



SEMA News

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
Preparedness · Response · Recovery

Summer

2014

State Developing, Testing Mass Fatality Disaster Response Asset

For four days in May, in a cave 75 feet under Kansas City, Missouri trained and tested a new state capability – integrated mass fatality management. The exercise scenario: Missouri is hit by a large-scale disaster causing a high number of fatalities. The death toll requires deployment of a disaster mortuary facility with all available equipment and personnel.

The May 8-11 functional exercise focused on the newly added mass fatality and forensic capabilities. The primary objectives were to test procedures for deploying disaster mortuary affairs assets, including setting up a morgue with a command and operations base and implementing the morgue response process.

When fully developed, Missouri will have a statewide capability to effectively respond to large-scale disasters with high numbers of fatalities, focusing on ensuring that families are reunited with their loved ones as quickly as possible using a thorough and respectful process.

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MoCERT1 team members unload supplies during a deployment to Baxter Springs, Kan.

Region D Forms First Regional CERT Team

By Phil Amtower and Linda Barger, MOCERT1

Region D has formed the state's first regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Called MOCERT1 within the state, this new concept incorporates individual CERT teams from across the region into one deployable unit. Combining personnel, equipment and assets into one integrated team provides greater strength and flexibility than any single local CERT could provide.

When a small-scale emergency response is needed, a local CERT can assemble the required personnel and equipment and deploy. But in a large-scale disaster, member CERT elements can now be assembled as needed to form a regional team with a wider range of skill sets, equipment and support resources.

Leading the deployment team were Capt. Paul Harkins, Branson Fire Department and city CERT coordinator; Mark Burchfield, Greene County CERT coordinator; and Barger.

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Director's Letter

“Thirty-six years in law enforcement taught me that success is often built on strong relationships.”

Ron Walker

I want to use my first Director's Letter to introduce myself and tell you a little about my background. Before being named SEMA director on July 7, I spent 36 years in law enforcement, 35 of those with the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

I was born in Waynesville, Mo., and graduated from high school in Jefferson City. I served one year with the Jefferson City Police Department before joining the Patrol and spent the first 19 years of my career assigned to Troop A.

FIRST-HAND LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

Working as a road trooper provided me first-hand insight not only into the work of law enforcement officers, but of other emergency responders – the fire service, ambulance districts and emergency managers. It gave me a firm understanding of the many hats Missouri responders may have to wear to meet the needs of the people we all serve. It also taught me the importance of working as one diverse team during an emergency, particularly when resources may be stretched across long country miles.

In 1997, I moved back to Jefferson City to work at Patrol General Headquarters. I spent the last 12 years as assistant commander of the Patrol's Field Operations Bureau, which gave me hands-on staff management experience. I also became very familiar with the various hazards and critical infrastructure across much of Missouri and got to work with many great people in the local emergency management community.

Field Operations also leads in developing the Patrol's response plans and in coordinating its participation in different types of exercises. This gave me an understanding of working from a central office with folks who are on the ground dealing first-hand with emergency situations – it's a relationship that's built on trust. I've worked with SEMA staff over the years, but in my brief time here I've already gained a new appreciation of the staff's breadth of experience and their commitment to assisting our local partners and all Missourians.

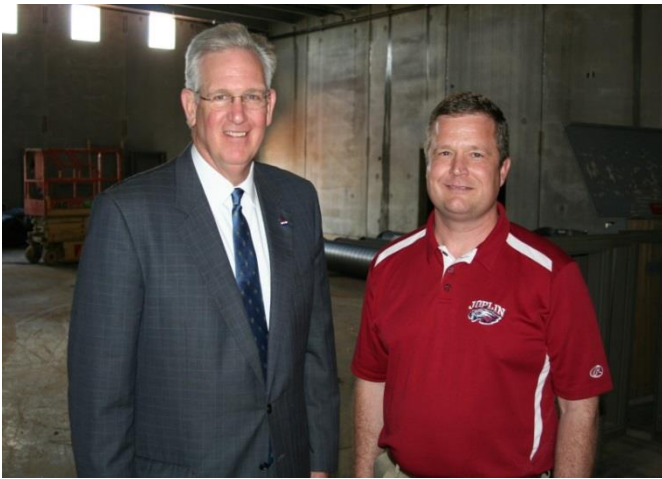
POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

During my first day on the job, I traveled to Fremont to see the recovery efforts underway after late June flooding in Carter County. I visited the Multi-Agency Response Center (MARC) and saw the power of partnerships in action. The MARC has served as a “one stop shop” for disaster recovery resources where more than two dozen local, state and federal government agencies, as well as faith- and community-based organizations, have collaborated to provide local families crucial recovery assistance. Working together were the Red Cross, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri and the South Central Missouri Community Action Agency. Also involved were state and local partners like the Department of Social Services, University of Missouri Extension, SEMA and many others.

