



North Central News

Serving the citizens and agencies of
Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin and Jefferson Counties.

Regional Breaching Drill Tests Innovative Equipment to Increase Responder and Hostage Safety

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Douglas County Wildland Fire Drill Page 2

Shared Strategies Conference Page 3

READY Volunteers Recognized Page 4

Regional Information Sharing Summit Page 4

Adams County and Brighton IEMC Attendance Page 5

Regional Communications Plan Updates Page 5

Largest Tornado Study: Vortex 2 Page 6

Operation Mountain Move Page 7

Website, Calendar and Points of Contact Page 8

Key Dates

Upcoming Board Meeting dates:

June 10, 2010

July 8, 2010

Upcoming Exercise dates:

MMRS Mass Decontamination Drills

5/22, 6/5, 6/12

Douglas/Jefferson Co SWAT Drill

5/26

Mass Care TTX

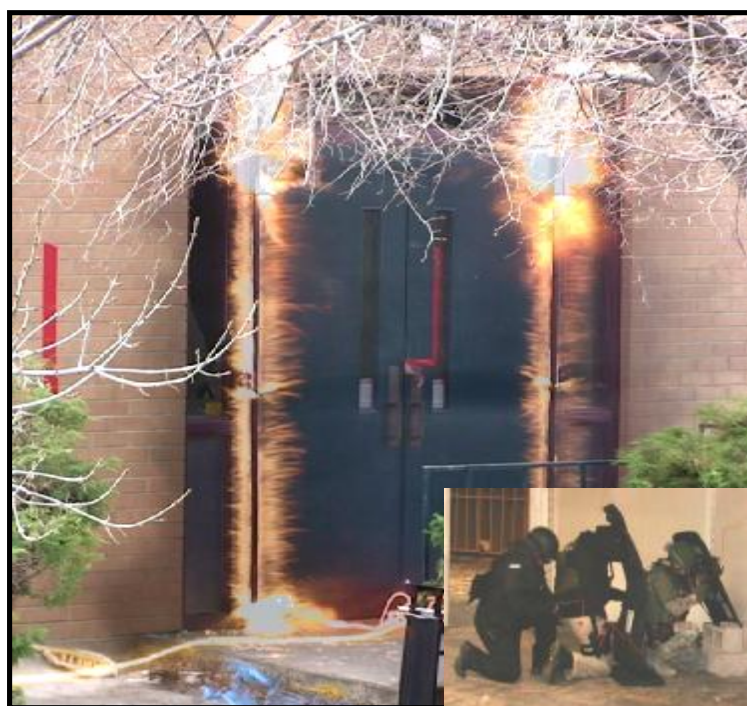
5/27

USAR Tornado Drill

July 2010

Aurora SWAT TTX

July 2010



Bomb Technicians and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Operators from across the North Central Region gathered in Golden, Colorado April 8 - 11, for the opportunity to practice some special skills in explosive breaching. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office coordinated the "Johnson School Drill" with support from the North Central Region, who funded the drill, and the Jefferson County School District, who donated the school (scheduled for demolition), providing tactical teams the rare opportunity to use explosives inside a school building. The drill, designed as advanced technical training for explosive breaching operators, included advanced concepts, techniques, technologies, and a practical approach that actively engaged Bomb Technicians and SWAT Operators in close quarter breaching. The primary focus incorporated the understanding and acceptance of explosive entry as a safe and reliable capability, enhancing technical concepts, minimizing liability and risk, and introduced

new tools to enhance safety, communication, performance, control, reliability and response time.

A total of 27 Bomb and SWAT personnel participated from Jefferson, Boulder, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties along with members from the Denver, Boulder and Colorado Springs Police Departments. Six observer / evaluators from Bomb and SWAT teams in Texas and New Mexico also attended. Chris Cherry of Cherry Engineering, Inc. (Albuquerque, NM), provided instructional information on advanced technical concepts regarding the science and application of explosives used in close quarter breaching and technical data on a variety of newly developed tool systems.

The drill was a total success. The integration of regional teams facilitated the sharing of ideas, experiences and tactical methodology. This training is not only necessary, but provided technical information that will certainly impact future training, equipment and operational readiness in the region. The drill assisted in developing skills and broadening the knowledge base that tactical teams can use, when responding to incidents in our community, to more safely and efficiently impact resolution success. ♠

Multi-Jurisdictional Wildland Fire Interface Drill

Douglas County officials in cooperation with the North Central Regional first responders and mutual aid partners held a Wildland Urban-Interface Drill Saturday April 10, 2010. This drill was developed to assess responder abilities to establish and maintain multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional communications and operations in response to a wildland fire that threatened homes. Residents of the Roxborough Park Community were actual participants in the drill. Some residents received calls through an emergency alert system and evacuated their homes as if it were a real event. All residents were provided information in regard to the day's activities and the risks associated with this

type of incident as part of the public awareness effort. The participating fire districts and departments were engaged in fire response, structure protection, aviation operation ordering, and assisting law enforcement organizations with citizen evacuation operations. Douglas County Office of Emergency Management is currently in the process of writing the after action report and improvement plan. The findings will be used in the development of future exercises and training events associated with the Regional Wildland Fire Exercise and Training Series.

