeting was held at The Center for Rural Development and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Preparedness—Technology, Analysis and Coordination Center (P-TAC). Discussions at the meeting centered on mutual aid, resource management, recovery, emerging technologies and the concept of the Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center (VBEOC). (VBEOC is a virtual system concept integrating the private sector into response efforts during an emergency.)

KYEM Director John Heltzel told the workshop attendees, "Government recognizes the crucial role private sector plays in emergency response and recovery. Kentucky Emergency Management continues to build from lessons learned from past disasters and shared exercises, and have utilized our private sector partners many times, as recent as the March 2nd tornado outbreak."

He concluded by saying, "Having you as partners with the State is invaluable, having the PSWG sitting in the Commonwealth Emergency Operations Center during a disaster makes for a much faster and better coordinated effort!"

Kentucky's PSWG has been recognized as a model program and invited to present at a variety of conferences across the country to include: the National Emergency Management Association National Conference in Austin, TX, where the model was identified as a national best-practice; National BEOC Conference in Bentonville, AK; Kentucky Hospital Association Leadership Meeting; Kentucky Association of Energy Coops Meeting; Southern Agriculture and Animal Disaster Response Alliance Conference in Atlanta, GA; National Private Sector Summit in Daytona, FL; and FEMA's Region 4 Strategic National Stockpile Summit.

Mike Dossett, KYEM Private Sector Program Coordinator said, "In order to strengthen disaster and emergency response and recovery capabilities, KYEM highly encourages all communities to engage and embrace their private sector partners. It is a proven fact when a disaster occurs, the sooner the private sector is up and operating, the sooner a community returns to normal. Thus our motto: Getting Business Back in Business!"

In the latest issue of Emergency Management Magazine, Robert Smith, VP of the UPS Air Group and Transportation Security, credits Mike Dossett for building and fostering a partnership with UPS and others, which enables participation in the planning and exercises such as the National Level Exercise, and collaborating on a test program called Mutual Aid Support System (MASS). View the article at www.emergencymgmt.com. Once the test phase is complete and approved, it should be offered across the U.S under an EMAC program authorized by FEMA.

For more information on the PSWG visit www.kyem.ky.gov/teams.

KYEM Applicant Agent Certification

By: Buddy Rogers, KYEM PIO

October 8 through 12, 2012, 35 officials from across the state gathered in Frankfort to take advantage of training offered by the Kentucky Emergency Management Recovery Branch. The program titled "Applicant Agent Certification" is the brainchild of KYEM Director John Heltzel and KYEM Recovery Branch Manager Stephanie Robey, and was originally presented last May for the first time.

Participants receive in-depth instruction on the disaster declaration process, federal and state disaster assistance programs and how to plan for all disaster phases. KYEM is the first, and only, agency in the United States to offer this type of in-depth training to potential disaster declaration assistance applicants. To date, over 200 attendees representing state agencies, local governments, school districts and non-profit attendees have taken advantage of this free training.

Certified Applicant Agents are better prepared to ensure a devastated county or city is included within a presidential disaster declaration. This course includes a wealth of information regarding Federal Emergency Management Association's (FEMA) Public Assistance Program, such as disaster project management and tips on how to avoid de-obligation of federal funding on projects. Course topics include information regarding FEMA's Individual Assistance Program, Volunteer Coordination, Hazard Mitigation Program and other potential funding sources.

Certification is awarded to those who successfully complete the Applicant Agent training. The knowledge gained through the certification process enables a designated Applicant Agent to maximize federal



disaster-related funding.

Stephanie Robey states, "Three of our Certified Applicant Agents represent counties that were severely impacted by the March 2012 tornado outbreak. When that tragic event occurred, each of them was prepared and confident in making critical decisions which ultimately resulted in millions of dollars of much needed help that might have been unrealized without this training. This was the best validation for this course we could have."

The next class is scheduled for Feb. 4 through 8, 2013. Registration is now available on the KYEM website at www.kyem.ky.gov

Rick Watkins Retirement Statement

By: Rick Watkins, Retired KYEM RRM



WOW! Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday that I started as a duty officer with Disaster and Emergency Services in 1993. Emergency management in Kentucky has come a long way since then.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work in over 30 declared disasters. When I think back on some of the major incidents and look at how far we have come since I first became a duty officer and then Area Coordinator, then an Area Manager and finally a Regional Response Manager. When I look at the significant events we have had, the 1997 Flood, 2005 Oil Spill, Ice storm, Tropical Depression IKE, and numerous severe weather events, it is amazing when I look at the difference in the responses both at the state and local level.

I have seen the implementation of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact and had the

opportunity to deploy under EMAC on three separate occasions. More recently we have seen new legislation which allows counties to request mutual aid assistance across state lines when a state declaration of emergency has not been declared. This legislation filled a big void in mutual aid assistance.

It has been my pleasure to work with some of the most dedicated and professional individuals during my career with KYEM at the division level, other state agencies, the local level and particularly the volunteers.

We have moved from the pencil and page age to the IT age, gone from poorly trained to better trained, the quality of our response has gotten much better, and the coordination of our work is getting much better. Emergency management, both at the state and local level, is more respected around the state than it was when I first came on board. We still have a ways to go but we are getting there.

It has been my honor to work with each and every one of you through the years. I hope to have the opportunity to work with you again down the road. Keep up the good work and thank you.

CSEPP Annual Exercise

On September 19, KYEM and the CSEPP footprint counties of Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jackson, Jessamine, Laurel, Madison, Powell and Rockcastle, participated in a federally evaluated exercise in which DECON, sheltering operations, schools, hospitals, triage, local police and fire departments all exercised together through a scenario, to practice and enhance their skills and knowledge should a chemical event occur at the Bluegrass Army Depot. Thank you to all who participated and strive for the best in your communities through planning, preparing and exercising your counties emergency plans!

The Value of JIS/JIC Training

By: Buddy Rogers, KYEM PIO

This past September, several Kentucky cabinet partners took advantage of a rare opportunity offered by Kentucky's Chemical Stockpile Preparedness Program (CSEPP) and participated in Joint Information System (JIS) and Joint Information Center (JIC) training presented by Argonne National Laboratories.

While many of us in emergency management are familiar with NIMS and the JIS/JIC, many of the external partners we rely on during emergencies or disasters are not.

With the help of CSEPP, Kentucky took another step to strengthen our ability to man a State JIC by offering training that is usually limited to those in the CSEPP footprint.

Public Information Officers from the Governor's Office, Division of Forestry, Public Protection, Transportation, Department of Finance, Environmental Protection, KY National Guard and KYEM received two days of hands on training and were able to put their newly honed skills to test during the annual 2012 CSEPP Exercise the following week by participating in the Commonwealth Joint Information Center portion of the exercise. Each participant shared how helpful the training was and how it provided practical experience they would use, not only in a JIC atmosphere, but in their daily work environment, as well.

From KYEM, a big thank you to CSEPP, Argonne National Laboratories and our Cabinet partners for better preparing to Protect and Restore Our Commonwealth! Watch for similar JIC training opportunities coming in 2013.

KYEM Duty Officer Talks Preparedness

Shared By: The Lantern at Morning Pointe - Frankfort

KYEM Duty Officer Patrick Compton recently talked with residents and staff at the Alzheimer's Memory Care Community at the Lantern at Morning Pointe. Compton discussed severe weather, earthquakes, bomb threats and all-hazard emergency preparedness.

