

THE OKLAHOMELAND



Oklahoma Homeland Security
Regional Advisory Council Newsletter

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405-425-7296

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Regional Council Members,
Welcome to the first edition of our Regional Advisory Council Newsletter, The OklaHomeland. We have several upcoming events and announcements that I want to tell you about.

In September, we conducted a staging and deployment exercise of the Oklahoma Regional Response System at SeptemberFest, an annual family-friendly fair held at the Governor's Mansion.

The exercise was a mock incident, allowing first responders to utilize

interoperable communications and practice managing an incident. The exercise and public viewing gave visitors an opportunity to visit with Regional Response Team members, tour the units and learn the importance of preparing for disaster in Oklahoma.

In conjunction with National Preparedness Month, we have begun hosting training sessions for Map Your Neighborhood, a program designed to help neighborhoods prepare for disasters. You will find more details about this program on

page 2.

Throughout the fall and winter, we will be working with you all and our other stakeholders at the state and local levels to update our State Homeland Security Strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to present a blueprint to using limited resources to increase prevention, preparedness, and response and recovery capabilities. We are gathering your feedback currently and hope to have a draft for your review at this year's fall Regional Council Workshop.

If you have any questions or concerns please call our office at 425-7296 or visit our website, HomelandSecurity.ok.gov. I would like to thank you all for your continuous support of our office and for your integral part in protecting the citizens of this state.

Sincerely,
KERRY PETTINGILL
Director



Governor Henry tours the Oklahoma Regional Response System and meets first responders at Septemberfest.



Oklahoma Office of
Homeland Security
Prevent, Protect, Prepare

National Preparedness Month

During the Month of September, OKOHS participated in various activities in an effort to promote emergency readiness throughout the state. During the Septemberfest event at the Governor's Mansion, the Red Dirt Ready Tent was set up and manned by Citizen Corps Volunteers who were able to talk with attendees about the need to get a kit, have a plan and be informed.

OKOHS also participated in a "Text to win" competition on media outlets throughout the state for 40 free emergency supply kits and one lucky winner won a free storm shelter! Stay up on what's going on with Red Dirt Ready at www.red-dirtready.com



Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) is a unique program designed to help Oklahoma neighborhoods prepare for disasters. When a crisis occurs, Emergency personnel may not always be able to immediately assist your area. Being prepared and taking the right course of action within the first few minutes and hours after a disaster may help protect and save of your neighbors, your families and you.

The Map Your Neighborhood program walks you and your neighbors through a simple step-by-step process to customize an emergency preparedness plan for your area.

Interested association leaders or residents attend the Leaders Training Session provided for free by OKOHS. During this session they learn how to organize a neighborhood meeting to work through the MYN discussion guide and DVD. Ideal "group" sizes are 15 to 20 households in urban areas or 5 to 6 households in a rural area. Limiting the number of households helps maintain effective communication.

After completing the session, neighborhood representatives will host a neighborhood meeting, where participants will:

- Learn the "9 Steps to Take Immediately Following a Disaster"
- Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that would be useful in a disaster response
- Create a Neighborhood Map identifying location of natural gas and propane tanks
- Create a contact list to help identify those with special needs and attention (ex. seniors, children)
- Learn how to work together as a team to evaluate their neighborhood during the first hour following a disaster

For more information about MYN, visit www.reddirtready.com and click on "Your Neighborhood."

Upcoming Events

10/13/10 - Region 4 Council Meeting, (Muskogee)

10/1 - 10/31- October is Cyber Security Awareness Month. For more information visit www.homelandsecurity.ok.gov and click on Cyber Security

11/6 - Map Your Neighborhood Leaders Training Session, (Tulsa, time and location TBD)

11/30/2010 - Regional Council Fall Workshop

Announcements

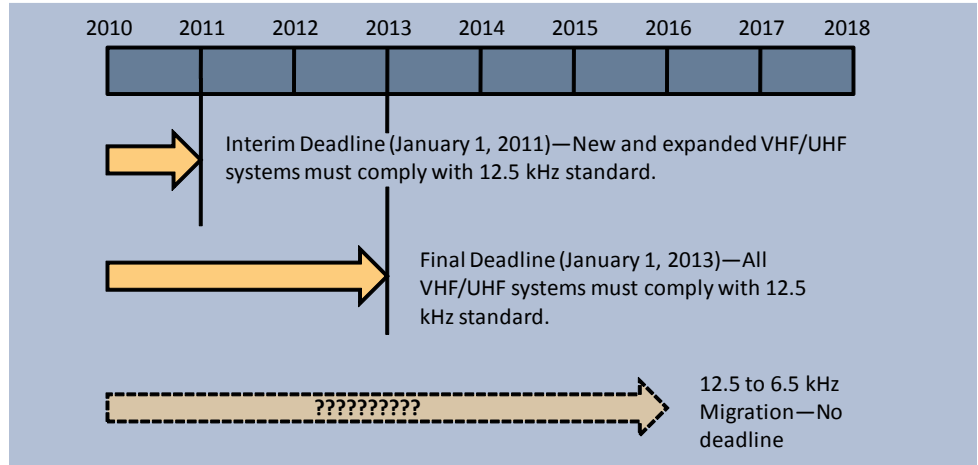
POSITION AVAILABLE!!

OKOHS is currently seeking a Regional Response System Coordinator. The job description with specific qualifications is being reorganized but resumes are currently being accepted. If you or anyone you know has strong planning and project management capabilities in addition to a response background, feel free to pass this information along. Please send resumes to mhouston@dps.state.ok.us.

FCC Modifies Narrowbanding Interim Deadline

On June 30, 2010, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an order granting partial relief regarding the narrowbanding mandate. According to the FCC, “the order partially grants a petition filed by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) seeking relief from interim narrowbanding requirements that otherwise take effect on January 1, 2011.

Specifically, the order gives flexibility to VHF/UHF Band licensees to continue to obtain 25 kHz-capable equipment for their existing systems until January 1, 2013, which previously would have been prohibited as of January 1, 2011. This will make it easier for licensees to manage the



transition of their existing systems to 12.5 kHz capability.” This image depicts the current narrowbanding deadlines, as established by the FCC.

By January 1, 2011, new and expanded VHF (150-174 MHz) and UHF (421-512 MHz) systems must comply with the 12.5 kHz standard,

and by January 1, 2013, all systems must be operating in narrowband. Eventually, systems will have to be converted to 6.25 kHz, but the FCC has not yet established a date for this second migration.

For additional information, or to view the FCC order, visit ioc.ok.gov.

‘If You See Something, Say Something’ Campaign

In September, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the expansion of the “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign to fusion centers across the South.

“Homeland security starts with hometown security, and our state and local law enforcement partners and the public play an important role in keeping our country safe,” said Secretary Napolitano. “By expanding the ‘If You See Something Say Something’ campaign to the South, we are providing critical tools to the region’s communities that will strengthen our ability to

identify and disrupt threats.”

The “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign—originally implemented by New York City’s Metropolitan Transit Authority and funded, in part, by \$13 million from DHS’s Transit Security Grant Program—is a simple and effective program to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism, crime and other threats and emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper transportation and law enforcement authorities.

In the coming months, Oklahoma will work with DHS to continue to expand the campaign through-

out the state with public education materials, advertisements and other outreach tools to engage travelers, businesses, community organizations and public and private sector employees to remain vigilant and play an active role in keeping the country safe.