I also recently travelled to Pike County to see the tremendous cooperative effort to protect Clarksville from Mississippi River flooding. I witnessed local, state and federal partners unified effort help a Missouri community. Using sand provided by the Missouri Department of Transportation and sandbags from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, teams from the Missouri Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery, AmeriCorps St. Louis and a host of others helped local workers and volunteers in a massive effort to build sandbag barriers against the encroaching floodwater. An important part of Clarksville's response was the assistance of offenders from nearby correctional facilities. Fifty Missouri Department of Corrections offenders were brought in to provide valuable manpower for the sandbagging effort.

Thirty-six years in law enforcement taught me that success is often built on strong relationships. Doing my part by getting out into the field to meet more of you is one of my top priorities. Whenever you are here at SEMA, please come by my office to introduce yourself and I'll be sure to do the same when I'm in your area. The SEMA team and I are committed to working with all of you.

Ron Walker, Director
Missouri State Emergency Management Agency



Gov. Jay Nixon with Joplin Schools Supt. CJ Huff in a safe room under construction at the new Irving Elementary School in Joplin in May 2013.

Gov. Nixon Advances Plans for Five Tornado Safe Rooms

On May 19, 2014, Gov. Jay Nixon announced he had authorized SEMA to proceed with proposals for federal grants to help pay for a total of five new tornado safe rooms at schools in Lincoln, St. Charles, Stoddard, Texas and Webster counties.

“Missouri’s children are our most precious and important resource, and ensuring that they not only receive a good education, but that they are safe and secure in their schools should be our top priority,” Gov. Nixon said. “We have seen too often the devastation that tornadoes and severe weather can bring to communities in Missouri and neighboring states, and that’s why I’m committed to utilizing available funding wherever possible to help build community safe rooms, particularly in our schools.”

Community safe rooms are specially designed and engineered structures built to withstand 250-mile per hour winds. Often built with 14-inch precast concrete and steel-reinforced doors, walls and roof sections can withstand extremely high impacts from windborne debris.

Missouri currently has 104 completed safe rooms across the state. Since taking office, Gov. Nixon has approved, or Missouri has moved forward with, 188 community safe room projects using FEMA hazard mitigation grant funds.

In all, the completed projects and those being designed and constructed, 121 of which are in schools, would be capable of protecting more than 210,000 Missourians.

The FEMA program provides 75 percent of funding for pre-approved safe room projects that meet all design and construction standards. Local grant recipients pay the remaining 25 percent of safe room costs.

The federal share of the projects announced by the governor is about \$5.7 million. Local applicants still must meet all federal program requirements.

More on the Projects Advanced Across the State:

- **Lincoln County:** A proposed 12,600 square foot safe room to shelter about 1,800 people, enough capacity for all students, faculty and staff at Troy Buchanan High School in the Lincoln County R-III School District.
- **St. Charles County:** A proposed 7,700 square foot safe room to shelter about 1,200 people in a new school that would be built by the Orchard Farm R-V School District.
- **Stoddard County:** A proposed 6,700 square foot safe room to shelter about 1,000 people in the Advance R-IV School.
- **Texas County:** A proposed 4,600 square foot safe room to shelter about 700 people in Plato Elementary School in the Plato R-V School District.
- **Webster County:** A proposed 4,000 square foot safe room to shelter about 500 people in a new permanent early childhood center in the Fordland R-III School District.

Missouri's Emergency Management Region Profile: Region B

Region B comprises 16 counties in northeast Missouri: Adair, Chariton, Clark, Knox, Lewis, Linn, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Putnam, Ralls, Randolph, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby and Sullivan. The region covers more than 8,800 square miles, making it the second largest of Missouri's nine regions. However, according to the 2010 Census, with about 184,000 residents, it has the second lowest population.

