



SEMA News

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
Preparedness · Response · Recovery

Summer

2016



Gov. Nixon addresses the State Emergency Management Conference April 20 in Branson.

Gov. Nixon Announces Cybersecurity Initiative at SEMA Conference

The state of Missouri will host a statewide cybersecurity summit in 2016, Gov. Jay Nixon announced April 20, at the State Emergency Management Conference in Branson.

A \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will fund the initiative aimed at bolstering the state's efforts to strengthen cybersecurity by raising awareness and sharing best practices with local governments, businesses, educational institutions and citizens. The summit is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 30.

"Technology has brought unprecedented convenience, but also new and ever-changing threats to our data and personal information," said Gov. Nixon. "I'm very proud of the work our team has done to make the state of Missouri a nationally-recognized leader in cybersecurity. As a result, we are uniquely positioned to serve as a resource for organizations in both the public and private sectors and further strengthen cybersecurity preparedness across the state."

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National Mass Care Exercise in Missouri Focuses on Earthquake Response

This summer Missouri will host the 2016 National Mass Care Exercise, a national-level emergency response exercise designed to test state and local plans for evacuations and mass care efforts in a disaster. SEMA and FEMA will cosponsor the Aug. 22-25 exercise.

The National Mass Care Exercise scenario will be a high-magnitude earthquake centered in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. The simulated earthquake will cause widespread devastation in southeast Missouri requiring a highly coordinated response effort, including evacuating, sheltering and caring for large numbers of displaced people. During the four-day exercise, representatives from more than 50 state and federal agencies and other partner organizations will gather at the State Emergency Operations Center in Jefferson City to help coordinate the simulated response. In addition to government agencies, a wide array of other public and private nonprofit agencies, as well as faith-based and other volunteer organizations, will participate in exercise activities with local and regional authorities.

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Director's Letter

"As emergency managers, ensuring that our communities are adequately prepared for all types of emergencies is our top priority. That includes learning about and preparing for emerging threats as well."

Ron Walker

It is a busy time at SEMA, with lots of activity in the areas of recovery, mitigation and planning. Currently, SEMA staff are working hard to advance recovery and mitigation efforts from DR-4238 and DR-4250. We've also been busy working with communities hit by recent storms with high winds, heavy rains and flooding and a few tornado touch-downs. In planning mode, we're planning for the big mass care exercise in August, coordinating with participating partners to ensure everyone is ready.

Here are highlights of just a couple of things we're working on. You'll find more information about these activities, as well as other areas of interest, in this issue of **SEMA News**.

RECOVERY, MITIGATION PROJECT PROGRESS

One of the key efforts we've been helping move forward is the federal disaster declaration DR-4250, a result of flooding in late December. Since then, about \$30 million in federal assistance has gone to flood survivors in the 33 counties included in the Individual Assistance declaration. Of the federal assistance total, nearly \$13 million in FEMA grants went to more than 2,400 individuals and families to help with disaster recovery expenses. More than \$17 million in U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans went to over 400 businesses, homeowners and renters.

I appreciate all of our response and recovery partners with whom we've worked throughout this effort.

On the mitigation side, we've also been working on construction proposals for tornado safe rooms and outdoor warning siren projects that have been proceeding in communities across the state. Earlier this year, Gov. Nixon authorized SEMA to move ahead with proposals for an additional six tornado safe rooms and four outdoor warning sirens around the state.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

As emergency managers, ensuring that our communities are adequately prepared for all types of emergencies is a top priority. That includes learning about and preparing for emerging threats as well. The potential for attacks on our information systems grows every day and with it the importance of protecting the computer systems upon which we rely so heavily.

In response to the growing need, the state Office of Administration will host a statewide cybersecurity summit later this year. Gov. Nixon announced the summit on April 20 during his address to the annual State Emergency Management Conference in Branson. The Governor also announced the state had received a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to support a statewide cybersecurity initiative aimed at local governments, businesses, schools and individuals.

