



REGION 3 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM JOINT POWERS BOARD PRESIDENT CHRIS MULLER:

Homeland Security and Emergency Management continues to be an evolving discipline with additional tasks and requirements, but also increased opportunities and fostering relationships. The Region 3 Homeland Security Emergency Management Joint Powers Board (JPB) continues to adapt to the challenges presented to ensure a successful program in Northwestern Minnesota.

One of the biggest challenges for the JPB was the relationship change between the Northwest Regional Development Commission and the 14 counties that have relied so heavily on for planning services. A change in grant requirements necessitated the separation of the fiscal agent and the agent providing the planning services. While everyone's resources are limited and the additional task for serving as Fiscal Agent wasn't everyone's priority, Kittson County and Barb O'Hara agreed to serve in this capacity. The JPB successfully participated in the required Request for Proposal, interview, selection and contract execution process. We were pleased

that the NWRDC expressed interest and was well represented by Jennifer Olson. The JPB looks forward to continuing the decade-long history of working with the NWRDC.

We were not without our natural disasters again this year. Incredible summer storms ripped across Northwestern Minnesota with fire and fury on several occasions. We have been enduring a typical Minnesota winter as far as temperatures go, but our snow drought continues across much of the region. The silver lining is, the flood forecast is probably looking favorable... however, we won't forget the nature of the business we do and spring wildfire season will soon be on our plates.

In addition to natural disaster, the members of the JPB have been preparing for a myriad of human consequence incidents and events as well. Planning and preparing for the potential consequences of disapproval expression of infrastructure projects across the region has been a priority. Members of the JPB have also been proactively



participating in exercises related to all the fundamentals of Homeland Security and Emergency Management including communications, information and intelligence.

Region 3 is well represented on the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers with Garry Johanson serving as Second-Vice President, Craig Fontaine as Region Representative, and myself as President. We all look forward to ensuring the needs of our membership are represented regionally, state-wide and nationally at every opportunity. The JPB looks forward to 2018 along with the foreseen and unforeseen challenges we are certain to encounter.

Stay safe my friends.

2017 REGION 3 JOINT POWERS BOARD

Becker County: Craig Fontaine *
Beltrami County: Chris Muller * (President)
Clay County: Bryan Green *
Clearwater County: Neil Dolan *
Hubbard County: Brian Halbasch * (VP)
Kittson County: Barb O'Hara * (Fiscal Agent)
Lake of the Woods County: Jill Olson * (Secretary)
Mahnomen County: Ed Snetsinger *
Marshall County: Josh Johnston *
Norman County: Garry Johanson *
Pennington County: Erik Beitel *
Polk County: Jody Beauchane *
Red Lake County: Mitch Bernstein *
Roseau County: Sue Grafstrom *
Red Lake Nation: Christine Ostrom
White Earth Nation: Ed Snetsinger
Crookston: Tim Froeber
East Grand Forks: Gary Larson
Moorhead: Chad Stangeland
Region 3 JPB Planner: Jennifer Olson
Region 3 RPC: Heather Winkleblack
* Denotes Voting County Member



Previous Joint Powers Board Members:

Roseau County: Kyle de Molee

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

2017 Year In Review

January 2-3, 2017 - A

series of weather systems brought a couple rounds of heavy snowfall to the region to start the New Year. A narrow band of heavy snow affected southeast North Dakota and adjacent portions of Minnesota during the early morning hours of January 2nd, with lighter snowfall elsewhere. A brief break during the afternoon hours was replaced by heavy snow across northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota by the late afternoon hours of January 2nd, which continued through the overnight hours. Increasing winds led to reduced visibility and significant drifting of snow during the early morning hours of January 3rd.



