

OKLAHOMA REGIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

The **Oklahoma Regional Response System** was developed by the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security and consists of 113 specialized units located throughout the state of Oklahoma. There are 15 different types of units designed to respond to any emergency including chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) events, agricultural emergencies, technical rescues, mass casualty incidents and natural disasters. More than \$35 million in U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant funding has been used for this project.

Oklahoma was the first state to create a tiered response system of this magnitude. The goal when developing the Regional Response System was to provide local agencies with the equipment needed to respond anywhere in the state within two hours of an incident. Each unit belongs to a local agency that maintains the equipment and ensures the ongoing training of its team members. This is truly a state of the art, one of a kind system developed with *you* in mind.

WOODWARD TORNADO RESPONSE

On April 15, 2012, the city of Woodward, OK was devastated by an F3 tornado. Public safety officials immediately determined that there would be numerous injuries—even fatalities—and requested support from Regional Response System units and teams from across the state. Multiple Medium EMS, Bantam EMS and Intermediate Rescue units spanning from Guymon to Kingfisher responded. The EMS units were utilized for injuries and one Bantam EMS unit was staged at a public shelter. The Intermediate Rescue units were deployed with rescue teams and medical personnel to search the areas that were the most damaged. According to Grant Wadley, Regional Emergency Medical Services System Coordinator for Region 1, “the Woodward first responders’ ability to quickly recognize the scale of the incident and call for resources early resulted in smooth operations and handling of the situation. Knowing that specialized resource systems are ready, trained and organized makes Oklahoma a better prepared state.”



Woodward Intermediate CBRNE Unit at the scene during a public safety incident in 2007.

State of the Art... One of a Kind.

UNIT TYPES AND NUMBERS

- Regional CBRNE (5)
- Intermediate CBRNE (13)
- Bomb Squad (9)
- Mass Decontamination (2)
- Small Decontamination (24)
- Large EMS (2)
- Medium EMS (15)
- Bantam EMS (16)
- Urban Search & Rescue (2)
- Intermediate Rescue (10)
- Small Rescue (3)
- Communications and Command (2)
- RRS Logistics (1)
- Agricultural Response (8)
- Mobile Agriculture Lab (1)