During summer severe weather season, it's important for Missourians to have at least a basic understanding of property insurance before the next storm hits. We asked John Huff, director of the Missouri Department of Insurance, what people should know about insurance and storm damage. He offers helpful insurance tips for people to use before and after storms.

2015 SEMA CONFERENCE

Finally, I want to thank everyone who was able to attend this year's SEMA conference. I was able to reconnect with many of you and meet plenty of new folks. I'm already looking forward to next year's conference, which will take place Aug. 22-25 at Tan-Tar-A Resort: Lake of the Ozarks. Watch for more details.

Ron Walker, Director
Missouri State Emergency Management Agency

Gov. Nixon Advances Safe Room and Siren Projects

On March 9, 2016, Gov. Jay Nixon announced he had authorized SEMA to move forward with proposals for six tornado safe rooms and four outdoor warning sirens around the state.

SCHOOL SAFE ROOM PROJECTS

- **Christian County – Spokane R-VII School District:** Proposed 4,100-square-foot safe room to shelter 517 people.
- **Greene and Webster counties – City of Rogersville:** Proposed 8,200-square-foot multi-purpose safe room in the Logan-Rogersville School District to shelter 1,300 people.
- **Laclede County – Laclede County R-I School District:** Proposed 8,700-square-foot safe room to shelter 1,134 people.
- **Oregon County – Couch R-I School District:** Proposed 3,000-square-foot safe room to shelter 300 people.
- **Ozark County – Bakersfield R-IV School District:** Proposed 3,900-square-foot safe room to shelter 571 people. **Dora R-III School District:** Proposed 3,200-square-foot safe room to shelter 450 people.

OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN PROJECTS

- **City of Independence:** Proposed outdoor voice warning siren in the downtown square.
- **Jackson County:** Proposed all-hazard outdoor warning system in Landahl Park, Blue Springs.
- **Shannon County:** Proposed two outdoor warning sirens for Birch Tree and Eminence.
- **Texas County:** Proposed outdoor warning sirens for Cabool, Licking and Summersville.
 - Total cost for the projects will be just over \$5.2 million in FEMA grant funds. Under the Hazard Mitigation Program, FEMA provides 75 percent for approved project funding and local grant recipients pay the remaining 25 percent.
 - Missouri now has 168 completed safe rooms across the state and 20 additional projects are in development, with 123 of those projects located in schools. When all of the safe rooms are completed, they will provide protection for more than 210,000 Missourians during severe weather.



Gov. Nixon addresses attendees at the Red Cross Collective Impact Disaster Summit on March 30.

Red Cross Disaster Summit Focuses on Stronger Partnerships

More than 75 local and state agencies and non-profit organizations gathered for the statewide Collective Impact Disaster Summit on March 30-31 in Columbia. Hosted by the American Red Cross, the summit's goal was to bring together response and recovery partners from across Missouri to strengthen relationships and build on lessons learned during recent response efforts.

In his address during the summit's opening session, Gov. Nixon said that emergency preparedness is the state's greatest concern, emphasizing the importance of closely coordinated response and recovery efforts among partner agencies and organizations statewide. He also underscored the value of gatherings such as the Red Cross disaster summit.

"The only guarantee is Missouri will face another natural disaster that requires a coordinated response from governmental agencies, church groups, volunteers and others," Nixon said. "That's why this training and marked effort here in our state is just so vital. This time spent saves lives, protects property, gives people confidence and moves individuals, communities and our state forward."

During his two terms as governor, Gov. Nixon has signed 22 emergency declarations and Missouri has received 11 federal disaster declarations to provide funds for relief and recovery efforts. Record rainfall and floods last year caused 27 deaths, more flooding fatalities than the previous seven years combined.

State Insurance Department has Tips for Before and After Storms

By John Huff, Director of the Missouri Department of Insurance

At the Missouri Department of Insurance, our consumer representatives typically field many more phone calls and email inquiries from policyholders in the weeks following severe weather and flooding. Last year our team handled more than 40,000 consumer contacts.