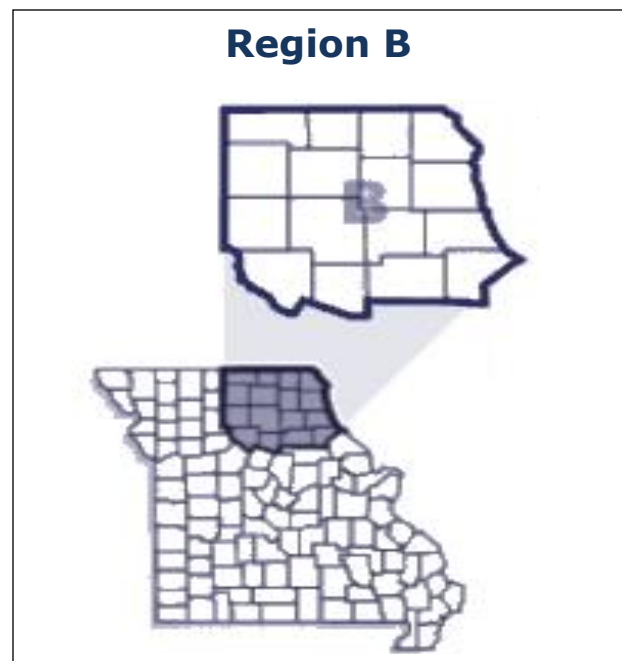
A major producer of soybeans, the northeast is also strong in manufacturing, food processing, alternative energy and transportation/logistics. There are eight hospitals and several public and private colleges and universities, including Truman State University in Kirksville.

Region B is also home to Mark Twain State Park and Mark Twain Lake. This recreational lake covers more than 18,000 acres in Monroe and Ralls counties and features the Clarence Cannon hydroelectric dam. The Missouri and Mississippi rivers also flow through the region.

There are four Class I rail carriers, a regional airport and three major highways: US-61, US-63 and US-36, a four-lane interstate highway that provides one of the fastest, least congested truck routes between Kansas City and Chicago.

Region B is collaborating with the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC) to increase regionalization by encouraging jurisdictions to combine their annual haz-mat exercises with the regional exercise. As a result, participation in the annual Region B exercise jumped from 13 in 2011 to more than 130 in 2012. All 16 county EMDs, all local public health agencies, several of the region's hospitals and local government officials participated, as well as the EMD and fire chief from adjoining Pike County and a national pipeline company representative. The 2013 regional tabletop exercise also had strong attendance with 87 participants.

Six Region B counties and four cities participate in the Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG). Region B also participated in the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process, which identified five primary hazards: tornado, flooding, severe weather, infectious disease and anthrax release.



Region B Emergency Management Directors

David Keith, Lewis County

David Keith has served as Lewis County EMD for 12 years. He works full-time for the Lewis County Road and Bridge Department. Keith has served as a road deputy with the Lewis County Sheriff's Department for eight years, and has 41 years of experience in the fire service. He lives in Ewing with his wife, Gretchen and has five children.

Dennis Goldsmith, Sullivan County

Dennis Goldsmith was appointed Sullivan County EMD in June 2012. Previously, he served as a FEMA public information officer in numerous federally declared disasters, including the Red River floods and Hurricane Floyd. Goldsmith served 32 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. During his time in the Marine Corps, he developed emergency plans, assisted with the 1993 floods and developed evacuation routes for the former Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base in Kansas City. He is a member of the Southwest Incident Support Team. He and his wife, Sandra, live on a small farm in Sullivan County.

Bill Bowman, Ralls County

Bill Bowman is Ralls County EMD and has worked in that role for 14 years. He has been a volunteer firefighter for more than 38 years.

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Region B EMDs

(Continued from page 4)

Keith Gudehus, Knox County

Keith Gudehus has served as a volunteer EMD for Knox County since March 2012. Located in extreme northeast Missouri, Knox County covers more than 500 square miles and has a population of about 4,100. Gudehus is a farmer and coaches the Knox County High School girls' varsity basketball team. He and his wife, Jackie, have four daughters: Casey, Natalie, Amy and Zoe.