Thank You to these Agencies that Participated!!!

- South Metro Fire
- Castle Rock Fire
- Franktown Fire
- Larkspur Fire
- Jackson 105 Fire
- Monument Helitack
- Arvada Fire
- Salvation Army
- Littleton Fire
- Aurora Fire
- El Paso County Fire
- Colorado Springs Fire
- Mountain Communities Fire Rescue
- West Metro Fire
- Fairmount Fire
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) District 24
- Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- Douglas County Office of Emergency Management
- Douglas County Office of Information Technology
- Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation Office
- Douglas County Search and Rescue
- Douglas County Incident Management Team
- Pike San Isabel National Forest
- Englewood Fire
- Mountain View Fire
- Colorado State Parks
- Parker PD
- Roxborough Park Fire Mitigation Committee
- Red Cross
- Highlands Ranch Metro District
- Douglas County Television
- North Central Region
- Denver Fire
- Wheatridge Fire
- Westminster Fire
- Evergreen Fire
- Metcom
- Lockheed Martin



Colorado's READY Volunteers Recognized



On April 9, 2010, over 100 volunteers and staff attended a recognition event at the Denver Art Museum in downtown Den-

ver. While many came from metro area cities, including Denver, Boulder, and Aurora, a good number also traveled from as far away as Pueblo, San Luis Valley, and Fremont County.

Keynote speakers Charlie Shimanski from the American Red Cross, and Donald Sutton from the Colorado Department of Human Services shared global and personal perspectives on the importance of volunteers in disaster response and recovery efforts.

Photos from the event can be seen on READYColorado's Facebook page, and group shots that were taken by the professional photographer will be sent later this month to program coordinators to share with their volunteers.

Our thanks to all who made the event a success, especially Cathy Prudhomme from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, Jennifer Steck from the Denver Area Security Initiative and Aron Anderson from the North Central Region.

Version 5.1: Denver UASI and North Central Region Interoperable Communications

The Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan has been updated and now version 5.1 dated January 2010. This version replaces version 5.0 dated June 2009. The purpose of the TICP is to provide Regional public safety agencies with the interoperable communication resources which are available within the Region, who controls each resource, and what rules of use or operational procedures exist for the activation and deactivation of each resource. It is the "go to" document for communication operations and planning during an emergency or incident. It provides both the Incident Command and the any agency providing mutual aid with the necessary information to on how they can communicate during an emergency.

The Regional Communications Committee, lead entity for the plan, had wanted to issue an errata sheet for version 5.0, but there were sufficient changes to warrant a complete revision to the plan. Hard copies of the plan will be issued during the NCR Board meeting and the Regional Communications Committee meeting. The plan is also available on the NCR web site (www.nccolorado.org). Log on to members access and then go to members documents and select Regional Communications. Older version of the plan should be collected and replaced with the new version. If you have added notes to the older version, don't forget to transfer them to your version 5.1 copy.

Regional Information Sharing Summit

Sheriff Grayson Robinson hosted Public Safety Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) from the North Central Region on Friday, 23 April for a Regional Information Sharing Summit. The NCR partnered with the Denver Urban Area Security Initiative and the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) to host a discussion on our regional information sharing network.

Attendee's discussion focused on reviewing and discussing current and future information sharing network architecture design within the NCR. Captain Steve Garcia, CIAC Director, updated the group on the current capacity and processes of the State CIAC. The Summit also provided an opportunity for CEOs to be introduced to the Region's new CIAC analysts, Kristin Schuch and Amy Nordeen. The Regional analysts briefed the attendees on the menu of services that the CIAC can provide and informed Summit attendees on their new Analyst's roles and responsibilities. Overall, the Summit was a key initial step in addressing closer integration and collaboration between the CIAC and North Central Region agencies/jurisdictions. The Region's Information Sharing Committee, chaired by Sam McGhee from the Aurora Police Department, will serve as the nexus for system design and architecture analysis over the coming months. The Committee meets at 1000 on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Aurora Municipal Center. Please contact LT McGhee at smcghe@auroragov.org if your agency is interested in participating in this ground breaking committee's work.