Missourians typically have insurance or claim questions after they experience property damage following a storm. Now that Missouri's spring storm season is here, it may be useful for emergency managers to share the advice our department offers – both before and after storms in their areas.

The Missouri Department of Insurance offers these tips for consumers affected by the storms:

- Contact your insurance agent or your company's toll-free claims number as soon as possible.
- If you have lost the contact information for your insurance company, the department may be able to help you locate it at insurance.mo.gov or by contacting the Insurance Consumer Hotline calling 800-726-7390.
- Make temporary repairs to prevent further damage. For example, a hole in the roof should be covered by a tarp or other materials to keep out rain. The same goes for a broken car window. Otherwise, further damage will likely not be covered by your insurance policy. Keep the receipts for materials you buy so you can be reimbursed.

- Don't make permanent repairs until your insurance company has inspected the damage. If you do, your company may not reimburse you.
- Once your claim is processed, get estimates from contractors or auto repair shops known to you or recommended by someone you trust. Be suspicious of strangers who offer to do repairs for you.
- If you believe your insurance company has not handled your claim properly, file a complaint with us. The department will determine whether your insurance company has followed Missouri law in processing your claim.
- Don't let contractors inspect your property if you're not watching. Some unscrupulous companies will cause damage to drive up the repair cost, and your insurance company will likely not cover the additional cost.
- Don't pay the whole repair bill in advance. Pay in full only when the work is completed according to your agreement.
- Business owners can refer to the department's "Small Business Insurance" Web page, which offers information on commercial property, business interruption insurance and more, at insurance.mo.gov/consumers/smallbusiness/.

Annual Missouri Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

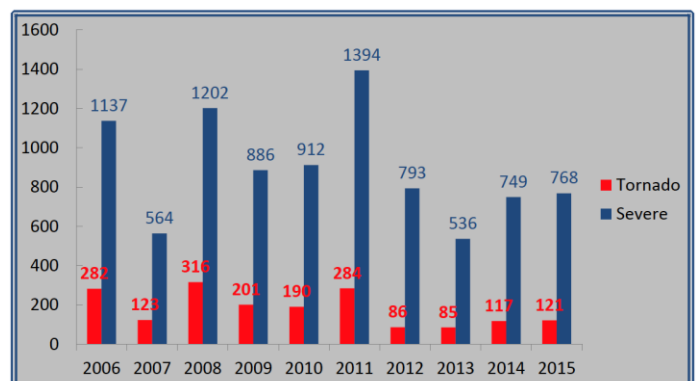




Photo courtesy of the National Weather Service.

NWS' Communications Update Has Ups and Downs

On May 11, the National Weather Service began updating the look of its weather forecasts. Until then the weather service had used an all capital letters format that dated back to when forecasts were printed out on teletype machines. At first, only localized forecast discussions, public information statements and regional weather summaries will be in mixed case. Other widely circulated material, such as severe weather warnings, will change this summer and other forecasts and warnings will change to the new system through early next year.

The transition to mixed-case type is among a series of changes intended to make the weather service's reports more easily understood and contemporary.

In 2012, the NWS began experimenting with impact-based warnings in Missouri and Kansas, which used direct warning language that had not been used in the past. Some examples include issuing a "tornado emergency" for potentially catastrophic tornadoes and describing potential damage in vivid terms like "complete destruction of neighborhoods is possible."

Forecasters will still use all capital letters in weather warnings to emphasize threats during extremely dangerous situations.

Individual Assistance by the Numbers for DR-4250

In the five months since severe storms brought heavy rain and flooding to Missouri communities, resulting in federal disaster declaration DR-4250, about \$30 million in federal assistance has been provided to flood survivors. Thirty-three Missouri counties were included in the Individual Assistance declaration for the period of Dec. 23, 2015 to Jan. 9, 2016. FEMA provided these numbers for disaster assistance approved in the form of disaster grants for individuals and families and low-interest loans for renters, homeowners and businesses as of May 18:

- \$12.9 million in FEMA grants to 2,452 individuals and families in 33 counties for emergency home repairs, rental assistance, replacement of essential personal property, and help with medical, dental, legal and other disaster-related expenses.
- \$17.4 million in U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans to 410 homeowners, renters and businesses. This includes 353 home loans for \$10.7 million and 57 business loans for \$6.7 million.

