

# ACTIVITIES REPORT

## JANUARY – DECEMBER 2018



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



# CONTENTS

## LEADING THE WAY

---

- 1 Director Joe Kelly

## PREPAREDNESS

---

- 2 State Tribal Conference
- 2 Pay No Attention to the State Agency Behind the Curtain
- 3 WebEOC Implementation
- 4 Community Emergency Preparedness Program
- 4 From Natural Disaster to New Beginnings
- 4 School and Community Collaboration
- 4 Making a Difference in St. Paul
- 4 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness
- 5 Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program
- 5 Rail and Pipeline Safety Training Course
- 6 Northwest Health Services Coalition Simulation Cell Regional Exercises Part II
- 6 Meeker and McLeod Bus Crash Exercise

## RESPONSE

---

- 7 Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
- 8 United Way 211
- 8 Toxic Substances Control Act
- 8 State Teams: Time Saved Equals Lives Saved
- 9 Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Survey

## RECOVERY

---

- 10 Governor Dayton Secures Federal Damage Declaration
- 10 Southeast Minnesota Tornadoes
- 11 State Disasters
- 11 Pending Federal Declaration in St. Louis County
- 11 Como Falls, City of Hokah
- 12 Emergency Management Grants Pro Implementation
- 12 Emergency Management Disaster Recovery Playbook
- 12 First Time Ever Activation

## PREVENTION

---

- 13 Elected Officials Training
- 13 Communications
- 15 When Lightning Strikes: Detection System Would Keep Soccer Players Safe
- 15 Ramsey County Slope Failure

## ABOUT DPS-HSEM

---

# LEADING THE WAY



Minnesotans are accustomed to planning their lives around the forecast. Most of us are also generally aware of the varying types of seasonal dangers. Whether it's a severe thunderstorm or a historic blizzard, we're a hardy bunch. Which is also why we lead the way in helping each other when the weather disrupts our daily lives. In 2018, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DPS-HSEM) assisted dozens of counties and tribal nations following several significant severe weather events. These incidents resulted in eight state disaster declarations and one federal disaster declaration. A second federal declaration is a possibility as local, state and federal partners assess eligible damages sustained in the gale force winds and storm surge flooding along Lake Superior in October. The State Disaster Contingency Account was used quite frequently this year, proving how valuable it is in helping our communities recover after an emergency.

Twenty-eight counties and three tribal nations are included in Minnesota's first major disaster declaration of 2018. It covers more than \$21 million in response and repair costs to public property related to repetitive storms between June 15 and July 12. During those four weeks, numerous communities came together to save their towns from the rising waters. From sandbagging to mucking out flooded homes, residents worked together with emergency management, first responders and voluntary groups to keep their communities safe. In July, I joined Gov. Mark Dayton as he toured flood-affected communities. He was especially impressed by the resilient nature of Minnesotans, even in times of distress.

In the spirit of that resilient nature, I am asking all Minnesotans to reassess their safety. It should come as no surprise that flooding is one of the most common disasters in Minnesota. If this year has taught us anything, it's that people don't need to live by a river or one of our many lakes to be at risk. Heavy rain events also cause plenty of damage. Ninety-five percent of Minnesotans currently live in a community that participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. And yet, only a small percentage of Minnesota homeowners actually carry flood insurance. That's why I used several public outreach opportunities this year to stress the importance of flood insurance. In May, I took part in WCCO-AM's day-long conversation about weather. In August, I was invited to discuss our summer storms on the KMSP-TV morning newscast. In both opportunities, I highlighted the value of flood insurance. I encourage our emergency managers to follow my lead. Urge your residents to protect themselves even further by adding flood insurance, as well as water/sewer backup coverage, to their current plans.

In addition to helping each other, HSEM also facilitated several Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests across the country. The missions sent valuable resources to other states following emergencies that depleted their own resources. From the volcano eruption in Hawaii to hurricane relief in the Virgin Islands and Florida to pipeline inspections following a gas explosion in Massachusetts, Minnesota's emergency management community has led the way in assisting our neighbors when they need it most.

Looking forward, HSEM is committed to building trust with our constituents and our peers. We'll do this by sharing our experiences and expertise. We are dedicated to delivering excellence at every level, all while holding ourselves and each other to the highest standards of conduct. I look forward to carrying out this mission of service in the year to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Kelly', written in a cursive style.