City of Brighton and Adams County Attend Integrated Emergency Management Course in Maryland

In March, the City of Brighton and Adams County attended FEMA's Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Participants included representation from city & county government, local & state emergency management, first response, public health, behavioral health, search & rescue, hospital, NGO, school district, and volunteer organizations.

The overall goals and objectives for this training were centered on bringing together elected officials, department heads, front-line workers and mutual aid partners to work as a team and learn about the role of local government in times of disaster. The week long training stressed the integration of functions, resources, organizations and

individuals in all phases of emergency management.

FEMA was asked to provide a learning environment that focused on those emergency planning issues that are most problematic for local governments in times of disaster. With this in mind FEMA designed a course around the functions of:

- Damage assessment
- Donations management
- Volunteer management
- Special needs assistance
- Public health/environmental issues
- Public information coordination
- Animal/pet issues
- Disaster declarations
- Emergency policy decision making
- Debris management
- Emergency purchasing policy

- HR disaster policy
- Mass care
- Behavioral health considerations
- Community recovery

The trip has received a lot of positive feedback as it allowed the group a chance to practice in an emergency operations center (EOC) environment, build partnerships and become more familiar with one another, while increasing awareness around roles and responsibilities.

As you can imagine, there were many lessons learned, and the to-do list is quite long. All in all, participants felt the time invested was well worth it. If your community gets a chance, we would encourage you to attend the IEMC.

NCR Leader in Nation-Wide Spring Forward Credentialing Exercise



The North Central Region recently participated in a national credentialing exercise evaluating the ability of local governments within Colorado to deploy credentialing equipment for routine and emergency use access control decisions. The exercise date coincided with a North Central Region Board of Director's meeting, so the exercise Incident

Commander, Alan Colon from Commerce City, used Board meeting attendees as exercise participants.

Incident tracking of personnel and equipment was completed using a deployable laptop and WiFi pocket router, the four handheld units, and an internet connection from a CDMA air card. NCR members with CoFRAC standard cards checked in to the meeting and then checked out as they exited the incident. Personnel tracking

data was pushed to Command incident management software which was also integrated with the InterTrax Exchange, allowing web views of the operation (see <https://intertraxexchange.com/>, Userid: COFRACGuest, PW: CoFRAC!!).



The command software allowed the Incident Commander to maintain complete and accurate situational awareness at all times, regarding resource location and access management. The Incident status web view was shared with other participants of the Spring Forward Exercise nation-wide including the Colorado Division of Fire Safety, FEMA Headquarters, the States of Illinois, Hawaii, Missouri, Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland, and the District of Columbia, plus our contractor partners at General Dynamics, Salamander, and RockWest.

The Regional Credentialing project committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2:30 – 4:00. If you or your agency is interested in learning more about the project, please contact Alan Colon at acolon@c3gov.com.



Operation Mountain Move 2010: NCR Communities Partner with Federal Coordination Center

On Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 9 a.m. the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System and several community partners conducted a full-scale Federal Coordinating Center (FCC) exercise at Denver International Airport.

The exercise, titled Mountain Move 2010, simulated a large earthquake in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the sudden evacuation of over 100 patients to the Denver area. The exercise included the set up and operation of the FCC Command Center, aircraft arrival of over 50 patients, medical triage of patients and the aircraft and ambulance evacuation of the patients from DIA to local area medical facilities. In total, more than 200 individuals from 20 community

agencies participated in the exercise. Associate Director Peggy Kearns was intimately involved as the Incident Commander, leading the exercise. She also got a taste of the patient perspective when she was strapped to a backboard and “evacuated” by helicopter to Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland.

An FCC is managed by the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), and may be activated in times of federally declared national or international emergencies to coordinate definitive medical care of evacuees from the emergency area to the FCC’s assigned area. The NDMS solicits and organizes community support services, enrolls non-federal local hospitals and co-

ordinates community hospital bed availability.

The most recent activation of the FCC system involved the Tampa and Atlanta VA Medical Facilities to support the evacuees from Haiti following the earthquake. There are a total of Seventy-Two Federal Coordinating Centers of which 32 are controlled by the Department of Defense (8 US Army, 13 US Navy & 11 US Air Force) and 40 are controlled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Over 37 Colorado medical facilities have registered for participation with the NDMS.

A special thanks to the Jefferson County Incident Management Team for planning this exercise.



