



The Beacon



By and for emergency responders

SEL 2000 NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Standardized Equipment List (SEL) for 2000 is now available on the NDPO's Common Communication Link (CCL).

The SEL is a publication of the Inter Agency Board (IAB) for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability. The IAB is an advisory board to the Attorney General and the Director of Military Support and consists of officials from local, state, and federal government organizations. The IAB is commissioned by the Attorney General to ensure standardization and interoperability of equipment, and the research and development of advanced technologies, to assist emergency responders at the state and local levels in establishing and maintaining a robust crisis and consequence management capability.

For more information on the SEL, or a hard copy of the 1999 IAB Annual Report, please contact SSA John Frank, FBI WMD Countermeasures Unit, at (202) 324-0220.

Please note that the SEL is on the Common Communication Link and is not available on the NDPO's public web site. The CCL is an Intranet designed for public safety professionals. If you are interested in learning about this system, please e-mail the NDPO at ndpo@leo.gov, or phone (202) 324-9025.

H.R. 4210 APPROVED

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has approved a bill, H.R. 4210, which recommends a White House Office of Terrorism Preparedness to help coordinate federal, state, and local efforts against Weapons of Mass Destruction. In order to be enacted, the bill must still be approved by the Senate and the President.

The bill proposes that the Office of Terrorism Preparedness be headed by a director who will be confirmed by the Senate. The director will work directly for the President, similar to the current drug czar General McCaffrey. The director's duties will include drafting a five-year anti-terrorist plan within 180 days after taking office; reviewing state and federal programs every two years; and coordinating activities of the various agencies and state and local programs. The office would be funded at \$9 million in fiscal 2001.

Source: GovExec.com

WMD AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INTERNET RESOURCES, PART III

The following Internet links are the third and final installment of a comprehensive list provided to *The Beacon* by Greg Banner of the Rhode Island Department of Health.

The web site listing is a working document that is continually being updated. If you would like to have an updated version or an electronic version that contains all of the links, you can contact Greg Banner via e-mail at gregoryb@doh.state.ri.us.

References:

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Terms, DoD – <http://ww2.tricare.osd.mil/references/acroterms.html>

Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute Documents – <http://www.afri.usuhs.mil/www/news/news.htm>

Anthrax, DoD information site – <http://www.anthrax.osd.mil>

Army Medical Dept. Publications – <http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/armymed/publications/pubintro.htm>

Bibliography of Terrorism – <http://www.disastercenter.com/terror.htm>

Biological Agent Information, CDC – <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/bioagents.asp>

DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms – <http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/doddict/>

DoD, Search engine for federal laws, regs and documents relating to emergency management – http://www.dtic.mil/doms/search_eadb/

DoD, Tiger Team Report, Study on Military Support for WMD event – <http://ngb.dtic.mil/referenc/briefngs/wmd/TigerFrameSet1.html>

FEMA bibliography listing for emergency management – <http://www.fema.gov/EMI/edu/biblio.htm>

FBI Terrorism in the US reports – <http://www.fbi.gov/publish/terror/terroris.htm>

FEMA Library of reference documents – <http://www.fema.gov/library/lib07.htm>

Field Operations Guide, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, USAID – <http://www.info.usaid.gov/ofda/fog/>

First Responder HAZMAT Guide, US Fire Administration, FEMA – <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/hazmat/>

Legal Documents, National Level Laws and PDDs ref WMD – <http://nsi.org/terrorism.html>

Medical Management of Chemical Casualties Handbook, US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense – <http://ccc.apgea.army.mil/Documents/Red%20Handbook/001TitlePage.htm>

Mitigation Practitioner's Handbook, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, USAID – http://www.info.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/files/hbkoc18.pdf

National Center for Infectious Diseases electronic publications/documents – <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/publicat.htm>

National Library of Medicine – <http://www.nlm.nih.gov>

Strategic Plan, CDC, National Center for Infectious Diseases – <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/emergplan/1toc.htm>

Training:

Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Training Site – <http://www.afip.org/edu/index.html>

Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute – <http://www.afri.usuhs.mil/www/outreach/training.htm>

CDC, Distance Learning Web Sites – <http://www.cdc.gov/phtn/sites.htm#d1>

CDC, Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Learning Resources – <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/learningresources.asp>

Compendium of WMD courses, SBCCOM – <http://dp.sbcom.army.mil/fr/compendium/index.html>

DHHS, OEP consolidated training list –
http://ndms.hdds.gov/CT_Program/Training/training.html

DOJ, OSLDPS training courses –
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/osldps/training.htm>

FEMA terrorism consequence courses –
<http://www.fema.gov/emi/termng.htm>

National Fire Academy, FEMA, courses, compendium of WMD courses –
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/tr_act.htm

National Laboratory Training Network, CDC –
<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/dls/nltm/>

National Terrorism Preparedness Institute –
<http://terrorism.spjc.cc.fl.us/>

Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism –
<http://www.okcterrorisminstitute.com/2000poster1.htm>

Public Health Training Network, CDC –
<http://www.cdc.gov/phtn/>

USAMRIID Training List –
<http://www.usamriid.army.mil/education/index.html>

Guest Editorial

DISASTER DRILLING PREPARES FOR THE REAL INCIDENT

By Michael J. Fagel

The laughter of children playing on a typical summer's day can be heard above the drone of a lawn mower. Proud parents can be heard cheering on a baseball team at the school yard.

Suddenly and without warning, this peaceful summer day is shattered by the frightening screech of a vehicle's brakes as its driver attempts to avoid hitting a farm implement truck. But it all happens too fast and the impact occurs.

A tank of anhydrous ammonia is ruptured, sending a cloud of rank gas toward the school yard

and surrounding homes. A school bus full of young children is also involved in the accident. Worried parents scream and rush toward the bus in search of their children. Others run toward their homes, hoping to escape the gas cloud. Panic reigns.

The call for aid comes in at 911 and the first emergency vehicles hit the streets.

Fortunately, this scene occurred under controlled circumstances as part of a disaster drill. It was a well-planned exercise from which some very important information was gathered and useful experience gained.

It goes without saying, it is much better to learn from an exercise, a situation over which you have control, than from an actual disaster when action must take place without the benefit of planning and preparation.

Planning, preparation, and practice. These are the key elements that are necessary to ensure that all appropriate local agencies are equipped to handle a disaster situation.

Planning

A disaster can be defined as any situation that requires resources greater than any one department or agency has to offer. Then it becomes necessary to combine the resources of many agencies to meet the demand of any given situation.

The first step in this process is to identify all of the agencies in the local area that might be involved in dealing with a major incident. As part of this process, it is important to determine what resources each of these agencies has to offer. It is vitally important to know what equipment and manpower can be engaged at any given moment.

Some departments and agencies which might be considered include: fire, police, public works, hospitals, emergency services and disaster services, EPA, emergency medical services, private industries, and trade associations. Are there others in your area that should be included in this list?

It is most helpful to schedule a meeting where representatives of each of the areas that have been identified can gather to develop a master disaster plan for dealing with a major incident.

Preparation

The second step in this process is to plan the exercise or disaster drill. In order to prepare for the type of disaster which might occur in your area, it is important to look at your community: the geographical area, industry, and any other factors which might help to determine the type and extent of the disaster that could most likely occur.

In the incident described at the beginning of this article, an incident involving anhydrous ammonia was selected because the particular geographical area is surrounded by farmland. It would not be unusual in this area to have large quantities of anhydrous ammonia kept in farm stores or being transported through business or residential area. This scenario was common to the area and presented a very real situation to this exercise.

In determining a disaster scenario for your particular area, it is helpful to research any incidents that have happened in other areas similar to your own. History often provides a good basis for learning.

Once the scenario has been chosen, each responding agency should determine its role in the exercise and train for its response to the incident.

For example, the fire department is responsible for the firefighting effort, and arranges for water, tankers, hoses, foam, or other resources that may be necessary to fulfill its role. The police department is responsible for crowd control, evacuation, and traffic control. The public works department is often called upon to provide heavy equipment, building materials, and barricades.

Outside observers who are familiar with disaster exercises can be brought in for an objective evaluation of the exercise.

Practice

The third step in the process involves the actual performance of the exercise. Prior to the event, each agency should be given a printed copy of the disaster scenario in addition to a list of the necessary supplies and resources that will be needed.

Information concerning the exercise should be distributed to the residents of the area that will be affected. The residents should be alerted to the

disaster exercise so they do not cause any undue alarm when the event takes place. Contingency plans should also be made for fire and police protection while some of the personnel from those agencies are participating in the disaster exercise.

In the scenario outlined in the beginning of this article, anhydrous ammonia was only the first in a chain of events which included a school bus driving through the cloud of toxic gas and a shift in wind direction which carried the gas toward the surrounding area. This multi-event exercise involved the extinguishing of a fire, the triage of victims, the containment of a hazardous material, and the evacuation of a school and private residences.

Immediately following the execution of the exercise, it is important to evaluate all of the areas that were involved. Learning about what could happen, what weaknesses exist, and what could be improved was the object of this intensive activity.

For example, the following questions might be asked:

1. Was there enough manpower to meet the needs of the situation?
2. Were each of the agencies involved able to respond quickly enough and with adequate resources?
3. Was communication handled appropriately?
4. Was there a need for some particular equipment or manpower that was not planned for?

Following the completion of the exercise and evaluation, all of the information gathered should be compiled and distributed to each participating agency. Each responding agency should review that data and train to refine its response for the possibility of an actual disaster.

Planning:

- Identify responding agencies and their respective resources.
- Meet with representative of those agencies to develop a master disaster plan.

Preparing:

- Determine what type of disaster could most likely occur in your area.
- Each responding agency should determine its role and train for its response.

Practicing:

- Determine the date, time, and place for the exercise.
- Evaluate the exercise immediately upon its completion.

Planning . . . Preparing . . . Practicing – these are the key elements that can help each agency to better serve its community. It is better to find a weakness in a staged exercise over which you have control than to have a problem during a real disaster.

Disaster Planning

The steps necessary to undertake a formal disaster plan are many. One must be concerned with fire, personnel rescue, mass search and rescue, evacuation, emergency medical treatment, triage, transportation to medical facilities, crowd control, communication, and mobile command posts.

Communications

Communication may be done by mobile field command post or by obtaining a unit from each responding agency to assemble at a particular location – plus the establishment of a common communication channel.

Mobile Command Post

This action is generally completed by the first unit on the scene who will coordinate all of the above listed operations simultaneously. This unit should be equipped with command facilities, disaster planning guidelines, and administrative equipment.

Fire

Fire suppression should be started simultaneously with victim search and rescue. A field commander should be designated to handle fire situations.

Search and Rescue

Search and rescue should be initiated while firefighting is underway. A trained individual should be designated as search and rescue coordinator and establish procedures and patters for field search and rescue operations.

Evacuation

Evacuation should be initiated in the event of fire threatening dwellings or industrial locations, chemical explosions, hazardous materials emergencies, railroad transportation accidents, highway accidents, or industrial processing accidents. A person should be chosen as evacuation coordinator to systematically remove people from the hazardous area. This person will need to use personnel from various groups and agencies and must be easily contacted and recognizable. Equipment such as maps, overlays, grease pencils, and flashlights will be of prime importance in this operation.

Emergency Medical Treatment

In large industrial facilities, personnel can range from 50 to 1,000 people. Medical operations and programs must be designed to care for large casualties. Public safety agencies must be prepared to treat the most serious injuries immediately, as it could be up to one-half hour for additional medical equipment and personnel to arrive. A medical officer must be designated who has the most information and ability to apply it in these situations. This person, or his or her designee, will be responsible for initial size-up of the situation.

Triage

Materials should be available, such as triage tags, markers, and taping aprons or vest, as well as flags to mark triage areas.

Transportation to Medical Facilities – the medical officer should designate a transport officer to assist in the orderly movement of the injured, as well as ambulatory evacuees, out of the emergency incident area.

Crowd Control

Crowd control should be a function of the local law enforcement groups. Perimeters of the emergency incident should be established as well as authorized entry of responding personnel and equipment. As most responders will be uninformed, a universal ID system must be established to allow access through law enforcement lines.

Media relations – it is imperative that no one but authorized officers communicate with the media.

The people working at the incident have the responsibility to the victims involved and should direct media questions to the command post.

Mike Fagel has been a member of the North Aurora, IL Fire department since 1975, serving in various capacities. He now serves the fire department as their Director of the Emergency Management Division He also is a member of the Northern Illinois Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team. He chairs several committees in Washington on safety and health/OSHA issues, and is on several IAFC committees. Fagel also is a reservist with FEMA, as a disaster safety officer. He can be reached at mjfagel@aol.com, or 630 897 0551.

NDPO SETS CHAT SESSION FOR JULY

The next NDPO chat session on Law Enforcement Online (LEO) will be on Tuesday, **July 25th, at 2 p.m., EST**. The tentative subject for this session will involve bioterrorism preparedness and the health community. The sponsoring organization and special guest are to be announced.

Chat Instructions

To participate in the chat session, you must be a registered LEO user and have Microsoft Chat or Netscape Chat loaded on your computer. While in the chat program, type "chat.leo.gov" in the box labeled Server and click the circle next to "Go to Chat Room," then type #ndpo. Remember, you must be dialed into LEO to use Microsoft Chat with LEO. Please enter the chat room as close to 2 p.m. as possible.

Click the tab labeled Personal Info located at the top of the window. Enter your name and a nickname. Enter your LEO e-mail address and any other information you wish to include in your personal profile. Click OK. You will now be in the NDPO chat room. Your name will appear in the box on the right-hand part of your computer screen, along with the other participants in the chat session. Simply

type your question or comments in the space provided at the bottom of your computer screen. You may wish to test the chat software prior to the session. If you have technical problems, you should contact LEO Tech Support at 1-888-334-4536.

Editor's Note: Items published in *The Beacon* are for informational purposes for the emergency response community. The material submitted does not necessarily imply review and acceptance by the interagency community represented at the NDPO.

NDPO NEWSGROUPS

Don't forget to use the NDPO newsgroups on the Common Communication Link. The newsgroups are designed to promote the exchange of ideas on WMD training, exercises, information sharing, health/medical issues, equipment, and planning. There is also a newsgroup dedicated to swapping equipment. To set up your newsgroup subscription list, you may click on the "Newsgroup" link on the Law Enforcement Online homepage. This link will give you instructions to set up newsgroups on Microsoft Explorer and Netscape Communicator.

**National Domestic Preparedness Office
Gary J. Rohen, Acting Administrator
935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Rm. 5214
Washington, D.C. 20535
202-324-9025, fax: 202-324-2224**

The Beacon is published monthly for members of the emergency response community. Please send articles, comments, feedback, and letters to the Information Sharing Team at the address listed above.

Training Information Questionnaire

To be filled out by Beacon recipients who are responsible for training in WMD preparedness.

Responses can be faxed to (202) 324-2224, e-mailed to NDPO@LEO.GOV or mailed to:

National Domestic Preparedness Office
FBI Headquarters, Room 5214
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20535

Attention: SSA Robert Johnson

Training Point of Contact

name: _____

title: _____

agency: _____

agency address: _____

POC's telephone number: _____

POC's fax number: _____

POC's e-mail: _____

general agency e-mail (if any): _____

For the purposes of identifying the types of WMD preparedness currently being undertaken by state and local first responders as well as areas in which training or information about training is lacking, the NDPO is compiling a list of state and local-level training available to first responders throughout the country in FY 2000 and FY 2001. This information will be made available at the NDPO's site on the secure, password-protected, Law Enforcement Online (LEO) intranet system.