Joe Kelly, Director  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management



# PREPAREDNESS



## STATE TRIBAL CONFERENCE

A common ground for understanding: That was the intention behind the Tribal Cultural Partnership Project held at Mystic Lake Casino in mid-March.

Representatives from Minnesota's tribal nations, along with the Department of Public Safety and law enforcement agencies, spent two days exploring native culture, history and traditions

as they relate to current events and issues. Discussion topics included:

- History of tribal nations in Minnesota.
- Tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs roles in law enforcement.
- Public Law 280.
- Dakota Access Pipeline protests.

The goal was to build the partnerships, trust and knowledge necessary to work together better during emergencies as northern Minnesota communities and tribal nations prepare for the upcoming replacement of the Line 3 Enbridge pipeline.

## PAY NO ATTENTION TO THE STATE AGENCY BEHIND THE CURTAIN

If you were anywhere near the Twin Cities over Super Bowl weekend, you saw extra safety and security measures everywhere: armed guards at the airport, a noticeable law enforcement presence downtown, blocked-off streets and altered public transportation schedules and routes.

That visual evidence was just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what local and federal agencies were doing to keep football fans and non-fans alike safe Super Bowl weekend. But what you didn't see was Minnesota's Department of Public Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) division waiting quietly in the background, ready to lend support and resources should the need arise.



*Conference held at Mystic Lake Casino.*

HSEM partially activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), which serves as the hub for state agencies and their public and private partners to work together in support of local responders during a crisis. The SEOC can be activated for emergencies such as an unlikely incident at a nuclear generating plant or a natural disaster. It can also be activated to support major pre-planned events. Over Super Bowl weekend, the SEOC was staffed with state agency personnel from HSEM, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Departments of Health, Transportation and Military Affairs. Additionally, FEMA staff from Chicago, including representatives from Department of Defense, were here in support of HSEM.

The city of Minneapolis and their local, state and federal partners led the effort to ensure safety and security for the events. HSEM stood ready to coordinate a response should something unexpected arise and additional resources were needed. By establishing a high level of situational awareness and having state resources and federal partners at their side in the SEOC, HSEM could quickly jump into action if the city of Minneapolis requested help. It could be anything from mobilizing burn units to treat large numbers of frostbite cases, to calling in additional law enforcement officers if a protest became violent, to deploying hazardous material response teams and activating the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in the event of a chemical release near Super Bowl venues.

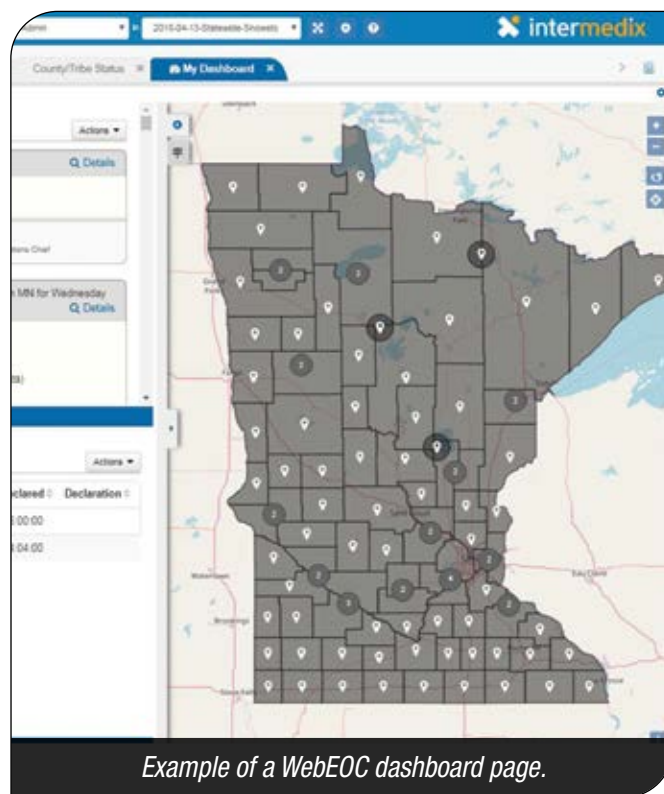
HSEM spent months planning with their partners so they had a very good idea which resources might be needed and was ready deploy them almost immediately.

