



# SEMA News

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency  
*Preparedness · Response · Recovery*

Winter

2015

## Kansas City, State to Participate in Vibrant Response Exercise

“Vibrant Response,” an annual exercise that simulates large-scale terrorist attacks using chemical, biological or radiological weapons for the U.S. Army, FEMA and other federal agencies is coming to Missouri for the first time from May 4–7. The Missouri National Guard, SEMA, six other state agencies and Kansas City area agencies will participate in Missouri.

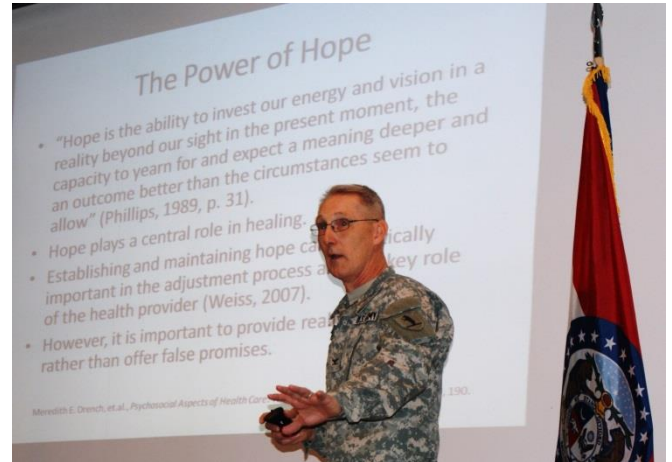
The scenario for the functional exercise is a terrorist attack during which a 10-megaton improvised nuclear device (IND) is detonated on a weekday morning outside the U.S. federal courthouse in downtown Kansas City. In addition to other state and federal participants, about 200 Missouri National Guardsmen will take part in what will be one of the largest functional exercises in Missouri since the earthquake-based National Level Exercise 2011.

On the first day of the four-day exercise, SEMA will activate the State Emergency Operations Center to begin response coordination efforts and other state agencies will practice their continuity of operations plans. Local and federal exercise participants will activate their nuclear/radiological emergency operations plans.

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Missouri National Guard Chaplain Col. Gary Gilmore addresses a session of the mortuary operations training course Jan. 21 at the State Emergency Operations Center in Jefferson City.

## SEMA Hosts Special Mortuary Operations Training

On Jan. 20–21, SEMA hosted a special training course for responders who would work in mortuary operations during disasters resulting in mass fatalities. The training was designed to prepare attendees to become part of the Missouri Mortuary Operations Response Team.

The two-day training event, held at the State Emergency Operations Center in Jefferson City, drew nearly 140 coroners, investigators, forensic specialists, behavioral health professionals, chaplains and health care responders from across the state.

According to SEMA Director Ron Walker, the January mortuary operations training was a part of Missouri’s ongoing efforts to build its own capability to respond to a mass fatality disaster like the 2011 Joplin EF-5 tornado.

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## Director's Letter

**“I don’t know what challenges await us in 2015, but I am confident we can handle anything if we continue working and building together.”**

*Ron Walker*

At the close of each year, I always pause to reflect on the events of the past 12 months. This helps me put the past into perspective as I look ahead to the new year. I’d like to use this opportunity to touch briefly on some of the experiences we shared in 2014 as an emergency management community as we go forward in 2015.

### LOOKING BACK AT 2014

By early 2014, SEMA’s reorganization really began taking shape. We soon had a leaner, more nimble structure of three reconfigured divisions (down from five) from which we would continue forming a more effective and efficient organization. Newly integrated staff moved in and most of the physical transition was complete by early summer. Building on that framework, we continue to fill staff vacancies in our regional coordinator team and other key areas.

Situational awareness and communication remained a priority as we continued developing the statewide WebEOC system. By spring it was fully functional and regularly used to monitor and coordinate actual emergency events. We also began sharing relevant, useful news and information with our key partners and stakeholders through SEMA News, our new quarterly newsletter.

