

Region 3 Emergency Management

2015 Joint Powers Board Annual Report



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

From The Joint Powers Board President, Christopher Muller:

Emergency Management in Northwestern Minnesota continues to advance preparedness and resiliency in our communities through education, training and building relationships. 2015 allowed for many opportunities to showcase our motto: “Region 3: Northwestern Minnesota’s Emergency Managers Preparing Today for the Demands of Tomorrow.” Many regional emergency managers participated in initiatives and campaigns to promote preparedness, from senior citizen events to radio talk shows and TV interviews, we covered a lot of topics. There were several incidents again within the region including several search and rescue missions, hazardous material releases, and of course severe summer storms. Pennington County was the first county in the region to receive a State Disaster Declaration to assist in recovering from destructive winds and large hail as part of the new State Disaster Recovery Program. The spring drought was very dangerous with Red Flag Warnings nearly daily with many significant wildfires, both in the prairies and forested areas of the region.



With most budgets already tight, it was disappointing to see a reduction in grant awards to some of our regional projects as well as a reduction in each county’s Emergency Management Performance Grant for 2015. We had a reduction for our Regional Planner position from previous years, but with our planner Jennifer Olson’s outside the box thinking, she was able to secure other emergency management related work to make the reduction as painless as possible. The Joint Powers Board entered into agreement for 2016 with Northwest Regional Development Commission for Jennifer’s services. In 2015, the region completed and approved the Region 3 Homeland Security Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement which is intended to enhance and expedite while creating more efficient emergency management responses within the region. The mutual aid agreement allows Emergency Management Directors to assist each other during incidents or disaster where a trained EMD can provide valuable assistance. The agreement also sets the foundation for “incident response teams” which we hope to develop in the coming months and years.

In September at the 55th Annual Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers Fall Training Conference, we recognized the accomplishments of Emergency Management across Minnesota during the last year at the annual awards ceremony. The theme of the conference this year was “Everyday People Doing Extraordinary Things”. If we look back at what our association has accomplished as well as the accomplishments of emergency managers across the state, this was a very appropriate theme. Region 3 was again represented with a recipient receiving an award within the region. Adam Munstenteiger was awarded the association’s Best Practice Award for Response for his involvement and leadership during large wildfires that affected Region 3. During the conference, I had the honor of being nominated and elected as the association’s Second Vice President for 2015-2016. My election created a vacancy for the Regional Representative. Garry Johanson (Norman County) was elected the Region 3 Representative with Craig Fontaine (Becker County) serving as the alternate. Garry has hit the ground running and is already involved in projects, including the very important Government Affairs Committee. We congratulated a friend to us all on his retirement. James (Jim) Halstrom stepped down from the Association of Minnesota Emergency Manager’s Executive Director position at the end of the year. With collaborative efforts and our innovative ideas, we will continue to be “Region 3 Strong” in 2016.

Christopher Muller
President, Region 3 Emergency Management Joint Powers Board

Meet The 2015 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 * (Secretary)
Lake of the Woods County: Jill Olson *
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: Kyle de Molée *
Red Lake Reservation: Christine Ostrom
White Earth Reservation: Ed Snetsinger
Crookston: Tim Froeber
East Grand Forks: Gary Larson
Moorhead: Chad Stangeland
Region 3 JPB Planner: Jennifer Olson
Region 3 RPC: Heather Winkleblack



Previous Joint Powers Board Members

Clearwater County: Larry & Cindy Olson

* Denotes Voting County Member

August 12, 2015 Storm System

On August 12, 2015, severe thunderstorms with softball size hail and winds in excess of 80 mph occurred in Pennington and Roseau Counties. Preliminary damage assessments in Pennington County showed approximately \$59,000 in damages. Most of these eligible costs are for debris removal and damage to publicly owned utilities. Pennington County was the first county in Northwest Minnesota to attain state disaster program assistance for the aforementioned costs.



In 2014, Governor Dayton signed legislation that established a state disaster assistance program. This program provides financial assistance to counties that either do not meet the federal threshold during a major disaster declaration or that suffer severe damage outside of a federally declared disaster. Under Minnesota law, the state provides 75 percent of the total eligible damage cost, and the county must cover the remaining 25 percent. Eight counties have qualified to receive assistance since May, 2014.

HPAI

There have been several ongoing highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 incidents along the Pacific, Central and Mississippi Flyways. Cases in wild birds, captive wild birds, backyard poultry or commercial poultry have been reported in Arkansas, California, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

In the spring of 2015 in Minnesota, over 9 million birds were affected in 23 counties. Turkeys and layer chickens were affected in HSEM Region 3, including 26,000 birds in Roseau County and 265,382 birds in Clay County (Source: Minnesota Board of Animal Health).



At the end of July, all control areas in Minnesota have been released from quarantine. No permits are currently necessary to move poultry or poultry products within Minnesota.

Lake of the Woods Rescue

On October 3rd, 2015, a 16-foot boat that contained three experienced anglers/fishing guides capsized on Lake of Woods in the early morning. Multiple counties, agencies and individuals have participated in several searches by air, boat and foot. The bodies of Justin Haugtvedt and Cody Ostendorf were recovered, but Keith Ayers has not been located. Responding agencies that aided in this search included the Department of Natural Resources, Hennepin County, Border Patrol, Crow Wing County, Valley Medical Flight, St. Louis County, MN Conservation Officers, Roseau County, the Ontario Provincial Police and other state/regional partners.



Kittson County Gas Explosion

On September 5, 2015, a fire occurred on a portion of the TransCanada pipeline in Kittson County at the St. Vincent Compressor Station at 8:30 pm. Flames could be seen from 6 to 7 miles away, shooting high in the air. Loud rumbling noises were also reported by witnesses. No injuries occurred from this explosion, and the fire had been extinguished by 1:10 am. Two homes in Canada were evacuated at the beginning of the event, but were allowed back into their homes after one hour. The affected pipeline was a back feeder line that aids in the provision of natural gas to several communities in the area. TransCanada reported that there were no gas service interruptions.



Palsburg Fire



On the afternoon of April 15, 2015, a fire broke out a few miles east of Hayes Lake State Park. Winds between 30 to 40 miles per hour caused the fire to spread into near dense pine forests and then into the Bemis Hill State Recreation Area and the Beltrami Island State Forest. (Photo to the left and on the cover taken by Tyler Fish, mnics.org.) Management of the fire was taken over by the Minnesota Incident Management Team C. Several federal, state, county, city and regional resources were utilized to combat this fire. Two Blackhawk helicopters and one smaller "type three" helicopter could be seen dropping water on hot spots. Over 4,500 acres were affected. It was later determined that this event originated from a slash pile that the Department of Natural Resources burned the previous fall. Slash is branches and other woody debris that remains behind after a logging operation is completed. The slash pile was burned in late November, while the ground was snow-covered and was checked twice after by the Department of Natural Resources. A dry spring combined with below normal snowfall and lack of rain were also contributing factors.

During the spring, the region was in a severe drought which allowed many fires to quickly turn into large wildfires. Particularly hard hit were the forested lakes country around Beltrami and Hubbard Counties as well as the Red Lake Nation where several evacuations were required. Despite structure and property lost to fire, there were no injuries or fatalities related to the fires. The MN DNR coordinated several responses with many local fire departments. Due to the dry conditions and a very late green up, the fires were able to quickly spread and reach tree tops. Emergency Management ensured that responders and firefighters had the necessary resources as well as assisted in the evacuation process. CodeRED, the region's community notification service, was also used to provide information to evacuees and update on the progress.



Mahnomen County Tornado

On June 22nd, 2015 at 2:26 am, An EF 1 tornado came within 30 to 40 feet of the Shooting Star Casino. Damage included the destruction of a shed that was connected to the maintenance building, a semi-trailer that was flipped onto a parked car, the destruction of a small building near the bingo palace as well as various damage from flying debris to nearby parked vehicles and Shopko. Winds were estimated at 90 to 95 MPH. The tornado had a path of 400 yards with a width of 30 yards.



A Preliminary 2015 Significant Weather Summary for Eastern North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota

Courtesy of NOAA/NWS Grand Forks ND and Greg Gust

Looking back on 2015, there were several memorable weather moments. First off, we had the seemingly mild and nearly snow-free winter of 2014-2015 and the resultant lack of spring snowmelt runoff or subsequent flooding. But there were some other items of interest as well, as noted below.

Precipitation

The winter season of 2014 into 2015 was by most accounts a fairly dry, as far as precipitation totals, and *un*-stormy winter. This was largely due to a dry northwest flow pattern set in place by a predominant warm ridge of high pressure anchored along the Pacific Northwest coast, in turn anchored by anomalously warm ocean water off the Pacific Northwest coast. This oceanic and atmospheric pattern set up shop in late autumn 2014, with the dry pattern experienced over the plains into the start of 2015.

After a dry start to spring and an elevated fire risk, the spring rains came in May. The multiple rain events brought the annual precipitation back to normal or above normal by the end of the month. Thunderstorm events continued to be rather steady through the summer months, keeping precipitation near normal across much of the region by September 1st. A dry fall then commenced and continued into December, keeping precipitation averages slightly below normal by the end of the year.

Temperatures

The see-sawing temperatures experienced at the end of 2014 continued into early 2015 (Warm-Jan, Cold-Feb, Warm-Mar). All in all, last year's winter averaged out to be slightly above normal. February was the coldest month by far.

After slightly warmer than average temperatures overall for the summer, the autumn was quite mild, with both Fargo and Grand Forks recording average temperatures for the Sep-Nov period among the top 5 warmest on record. The year ended on a warm note, with temperatures averaging 6 to 10 degrees above average for December. Overall, temperatures for the year averaged around 2 to 4F above average over much of the region. At Fargo, 2015 was the 4th warmest year on record, going back to 1881. The Grand Forks Airport also recorded its 4th warmest year on record, dating back to 1941.

Winter Weather

The most notable winter storm from the last year was the blizzard on Jan 2nd/3rd. Snowfall of 6 to 8" fell across northeastern ND and northwestern MN including 8" near Cavalier, ND and 7.5" in Greenbush, MN. The heavy snow combined with wind gusts in the 40s (mph) resulted in blizzard conditions across this area.

The 2014-2015 total winter snow (October 2014 through May 2015) was 17.0 inches in Grand Forks and 16.0 inches in Fargo, which was well below the averages of 47.1" and 50.1" at Grand Forks and Fargo, respectively. This winter (2015-2016) has started off a bit drier as well, with snowfall of 10.6" at Fargo and 18" at Grand Forks so far.

Lack of Spring Runoff and Heightened Fire Weather Concerns

The drier than average winter last year led to an uneventful spring in regards to snowmelt and river flooding. River flooding was nearly non-existent across the Red River Basin in the spring of 2015.

However, the lack of moisture led to an increased concern for wildfires in the spring of 2015. Several Red Flag Warnings were issued during the period of late March through early May.

Summer Thunderstorms

June 27th Tornado Outbreak

A tornado outbreak occurred in eastern North Dakota Saturday afternoon into the evening on June 27, 2015. The NWS in Grand Forks issued 21 Tornado warnings and 2 severe thunderstorm warnings during the afternoon and evening. A very unstable air mass combined with strong wind shear to produce at least 19 distinct tornadoes. Most of the tornadoes were concentrated in northeast North Dakota, with reports into extreme southeast North Dakota. Fortunately, most tornadoes occurred over open country with no known structural damage.



Several additional severe weather episodes occurred during the summer over our area, including an event which produced two tornadoes and multiple reports of wind damage on July 23rd. Another severe weather event on August 12th produced hail in excess of 4" in diameter in Northwestern Minnesota. The photo to the left is courtesy of Katie Engevik and was posted on www.weather.gov.

Fall Fire Weather Conditions

By early October, much of the southern Red River Valley was experiencing "Abnormally Dry" conditions as noted by the U.S. Drought Monitor. As October 11th approached, concerns for dangerous fire weather conditions increased once again. Wind gusts to 55 mph blew across parts of the Northern Plains that afternoon. The strong winds combined with high temperatures in the 90s and low humidities resulted in numerous fires across the region.



A screenshot of a National Weather Service weather alert for Grand Forks, ND, dated 04/15/2015 at 2:32PM. The alert includes a map of North Dakota with a red flag warning issued, a photo of a road closed due to smoke and dust, and a photo of blowing dust near Donaldson, MN. The alert text states: "I-29 Closed from Grand Forks to Border", "Winds will continue to gust up to 55mph -Diminishing between 6 and 8pm.", and "Red Flag Warning in effect until 8pm." It also provides contact information for ND and MN.

Regional Planning:

Mobile EOC - Over the last year the Bemidji School District's Transportation Director Greg Liedl has been working on a project to bring ISD 31's preparedness to a new level. With a special needs bus that was nearing retirement, they repurposed it into a mobile command center equipped with technology and communications equipment that rivals even the big cities' Incident Command Centers. ISD 31 has a history of providing assistance to Beltrami County Emergency Management in times of crisis in disaster. Not only does the bus support the school's emergency needs during a school crisis, it also fills in the immediate needs gaps of emergency responders. ISD 31 has participated in many exercises over the years and many real-life emergencies including the massive Regency South Apartment complex fire, emergency evacuations, warming shelters and missing person searches just to name a few.



The innovative thinking and technology invested in Bus 99 really set this apart from other command centers. With robust 4G LTE WiFi and secure connections, all of the school cameras are available for viewing on the flat panel monitors. When used for emergency situations where families are displaced, the monitors can also tune into over the air television. The bus is fully wired with electrical outlets and even has plug-ins on the exterior if there were a need to power things outside the bus. This is convenient if the tent is deployed and set up, which is conveniently also stored in the bus. The communications

capabilities are impressive. With a cache of UHF and VHF radios on the bus close proximity communications are not an issue. Interoperability is easy as well as there are radios dialed in to the school district's radio system, the county public safety radio system, as well as a marine band radio.

All Hazard Mitigation Plans – Counties in Region 3 have either completed or are in the process of completing the 5 year updates for their All Hazard Mitigation Plans. 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.

National Weather Service Tour – HSEM Region 3 toured the National Weather Service Office in Grand Forks, ND to get a facility tour as well as an up close and personal view on local/regional warnings and notification. Greg Gust can be seen leading a tour in the photo to the right.



IPAWS – 11 counties completed the necessary steps to become a Collaborative Operating Group (COG) and are now able to utilize the integrated public alert & warning system (IPAWS). IPAWS allows public safety officials to utilize the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts and other alerting systems to warn and alert the public about local threats. Additional counties in HSEM Region 3 are currently undergoing this process and will gain the ability to utilize IPAWS in 2016. IPAWS

will be integrated into the CodeRED system. CodeRED is a system that individuals can sign up for in order to be called with a recorded message during emergency situations. Every county in HSEM Region 3 has the ability to utilize CodeRED.

ARMER System – 13 out of 14 counties as well as the White Earth Nation are either in the process or have completed full participation plans to participate in and utilize the State of Minnesota ARMER radio system. Full Participation Plans must be completed and accepted before implantation can occur. The majority of Northwest Minnesota is either a currently participating user of ARMER or is in the transition process.



Emergency Operations Plan – All counties within Region 3 have performed annual updates/reviews of their Emergency Operations Plan in 2015. An Emergency Operations Plan describes how an entity will respond to and recover from hazards. In addition, work was completed on a draft Emergency Operations Plan that will migrate the current annex-based format to an emergency support function (ESF)/Annex-based hybrid format. Migration to this new format has begun to occur.

Home Fire Preparedness Campaign – This program will continue in 2016 for other cities in the area and has a goal to reduce the number of home fire deaths in the United States by 25%. Smoke alarms, batteries and other documentation is obtainable for free through a grant opportunity that is available through the Red Cross. Please see your emergency management director if you are interested in participating in this campaign. The first six cities in the list below installed 677 total smoke alarms. All cities in the list mitigated fire danger throughout their communities with the American Red Cross and local Fire Departments:

- Hitterdal
- Sabin
- Stephen
- Grygla
- Hallock
- Moorhead
- Kennedy
- Donaldson
- Bemidji



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 9 – 13, 2015) and Severe Weather Awareness Week (April 13 – 17, 2015).

Regional Mutual Aid Agreement – A regional mutual aid agreement for all 14 counties in Northwest Minnesota was created and drafted. This document allows personnel and other county/regional resources to be available to each party in the agreement upon request. Currently, all 14 counties have either entered into the agreement, or are in the process of accepting it. This agreement is open to city and tribal partners.

Tornado Safe Rooms – Hubbard County was awarded a grant for the construction of two tornado safe rooms at Camp Wilderness. Camp Wilderness is a 2,400 acre camp for the Boy Scouts of America that is located 17 miles north of Park Rapids, MN.

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 ensurance of the identification of authorized personnel, and safety for all those affected.



Shelter Go-Kits - Shelter Go-Kits were created for 14 counties and 2 tribes in Northwest Minnesota, and disseminated to the appropriate partners. These kits are portable, wheeled cases that contain equipment, signage and forms that are necessary when long and short-term sheltering is required during disaster situations. This project will continue in 2016, when additional cases will be deployed to larger cities and more heavily populated areas where there is a high likelihood that multiple shelters will have to be opened.



Railroad and Pipeline Safety Training Classes – Awareness-level training has been offered to numerous first responders of local fire departments, law enforcement and emergency medical providers in HSEM Region 3. Classes are three to four hours in length that are broken into pipeline, railroad, incident response and open discussion modules. These trainings will continue in 2016. Please talk to your county Emergency Management Director if there is an interest in attending this class. Classes are being offered statewide.



The oil and hazardous substance transportation level course will provide the First Responder with the general information on how oil is transported through the State of Minnesota. Introductory sections will discuss the modes of transportation, railroad and pipeline, and the infrastructure that is unique to each. Additional sections will discuss the properties of Bakken or Tar sands crude oil, hazards associated with crude oil, other commodities transported, major transportation routes and challenges within Minnesota. The class will culminate with the discussion of response to an incident including oil. Roles and responsibility of emergency responders, emergency management, pipeline/rail companies, elected officials, environmental and pollution control regulators will be discussed using local critical infrastructure information.

Regional Interoperability – Several members of HSEM Region 3 are involved with regional interoperability, or the ability to communicate as needed, on demand or as authorized at all levels of government and across all Public Safety disciplines (ECN). This is accomplished through the Northwest Regional Radio Board, the Radio Advisory Committee and other related committees.

- Neil Dolan – Chair of the Radio Advisory Committee
- Neil Dolan – Alternate regional representative for the Interoperable Data Committee
- Neil Dolan – Primary regional representative for the Operations and Technical Committee.

- Bryan Green – Primary regional representative for the IPAWS Committee
- Bryan Green – Primary regional representative for the Grants Working Group
- Bryan Green – Alternate regional representative for the Interoperability Committee
- Jill Olson – Radio Advisory Committee Member
- Brian Halbasch – Radio Advisory Committee Member
- Christine Ostrom – Radio Advisory Committee Member
- Barb O’Hara – Radio Board Alternate Member



Regional Training/Exercises:

Chris Muller was one of the instructors for the G358 – Evacuation and Reentry Planning class. Chris taught three times this year, in classes that were held in Alexandria, Camp Ripley and the State Emergency Operations Center in St. Paul. 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.

A presentation involving communication was held over videoconference from the Northwest Health Services Coalition. Kevin Burns (the Regional Director for Public Affairs at the Mayo Clinic) discussed the Joint Information System and the Joint Information Center, as well as crafting a message during a disaster. Dana Kazel (the Communications Manager in St. Louis County, Duluth) discussed how to use social media proactively, as well as the value of social media before, during and after a disaster.

A Tools for Effective Communication training was held in Roseau and Mahanomen, and was sponsored by the Northwest Health Services Coalition. Kevin Burns was invited back to discuss how to build, coordinate and deliver messages during difficult situations. Specific topics of discussion involved the roles of the Public Information Officer and the Spokesperson, the difference between the two positions and tools to assist people during real world situations.

Region 3 held and/or attended the following regional exercises and trainings this year:

- EOC Tabletop – HSEM Region 3 Joint Powers Board planned and executed a tabletop exercise concerning EOC management and operation.
- Lake of the Woods County performed an exercise involving a safe landing zone for the Valley Medical Flight Helicopter, as well as patient loading.
- Communication Tabletop Exercise – Exercise that related to how the Northwest Health Services Coalition and



partners communicate during an incident that affects Northwest Minnesota. This exercise referenced the coalition’s communication plan.