In addition, 15 FEMA disaster recovery centers logged 1,711 visits by survivors for one-on-one counseling on available assistance, flood insurance, mitigation methods and disaster loans. Also, FEMA insurance specialists conducted 781 presentations for 3,238 Missouri insurance agents about flood insurance options in their communities.

The deadline to register for federal assistance was March 21, 2016. Those who registered with FEMA can be referred to voluntary, faith-based and non-governmental agencies when federal assistance cannot meet all of their needs.

The 33 counties included in the IA disaster declaration are: Barry, Barton, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Cole, Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Greene, Hickory, Jasper, Jefferson, Laclede, Lawrence, Lincoln, Maries, McDonald, Morgan, Newton, Osage, Phelps, Polk, Pulaski, Scott, St. Charles, St. Francois, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, Taney, Texas, Webster and Wright.



On May 22, 2016, Joplin observed the fifth anniversary of the EF-5 tornado that killed 161 people and destroyed or damaged 8,000 homes and businesses. In the five years since one of the deadliest and destructive tornadoes in U.S. history, Joplin has made a remarkable recovery. Today, it's a vibrant city on the rise. The latest population figures, released by the Census Bureau on May 19,

2016, show Joplin's population reached another all-time high of 51,818 as of July 15, 2015.

The tornado



Joplin's Irving Elementary School.

destroyed or damaged 10 of the Joplin school district's 20 buildings. On May 22, 2012, Joplin Schools broke ground on four rebuilding projects: Irving Elementary School (home to the combined Irving and Emerson Elementary Schools), East Middle School, Soaring Heights Elementary (home to the combined Duquesne and Duenweg Elementary Schools), and Joplin High School/Franklin Technology Center.

Now completed, the new schools feature flexible spaces, design features that encourage collaboration and amenities that support increased parent and community engagement. They also include a total of 14 community safe rooms for protection of students and staff during severe weather. The safe rooms serve dual purposes as gymnasiums, a field house or classroom space.

Following the destruction of St. John's Mercy Hospital, Mercy Hospital Joplin opened to patients on March 22, 2015, on a 100-acre site three miles south of the old hospital. The \$465 million facility, easily accessible from Interstate 44, features 205

private inpatient rooms, and a unique neonatal intensive care unit with individual family rooms for privacy. Mercy Hospital Joplin is considered the most storm-resistant hospital in the nation.

The EF-5 tornado destroyed or seriously damaged about one-fourth of Joplin's total housing stock, including 8,000 homes and other buildings. Due to a federal expedited debris removal program, it took less than three months to clear more than 2,700 lots of over 1.2 million cubic yards of debris at no cost to Joplin.

This effort was instrumental in helping the city begin rebuilding homes for Joplin residents determined to continue living there. To-date, 4,866 total housing units have been built, including 2,090 new single family homes, 1,293 duplex units and 1,483 apartments.

Also destroyed or severely damaged were 531 businesses and about 3,000 jobs dropped from Joplin's payrolls, affecting more than 5,000 employees. But in the last five years, not only have more than 485 businesses reopened, according to the Joplin Chamber of Commerce more than 300

new businesses have opened their doors for the first time in Joplin, providing jobs for 1,045 full-time and 818 part-time workers. Since the tornado, the Joplin region's total employment has surged by 1,700 jobs.

Read more about Joplin's recovery and view a video at: governor.mo.gov/joplinrising.

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BUILT TO DATE
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Joplin region's
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Missouri Emergency Management Region Profile: Region G

Region G is located in south central Missouri in the heart of Missouri Ozark Country. Nine counties comprise the region: Carter, Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Reynolds, Shannon, Texas and Wright. Region G has the state's three largest counties in total area; Texas, Shannon and Howell counties cover more than 3,100 square miles. The region's population is more than 126,000.