Progress was also made toward establishing a fully capable statewide mass fatality management asset. A four-day functional exercise in the spring tested the asset and work continues through partnerships with the Missouri Disaster Response System and Missouri Coroner’s and Medical Examiner’s Association.

Missouri was lashed by severe storms again in 2014, with spring and summer thunderstorms producing tornadoes that hit Orrick and other areas in the northwest. Flooding also affected Clarksville in the east and Carter County in the south. Then another wave of storms raked across the northern tier of counties in September, leaving wind and flooding damage from Rockport to Kirksville. The extensive damage resulted in a federal major disaster declaration for 20 northern Missouri counties.

### NEW THREATS

When the deadly Ebola virus created a public health disaster in West Africa and was spreading, Missouri responded. Ebola’s rapid expansion and skyrocketing death toll fed concern that the epidemic would spread unchecked to the U.S. In response, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and SEMA quickly developed and hosted two workshops for local and state public health, health care, public safety and human service provider communities on very short notice. This bolstered my confidence that – together – we can handle whatever comes our way. It’s also a reminder that there still are unfamiliar threats for which we must be ready.

First, we have to ensure that our emergency response plans truly cover all hazards and are not just separate plans for specific events kept in one binder. Second, we have to constantly build and strengthen the partnerships upon which we will rely the next time – and every time – we are faced with a new emergency.

Looking back, 2014 brought change and new challenges, but it was a year of growth and progress and our emergency management community became stronger and more cohesive.

I don’t know what challenges await us in 2015, but I am confident we can handle anything if we continue working and building together.

**Ron Walker, Director**  
**Missouri State Emergency Management Agency**



**Danny Snell, a taskforce leader with FEMA's Texas Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team, shares lessons learned during the 2014 Hazmat Symposium Dec. 9-11 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia**

## 2014 State Hazmat Symposium

The 2014 State Hazmat Symposium was held Dec. 9-11 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia. Sponsored by the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC), the symposium is held every other year and is open to emergency managers, first responders and other partners involved in planning for and responding to hazardous material emergencies.

Based on the theme of bridging the gap between Missouri's emergency preparedness and response communities, this year's symposium keynote messages and breakout session presentations were designed to provide attendees with useful information from different aspects of hazmat planning and response. Symposium presenters included representatives from the Missouri departments of Health and Senior Services and Natural Resources, as well as the Office of Homeland Security, the Division of Fire Safety, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Missouri National Guard's 7<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST), the Missouri Emergency Management Association and the MERC.

**(Continued on page10)**

## 2015 SEMA Conference Will Include Exercise During Registration

Attendees at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual State Emergency Management Conference will have the option of participating in an exercise before the conference even begins.

When arriving at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson's convention center to register and receive conference materials, people will be invited to participate in a joint state and local exercise of a disaster responder reception center (RRC), also known as a responder staging area. By taking part in the brief exercise, conference attendees can learn about how RRCs operate and register for the March 31 – April 3 conference at the same time. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. on the 31<sup>st</sup> in the Chateau's Great Hall.

"The RRC exercise is designed to serve three main purposes," said Randy Scrivener, SEMA logistics and resources section chief. "It will allow us to practice and test our plans for a state disaster RRC. It will also give exercise participants an informative, inside look of how an RRC works. Finally, it's a creative way for folks to register for the state conference."

**Check the conference agenda and other details on the SEMA website under "Upcoming Events."**

**[www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov)**

Scrivener said, "Registrants who participate in the exercise will be assigned a responder identity and will proceed as if they have deployed in response to a major disaster and are being processed through the disaster RRC. Their exercise identity may be that of an EMD, local responder, a disaster relief volunteer, EMAC or mutual aid partner or government contractor.

"As the exercise responders move through each RRC processing station, they will receive a brief explanation of what they would be doing at that station in a real event. The focus is demonstrating the RRC's value and function, especially during extremely large disasters." **(Continued on page 10)**

## Missouri Emergency Management Region Profile: Region D

Region D comprises 18 counties in southwest Missouri with a total population of more than 868,000. Region D counties are: Barry, Barton, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Hickory, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Polk, St. Clair, Stone, Taney, Vernon and Webster. The largest populations are in Springfield, the state's third largest city, and in the Branson area.