Figure 1: Roseau, MN (Aaron Lefor)

March 6-8, 2017 - A strong low pressure system brought light snow and long-lived strong winds to Northwest Minnesota beginning the evening of Monday, March 6, 2017 and continuing into the early morning hours of Wednesday, March 8, 2017. Although this system brought generally light snow accumulations to the area, the long period of strong winds allowed for blizzard conditions to persist across portions of the Devils Lake basin throughout much of Tuesday, March 9, 2017. Reduced visibilities were also experienced for brief periods across the northern Red River Valley and into northwest Minnesota on Tuesday as quick bouts of snow easily blew around in 50-60 mph wind gusts.

[March 23, 2017](#) - Steady rain fell throughout the day along a southwest to northeast band, extending from south of Devils Lake to Grand Forks in North Dakota, and on toward Thief River Falls and Baudette in Minnesota. Rainfall amounts along this line generally ranged around a half an inch, with locally higher amounts. Further southward, thunderstorms moved through the Fargo Moorhead area. These thunderstorms continued to move east-northeast, tracking through the lakes country of west central Minnesota during the early evening. These storms produced lightning and small hail, but much less rainfall.

[June 2, 2017](#) - After spending several weeks with near or below normal temperatures, combined with seemingly endless showers, wind, and clouds, June 2, 2017 was a different day. Morning temperatures started out around 60 F, and quickly warmed into the low to mid 90s by afternoon. Dew point values started the day around 40 F, and topped out the day in the low to mid 60s. So this was the first hot and muggy day of the year. Thunderstorms fired up across central North Dakota during the late afternoon, quickly becoming severe across the Devils Lake region. These storms continued into the Red River Valley during the mid to late evening, then slowly weakened across northwest Minnesota. Eight severe thunderstorm warnings were issued for large hail and strong wind gusts.

[June 13, 2017](#) - Several rounds of severe weather affected eastern North Dakota and the northwest quarter of Minnesota on June 13, 2017. Severe thunderstorms moved along the North Dakota/South Dakota border before sunrise, affecting portions of southeast North Dakota. Then strong winds developed in what is known as a "Wake Low," over the central and northern Red River Valley into portions of northwest Minnesota during the late morning and early afternoon. This produced very strong wind gusts in the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks area, which resulted in tremendous damage to trees, fences, signs, light poles, etc. Finally, in the late afternoon and evening, another round of severe thunderstorms fired up, mainly affecting southeast North Dakota into west central Minnesota. These storms started out producing large hail and a few funnel clouds, then transitioned to bow echoes and 60 to 70 mph winds. These strong winds hit the Fargo-Moorhead area as well as the Fergus Falls, Minnesota area.

[June 28, 2017](#) - Widespread rain showers and some isolated thunderstorms spread across much of the Red River Valley region, targeting the northern valley and specifically the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks area. In Grand Forks, local drainage was unable to keep up with the heavy rainfall rates, resulting in multiple reports of street flooding.

[July 4 & 6, 2017](#) - Over the 4th of July, severe thunderstorms brought tennis ball size hail and damaging winds to the region (ND/MN). Storms occurred over the region again on the early morning hours of July 6th. This second round of storms brought severe storms and hail again, but was much more limited in coverage.

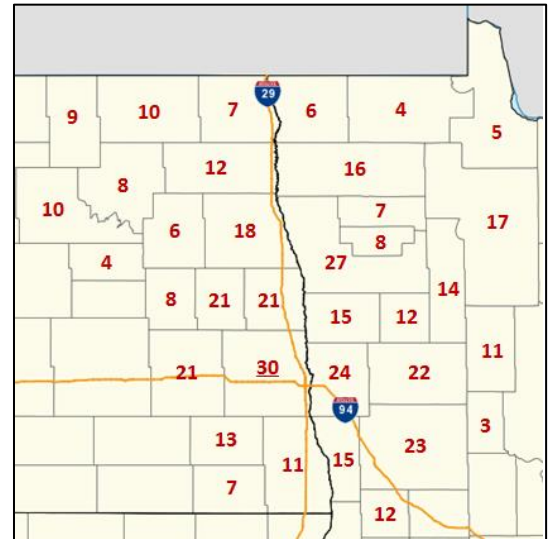


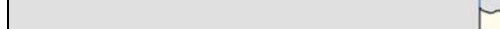
Figure 2: NWS – 2017 Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