Region G's leading industries include farming, retail trade, construction, food services, and wood products manufacturing. Tourism is also a major seasonal industry in the region. Each year hundreds of thousands of visitors flock to the area to float and fish the rivers and streams and hike and camp along the trails running through the Ozark Mountains.

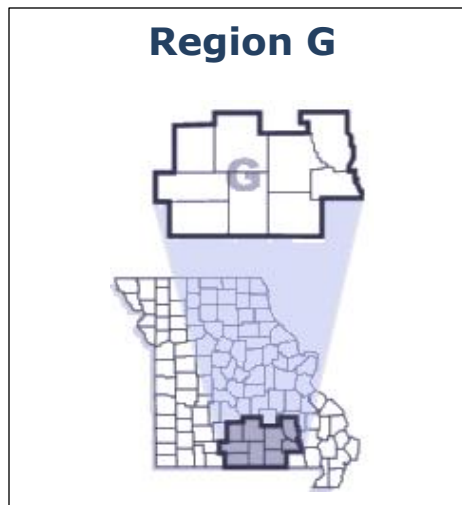
Region G is home to much of the Mark Twain National Forest, which covers nearly 1.5 million acres of southern and central Missouri. Rivers included in the National Wild and Scenic River System run through the region as well, including the Eleven Point, Current, White and Black rivers.

State parks are popular destinations for visitors to the region, including Grand Gulf State Park and Taum Sauk Mountain State Park. Perhaps the most popular is Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park, which draws more than 300,000 visitors annually. This seasonal influx of people can cause the populations of small towns, such as Van Buren or Eminence to swell from a few hundred to as many as 3,000 over a summer weekend.

Colleges and universities include Missouri State University-West Plains, South Central Career Center in West Plains, Southwest Baptist University extension program in Mountain View and the Texas County Technical Institute in Houston.

Highways that run through Region G include U.S. highways 60, 63 and 160. Class I rail service is provided by Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

In 2005, Region G experienced an unusual disaster. At about 5:30 a.m. on Dec. 14, Ameren's Taum Sauk Hydroelectric Plant's upper reservoir retaining wall failed, releasing nearly 1.2 billion gallons of water down the Black River and through Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. The 20-foot floodwater crest scoured the mountainside of trees, boulders and dirt and swept away the home of the Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park superintendent.



No one was killed by the failure, but the park superintendent, his wife and three children were injured when their house was destroyed in the flashflood. Had the reservoir failure occurred during the tourist season, hundreds of people likely would have been camping in the park and could have been killed or injured.

The floodwater flowed into Clearwater Lake, the power plant's lower reservoir, designed to hold much of the upper reservoir's water, sparing towns downstream, including Lesterville and Centerville. A voluntary evacuation order was issued for those areas, but there was no other significant damage. The flood caused more than \$100 million in damage to the state park, which took nearly five years to rebuild and reopen to the public.

Region G Emergency Management Directors

Eric King, Oregon County

Eric King has served as part-time EMD for Oregon County part-time EMD since 2001. He works full-time as the Oregon County chief deputy sheriff. He has nearly 25 years of law enforcement and firefighting experience.

King says one of his biggest challenges is the lack of adequate resources for effective emergency preparedness and response.

King says the most rewarding aspect of serving as EMD is helping people prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

King and his wife, Amy, live in Alton and have three daughters, Michaela, Aubrey and Jorja.

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Region G Emergency Management Directors

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Mike Coldiron, Howell County

Mike Coldiron has served as Howell County EMD since 2004. He also works full-time as the county's administrative lieutenant deputy sheriff and has nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience.

Coldiron says his greatest challenge as EMD is working with a limited budget and an all-volunteer staff.

Coldiron says he gains the most satisfaction knowing he helps people in his community.