Springfield is this region's primary highway crossroads. Included is I-44, a heavily traveled interstate running from Wichita Falls, Tex., through Joplin, Springfield and Rolla on its way to St. Louis. Emergency managers and responders also associate the interstate and Region D with the "I-44 Corridor," known for severe weather and tornadoes traveling from Oklahoma into southwest Missouri and on into central Missouri. Also running through the region are I-49 and U.S routes 54, 60, 65 and 160.

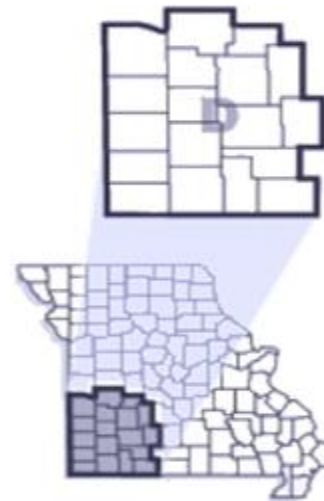
Its location also makes Springfield a strategic business location. The city is home to the national headquarters for such corporations as Positronic, Bass Pro Shops, John Q. Hammons Hotels & Resorts and O'Reilly Auto Parts.

Springfield is a busy railroad center, with 65 freight trains traveling to and through the city each day. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway has three switch yards in the city. Mainlines to and from Kansas City, St. Louis, Memphis and Tulsa converge in Springfield. The Missouri and Northern Arkansas Railroad also operates several miles of industrial rail tracks within the city.

With six hospitals providing a total of more than 2,200 beds, Springfield is a major regional medical services center, including two nationally ranked hospitals, CoxHealth and Mercy Health System. Combined, the industry employs 30,000 people from across the area. The United States Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, one of six federal institutions that handle the medical concerns of federal inmates, is also located there.

The region is served primarily by two airports: the Springfield-Branson National Airport (SBNA) and Springfield's Downtown Airport. The SBNA is the largest airport in the area and the principal air gateway to the region. It provides flights to 10

### Region D



cities, including some with the nation's busiest airports such as Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and Denver. The airport also serves international charter flights. Three other smaller airports are also located in Joplin, Lamar and Nevada.

Region D is home to more than a dozen public and private colleges, universities and extension campuses, with a total average enrollment of more than 50,000 students.

Branson is one of the nation's top vacation destinations, with more than 8 million visitors to the city's theaters, shopping districts and other attractions annually. One of the most popular of these is the Silver Dollar City theme park, with an annual average of 2 million visitors.

Other attractions that draw hundreds of thousands of visitors to the region each year include Civil War battlefields, museums and other historic sites, local festivals, boating and fishing on some of the nation's top lakes, rivers and streams, as well as hiking and camping in national forests and state parks.

Region D, long known for its regional cooperation and coordination during emergency response matters, proved it deserved its reputation during the area's rapid and sustained response to the May 2011 Joplin EF-5 tornado.

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## Region D Emergency Management Directors

### Bob Kitsmiller, Dade County

Bob Kitsmiller has been Dade County EMD since 1996. He is an active member of several area civic and public service organizations. He enjoys playing traditional music and is a member of a band that plays bluegrass and bluegrass gospel music.

### Arlo Rupke, Cedar County

Arlo Rupke serves as part-time EMD for both Stockton and Cedar County. His full-time job is with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, stationed at Stockton Lake. Rupke has also served as a fire fighter and an EMT.

Rupke said one of the biggest challenges he faces as an EMD is keeping the public interested and engaged in emergency preparedness.

According to Rupke, the most rewarding part of being an EMD is “being there” for the people of Cedar County and the friendships he has made in the emergency management community.

Rupke and his wife, Brenda, live in Stockton and have three grown children.