Think of it like making dinner: Deciding what you want to make, shopping for the ingredients, and doing the prep work all add to the time it takes to get a meal on the table. But if you have everything done ahead of time, all you have to do is cook. By planning meticulously, communicating regularly with the city of Minneapolis and other partners, and having the SEOC partially activated, HSEM was ready to get cooking at a moment's notice. The good news is that at the end of Super Bowl weekend, they never even had to fire up the stove.

## WEBEOC IMPLEMENTATION

WebEOC is a web-based crisis management software that enhances emergency management efforts in preparedness, response and recovery. WebEOC provides a common operating picture so that all jurisdictions and agencies involved can communicate and share information during a response to a disaster or emergency. Minnesota's state agencies, counties, tribes and cities of the first class, as well as a few special jurisdictions, are all part of the WebEOC platform. This allows common efforts, such as resource request and tracking, damage assessment reports, emergency hotline call logging, news releases, and state and local emergency operations center status to take place in one system.

WebEOC will also be the platform used in the event there is a radiological emergency at one of Minnesota's two nuclear power plants. HSEM will be able to coordinate and share real-time information with affected jurisdictions, responders, and Xcel Energy. Implementation of WebEOC is currently 75 percent complete statewide with full implementation expected by spring 2019.



Example of a WebEOC dashboard page.

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (CEP)

A decision was made in September to improve the Integrated Emergency Management Course. The new name is the Community Emergency Preparedness Program. The name change better reflects the goals, functions and additional options to participants. The program continues to offer modular training and exercise guidance to the counties, cities of the first class and tribes in the state of Minnesota.

## FROM NATURAL DISASTERS TO NEW BEGINNINGS

The Minnesota School Safety Center (MnSSC) team assisted with a facility assessment for the Moose Lake Community School. The purpose of this assessment was to review the safety features of the new facility and discuss emergency

operations planning with the staff and students while becoming comfortable in a new school building. Six years ago, flooding significantly damaged the old school building that was located downtown next to a river. HSEM Recovery staff helped the town recover and the new school building is now located on the outskirts of town.

## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

More school and public safety partnerships and collaborations were created in 2018. Trainings and resources were consolidated to ensure successful responses and outcomes in the event of an emergency. School safety issues were a prevalent concern among parents, educators and the citizens of Minnesota. The MnSSC has strived to introduce the best practices that include preventative planning for emergency drills and facility improvements involving stakeholders.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ST. PAUL

The city of St. Paul purchased a new truck for the St. Paul Bomb Squad. The bomb squad will use the truck to assist with a variety of duties, including bomb assistance, trainings and dignitary protection. Money was pooled together from the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant.



## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In March, the hazardous materials staff coordinated a Home-made Explosive Awareness Course that was conducted in multiple locations. Two hundred and fifty first responders learned about the basics of explosives' physical and chemical properties, hazards of homemade explosives, improvised explosive devices, and scene safety and security measures. This awareness level knowledge helps first responders be prepared for incidents.



HSEM continues to work with and train first responders on hazardous materials in case an event occurs. Hazardous materials staff conducted multiple training sessions and tabletop and full-scale exercises throughout the year. In September, staff attended an Ethanol and Flammable Liquids Response Training in Iowa to further enhance their knowledge of ethanol emergency response. HSEM launched its first Ethanol Emergency Response class in October 2018.

## RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

The state of Minnesota successfully passed the federally evaluated Prairie Island Nuclear Power exercise in 2018. This was the fourth year in a row the state has passed the exercise with no exercise findings or issues. This year's exercise was an ingestion pathway exercise that was conducted over two days in the state emergency operations centers in Minnesota and Wisconsin and the emergency operations centers in Dakota and Goodhue counties and Pierce County, Wisconsin. The exercise focused on:

- Relocation
- Re-entry
- Restricted zones
- Returns
- Agricultural control zones
- Recovery

In preparation for the exercise, HSEM conducted over 50 training sessions for state and local responders that include fire, EMS, hospitals, schools and field team personnel.