[July 11, 2017](#) - Several supercell thunderstorms spawned tornadoes on this day across northeast ND and portions of northwest MN. These supercell storms produced at least 11 distinct tornadoes, along with numerous large hail and damaging downburst wind events. The largest and strongest of these supercells tracked southeastward for over 110 miles from its origin just west of Larimore ND, past Hillsboro ND and Halstad MN, and continued well east of

Detroit Lakes MN, producing 4 of the 11 identified tornadoes, three of which were also the strongest and longest tracking.

Both a ground survey and an aerial survey were conducted over this long storm track. These surveys showed evidence of the tornadoes forming and generally tracking southeastward, but occasionally exhibiting a slight curl to the ESE which was followed by a sharp plunge towards the SSE, usually accompanied at this point by an extreme Rear-Flank Downdraft (RFD) wind area, wrapping around to the west and south of the main tornado track.

July 21-22, 2017 - An upper-level low pressure system was moving into Saskatchewan Friday with a trough of low pressure south into western North Dakota Friday afternoon. A very warm, moist, unstable air mass was in place ahead of this system with dew points in the mid-60s to lower 70s and maximum surface temperatures in the mid-80s to lower 90s. This created an unstable atmosphere and despite weak surface based forcing, isolated strong to severe thunderstorms formed during the day and became quite numerous in the mid to late afternoon.



Of the several clusters of storms which formed, one of the strongest developed to the east of Grand Forks near Fosston MN, moving east-southeast through Bagley and Bemidji, to well past Cass Lake MN. Winds from these storms ranged in the 60-95 mph range and caused considerable tree damage along with some minor structural damage. Other scattered storms formed near the Upper and Lower Red Lakes in Beltrami County Minnesota and one of these produced a brief tornado west of Kelliher MN, which damaged a buildings on a number of farmsteads. Another weak tornado was observed for a brief period in Clay County, just south of Glyndon MN.

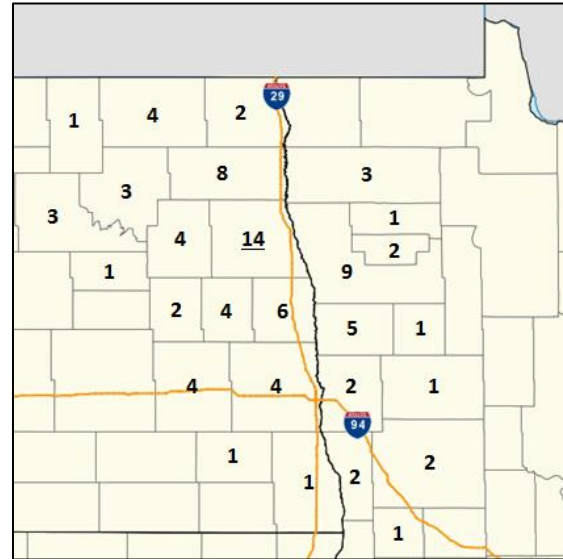


Figure 3 - NWS - 2017 Tornado Warnings

Late that evening and overnight, a band of storms first produced hail in areas south and west of Leeds ND and a brief funnel cloud northwest of Minnewauken. Eventually, isolated episodes of large hail and/or strong winds spread from Enderlin ND across the southern Red River Valley into the Pelican Rapids MN area.

[November 3-4, 2017](#) - A winter storm affected the northern part of the region on Friday and Saturday, producing freezing rain, sleet, and snow. The biggest impact was snow covered and slippery roads from the snow accumulation.