Justin Griffin, City of Brookfield

Justin Griffin is new to the EMD role, having accepted the position on Jan. 1, 2014. He works full-time for the Brookfield water department. Griffin has also served as a firefighter and first responder for seven years and is a certified fire instructor. He and his wife have one son.

Tom Collins, City of Kirksville

Tom Collins is another new EMD, serving in that role since February 2014. Collins also serves as Kirksville's fire chief. He has served more than 30 years in the fire service, including stints in Fort Osage and Independence before moving to Kirksville. Collins and his wife, Dana, have two sons, Eric and Ryan. Collins said that he is passionate about educating firefighters and civilians on all aspects of the fire service and emergency preparedness. He said his greatest challenge is helping the public to be better prepared.

John F. Roach III, City of Unionville

John Roach has been the Unionville EMD for five years. He also is the city administrator. Roach and his wife, Lena, live in Unionville and have a daughter, Hannah, and a son, John.

Glenn Egan, Shelby County

Glenn Egan is the Shelby County EMD, a position he has held for more than seven years. He is also county presiding commissioner. Egan and his wife, Cathy, have two grown children.

Stan East Jr., City of La Plata

Stan East has served as volunteer EMD for LaPlata since 1988. This year East will celebrate 50 years of service with the LaPlata Community Fire Protection District. East and his wife, Kathy, have three grown sons, two of whom are active in LaPlata's fire department.

Jim Sherwood, Clark County

Jim Sherwood has been Clark County EMD since November 2007. He also has served as a volunteer firefighter for 39 years. Sherwood and his wife, Peg, a recently retired school teacher, have four grown sons and two grandchildren. His first disaster as Clark County EMD was a flood in June 2008 on the Fox, Des Moines and Mississippi rivers.

Steve Jones, Monroe County

Steve Jones has been Monroe County's EMD for four years and has served as volunteer fire chief for the Paris Rural Fire Protection District for more than 25 years. He works full time as an agriculture business branch manager. Jones said the most enjoyable aspect of his EMD role is serving the people of Monroe County and being there when they need him most. Jones and his wife, Debbie, have two grown children.

Michael J. Shively, Macon County

Another EMD newcomer is Michael Shively, who also works full-time as the Macon County Jail administrator and is an officer with the Atlanta, Mo., fire department. Macon County's emergency planning includes an ethanol plant and Long Branch State Park with the 25,000-acre Long Branch Lake. Macon County is one of the few counties certified in the Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS).

John S. Hark, Marion County and City of Hannibal

John Hark wears two EMD hats, serving both Marion County and the city of Hannibal. One of Missouri's "elder statesmen" EMDs, he began his career in 1972 as Hannibal's assistant civil defense director. Hark also is a bioterrorism planner, disaster coordinator and pandemic influenza planner for the Ralls County Health Department.

Jamie Stallo, City of Brookfield

Jamie Stallo is EMD for the city of Brookfield, a post he has held for seven years. He also is a full-time code enforcement officer for Brookfield. Stallo has served in the fire service for 10 years and is a certified fire instructor. He said one of his greatest challenges is effectively juggling the responsibilities in his positions as code enforcement officer, EMD and fire instructor. He also fills in as a 911 dispatcher when necessary.

Understanding the National Flood Insurance Program

Flood insurance is one of the most misunderstood and one of the most important steps many Missouri families can take to protect their investment in their homes. Many homeowners do not understand that conventional homeowner's insurance does not provide protection against flooding which must be purchased as a separate policy. Standard flood insurance policies can be purchased from any Missouri licensed property agent or directly from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The NFIP provides flood insurance to owners of structures located within the community, either inside or outside the Special Flood Hazard Areas. Communities are required to adopt a local floodplain ordinance meeting minimum NFIP criteria to participate in the program. These ordinances stipulate that, after a disaster, all residential and non-residential structures within Special Flood Hazard Areas must be evaluated for substantial damage by the designated community representative. If the local evaluation identifies structures that are substantially damaged, they must be brought into compliance with the local floodplain management ordinance.

This means the structures must be protected, through improvement projects, from future flooding to at least the base flood elevation (BFE). Substantially damaged residential buildings must be raised to or above the BFE, or relocated outside the floodplain. In addition, non-residential structures can be "flood proofed" to meet local floodplain ordinance conditions.