### Dennis Kimrey, Vernon County

Dennis Kimrey has served as Vernon County’s part-time EMD since May 2003. He worked full-time for the 3M Company until he retired in January after more than 30 years there. Previously, he worked for the State of Missouri.

Kimrey is a member of the EMD Advisory Committee to SEMA, the Region D Exercise Committee, the Region D WebEOC Advisory Committee, the Southwest Missouri Emergency Support Organization and the Western Missouri Emergency Support Group.

Kimrey said that doing what has become a full-time job on a part-time basis is a challenge, along with helping people understand what emergency management is and the importance of both individual and community preparedness.

Kimrey is an avid amateur radio operator, a hobby he has had since he was 15 years old. He also enjoys spending time with his granddaughter.

Kimrey is a native of Vernon County, where he lives with his wife. They have one grown daughter and one granddaughter.

### William Sexton, Webster County

William Sexton was named emergency management director for Webster County in 2004. Prior to becoming Webster County EMD, he served as a law enforcement officer. He also served 20 years in the U.S. Army, including assignments in the military police and as a fixed- and rotary-wing aviator. He also served as a military and civilian airfield safety officer and was certified as a hazardous material manager.

Sexton holds a Level-2 Missouri Certified Emergency Manager qualification and is also a Certified Emergency Manager through the International Association of Emergency Managers. He also is a member of the Southwest Missouri Incident Support Team.

Sexton says that one of the greatest challenges he faces as an EMD is that Webster County’s topography includes eight watersheds created by the Ozark Mountains. Additionally, the county has more than 100 low-water crossings, which are prone to flooding with only an inch of rain. Heavy rains often lead to flash flooding throughout the area, creating dangerous driving conditions and hampering emergency response efforts.

Sexton and his wife, Jackie, live in Fordland and have one grown son.

### Phil Amtower, Christian County

Phil Amtower has been Christian County EMD full time since 2003. He had served as county EMD on a part-time basis since 1997. He also has experience as a volunteer firefighter.

According to Amtower, the biggest challenge he and other Missouri EMDs face is the overwhelming responsibility to help ensure that individuals and entire communities are prepared for disasters.

Amtower and his wife live in Christian County and have three children.

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### **Gregg Sweeten, McDonald County**

Gregg Sweeten was appointed McDonald County emergency management director in December 1995. At that time it was a volunteer position, but it was changed to a full-time paid position in 2009.

Sweeten has 29 years of law enforcement experience and has served as a firefighter for the past 20 years. He says the most rewarding aspect of his job is providing emergency management and public safety services to McDonald County's 24,000 residents.

Sweeten says that one of the emergency planning challenges he faces stems from the fact that McDonald County is home to the Elk River, a popular canoeing and camping destination. At the height of canoeing season, the Elk River can attract more than 5,000 weekend canoers, most of whom are not from the area and are unaware of or ignore the many hazards of canoeing on the river.

Sweeten and his wife, Stephanie, live in Pineville with their two daughters.

### **Chris Berndt, Taney County**

Chris Berndt serves as EMD for Taney County, a part-time position, and is fire chief for the Western Taney County Fire Protection District. He has held both positions since December 1999.

Chief Berndt says that he actually started in emergency services at the age of 13 while still living in Germany. After moving to the U.S. and while attending college locally, he joined the fire service at the Western Taney County Fire District. While serving a five-year stint at the South Metro Fire District in Kansas City, he earned his paramedic license and became involved with emergency management.

According to Berndt, his biggest challenge as emergency manager is effectively communicating critical information to tourists, seasonal workers and locals during a disaster. He says his greatest rewards come from working with others to meet the many different issues that arise in his dual roles as EMD and fire chief.

Berndt lives with his wife and two daughters just north of Branson. He is an active member at the Branson First Baptist Church and enjoys felling problematic trees. He truly loves the challenges posed by the roles of Emergency Manager and Fire Chief.