- The Dam Unified Tabletop Exercise - Pennington County had an exercise concerning a rupture at the Thief River Falls Dam Exercise. Several Emergency Management Directors participated, and can be seen in the photo to the left, acting as evaluators (Bryan Green, Josh Johnston, Gary Larson and Mitch Bernstein. Not pictured: Barb O’Hara Greg Gust from the National Weather Service is also

pictured.) Situations discussed include high flow, non-failure, potential failure and imminent failure situations, as well as the priorities, procedures and definitions of each.

- 2016 SHSP Workshop – Workshop involving Mass Care, CBRNE, Community Preparedness and Planning investment topics that are being funded in 2016. Specific workshop topics included mass sheltering, the Code Red notification system, the Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) and other planning initiatives.
- Thief River Falls had a full scale exercise at their airport.
- The East Grand Forks Fire Department had a Hazardous Materials Training.
- A training burn was done in Crookston that all local fire departments were invited to.
- A Threat Liaison Officer (TLO) Training was held in Baudette and Crookston.

Senior Disaster Preparedness Presentation – Sheriff Mitch Bernstein can be seen at the right addressing Senior Citizens during the Red Lake County Fair. In addition to speaking about the CodeRED notification program and raising awareness about scams, Sheriff Bernstein also aided in 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).



- The Senior Disaster Preparedness Presentation was also given at the White Earth Caregiver Conference by Ed Snetsinger (Mahnommen County) and Danica Robson (Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging).



Three individuals from Northwest Minnesota participated in a sheltering exercise in Duluth that was part of Vigilant Guard. Vigilant Guard occurred from August 22nd - 28th, and tested the Minnesota National Guard's ability to respond to large-scale incidents that could affect Minnesotans. More than 1,400 service members from the Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin National Guard joined 500 state, federal and local response agency participants at three training sites across the state: Duluth, Camp Ripley

and St. Paul.

Noteworthy News of 2015:

The 50th Annual Governor's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference was held in February of 2015 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, MN. Over 450 individuals participated in this event. The following individuals from HSEM Region 3 attained their Emergency Management Certification:

- Gary Larson (East Grand Forks)
- Garry Johanson (Norman County)
- Erik Beitel (Pennington County)
- Jody Beauchane (Polk County)
- Josh Johnston (Marshall County)
- Craig Fontaine (Becker County)



The Annual Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Conference was held in September of 2015 at Breezy Point. Approximately 325 individuals participated in this event.

- Christopher Muller was elected as the Second Vice President of AMEM.
- Garry Johanson was elected as the HSEM Region 3 AMEM Representative, with Craig Fontaine serving as the alternate. Garry is also a new member of the Government Affairs Committee.
- Adam Munstenteiger from DNR Forestry received the Best Practice Award for Response.
- Bryan Green is the Chair of the AMEM Audit Committee
- Barb O'Hara is a standing member of the AMEM Audit Committee



Josh Ebert (Clay County Public Health) completed the training necessary to attain his Emergency Management Certificate. In December, 2015, a certificate was presented in front of the Clay County Board of Commissioners meeting. Also photographed is Heather Winkleblack (HSEM RPC) and Bryan Green (Clay County).

Marshall County welcomes Scott Jorgenson, a Deputy Director of Emergency Management that will work alongside Josh Johnston.

The Under One Roof Conference was held in the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center on May 19th – 20th, 2015. Participants included Erik Beitel (Pennington County), Kyle de Molee (Roseau County), Chris Muller (Beltrami County), Barb O'Hara (Kittson County), Craig Fontaine (Becker County) and Jennifer Olson (HSEM Region 3 Planner).



Upcoming Events:

The 51st Annual Governor's Conference is being held at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center on February 9th – 11th.

The Minnesota Public Safety Interoperable Communications Conference is being held April 25th-27th.

The Under One Roof Conference is being held May 17th- 18th at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.

The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers Conference is being held on September 18th – 21st at the Breezy Point Resort.

Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 11th -15th, 2016.

Winter Hazard Awareness Week is November 14th – 18th, 2016.





In Memoriam

HSEM Region 3 remembers Wendy Reitmeier, who passed away on September 26th, 2015 as a result of a motorcycle accident. Wendy was previously employed at the Polk County Sheriff's Office before moving into the healthcare sector and was involved with Emergency Management for multiple years.