[November 16, 2017](#) - On the evening of Thursday, November 16th, an area of freezing rain and snow moved east-northeast across central and eastern ND into far northwestern MN. The freezing rain resulted in icy conditions across parts of the region.

[December 4, 2017](#) - The first major winter storm of the season hit the region on December 4th. Surface low pressure tracked from the central Rockies into southern Minnesota, and then northward toward the Great Lakes region. This track is ideal for heavy snow and blizzard conditions across the northern plains, which placed the region in cold sector of the storm. The precipitation started off as rain and/or freezing rain Monday morning across much of the area, which placed a layer of ice below the snowfall and increased the hazardous nature of the storm. Increasing winds brought blizzard conditions to portions of the Red River Valley during the afternoon and early evening hours before the winds and snowfall finally ended by Tuesday morning

Source: <https://www.weather.gov/fgf> - NWS Forecast Office in Grand Forks, ND

STATE DISASTER DECLARATIONS

3 State declared disasters in Northwest Minnesota

In 2014, Governor Mark Dayton signed legislation establishing the state's Disaster Assistance Contingency Account to assist local communities after a natural disaster, even when federal aid is not available. A certain damage threshold must be met in order to qualify. For a state disaster declaration, the county must incur eligible damages that equal or exceed 50% of the countywide per capita impact indicator. Applicants assume the responsibility for 25% of total eligible costs. In 2017, three events qualified for a state disaster declaration:

Kittson County – Up to \$95,025 was authorized due to spring flooding that caused damage from March 27 through April 15, 2017. The photo below highlights Kittson County Road 58, taken on April 3rd.



Becker, Clay and Norman Counties – Up to \$619,525 was authorized due to tornadoes and severe thunderstorms with high winds, heavy rain, and large hail on July 11-12, 2017. Significant damage to local infrastructure was caused by this storm. Some additional information below is courtesy of <https://mn.gov/governor/newsroom>

County	Damage Identified	Estimated State Assistance
Becker County	\$493,820	\$370,365
Clay County	\$209,653	\$157,239
Norman County	\$122,560	\$91,920



Clearwater County - \$85,875 was authorized due to severe thunderstorms with high winds on July 21, 2017. Significant damage to local infrastructure caused by this storm event.

STORMREADY

Lake of the Woods County Now StormReady!

On April 6, 2017, Lake of the Woods County met the requirements to become StormReady. A program of the National Weather Service, The StormReady program showcases localities that are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather by performing advance planning, education and awareness. Lake of the Woods is the 12th County in Minnesota to be recognized. Other StormReady localities in Northwest Minnesota include Beltrami County (First County in the state to be StormReady), Polk County and the Camp Wilderness Boy Scout Camp in Hubbard County.

StormReady uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather—from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations. To be officially StormReady, a community must:

- ✚ Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- ✚ Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public
- ✚ Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally
- ✚ Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars
- ✚ Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.weather.gov/stormready/>



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

AMEM Conference – The Annual Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Conference was held in September of 2017 at Breezy Point. During this conference, the following members/associates of HSEM Region 3 were recognized:

- ✚ Carol Sele – Carol Sele, the recently retired Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coordinator for Northwest Minnesota, was awarded the Emergency Management Advocate Award.
- ✚ Chris Muller - Beltrami County Emergency Management Director Chris Muller was awarded the 2017 Joe Strub Weather Preparedness Award, which is given in memory of Joseph Strub for outstanding work in various types of weather-related programs and projects, as determined by the Meteorologist in Charge of the Twin Cities Forecast Station.



