

Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security
Governor Mary Fallin
Kim Edd Carter, Director



Media Advisory –

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northwest Oklahoma Responders to Gather for Emergency Communications Exercise

Woodward (June 18, 2012) - Firefighters, EMTs, police officers and emergency managers will be working hand in hand Tuesday to test their skills and equipment in a demonstration of the Oklahoma Regional Response System; a network of response units located strategically throughout the state.

The public is encouraged to check out the action as responders show off their rescue equipment and exercise their communications in an effort to prepare for a real-life disaster when they would need to work together to help save lives. The event will be held at the Woodward County Fairgrounds located at 100 Temple Houston Dr. from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 19th.

The response system demo is sponsored by the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) which has been working to develop the statewide regional response system for the past eight years.

“With the tornado that recently devastated the area, it’s extremely timely to inform Oklahomans about the efforts underway to protect our citizens and prepare our first responders to handle any type of emergency; be it another tornado, or even an act of terrorism,” said Oklahoma Homeland Security Director, Kim Carter.

The Oklahoma Regional Response System consists of 113 units with response capabilities ranging from bomb squads to search and rescue, from mass casualty medical teams to chemical and biological hazardous material decontaminations.

“The idea in developing this system is that no matter what type of disaster occurs, no matter where in Oklahoma, local emergency personnel will be equipped with adequate resources and training to handle it, which strengthens the capacity of first responders to keep Oklahomans safe,” said Carter.

FOR THE MEDIA:

OKOHS will host media availability with participants to include local legislators and first responders from 12 PM to 1 PM.

Interested parties should RSVP by contacting Lacey Callahan with the OKOHS at **405-517-8543**.

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