Jack Watson, Texas County

Jack Watson is new to his Texas County EMD post, having served in that role for only four months. Prior to being named county EMD, Watson served as president of Cass Township and chairman of the Texas County Township Advisory Board. He is retired from the telecommunications industry.

As a new EMD, Watson says his biggest challenge is learning a new set of roles and responsibilities.

He says the most rewarding aspect of his new job is having different opportunities to help the communities he serves.

Watson and his wife, Kay, live on a farm near Solo and have two grown children, Sonya and Troy Jaye.

Mary Ficker, Shannon County

Mary Ficker is Shannon County EMD, a part-time position she has held for one year. Ficker joined the county after retiring from the National Park Service where she served as a park ranger. In that role she gained experience in law enforcement, firefighting, search and rescue and emergency medical services. During that time she also served on the county's local emergency preparedness committee as the training coordinator.

Ficker says the biggest challenge she faces as EMD is dealing with different grant requirements.

Ficker says the most rewarding part of the job is helping the fire departments and other first responders get the training and supplies they need to do their jobs effectively.

Rick Thompson, Wright County

Rick Thompson has served as volunteer EMD for Wright County for 10 years. He also owns and operates a heating and cooling business. Thompson is retired from the military where he worked in communications computer programming and security systems design.

Thompson says one of his greatest challenges he faces as EMD is securing adequate operating capital for the county's emergency management needs.

Thompson says the most rewarding aspect of serving as EMD is helping the community.

Thompson and his wife, Christina, live on an 80-acre farm with their daughter, Jessica.

Derek Wilkerson, Ava/Douglas County

Derek Wilkerson serves part-time as EMD for the city of Ava and Douglas County, a combined position he has held for less than a year. He also works full-time for the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, serves as a volunteer with the Good Hope Fire Department and owns a farm.

According to Wilkerson, the biggest challenge he faces as EMD is finding adequate time to schedule training and fulfilling the other demands of the job while still holding down a full-time job.

Wilkerson says he derives the most satisfaction from serving his community.

Renee Horn, Reynolds County

Renee Horn has volunteered as the part-time Reynolds County EMD since 2003. She works full-time as the voter registration clerk to the county clerk and serves as secretary to the county commission. Previously, Horn worked as an EMT and as a dispatcher for the Iron and Reynolds county sheriff's departments.

Horn says her biggest challenge as EMD is effective communication and cooperation among emergency management partners.

Horn says the most rewarding aspect of serving as EMD is helping the public.

Horn and her husband, Donald, live on the family farm near Annapolis. Together, they have a son, Justyn, and a daughter, Jenna.

Region G Emergency Management Directors

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Justin Eudaley, Carter County

Justin Eudaley has served as part-time EMD for Carter County since 2011. He works full-time as Carter County deputy sheriff. He also studied law enforcement at Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff.

Eudaley says one of the greatest challenges he faces as EMD is securing the financial resources needed to provide effective emergency management services across the county.

Eudaley says the most rewarding aspect of serving as EMD is ensuring that Carter County citizens are safe and have access to current emergency preparedness resources.

Eudaley and his wife, Melissa, live in Ellsinore and have two children, Dalton and Emma.

Brett Meints, Ozark County

Brett Meints serves as the part-time Ozark County EMD, a volunteer position he has held since April 2016.

Meints, originally from Hardy, Arkansas, retired to the Thornfield area in August 2015 after serving more than 30 years as a firefighter and paramedic in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He joined the Thornfield Volunteer Fire Department and serves as both a firefighter and a first responder.

While in Wisconsin, Meints served as a fire and EMS instructor at Waukesha County Technical College in Waukesha. He holds a B.S. in public safety management.

According to Meints, his biggest challenge is becoming familiar with the different resources available in the county and region.

Meints says the most rewarding part of the job is developing relationships with his emergency management partners and getting involved in the community.

Meints and his wife, Jamie, live in Thornfield. They have three grown children and three grandchildren.