### **Chet Hunter, Greene County**

Chet Hunter has been Springfield-Greene County EMD since July 2014. Previously, he served as EMD for Lawrence County while also working in emergency medical services.

Springfield-Greene County is the only local jurisdiction in Missouri to receive accreditation through the national Emergency Management Accreditation Program. It is one of only a few fully accredited local-level emergency management agencies in the nation and the first to earn accreditation on its first EMAP review.

According to Hunter, one of the area's biggest emergency planning challenges is the significant daily commuter and school-day population growth. This creates several unique planning and response problems that would need immediate resolution in a disaster, the greatest of which would be evacuating all or even part of Springfield.

Hunter says that meeting new people and developing relationships that will be key to any successful response are some of the most satisfying parts of his job.

Hunter and his wife, Cortney, live in Greene County and have three children.

### **David Compton, Barry County**

David Compton was appointed director of Barry County's Office of Emergency Management in 2000. Previously, he served as the agency's operations officer for the previous three years. He has more than 30 years of experience in emergency management and response, including serving as an EMT, paramedic and firefighter.

Located in the southwest corner of the state on the Arkansas border, Barry County is the second largest county by area in the state. It has a large industrial base in the north and mostly agriculture in the south. The county also lies immediately downstream from Beaver Dam, a hydroelectric dam built on the White River in northwest Arkansas and which created the nearly 32,000-acre Beaver Lake. Additionally, combined with nearby Table Rock and Bull Shoals lakes and the Roaring and White rivers, Beaver Lake draws thousands of freshwater sports enthusiasts each year. Together, these features create a wide variety of emergency planning challenges, according to Compton.

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### Gary Roark, Newton County

Gary Roark has been Newton County EMD for 20 years. He was appointed to the position after his retirement from the Missouri Army National Guard, having served for 30 years and attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel.

During his tenure with the Guard, Roark held a variety of command positions, including platoon leader, company commander, battalion commander and commander of the Guard's training sites. Roark was involved when the Guard was mobilized to assist with responses to floods, ice storms, snow storms, tornadoes and building collapses.

According to Roark, Newton County's all-hazards planning approach takes into consideration two interstate highways, two major railroad lines and seven pipelines that all run through the county.

According to Roark, one of emergency management's major challenges is developing good working relationships with local law enforcement, fire, EMS and elected officials. He says these and other partnerships are crucial to mounting effective emergency response efforts.

### Keith Stammer, Jasper County

Keith Stammer serves as director of the Joplin/Jasper County Emergency Management Agency, a position he has held for 10 years. Prior to being appointed to his current post, he served in Labette County, Kan., for 12 years. Stammer is a former firefighter, medical first responder and 911 dispatch director.

Jasper County stands at the juncture of I-44 and I-49, serving as a hub for over-the-road truck transportation. As a result, not only is Jasper County a major refueling stop for coast-to-coast transport trucks, it is also home to a large number of trucking companies, many of which specialize in transporting hazardous materials.

Stammer and his wife, Kathy, have two grown children.

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## February is Earthquake Awareness Month in Missouri

Each February, Missouri observes Earthquake Awareness Month to educate the public about the very real threat of another catastrophic earthquake occurring in the state. On Feb. 7, 1812, one of the country's most powerful earthquakes on record struck in southeast Missouri in what is now known as the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ).

Because the NMSZ is one of the most active seismic zones in the nation and home to a large number of Missourians, Earthquake Awareness Month is also an ideal time to educate people about earthquake hazards and emphasize the importance of emergency preparedness.

Useful information and resources for families, schools and businesses is available on SEMA's Earthquake Preparedness Web page. Included are fact sheets, interactive maps and informational videos. Go to [www.sema.dps.mo.gov/earthquake\\_preparedness](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov/earthquake_preparedness).

### Earthquake Awareness Month Activities

#### Feb. 5 – Missouri Seismic Safety Commission quarterly business meeting

1 p.m. at the St. Louis Science Center, 5050 Oakland Avenue, St. Louis.

