



# OZAUKEE COUNTY

## Emergency Management

### Local Emergency Planning Committee

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William F. Stolte, Director

### 2005 Annual Report Emergency Management

What is Emergency Management? Dr. Rex Archer, Public Health Director, Kansas City, MO most accurately summed up the philosophy we hold when he said, "There is nothing more difficult than preparing for disasters than explaining why you didn't!" An effective program must proactively encompass all four phases of Emergency Management: Preparedness – Response – Recovery – Mitigation. Many programs suffered over the years because they considered only part of this revolving cycle and then only from a reactive point of view. Solid preparedness effort requires an understanding of response capabilities, strategies and tactics. The same issues apply to coordinating a recovery effort. One must look forward to mitigation possibilities while undertaking recovery to prevent or minimize future impact. A root cause of some failed mitigation projects is often a lack of understanding of preparedness, response and recovery operations and how all four phases are inter-related.

It is no longer acceptable to recognize that a hazard exists and merely wait until something happens. Simply having a plan to respond is not the resolution of the problem, but merely a means to reach certain goals and objectives. Good emergency management within a community does not just happen – it must be nurtured, guided, and directed in order to grow to acceptance within a society. Emergency managers must be active within their communities, building partnerships, participating in every day activities with other agencies in order to more fully grasp the planning, response, recovery and mitigation capabilities that exist within the community. Additionally, an effective emergency manager must be resourceful and capable of looking beyond the traditional, using innovative deployment concepts to use available resources to combat potential impacts upon the populace and out environment.

As part of our growing interaction with other agencies, Ozaukee Emergency Management sponsored or participated in over 40 training classes and exercises during 2005 in an effort towards building partnerships and enhancing the quality and effectiveness of our planning efforts. These classes ranged from the required annual refresher training for our hazardous materials team members to numerous offerings of classes designed to meet the requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). To date, over 500 emergency responders, public works and administrative personnel in Ozaukee County completed the classroom offerings of the NIMS introduction and the Introductory Incident Command System (ICS) training courses. Many more responders completed the on-line versions of those programs.



We also launched the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in Ozaukee County conducting a Train-the-Trainer course and two community level courses open to the general public. These efforts are all part of the Citizen Corps program and designed to spur volunteer efforts throughout the community, providing basic training instructing citizens regarding basic preparedness and response efforts should disasters occur that hamper emergency responders' abilities to reach all those in need in a timely manner.

During 2005, the Emergency Management Department coordinated a number of grant programs, generating revenues of \$325,957.73 to fulfill the specified grant deliverables, including the State Homeland Security Grant, Emergency Management Performance Grant, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act grant, CERT and ICS training grants, and an exercise program for the Quad County Public Health Consortium. We also applied for and received awards for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning grant and an Interoperable Communications grant.

The Hazardous Materials Response Team responded to 32 incidents during 2005, up from 23 calls during 2004. These calls generated revenues of \$14,341.28 to offset the expenses incurred in responding to those incidents. The Responsible Party or spiller is responsible for reimbursing the County for expenses incurred responding to and managing these haz-mat incidents.

The Water Safety Patrol responded to 59 calls between mid-April and the end of October, 2005 providing emergency assistance to 136 people. This is up from 38 calls and assists to 64 persons in 2004. These calls involved a range of problems from mechanical failures to flare sightings and assists to other agencies. Department staff and the Water Safety Patrol coordinated the first multi-agency Dive Team exercise on Lake Michigan during 2005 bringing all the Dive Teams in Ozaukee County together to plan how they would work together on a major incident and physically deploying divers in to conduct an underwater search and recovery mission.

<b>Category</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Severe Weather	13	9	18	21
Hazardous Materials	28	18	21	32
Boat Calls	63	60	38	59
Other Calls	7	21	19	10
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>122</b>

New planning projects on a regional basis began following the devastation experienced in the Gulf Coast during 2005. Regional guidance for dealing with Mass Evacuations, Mass Sheltering, and Catastrophic Events are under development.

We look forward to a busy year in 2006, continued support and interaction with the County Board of Supervisors. As always, you are welcome to call or stop into the Department with any questions or concerns. On behalf of the Department Personnel, I thank you for your support and confidence.

Respectfully Submitted,

William F. Stolte, Director