

WMD Regional Planning Minutes

MINUTES
April 11, 2007
4:30 p.m.

Conducting:
Chris Berndt

Location:
Grant's Restaurant, Monett

Agenda Items

1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
2. Introductions

Attendees

Candy Adams	SEMA
Robert Benn	Nevada Fire
Chris Berndt	Western Taney County Fire
Jimmie Dye	Nevada Police Department
Wendell Hall	MO DNR
Greg Hickman	Neosho
David Hoover	Hospital Planner
Andrew Katen	Springfield-Greene County OEM
Ryan Nicholls	Springfield-Greene County OEM
Mitch Randles	Joplin Fire
Tom Ryan	Barton County EMA
Jimmy Sebree	Nixa Fire District
Troy Smith	Springfield Police Department
Michael White	Redings Mill Fire Departmnet

I. Old Business

A. Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee update

Berndt: Letter received pre-approving 2006 funding. 2007 grant has been submitted by the State, will come before the RHSOC later this year.

Candy Adams: Money will be spent for 2007 funding in a similar fashion as 2006.

Jimmy Sebree: Missouri applied for \$81 million for 2007 funding, not including UASI.

B. HSRT Funding Update

Berndt: [Review of LETPP interoperability communications and Homeland Security WMD Regional Response System (RRS)].

Sebree: RRS money is based on threat matrix.

Berndt: Attention should be given to sustaining capabilities, rather than enhancement. Existing capabilities must be sustained with individual funds, not grant money. Assets used only for WMD purposes, however, might be sustained with grant money.

Troy Smith: What health regulations does SWAT need to follow regarding SCBA use?

Mitch Randles: Joplin performs full physicals for personnel.

Berndt: Check with Springfield FD to see if they could assist with fit testing and talk to them what they do for physicals.

Smith: SWAT personnel have not been given physical examinations for Levels A and B hazmat suits.

Ryan: How are funding changes going to affect the regional WMD plan? What changes need to be drafted?

Berndt: The State wants to push regionalization and ask for specific resources from each region.

Robert Benn: Different teams within a region may have different capabilities.

Randles: Regional assets may be activated based on resource type, rather than an entire team.

Berndt: Kansas City is moving towards this resource typing method. The idea is being driven by the realization that many WMD teams are alike and the State may not want to request a full WMD team.

Randles: Joplin has separated out equipment needed by each resource so that a resource may be deployed independently.

Dave Hoover: The State is talking in terms of "regions."

Berndt: The problem with resource-typing is that, in the early stages of an incident, exactly what resources are needed may not be known.

Benn: Does “specialized” mean a team will only cover one kind of incident, and all future sustainment funding will be directed towards this specialty?

Berndt: No, all teams will have some basic capabilities, the specialization will come with specialties.

Randles: The State seems to be following regional initiatives. Region D has already developed most of what it needs.

Berndt: The State considered sending out an email to activate teams. It has also considered a MONG activation technology that sends a recorded message to pre-identified phone numbers.

The State would like to move toward a regional plan, but is not demanding Region D change its plan.

Sebree: HSRT funding may begin to be channeled through the RHSOC. Money will dry up and regions must decide what they can sustain. If sustainment is not possible, assets should be redistributed. In future years, the RHSOC will decide how much of its money should be directed to HSRT.

Berndt: The State may not be able to redistribute assets, since they give the title to each agency.

Sebree: All HSRT funds are allocated with pre-signed agreements indicating a 5-year period until the State loses all responsibility for assigned assets.

Berndt: Many MOUs are vague or do not exist.

C. State Exercise

Berndt: The State exercise is scheduled for September 8 at Camp Clark, which has sufficient acreage to conduct a realistic simulation. When can we arrange to have an exercise design meeting? Each team should delegate one representative, or one representative from each discipline, to serve on the exercise design team. Representative will be planners, controllers, and evaluators during the exercise, and CANNOT be players. Representatives should be identified at least 2-3 meetings in advance of the exercise. Reimbursement details will be provided prior to the exercise. The scenario will reflect a Waco-like incident, in which intelligence indicates a developing situation that warrants deployment of teams to the location.

A suggestion has been offered that some or all teams could spend the night in Nevada prior to the exercise; however, doing so would take participating assets out of service for a substantial amount of time.

Also, the State cannot be charged for the use of vehicles purchased with Homeland Security funds.