#### Feb. 6 – QuakeSmart Business Summit

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Louis University, II Monastero Meeting Room, 3050 Olive Street, St. Louis. The event is free and open to local businesses to learn about earthquake preparedness.

#### Feb. 21 – Emergency Preparedness Fair

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sikeston Latter Day Saints Church, 827 Euclid Avenue, Sikeston. The event is free and open to the public.

#### Feb. 28 – Shake and Quake: Earthquake Preparedness is in the Bag!

11 a.m. at Onondaga Cave State Park near Leasburg. Learn about earthquake history, preparedness and impacts on society. Admission is free. Onondaga Cave State Park is located seven miles southeast of the Leasburg exit of I-44 on Highway H.

## Enhancements to SEMA's Floodplain Management/ Insurance Website

Visitors to SEMA's Floodplain Management/ Floodplain Insurance Web page will see some new and updated information and resources, along with other changes designed to make the site more helpful and user friendly

The new features include four downloadable forms that are key tools when managing floodplain development at the local level. The forms include the Floodplain Development Permit, the Engineering "No-Rise" Certificate, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Elevation Certificate and the NFIP Floodproofing Certificate.

Also new are two sets of step-by-step instructions that help people successfully complete two multi-step and often complicated processes. The first set of instructions is for completing and submitting a Letter of Map Amendment - Out-As-Shown document application. This application form is used to document that a piece of land or a building in question is correctly shown as being outside a Special Flood Hazard Area and does not fall under the mandatory flood insurance requirement.

The second set walks people through the process of creating an official copy of a portion of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel, known as a FIRMette. Created online at FEMA's Map Service Center, a FIRMette is considered a legal document for NFIP use, unlike photocopies, which cannot be used for legal purposes.

Another enhancement is a new training element for anyone interested in becoming a certified floodplain manager. Currently, people can attend a three-hour training workshop prior to taking the certification test. The workshops are free and registration is not required, but they are not now available online and are held in different locations around the state.

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## Vibrant Response Exercise

(Continued from page 1)

"Every year we exercise our plans for responding to a nuclear plant emergency and we've also practiced our response to a radiological dirty-bomb scenario," said SEMA Director Ron Walker. "However, this will be our first to look closely at how we would respond to a terrorist attack using a powerful nuclear device in a highly populated area."

Vibrant Response exercises are designed to help the U.S. military and other federal response agencies assess their own regional and national capabilities to support state and local response to a major terror attack in a large city.

(Continued on next page)

### Vibrant Response Exercise Participants

#### LOCAL

- Kansas City Emergency Management Agency
- Mid America Regional Council (MARC)
- City of Gladstone

#### STATE

- SEMA
- Missouri National Guard
- Dept. of Social Services, Div. of Family Services
- Dept. of Mental Health
- Dept. of Natural Resources
- Dept. of Transportation
- Dept. of Health and Senior Services

#### FEDERAL

- FEMA Emergency Response Command
- FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams
- Dept. of Homeland Security
- U.S. Dept. of Justice: FBI, ATF
- Dept. of Transportation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. General Services Administration,
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Army Reserve
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



## Vibrant Response Exercise

(Continued from previous page)

The exercises help participants better understand the complex nature of a terrorist attack and how different response agencies from every level can most effectively conduct a highly coordinated response.

Conducted annually since 2009, these exercises are held in one or more states each year. Typically included are each participating state's emergency management agency and National Guard along with other state and local response partners. Other federal agencies also participate, including the FBI and Department of Homeland Security, the EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy.

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**“While a horrific event like this is unlikely, our job is to be prepared to respond to all emergencies.”**

Ron Walker, SEMA Director

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### WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Walker said that a one-kiloton explosion has the force of 1,000 tons of TNT; therefore, a 10-kiloton nuclear device would have 10 times the destructive power. Detonated in downtown Kansas City, such a device would cause incredible devastation and loss of life. Unlike a conventional bomb, it would also leave behind an estimated 100,000 tons of radiological contamination that would affect a huge area.