Typically, the local floodplain administrator is responsible for complying with the local floodplain ordinance requirements, as well as for evaluating reconstruction after a disaster.

THE 50 PERCENT RULE: UNDERSTANDING SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE/IMPROVEMENT

According to NFIP criteria, "substantial damage" is damage of any type (e.g., fire, earthquake, flood, damaging winds) sustained by a structure where the cost of restoring or improving the structure to its pre-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the structure's pre-damaged market value. A substantially damaged structure must be

improved to be brought into compliance with a community's floodplain regulations.

Local officials should initiate substantial damage evaluations within two weeks after a disaster. Although it is understandable that homeowners will want to begin salvaging and reconstructing their homes immediately, if reconstruction begins without local review and approval, problems can occur, so it is important for local officials to act quickly.

More information is available on the Flood Smart [website](#). You can enter your zip code to find qualified flood agents in your area.

Mass Fatality Exercise (Continued from page 1)

ORIGINS CAN BE TRACED TO 2011

The federal government has what are called Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORT) to identify victims and provide mortuary services. DMORTs, organized under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, utilize civilian personnel who are activated as temporary federal employees when needed.

After the 2011 EF-5 Joplin tornado, which killed 161 people, it became evident that Missouri needed its own mass fatality management assets. Additionally, based on lessons learned during the 2011 earthquake-based National Level Exercise (NLE), which concluded just two days before the Joplin tornado, it became clear that a state-controlled forensic capability was also needed to aid in identifying persons killed in disasters.

The Missouri Department of Public Safety, SEMA and other state leaders sought to create a fully capable mass fatality management asset through partnerships with the Missouri Disaster Response System (MoDRS) and other disciplines. MoDRS is an integrated disaster medical assistance team.

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Find SEMA News on the SEMA website under "News and Publications."

www.sema.dps.mo.gov

Mass Fatality Exercise

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Responders enter the mobile morgue for training during a mass fatality exercise conducted May 8-11 in Kansas City.

NEW INTEGRATED ASSET TESTED

Designed as an initial test of the newly integrated mass fatality asset, the four-day Kansas City exercise began with deployment of the mobile morgue and setting up a base of operations inside the warehouse cave. The next two days focused on training on mobile morgue operations and included the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The last day focused on demobilization procedures, including disassembling, checking and repacking equipment for the next deployment.

The Kansas City exercise was just the first step in creating a fully functional asset, providing crucial training and practice for responders who will deploy when needed. Additionally, when the fatality management annex of the state emergency operations plan is revised, the state will work to update the local fatality management annex to reflect integration of the mass fatality management capability. A local standard operating guide (SOG) for mass fatality events is also being developed for local emergency responders. Work is also being done with the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association to ensure an integrated mass fatality management response at the local and state levels.

MOCERT1

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The regional CERT concept originated in Christian County, where Phil Amtower is county EMD and CERT coordinator, and Linda Barger serves as assistant EMD and MOCERT1 logistics coordinator. The team developed its own standard operating procedures for how MOCERT1 assembles, deploys and operates on scene, as well as command positions and job descriptions. Next steps include developing a way to effectively integrate with the region's incident support team (IST) and acquiring additional equipment. Working with the Region D IST will provide integrated disaster response planning, logistical and operational coordination.

MOCERT1 is capable of conducting a variety of response and recovery functions. Immediately after a disaster, the team can perform damage assessments on homes and conduct wellness checks. The team can also perform some minor search and rescue operations. MOCERT1 can also set up and manage shelters, assist with setting up a volunteer reception center, conduct needs assessments, assist with traffic control and provide communications support with trained HAM radio operators and their equipment.

FIRST SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENTS

MOCERT1 received its first request to assist in another state in 2013. A response team was sent to Moore, Okla., to help following the devastating May 20 tornado. In May 2014, another out-of-state request came when MOCERT1 was asked to deploy to Baxter Springs, Kan., to assist with debris removal and to help homeowners whose uninsured properties were damaged or destroyed.

MOCERT1 members used nearly every aspect of their training, such as cribbing up a corner of a house, using chainsaws to clear debris and assisting a young woman who had been injured. The team also helped repair roofs and arranged food deliveries in a hard-hit neighborhood. Some team members volunteered in a food and clothing pantry and helped distribute groceries and other items. We try to get plugged into an area that may not be receiving as much assistance as other areas and help homeowners with the greatest needs.