- ✚ Nancy Young – Nancy Young, the recently retired Disaster Program Volunteer Partner & Regional Mass Care Lead for the Dakotas Region of the Red Cross, was awarded the Emergency Management Advocate Award.
- ✚ Barb O'Hara – Barb O'Hara, the Emergency Management Director of Kittson County, was awarded the AMEM Emergency Management Director of the Year for 2017. AMEM's Minnesota Emergency Management Director of the Year is awarded for outstanding performance by a member Director of Emergency Management in furthering the objectives of emergency management in their jurisdiction and/or the Association and emergency management in Minnesota.
- ✚ Josh Johnston, Scott Jorgenson & Erik Beitel participated in the AMEM Golf Tournament – 3 way 1st place team tie (3rd place overall)
- ✚ Scott Jorgenson - AMEM Golf Tournament longest drive



Committees – The following members of HSEM Region 3 represent Northwest Minnesota proudly by taking part in the following groups/committees:

- ✚ AMEM Audit Committee – Bryan Green, Jill Olson and Barb O'Hara
- ✚ AMEM Vice President/President – Chris Muller
- ✚ AMEM Second Vice President – Garry Johanson
- ✚ AMEM Region 3 Representative – Garry Johanson & Craig Fontaine
- ✚ AMEM Region 3 Alternate Representative – Craig Fontaine & Ed Snetsinger
- ✚ AMEM Government Affairs/Legislative Committee – Garry Johanson
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Beltrami) – Chris Muller
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Clay) - Bryan Green
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Clearwater) – Neil Dolan
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Hubbard) – Brian Halbasch
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Lake of the Woods) – Jill Olson
- ✚ Alternate RAC Representative (Red Lake County) – Mitch Bernstein
- ✚ Alternate RAC Representative (Red Lake Nation) – Christine Ostrom
- ✚ Alternate Representative for the Operations and Technical Committee – Neil Dolan
- ✚ Alternate Regional Representative for the Interoperable Data Committee – Neil Dolan
- ✚ RAC Rep. to the Regional Radio Board – Neil Dolan
- ✚ Alt. Regional Rep. for the NG911 Committee – Jill Olson
- ✚ Primary Regional Representative for the IPAWS Committee – Bryan Green
- ✚ Alternate Regional Representative for the Interoperability Committee – Bryan Green
- ✚ Alternate to the NW Regional Emergency Communications Board – Barb O'Hara
- ✚ RAC Chairman – Neil Dolan



TRAINING & EXERCISES

The following events, exercises and trainings were planned by or had participation from members of HSEM Region 3

- ✚ January 1st – Full Scale Exercise in White Earth, MN
- ✚ January 4th – EGF's Tabletop Planning Workshop – Crookston, MN
- ✚ January 5th – Family Assistance Center Tabletop Exercise in Warren
- ✚ January 10th – Childcare Providers Workshops in Moorhead and Clay County.
- ✚ January 10th – Tabletop Exercise ("What am I going to Do with All These People") in Thief River Falls.
- ✚ January 11th – Communication Functional Exercise at Essentia Hospital in Ada
- ✚ January 17th – EGF's Tabletop Planning Workshop in Crookston
- ✚ January 21st – 2017 USXC PR106 in Park Rapids
- ✚ January 23rd – EGF Tabletop Exercise at Polk EOC – Crookston, MN
- ✚ February 2nd – Active shooter Tabletop in Moorhead
- ✚ February 6th – Quarterly Meeting at the Governor's Conference – Earle Brown Center



✚ February 10th – National Guard Flood Response Tabletop in Moorhead

- ✚ February 23rd – Flood Prep. Workshop in Thief River Falls
- ✚ February 23rd – ICS 100 and 700 Class in Karlstad
- ✚ March 6th – DNR Lake Bronson Dam Tabletop
- ✚ March 13th – CAER Pipeline Tabletop in Hallock
- ✚ March 14th – Manitoba Flood Response Tabletop
- ✚ March 15th – Enbridge Safety Tabletop Exercise in Hallock
- ✚ March 15th – Pipeline Safety Seminar in Red Lake Falls, MN
- ✚ March 16th – Active Shooter Tabletop in Fargo, ND
- ✚ March 22nd – ICS 200 & 800 Class in Hallock
- ✚ March 23rd – Emerging Infectious Disease Tabletop in Baudette
- ✚ March 27th – Skywarn in Sabin
- ✚ March 28th – Flooding Tabletop Exercise in Red Lake Falls
- ✚ March 29th – NW Regional Functional Exercise
- ✚ March 29th – Haz. Mat. Operational Training in Pembina, ND
- ✚ April 4th – Skywarn in Hallock
- ✚ April 5th – CodeRED Seminar
- ✚ April 5th – Skywarn in Warroad
- ✚ April 5th – Skywarn in Baudette
- ✚ April 6th – Skywarn in Detroit Lakes