Walker added that this kind of disaster would also create widespread power and communications outages, critically stress the region's healthcare system, require large-scale evacuations and mass care of displaced persons, affect food and water supplies and require long-term radiological testing and decontamination efforts.

“While a horrific event like this is unlikely, our job is to be prepared to respond to all emergencies,” said Walker. “The Vibrant Response exercise will give us a chance to see how all the different local, state and federal agencies would work together under a very complex set of circumstances.”

## Mortuary Operations Training

(Continued from page 1)

This training was a follow-up to an exercise the state, MoDRS and other local and federal partners conducted in May 2014 in Kansas City to test the state's newly added disaster mortuary affairs assets.

The mortuary operations training focused on the concept, organization and operation of a victim information center (VIC). The VIC serves as a clearinghouse for information related to fatalities from a disaster and is another integral part of the state's overall mass fatality response capability. Topics during the two-day training included fatality management, working with families of disaster victims and community trauma. Also included were different facets of job-specific training at a VIC, such as roles and responsibilities and working in a mass-fatality environment. Technical training was also provided on the Victim Identification Program, the federal database software used to collect and manage key information for accurate victim identification.

“Since the Joplin tornado, we've been working closely with our partners to develop a fully equipped and staffed statewide mass fatality response capability,” said Walker. “Adding a victim information center to our overall capability has been one of our primary objectives for this effort. The mortuary operations training in January was a huge step toward reaching that objective and achieving the ultimate goal of creating a mass fatality capability for our state.”

### MASS FALITY EXERCISE PLANNED

According to Walker, the VIC training will be followed by a mass fatality functional exercise Feb. 24–25 at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by SEMA and MoDRS, the two-day exercise will work from a scenario involving a large-scale disaster with a high number of fatalities.

During the exercise, participants will practice deploying the state's Disaster Portable Morgue Unit, establishing unified command, initiating disaster morgue processes and setting up and running all aspects of a VIC, including integration of morgue and VIC operations.

## 2014 Hazmat Symposium

(Continued from page 3)

The keynote speaker for the symposium's opening session was Danny Snell, a task force leader with FEMA's Texas Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team. Snell, who was also a featured speaker for the 2014 SEMA conference, shared his insights on the response to the April 2013 anhydrous ammonia explosion and fire at the fertilizer plant in West, Tex. The explosion killed 15 people, including 10 volunteer fire fighters, and damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings.

Also covered during the three-day meeting were the impact of hazmat safety policies on the safe use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture, effective Ebola virus decontamination methods, environmental impacts of hazmat events, updates on chemical facilities and antiterrorism standards, and the hazmat capabilities of the Guard's 7<sup>th</sup> CST.

### SEMA News

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## 2015 SEMA Conference

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Exercise participants will go through: Check-in, Badging, Credential and Mission Verification, Event Identification, Threat/Safety Briefing, Administrative Processing and Check-out.

By the time exercise participants have moved through the RRC stations, they should have a better understanding of how RRCs operate. The process should take 15 to 30 minutes.

The RRC exercise will be conducted during conference registration from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on March 31 and from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on April 1. Participation is strictly voluntary and a standard registration process will also be available.

The RRC exercise is a joint effort of SEMA and the City of Branson.

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The 2015 Emergency Management Conference will start on March 31 with a pre-conference training opportunity from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Titled "Hazmat IQ: Above the Line/Below the Line," the seminar is designed for first responders. No other activities are scheduled that day.

Conference activities will begin on April 1, with registration and exhibits opening at 7:30 a.m. in the Chateau's Great Hall. The first session will begin with opening remarks and introductions at 8:30 a.m., followed by lunch and a full agenda of general-session presentations and informative breakout sessions.

Contact the Chateau on the Lake for room reservations at 1-888-333-5253. Let them know that you will be attending the 2015 SEMA Conference. There is a special room rate of \$94.00 per night for this event. The Welk Resort will be the conference overflow hotel. To make reservations there, call (417)336-3575 and mention that you will be attending the SEMA Conference to receive their special room rate.