*First responders hazardous materials training.*

## RAIL AND PIPELINE SAFETY TRAINING COURSE

### 2014-2018 Awareness Level Training Course Statistics

Sessions	310
Departments/Agencies	219
Participants	6,399
Contact Hours	19,197

### 2016-2018 Operational Level Training Course Statistics

Sessions	90
Departments/Agencies	68
Participants	1,620
Contact Hours	6,480



*Region three attack against healthcare facilities exercise.*

## **NORTHWEST HEALTH SERVICES COALITION SIMULATION CELL REGIONAL EXERCISES PART II**

HSEM region three completed a regional exercise that simulated an attack against a healthcare facilities system. The purpose of this exercise was to test responses to a variety of hostile events in the region. The Regional Partner Coordination Center was activated to share information and coordination. Over 50 facilities and 700 people participated in this exercise. Participants represented organizations that included state agencies, emergency managers, tribal nations, hospitals, long-term care facilities, dialysis clinics and public health. There are 14 counties in region three, and each county tested different capabilities. These included active threats, lockdowns, building evacuations, hazardous materials and water contamination issues.

## **MEEKER AND MCLEOD BUS CRASH EXERCISE**

Meeker and McLeod counties worked together to complete a full-scale exercise. The bus crash exercise focused on operation response procedures in a mass casualty and mass fatality event. Over 20 organizations participated in this day-long event on September 25. This exercise was unique because the partners that participated represented two state patrol districts, two radio districts and two emergency management regions. After completing the After Action Report, the group discussed lessons learned and decided the next steps for training.



# RESPONSE

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT (EMAC)

During 2018, HSEM coordinated several EMAC requests. The first request was for the city of Minneapolis to send two teams of building inspectors to the U.S. Virgin Islands. The teams assisted with recovery efforts from the 2017 hurricanes in St. Thomas.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources fulfilled a second EMAC request when two senior wildland firefighters were sent to Hawaii. The wildland firefighters served as division group supervisors in Hawaii County.

EMAC missions were also deployed to North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Florida to help with hurricane response and relief efforts.

In October, Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety inspectors were deployed to Massachusetts under EMAC to oversee the installation of new natural gas pipeline following a series of natural gas explosions that caused more than 80 fires in September.

And in December, HSEM's Brian Curtice traveled to southern California to fulfill an EMAC mission following November's devastating and deadly wildfires. While there, he assisted wildfire survivors in registering for FEMA's disaster assistance program, which includes valuable resources such as shelter, unemployment, crisis counseling and legal services.



*Pipeline explosion replacement.*



*Hurricane Florence response team.*

## UNITED WAY 211

Earlier this year, HSEM partnered with the United Way to establish a statewide citizen disaster damage reporting capability using its 211 call system. Homeowners who have been affected by a disaster can call 211 and report how their home has been damaged by the storm. The information will automatically be sent to the HSEM disaster management system where local and state recovery officials can view the information.

## TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT

The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) provides the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with authority to require reporting, record-keeping and testing requirements and restrictions relating to chemical substances and/or mixtures. The TSCA addresses the production, importation, use and disposal of specific chemicals, including polychlorinated biphenyls, asbestos, radon and lead-based paint.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) program receives Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) data from over 400 facilities in Minnesota. TRI data is used by the EPA to evaluate and prioritize chemicals for regulatory purposes under the TSCA.

For the first time ever in the United States, EPCRA program staff coordinated with the EPA to present two seminars on the TSCA regulations.

## STATE TEAMS: TIME SAVED EQUALS LIVES SAVED

First responders know, firsthand, how much time matters in an emergency. Entire buildings can go up in flames in minutes. People can suffocate on smoke or fumes in moments, and a gas leak can ignite and explode in seconds. So when you're an incident commander, you have to make every second count.

That's why the process to request special teams for incidents including hazardous materials, explosives and collapsed structures was streamlined in 2018.

It used to be that part of the duty officer's job was to ask five questions before a first responder could be patched through to a state emergency response teams coordinator who could get them the help they needed. That person would likely ask you the same five questions in determining which special team to send. Now, rather than answering the questions twice, the duty officer will provide first responders with a direct line to a special teams coordinator with HSEM, who will ask the five questions.

- Is there a release or potential for release?
- