

FOUR CORNERS
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION

The Four Corners Emergency Management met on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 in Pittsburg, Kansas. The meeting was attended by 21 people representing 18 different agencies. The meeting was called to order by Candy Adams.

Gary Roark gave the treasurers report. The association has \$1314.38 in the account after the deposit was paid to the Radisson Hotel in Branson for this years conference.

The 2007 conference will be held on Dec 5, 6, and 7th at the Radisson Hotel. Rooms for the conference begin at \$92.00 and go up to \$209.00 for a presidential suite. The topics and speakers for the conference were discussed. Several different topics are being planned and good speakers are needed. ***If you have a specific topic or speaker, please contact Candy Adams, cadams@mail.mo.gov***. Possible topics include: Communications, Weather issues (polygons), Wildfires and Weather, Medical Reserve Corps, EMAC/State to state resources, ESF #6 and the Red Cross role, Sheltering – lessons learned from the Ice Storm, Special Needs Planning/Sheltering, Mental Health issues, Law Enforcement and Emergency Management issues, Tribal Involvement in Disasters, PIO issues.

From Discussion that was held the last day of the conference in 2006, it was also agreed upon to have a Table-Top Exercise. This would facilitate a way for all members to know each other better and what resources there could be available across state lines. A group will meet after the meeting to establish the exercise.

The website is being worked on by Jaci McReynolds and will be available as soon as possible.

Discussion was held on IMT (Incident Management Team). It was noted that the rural counties are having difficulty coming up with a full class due to lack of personnel and a misunderstanding of the purpose of the IMT. The team concept is to help with the event with staffing shortages, knowledge on certain aspects of the event, and resources for the event. The team is not being used to tell you how to do the job or take over, but to assist with the job. It was suggested that Incident Support Team (IST) would be a better name. Kansas is working on getting a team together. They are putting together a statewide team. SW Missouri has 7 people trained and trying to get more. Oklahoma has teams in place.

Flooding was a discussion. Several counties and cities were and still are being effected by floods. Several still have roads closed and some major damage is being reported. Shelters were opened in several areas to help those displaced by the high water. Water rescues and several evacuations were done.

Steve Runnels discussed the recent events and how they compared to past flooding events. The floods that occurred in May were more widespread and the rain lasted over a longer period of time. The current event was localized and occurred during short time heavy rainfall. The current weather patterns are determining the long term patterns and will place us a greater risk for more serious situations in the future. Steve asked that each agency look at High Risk Flood Prone areas and determine the best way to handle these areas in the future.

Storm sirens were discussed. Several agencies do notification to the public differently. Some wait until a tornado is actually spotted while others take the warning issued and do notification by that.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 8, 2007 in Joplin, Missouri. The location will be announced at a later time.