The Early Bird Special of \$150 for conference attendees will be available until Feb. 27, 2015. After that date, the regular conference fee of \$175 will apply.

Registration details, conference agenda and other information are available on SEMA's website at [www.sema.dps.mo.gov/events/](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov/events/).

## Floodplain Website Enhancements

(Continued from page 8)

When the website is fully updated, people will be able to go online to access a test study guide and other necessary information. They can then complete a self-guided training module to prepare for the test. While online test preparation will soon be available, the actual floodplain manager certification test must still be taken in person.

The test registration process is not coordinated through SEMA. The required forms must be completed and submitted, along with the testing fee, to the Association of State Floodplain Managers. The test application packets are available online at [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org). Dates and locations for upcoming pre-test workshops and certification tests are currently available on the SEMA website.

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**“It’s all about customer service. The world of floodplain management and insurance can be difficult to navigate and the improved website will help guide people through the maze of regulations, requirements and procedures.”**

Karen McHugh,  
SEMA Floodplain Management Officer

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### FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Floodplain management and insurance activities also rely heavily on other kinds of maps to accurately show where parcels of land and buildings are located in relation to designated flood hazard areas. To give more people the option of creating their own maps, updated floodplain mapping tools are being developed. To make the mapping tools more user-friendly, step-by-step instructions will be included.

“It’s all about customer service,” said Karen McHugh, SEMA floodplain management officer. “The world of floodplain management and insurance can be difficult to navigate and the improved website will help guide people through the maze of regulations, requirements and procedures.”

M I S S O U R I



# Storm Aware

**Missouri Severe Weather  
Awareness Week**

**March 2-7, 2015**

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**40th Annual Statewide  
Tornado Drill**

**March 3, 2015**

**1:30 p.m.**

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Learn more about severe  
weather preparedness at

**[stormaware.mo.gov](http://stormaware.mo.gov)**

## SEMA Training Schedule • 2015

Dates	Event Details	Location
Feb. 18-20	<b>ICS 300 Intermediate Incident Command System</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Lake Ozark Fire Protection District
Feb. 2-4	<b>Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Awareness</b> POST approved; Sponsor: MERC Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details: <a href="http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm">http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm</a>	Holts Summit Fire Dept.
Feb. 7	<b>Hazmat Awareness and Operations Train the Trainer</b> POST approved; Sponsor: MERC Time: 8a.m. – 5 p.m.	Redings Mill Fire Dept., Joplin
Feb. 21	<b>Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Awareness</b> POST approved; Sponsor: MERC Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Moberly Police Dept.
Feb. 23-28	<b>Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Operations</b> POST approved; Sponsor: MERC Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details: <a href="http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm">http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm</a>	East Prairie Fire Dept.
March 2-21	<b>Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Operations</b> POST approved; Sponsor: MERC	Holts Summit Fire Dept.
March 4-5	<b>Community Mass Care and Emergency Assistance (APS Elective Course)</b> Sponsor: SEMA	Laclede County Office of Emergency Management, Lebanon
March 4-5	<b>Hazardous Weather &amp; Flooding Preparedness (APS Elective Course)</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Jefferson City Police Dept.
March 9-13	<b>All-Hazards Logistics Section Chief (LSC) Course</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Affton Fire District, St Louis
March 10-11	<b>Jurisdictional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (J-THIRA)</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Warren County Emergency Management Agency, Warrenton
March 17	<b>Volunteer Dispensing Train the Trainer</b> Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sponsor: SEMA	DHSS, Jefferson City
March 17-19	<b>ICS 300 Intermediate Incident Command System</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Dept. of Corrections Regional Training Center, Jefferson City
March 25-26	<b>ICS400 Advanced Incident Command System</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Lake Ozark Fire Protection District
March 27-29	<b>Wide Area Search</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Adair County Ambulance District, Kirksville

**Note:** This list does not include invitation-only or local offering-only events. View the complete SEMA training schedule with details on the SEMA website's Training and Exercises page.