- ✚ April 18th – Skywarn in Puposky
- ✚ April 18th – St. Paul EOC Tabletop Exercise at the Excel Center in St. Paul, MN
- ✚ April 20th – County-wide Tornado Drill in Marshall County
- ✚ April 20th – Skywarn in Bemidji (Taught by Chris Muller)
- ✚ April 20th – Quarterly Meeting in Park Rapids, MN
- ✚ April 24th – Skywarn in Moorhead
- ✚ April 25th – Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise in Fargo, ND
- ✚ April 27th – Red Cross Sheltering Full Scale Exercise in Baudette, MN
- ✚ April 27th – Lancaster School Tornado Tabletop
- ✚ May 1st – Skywarn in Fosston
- ✚ May 2nd – Skywarn in Fertile
- ✚ May 2nd – Active Shooter Functional Exercise in Fargo, ND
- ✚ May 3rd – Skywarn in Crookston
- ✚ May 11th – Crisis Cleanup Webinar
- ✚ May 15th – Skywarn in Bagley
- ✚ May 16th – Under One Roof “Ring of Fire” Tabletop Exercise in Duluth, MN
- ✚ May 18th – Skywarn in Park Rapids
- ✚ May 24th – Skywarn in Mahnomen
- ✚ May 31st – Isolation and Quarantine Functional Exercise in Otter Tail County



- ✚ June 7th – Enbridge Field Deployment Full-Scale Exercise in St. Hilaire

- ✚ June 13th – Skywarn at Camp Wilderness, Hubbard County
- ✚ June 14th – ND Boy's State Functional Exercise in Wahpeton, ND
- ✚ June 14th – Skywarn at the 7 Clans Casino
- ✚ June 19th – TIMS workshop in Hallock
- ✚ June 20th – SSC Shelter Workshop at the Mahnomen Shooting Star Casino.
- ✚ June 20th – Bison Thunder Tabletop Exercise in Fargo, ND
- ✚ June 27th – Skywarn at White Earth, MN
- ✚ July 13th – Bakken Oil Virtual Tabletop Exercise in Park Rapids, MN
- ✚ July 17th – Drone/Fire/Search drill in Glyndon
- ✚ July 20th – Quarterly Meeting in Park Rapids
- ✚ July 24th – Glyndon fire/ems search drill
- ✚ July 26th – Operation Don't Panic Pipeline Release Seminar in Moorhead
- ✚ August 9th – Northwest Angle Full Scale Exercise at the Northwest Angle/Lake of the Woods County.
- ✚ August 15th – Operation Don't Panic EOC Drill in Moorhead
- ✚ August 29th – Operation Don't Panic Responders Tabletop Exercise in Moorhead

- ✚ August 30th – Enbridge Pipeline Emergency Full-Scale Exercise in East Grand Forks
- ✚ September 5th – DAPL Seminar in Thief River Falls
- ✚ September 6th – 800 mHz Radio Seminar in Thief River Falls
- ✚ September 14th – Operation Don't Panic Full Scale Exercise in Moorhead
- ✚ September 17th – AMEM's Back on Track Tabletop Exercise at Breezy Point, MN
- ✚ September 19th – DAPL Seminar in Brainerd
- ✚ September 26th to 28th – Enbridge Functional Communications & ICS Exercise in Bemidji
- ✚ September 28th – Civil Unrest Response Tabletop in Red Lake Falls
- ✚ October 19th – Quarterly Meeting in Hallock
- ✚ October 26th – University of Minnesota Crookston Emergency Tabletop Exercise

Chris Muller was one of the instructors for the G358 – Evacuation and Reentry Planning class. This class aims to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to design and implement a local evacuation and re-entry plan for their jurisdictions.