Gov. Nixon Announces Cybersecurity Initiative

(Continued from page 1)

The state Office of Administration is organizing the summit and other efforts to engage stakeholders such as representatives of state and local governments, law enforcement and business, as well as higher education and K-12 institutions across the state.

CYBER SECURITY PREPAREDNESS GOALS

The new state cybersecurity preparedness initiative's key goals include:

- Information sharing and awareness, including case studies and other information on current and emerging cyber threats and industry best practices.
- Training and exercises, emphasizing sharing expertise and experience on tools proven most effective in detecting and defending against the growing number of cyber events.
- Workforce development, including strategies for current and future cybersecurity workforce education.
- Hardening critical infrastructure, such as the electrical grid, with an emphasis on ensuring continuity of services.
- Incident response, emphasizing swift and effective coordinated response to cyberattacks.

In 2014, Missouri was one of only three states in the nation to receive an A grade from the Center for Digital Government in its annual Digital State Survey, which assesses state governments' ability to improve IT systems for better operational outcomes and services to citizens.

Gov. Nixon has consistently identified cybersecurity as a key priority in his annual budget recommendations and has also worked to generate additional investment and job creation from companies involved in information technology and cybersecurity.

REFLECTING ON RESPONSE, RECOVERY SUCCESSES

During his remarks, his last as Governor to the state conference, Gov. Nixon praised Missouri's emergency management community for its coordinated response efforts to 11 federal major disaster declarations during the Governor's years in office.

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Gov. Nixon Announces Cybersecurity Initiative

(Continued from page 9)

In all, Gov. Nixon has declared a state of emergency 22 times in response to severe weather events.

The Governor said his administration has enhanced disaster response capabilities by:

- Consolidating Missouri's Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism into SEMA so that state employees charged with planning for man-made disasters work alongside the people who coordinate disaster response.
- Strengthening Missouri's coordination on disaster response and recovery with faith-based and volunteer organizations through the Missouri Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery.
- Strengthening Missouri National Guard disaster response coordination and preparedness with local communities by training more than 650 soldiers and airmen as local liaison officers.
- Forging strong ties with the National Weather Service and increasing collaboration in advance of storms.

National Mass Care Exercise

(Continued from page 1)

The city of Independence Emergency Preparedness Division and Jackson County Emergency Preparedness & Homeland Security are among those participating. They plan to conduct field or functional exercises that include complex sheltering, distribution of relief supplies, mass feeding, pet sheltering, volunteer reception center operations, multi-agency coordination centers and radio communications. These exercise operations will be coordinated with other participating organizations around the Kansas City area.

"Our organizations believe it's critical for our communities to be prepared to assist other regions of the state during a catastrophic disaster," said Dante Gliniecki, Independence Emergency Preparedness Division manager. "The mass care exercise is an ideal opportunity for us to test how we would shelter hundreds or even thousands of people displaced by a major earthquake. This

National Mass Care Exercise Overview

August 22

Participating: Regions E and C

Focus: Evacuation assembly sites, injured collection sites and consolidated assembly sites.

August 23

Participating: Regions F, I and G

Focus: Emergency respite sites.

August 24

Participating: Regions D and A

Focus: Reception, processing and care centers.

August 25

Participating: All

Focus: Exercise after-action review.

exercise will help us be better prepared for local disasters as well."

The exercise, which includes a series of smaller functional and full-scale exercises, will focus on the evacuation and mass care portions of the state's earthquake response plan, as well as broad objectives identified by the National Mass Care Task Force. Missouri will test local and state plans for different types of emergency evacuation assembly sites and mass care centers, and clarify different response partners' roles and responsibilities.

"Thousands of Missourians would be seriously impacted if a strong earthquake occurs in the New Madrid Seismic Zone and we must be ready to respond," said SEMA Director Ron Walker. "The mass care exercise will help strengthen our statewide evacuation and mass care plans and partnerships."

A key part of the federal government's National Mass Care Strategy, these national-level exercises have been held in other states annually since 2012. Missouri will be the first inland state to host one of these exercises and the first to test an earthquake scenario.