Shared Strategies for Homeland Security: Denver UASI

In 2009, the Denver UASI sent twenty seven professionals representing Emergency Management, Police, Fire, Law Enforcement, Regional Transportation, Medical and Public Health to Israel to experience the training firsthand. A major objective of this training was to meet and identify subject matter experts from Israel who would be willing to participate in an international conference and share their knowledge and information. As a result of this initiative, the Shared Strategies for Homeland Security conference was born. This conference will occur December 13 -16, 2010 at the downtown Sheraton, and will provide sessions in the following tracks:



- 1. Medical and Health Track:** features terrorism and disaster preparedness strategies used by medical and health professionals throughout the U.S and Israel.
- 2. First Responder Track:** features recent trends in terrorism, multi-agency response and new strategies in the prevention and response to terrorism.
- 3. Business and Critical Infrastructure Track:** features strategies for integration with the public sectors on business resiliency and how business can prevent and recover from acts of terror and other disasters.
- 4. Community Resiliency Track:** features sessions addressing the strategic integration of community, business, government and non-profit partnerships to promote citizen preparedness and maximize use of resources available across the U.S and in Israel.

More information can be found at www.sharedstrategiesconference.com, on Facebook as Shared Strategies for Homeland Securities Conference or on Twitter at Denver UASI.

Scholarship opportunities will be available through the Regional committees. Please check with your committee chair(s) for more information. See also page 8 for contact lists for each committee.

Largest Ever Tornado Study Begins: Vortex 2 May Assist in Earlier Warning Systems



VORTEX2 is by far the largest and most ambitious effort ever made to understand tornadoes. They expect over 100 scientists and over 40 science and support vehicles to participate in this unique, fully nomadic, field program during its second and last field season, May/June 2010. The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are contributing over \$10 million towards this effort. Participants will again be drawn from over a dozen universities, and several government and private organizations. International participants will be drawn from Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and Australia.

The basic questions driving VORTEX2 are simple to ask, but hard to answer:

- How, when, and why do tornadoes form? Why some are violent and long lasting while others are weak

and short lived?

- What is the structure of tornadoes? How strong are the winds near the ground? How exactly do they do damage?

- How can we learn to forecast tornadoes better?

Current warnings have an only 13 minute average lead time and a 70% false alarm rate.

- Can we make warnings more accurate?

- Can we warn 30, 45, 60 minutes ahead?

VORTEX2 will use an unprecedented fleet of cutting edge instruments to literally surround tornadoes and the supercell thunderstorms that form them. An armada of 10 mobile radars, including the Doppler On Wheels (DOW) from the Center for Severe Weather Research (CSWR), SMART-Radars from the University of Oklahoma, the NOXP radar from the Na-

tional Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), radars from the University of Massachusetts, the Office of Naval Research and Texas Tech University (TTU), 12 mobile mesonet instrumented vehicles from NSSL and CSWR, 38 deployable instruments including Sticknets (TTU), Tornado-Pods (CSWR), 4 disdrometers (University of Colorado (CU)), weather balloon launching vans (NSSL, NCAR and SUNY-Oswego), unmanned aircraft (CU), damage survey teams (CSWR, Lyndon State College, NCAR), and photogrammetry teams (Lyndon State University, CSWR and NCAR), and other instruments. VORTEX2 is fully nomadic with no home base. Scientists will roam from state to state following severe weather outbreaks through the Plains. VORTEX2 will hit the road again for its final season from 01 May - 15 June 2010.



Calendar of Standing Regional Meetings

Week of the Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	1300-1430 -- Special Needs	1300-1600 -- Incident Operations	0900-1200 -- Citizen Corps 1330-1500 -- Ready Colorado	1400-1600 -- Recovery Committee	
2	1330-1530 GIS Project Committee	1100-1200 -- Onsite Incident Mangement 1300-1430 -- Training and Exercise Committee 1430-1600 -- Credentialing Pro-	0900-1100 -- Front Range Emergency Manager Forum (odd months) 1300-1430--EOC Committee	0930-1200 -- NCR Board Meeting	1100-1230 -- MMRS/ Medical Committee
3		0900-1100 -- Regional Mass Fatalities Committee	0900-1100-- Regional Communications Committee 1300-1500 -- Mass Care 1500-1700 -- Foothills RETAC	0900-1100 Animal Health 1200-1330 MMRS Steering Committee (Even Months) 1400-1600 UASI Working Group (Even Months)	1330-1530 Evacuation Planning Committee
4		1000-1130-- Info Sharing		0900-1100-- CIP Committee	

Points of Contact for Standing Committees

Animal Health-
Citizen Preparedness and Participation-
Co-Chair
Communications-
Co-Chair
Critical Infrastructure Protection-
Emergency Operations Center-
Training and Exercise
Co-Chair
Fatality Management-
Incident Operations-
Co-Chair
Information Sharing-
Medical-
Co-Chair
Planning-
Public Information-
Public Health-
Co-Chair
Recovery-

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