Region 3 representatives Chris Muller and Mitch Bernstein along with Heather Winkleblack (Regional Program Coordinator) traveled to Camp Ripley to meet and discuss upcoming State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant changes for 2018. Representatives from all regions in Minnesota were in attendance, as well as several staff members from the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) office in St. Paul.

REGIONAL PLANNING

The following documents regional planning projects and events that incorporated members of HSEM Region 3.

All Partners Meetings - A Joint Partners meeting was held twice in 2017 and had Emergency Management, Northwest Health Services Coalition members and other partners in attendance

- ✚ The all-partners meeting in April included a presentation on navigating the CMS emergency preparedness rule, as well as a review of the Minnesota State Burn Surge Plan and a summary of exercises occurring in 2017.
- ✚ The all-partners meeting in September focused around the Dakota Access Pipeline Response. Presenters included Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier of Morton County, Ernie Thurman (Security Manager of Sanford Health Bismarck), Dan Schaefer (Operations Director for Metro Area Ambulance), Doug Murphy (Emergency Preparedness Regional Coordinator for ND DOH), Matt Nelson (Emergency Planner for Fargo/Cass Public Health and Barry Simonson (Enbridge).





Charging Stations – Grant funding was utilized to purchase portable charging stations for the 14 county and two tribal nations within Northwest Minnesota. Handheld devices & other technology has become prevalent in a majority of homes. During sheltering & other emergency situations where the public gathers, the ability to charge these devices becomes a personal priority. Since public information & warning as well as communication is greatly affected by these devices, this project will reduce incident anxiety, increase security and continue to keep residents informed about unfolding events. (Pole-type charger purchased in some areas.)

IPAWS – The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) provides the ability to send immediate warnings to the American people. It ensures the president of the United States can alert and warn the public. It can also be used by state, tribal, and local authorities to send emergency warnings within their jurisdictions. These alerts will come on cell phones and commercial television/radio stations. Becker, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Clay, Polk, Clearwater and Beltrami Counties currently have the ability to utilize IPAWS.

Minnesota School Safety Center – The Minnesota School Safety Center offers several free training programs and classes to assist school districts with emergency planning. School Safety Center staff members train public safety professionals and work with individual school districts to enhance school safety across the state. A photo to the right features Kittson County Sheriff's Department staff along with Randy Johnson - MN School Safety Center and Sterling Education staff. Not pictured: Barb O'Hara – Emergency Management Director.



Upper Red River Valley COAD – Volunteer/governmental agencies and businesses are coming together in Polk County, MN and Grand Forks County, ND to form the Upper Red River Valley COAD (community organizations active in disaster). This newly formed organization wishes to assist area response and recovery activities in times of disaster through cooperation, coordination, communications, collaboration and preparedness. Participants include Jody Beauchane, Gary Larson and Jennifer Olson.



Senior Disaster Preparedness Presentation – a presentation about disaster preparedness, which was given by Jennifer Olson (HSEM Region 3 Planner) and Carol Bye (Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging) along with Barb O'Hara and Josh Johnston.

This project was highlighted at the Minnesota Age & Disabilities Odyssey Conference in Duluth. This is a two-day conference that is held on a biennial basis. Besides providing opportunities to network with partners, the conference promotes best practices, and provides training & technical assistance about programs and services. Typically, the conference sees over 1,300 attendees. This presentation was one of 24 that could be chosen for the 8 – 9:15 AM timeslot. Speakers included Barb O'Hara (Kittson County



Emergency Management Director), Jennifer Olson (HSEM Region 3 Planning Staff) and Carol Bye (Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging). Heather Winkleblack, Regional Program Coordinator, was also in attendance, and provided the use of interactive, handheld devices from HSEM that were utilized during the PowerPoint presentation.