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MOCERT1

(Continued from page 7)



MOCERT1 team members work on a roof damaged by a tornado in Baxter Springs, Kan.

The MOCERT1 team members were housed at the Miami, Okla., Church of Christ. All 28 members slept in one large room and shared two showers. McDonald County's emergency management agency arranged cots from the local Red Cross. One of the key components of a MOCERT1 deployment is flexibility. Our motto is "adapt and overcome."

PARTNERSHIPS – FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

Partnerships are the foundation to MOCERT1's success. During the Kansas deployment the team worked with local chapters of the Red Cross, AmeriCorps, the Northeast Oklahoma VOAD, the Cherokee County EMA, a local fire department, the City of Baxter Springs, many local churches and Oklahoma's tribal nations. During the Baxter Springs deployment, MOCERT1 included CERT members from Branson and Christian, Greene and McDonald counties.

After every deployment we bring home lessons that we use to evaluate our capabilities, procedures and training so we are better prepared and effective for the next deployment

Missouri Emergency Management Association Kickoff

The official rollout of the new Missouri Emergency Management Association (MOEMA) served as a prelude to this year's annual SEMA conference. More than 100 conferees gathered on April 30 to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones in a relaxed environment.

At a reception before the general membership meeting, current MOEMA President Michael Daniels unveiled the association's new logo, website, philosophy and purpose. Daniels lauded the MOEMA board's vision for the association:

- Take an active role in leadership in the field of emergency management.
- Enhance MOEMA's presence at other organizations' meetings and conferences.
- Increase individual membership by 50 percent over the next two years and increase corporate membership.

The meeting featured a video about the origins of professional emergency management in Missouri. It then explained the new association's transition from the former Missouri Emergency Preparedness Association (MEPA).

"It isn't just a name change, it is a change in the association's core philosophy and operation," said Daniels. "Our goal is to provide EMDs and partner organizations with the resources they need to build strong, collaborative relationships and to advance the field of emergency management in Missouri."

The meeting concluded with association officer elections. Michael Daniels was elected MOEMA president, George Albert vice president and Rebecca Estes secretary. Visit the [MOEMA website](#) for membership and additional information.

Make sure you're on the list to receive SEMA News.

Send your email address to: brian.quinn@sema.dps.mo.gov.

Use subject "SEMA News."

Partnerships Key to Successful Clarksville Flood Fighting Effort

Strong partnerships among local and state response agencies and non-governmental organizations were essential in the successful effort to protect Clarksville from Mississippi River flooding. Their efforts – and the work of hundreds of volunteers – were critical in winning the fight.

Strong late-June storms in the Upper Midwest caused river levels to rapidly rise, closing roads and bridges and flooding thousands of acres of Iowa, Illinois and Missouri farmland. The river at Clarksville was projected to crest 10 feet over flood stage and about two feet below the record set during the 1993 flood.

With Clarksville threatened, local responders reached out to SEMA and other partners. Within hours, an all-out effort was launched to build sandbag barriers in the areas of Clarksville that have been vulnerable in past flooding.



Volunteers add sandbags to flood barriers in Clarksville in July 2014.

PARTNERSHIPS PROVE THEIR VALUE

Missouri's community- and faith-based organizations proved their tremendous value once again. One of the first calls made on July 1 was from SEMA Emergency Human Services staff to the AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team. The next day, AmeriCorps St. Louis disaster lead William Burks and a small team went to Clarksville to assess the situation and meet with Mayor Jo Anne Smiley and city Emergency Manager Kathy Weiss. Within 24 hours, a 14-member AmeriCorps team arrived to establish a volunteer reception center, manage volunteers and donated resources and lead the sandbagging effort.

"This was AmeriCorps' third Clarksville flood response in 15 months. Over that time we've built strong relationships with city leaders, local responders and other partners statewide," said Clare Holdinghaus, a disaster response coordinator for the AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team. "This time, activating plans we put in place over the past year significantly streamlined our decision making and response time."

The United Way of Greater St. Louis, another key partner, began recruiting volunteers through a multi-media outreach campaign and calls from their web-based volunteer center. Volunteers began arriving within 12 hours of the first requests for help. Because of United Way's recruiting and public relations campaign, by the end of the main response effort on July 11, approximately 150 St. Louis-area volunteers had traveled to Clarksville to help. This was more than half of the nearly 270 volunteers that helped there.

COMPLETED SANDBAG WALL HOLDS

SEMA personnel on the ground and in Jefferson City provided communication and resource coordination throughout the response. They worked with the Missouri Department of Transportation and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad to secure a combined 610 tons of sand at no cost. Volunteers and other workers filled 34,000 sandbags from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Fifty Missouri Department of Corrections offenders were bused in to assist the sandbagging effort.

After more than 3,100 hours of labor, the flood barrier was completed on July 9. The wall was built to withstand a 35.5 foot crest. That same day, the Mississippi crested at just under 35 feet. The wall held, protecting the historic town from significant flood damage.

"When it comes to effective coordinated emergency response efforts, strong relationships mean everything. I just can't overstate the value of building partnerships during quiet times, because it's during an emergency when responders need friends and partners who understand and trust each other," said AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team's Holdinghaus.



Orrick High School after the May 10 EF-2 tornado.

Collaboration Key in Responding to Orrick and Carter County

On Saturday, May 10, storms rolled across Missouri, with three tornadoes touching down in Jackson and Ray counties. The town of Orrick in Ray County was struck by the largest of the twisters, an EF-2 tornado that was on the ground for more than 11 miles, according to the National Weather Service.

While no one was killed or seriously injured in the town of 800, more than two hundred homes and other buildings were damaged, including three with major damage and two that were destroyed. The high school was also hit hard, forcing classes to be canceled for the final three school days and moving graduation ceremonies to nearby Excelsior Springs.

SEMA COORDINATION ASSISTANCE

SEMA Region A Regional Coordinator Maureen Burke deployed to Orrick on May 11. Working out of the Orrick Fire Protection District office, Burke coordinated resources, conducted preliminary damage assessments, provided situational awareness to state leadership and elected officials, and worked with local and state agencies and volunteer groups on issues like debris removal. SEMA Disaster Section Manager Alan Prenger went to Orrick on May 12 to meet with Mayor Cindy Lampton, city officials and school superintendent Aren O'Dell.

HELPING WITH TORNADO RECOVERY

Missouri's non-government and faith-based disaster partners were a major force in response and recovery efforts in Orrick. Included were the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief, United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ, United Way 211, Kansas City VOAD, United Methodist Office of Creative Ministries and Mormon Helping Hands.

Also deployed to assist were the Missouri departments of Natural Resources, Transportation, Labor, Conservation and the Office of Administration. Together, these groups provided a wide array of services, including financial recovery assistance, long-term disaster case management, survivor information and referral services, debris removal and psychological first aid.

On May 21, Gov. Nixon toured Orrick to see the cleanup effort, meet with local leaders, and to be briefed on the recovery effort. During his visit, the governor complimented the community for its quick response, praised faith-based and volunteer groups for their efforts and assured the community the state would continue to offer assistance as Orrick rebuilds.

FLOODING IN SOUTHERN MISSOURI

On June 29, people from many of the same partner organizations that would assist in Clarksville's flood fight were called on to assist in Carter County, where flooding affected the town of Fremont and other areas.

A multi-agency response center (MARC) was set up as a "one stop shop" for disaster recovery resources. More than two dozen local, state and federal government agencies, as well as faith- and community-based organizations, collaborated to provide local families important recovery assistance. Working together were Carter County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri and the South Central Missouri Community Action Agency.

Also involved were state and local partners like the Department of Social Services, University of Missouri Extension, SEMA and many others.

If you have story ideas for SEMA News,
send them to:
brian.quinn@sema.dps.mo.gov



Gov. Nixon addresses the 2014 Missouri Emergency Management Conference in St. Charles.

26th Annual Missouri Emergency Management Conference

More than 500 members of Missouri's emergency management community gathered for the 26th Annual Missouri Emergency Management Conference. Held April 29– May 2 at the St. Charles Convention Center, the conference featured informative and insightful keynote speakers, practical and forward-looking breakout sessions and almost 50 exhibits displaying emergency response-related products.

Three keynote speakers focused on assessing risks ahead of time, preventing man-made disasters and maximizing responses to natural disasters.

10 FAMILIES OF RISK

Gordon Graham, a retired 33-year veteran of California law enforcement, spoke about the importance of conducting thorough risk assessments. He presented his "10 Families of Risk" to underscore how emergency managers must completely identify and assess all local risks and effectively prepare for potential disasters. He said he developed the 10-families concept to make risk identification and planning easier.

Graham's 10 Families of Risk are: external environment, legal and regulatory, strategic, organizational, operational, information, human resources, technology, financial and administrative and political.

He believes that real risk managers don't stop at the events that immediately precede a disaster, what he calls the "proximate cause." Graham says it's essential to dig deeper and search for root causes or "problems lying in wait."

FERTILIZER EXPLOSION LESSONS

Danny Snell, a task force leader with FEMA's Texas Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team, shared his insights on the April 2013 fertilizer plant explosion in West, Tex. The explosion killed 15 people (including 10 volunteer fire fighters and two civilian assistants) and damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings.

"Tragedies like this offer lessons that emergency managers can use to help keep our communities safe," Snell said.

He added that the lessons of West, Tex. are: emergency managers and responders must learn all they can about businesses and hazards in their communities; they must develop comprehensive and detailed emergency plans; and, help get firefighters the equipment and training that are essential to doing their jobs safely and effectively.

SEIZING THE CALM BETWEEN THE STORMS

Gov. Jay Nixon encouraged emergency managers and responders to use the quiet times between emergencies to make sure everything is being done to protect the public.

The governor credited the response community for thriving during times of emergency, when their knowledge and experience are tested, but said quiet times provide opportunities for advance preparation and detailed planning.

"I believe what we do in the calm periods between storms can be just as important as during times of disaster response," Gov. Nixon said. "These are the times we should ensure we're doing all we can do to protect the people we serve from that next flood or tornado. Because, as we all know, it will come." The governor cited the state's integration of the Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism into SEMA and reorganizing SEMA from five branches into three divisions as examples of using the calm to better prepare for the storm.

"Calm periods are also opportunities to build new relationships and strengthen exiting partnerships," Gov. Nixon said. During a period of calm weather last summer, he and his senior emergency management team met with staff from all three of Missouri's National Weather Service forecast offices to further strengthen collaboration between the state and weather service. This led to more Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers getting weather-spotter training, more troopers using the weather service's online products and closer coordination of hazardous weather messaging.

SEMA Training Schedule July - August, 2014

Dates	Event Details	Location
Aug.	Ignitable Liquids and Class B Foams POST approved; Sponsor: MERC Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details: http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm	Multiple Locations
Aug.	Ignitable Liquids Ethanol Blended Fuels Sponsor: MERC Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details: http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm	Multiple Locations
Aug.	Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Awareness POST approved; Sponsor: MERC Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details: http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm	Multiple Locations
Aug.	Handling Propane Gas Emergencies POST approved; Sponsor: MERC Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details: http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm	Multiple Locations
Aug.	WebEOC Operator Training Sponsor: SEMA Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details: http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm	Multiple Locations
Aug.	Hazmat IQ Training. Sponsor: MERC Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details: http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm	Multiple Locations
Aug.	Illicit Labs: A Safe Response for Public Service Personnel POST approved; Sponsor: MERC Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details: http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm	Multiple Locations
Aug. 7	EOC Emergency Operations for All-Hazards Events POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Warren County Emergency Management Agency
Aug. 6	Enhanced Threat and Risk Assessment POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Freeman Health Center Conference Center, Joplin
Aug. 12-14	Wide Area Search POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Springfield/Greene County Public Safety Center
Aug. 18-22	Inland Search and Rescue Planning POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Stoney Creek Hotel, Columbia
Aug. 19-21	Debris Management (APS Elective Course) POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Sedalia
Aug. 21	Chemical Suicide: Information for Emergency Responders Time: 6p.m - 9 p.m. POST approved; Sponsor: MERC	Thayer Senior Center
Aug. 26-28	Law Enforcement Prevention and Deterrence of Terrorist Acts POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	St. Joseph Police Department
Aug. 27-28	WEM: Recovery from Disaster: The Local Government Role (APS Required Course) POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Cape Girardeau

Note: This list does not include invitation-only or local offering-only events. View the complete SEMA training schedule with details on the SEMA website's [Training and Exercises](#) page.