Ryan Nicholls: How will the 7th CST be involved in the exercise?

Berndt: The CST should attend the planning meeting. All participating teams should think about what equipment they need to bring to the exercise and choose a representative(s) to attend the exercise design meeting. The first design meeting was set for May 10, 2007 in Springfield at 9:00 am.

II. New Business

A. Regional IMT Report

Michael White: Incident Management Teams (IMTs) changed to Incident Support Teams (ISTs). All-hazards incidents will request ISTs, whereas IMTs are reserved to fire-related incidents. SOGs are being worked out at state level. The process for requesting teams is currently being examined. The State Fire Marshall's Office may be identified as a coordinating center for these requests.

MOUs are being developed to ensure all involved understand that responding as part of an IST is voluntary and reimbursement will not likely be provided for time and assets deployed. The region needs to work with state on MOUS and SOGs in order to ensure standardized protocol for the State.

The IST application is prepared and ready to go. Training might be funded by RHSOC money. Non-emergency personnel may require additional NIMS training to be a part of IST. One alternative to waiting for the USFA course is to remove what isn't needed in the Type III training and put together a 3-day class.

Mike Rowe and Greg Hickman were able to go to the 5-day Type III logistics training course at USFA.

Greg Hickman: This was a pilot course: no specific incident command training exists. The training was for a Type III incident management team. These teams take care of first responder personnel, not the entire incident. First Responders require assistance with logistics planning.

The training was interesting and involved multiple response disciplines. The course addressed logistics only. USFA is considering development of section-specific IST training for planning, finance, etc.

White: How do the HSRT teams fit into the training schedule with ISTs?

Berndt: HSRTs do not want to show up to an unmanaged incident.

White: Training is only available through USFA, although the State can certify personnel. Would the ISTs be requested with HSRTs?

Hickman: That would depend on the incident.

White: The MO Department of Public Safety is looking at how to determine when to activate an IST. If the State begins calling in state assets through the SEOC, at what point should an IST be activated? ISTs will most likely be requested when HSRTs are requested.

Wendell Hall: An estimated time-frame for response should be given to most incidents, thus serving as a guideline for whether an IST should be activated.

Randles: Any incident involving the request of an HSRT will likely require an IST.

Sebree: Is the region not moving forward until the State gives approval on other forms? Large disparities exist between regions regarding how quickly Type IIIs will move forward. How long do we await approval of the MOU by the State? The MOU can always be revised; should we move forward and begin organizing the team?

White: Will city legal departments sign an MOU?

Randles: Does SMESO or Council of Governments have a lawyer on staff? Let them look at the MOU.

Sebree: The IST may not be developed this year, given the amount of unresolved issues at the state level.

White: The challenge is to arrive at a balance between integrating with the State and getting a regional team organized.

Sebree: We may not be ready to go forward with an IST at this time.

Nicholls: Let's set a timeline of 2-3 weeks for MOU approval, and then pursue development of the IST.

Berndt: Address timeframe in SMESO meeting. [Approved].

B. HazMat Teams

Neosho: Logistical training continues.

Nevada: Refresher training utilizing technicians continues. Considering training that will use all equipment. NIMS 300 and 400 planned for later this month.

Joplin: Nothing to report.

Taney: Nothing to report.

C. Law Enforcement

Springfield PD: Nothing to report.

D. EMS

Barton County: Training continues with NIMS HazMat. Waiting for the state exercise. Would like to train with Joplin.

E. DNR

David Pratt no longer working emergency response out of Springfield. On June 1 his replacement will arrive from Kansas City. He has 18 months of good experience.

F. Hospital Planner

HPPL money planning continues. Movement is going towards mass medical care (i.e., alternative care sites, neighborhood emergency health centers, medical surge, capacity improvement). Studies have been conducted regarding surge capacity and these numbers are being readjusted down. If 50,000 people need to be in hospital during pandemic, the State has room for 12,000. Also identifying alternative care sites. Waiting to see what happens with Elliot System. Looking at another system that the military uses. Still looking at equipment for surge capacity and ability to transport equipment where needed.

III. Other New Business

Exercise Design Meeting will be Thursday, May 10 at Springfield Fire Station 8, following the regional WMD meeting.

IV. Next Meeting

May 10 at 0900 hrs, Springfield Fire Station 8.