All Hazard Mitigation Planning – Hubbard County has completed the 5 year update for their All Hazard Mitigation Plan. The All Hazard Mitigation Plan lists actions that are taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risks to people/property. Having an approved mitigation plan is also an important pre-requisite for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance.

Public Education – Public education has been done by all Emergency Management Directors within Region 3 periodically throughout the year. Specific periods of public education included Winter Hazard Awareness Week (November 6 – 10, 2017) and Severe Weather Awareness Week (April 17 – 21, 2017).

Credentialing/Badge Printing – Credentialing of emergency response partners has been occurring in order for use during emergency response/sheltering events. This is to aid in the ensuement of the identification of authorized personnel, and safety for all those affected.

Regional Planning Services – Utilizing State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funding, the HSEM Region 3 Emergency Managers Joint Powers Board continued a relationship with the Northwest Regional Development Commission to provide regional planning related services to the 14 counties in Northwestern Minnesota. Planning accomplished includes core capability-related strategic planning, regional response team planning, exercises and the completion of several partner-related events.

The Association of Minnesota Emergency Management Conference highlighted the individuals in 5 regions that perform planning for their prospective boards. In a breakout session, planners described similarities and differences, work programs and answered questions from the audience in a panel-style presentation. Jennifer Olson, the individual performing planning services for HSEM Region 3 was part of the panel. In attendance were Garry Johanson, Barb O'Hara, Brian Halbasch, Jill Olson, Chris Muller, Craig Fontaine, Jody Beauchane and Heather Winkleblack.

Child Care Emergency Preparedness – A relationship with the Tri-Valley Opportunity Council and also between Clay County & Moorhead Emergency Management and Clay County Public Health was

established to assist in the provision of emergency preparedness materials and planning to child care providers. These relationships will continue into 2018.

Manitoba Meeting - A meeting was held in Morden, Manitoba on March 15th with local emergency management personnel from Manitoba, Canada and Kittson and Lake of the Woods Counties to discuss partnering on future initiatives and responses. The Regional Program Coordinator was also in attendance.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lots of exciting events coming in 2018!

Governor's Conference - The 53rd Annual Governor's Conference is being held at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center on February 12th – 15th. The theme this year is "Ready for Anything" and features keynote speakers, basic emergency management certificate classes and general breakout training sessions. The conference will address current and critical topics in emergency management, incident response and disaster recovery for Minnesota.

Interoperable Communications Conference - The Minnesota Public Safety Interoperable Communications Conference is being held April 23rd – 25th in St. Cloud at the River's Edge Convention Center. The Minnesota Public Safety Communications Conference is a technology conference exploring the convergence and enhancing the interoperability of 911, Broadband, Land Mobile Radio and Public Alerting public safety communications. The intent is to promote the sharing of best practices and hard-earned experience, as well as to provide the latest information about emerging systems and practices in interoperability. Conference participants will come away with real-world insights, practical knowledge and a common sense approach to moving forward.

Under One Roof - The Under One Roof Conference is May 15th – 16th at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. Participation will provide attendees with opportunities to connect with regional preparedness and response partners, learn innovative and effective techniques for future activities, and share lessons learned from recent responses.

AMEM - The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers Conference is being held on September 16th – 19th at the Breezy Point Resort.

Pigeon River International Emergency Management Committee Cross Border Conference - March 21 – 22

Northwestern Minnesota's Emergency Managers Preparing Today For The Demands Of Tomorrow

Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 9th – 13th.

Statewide tornado drills are held on April 12th.

Winter Hazard Awareness Week is November 5th – 9th.