Questions:

Is there WMD preparedness training for state and local first responders you have sought but been unable to locate because it did not exist or because there was no efficient manner in which to identify the provider of the training?

Of the WMD preparedness training for state and local first responders you have been unable to locate or obtain, what type of training is your first priority?

Have you reviewed the Compendium of Federal Weapons of Mass Destruction Courses, updated by the NDPO, located at the Soldiers Biological and Chemical Command (SBCCOM) World-Wide-Web site (site location: <http://dp.sbccom.army.mil/fr/compendium>)?

If yes, has this been useful to you?

Would it be helpful to your state to be able to obtain information about state-level training in WMD preparedness for first responders offered by other states through a site on the secure, password-protected, Law Enforcement Online intranet system?

Would you be willing to list some or all of your state's training at such a site?

Have you arranged or know of training undertaken by your state's first responders in other states?

What state/local-sponsored training is currently available in your state/city?

- 1) title of training
- 2) date(s)
- 3) location(s)
- 4) target audience discipline (i.e., law enforcement, HAZMAT, ER personnel, etc.)
- 5) target audience jurisdiction (i.e. state, county, municipal, all)
- 6) cost
- 7) point of contact (name, address, e-mail, phone number)
- 8) deadline for registration
- 9) brief course description (i.e. classroom training, practical exercises, laboratory work, etc.)
- 10) is this training specific to your state or a region within your state (i.e. focused on a singular issue such as an attack in a automobile transportation tunnel, subway system, etc.)
- 11) would this course be open to first responders from other states?

Exercise Information Questionnaire

To be filled out by Beacon recipients who are responsible for exercises in WMD preparedness.

Responses can be faxed to (202) 324-2224, e-mailed to NDPO@LEO.GOV or mailed to:

**National Domestic Preparedness Office
FBI Headquarters, Room 5214
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20535**

Attention: SSA Robert Johnson

Exercise Point of Contact

name: _____

title: _____

agency: _____

agency address: _____

POC's telephone number: _____

POC's fax number: _____

POC's e-mail: _____

general agency e-mail (if any): _____

For the purposes of: 1) ensuring that federal agencies are aware of opportunities to provide assistance to and participate in state and local-level exercises, 2) providing a single source of nation-wide information to first responders who would like to assist with, participate in, or observe exercises in nearby regions or specific discipline areas, and 3) allowing federal, state, and local sponsors of exercises to deconflict scheduling, the NDPO will compile a listing of state and local-level exercises for FY 2000 and FY 2001 and posting this information on NDPO's site at the secure, password-protected, Law Enforcement Online intranet system.

Would a single database of all state and local WMD-related exercises in the nation, accessible though the secure, password-protected, Law Enforcement Online intranet system, be of value for your own planning and exercise purposes?

What state/local-level WMD exercises remain for FY 2000 and are planned for FY 2001?

For each exercise, the following information would be useful to those who seek to assist with, participate in, and/or observe an exercise:

1) start date/time

- 2) end date/time
- 3) name of exercise (if any)
- 4) location(s) of exercise
- 5) jurisdictions involved (state, county, municipality)
- 6) sponsoring agency(ies)
- 7) first responder entities participating (i.e. HAZMAT, law enforcement, all etc.)
- 8) type of exercise (full-field (FTX), table-top (TTX), command post (CPX))
- 9) crisis or consequence management
- 10) first responder discipline being exercised (public health, law enforcement, all, etc.)
- 11) type of WMD (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, conventional explosive)
- 12) primary exercise point of contact (name, address, e-mail, and phone number)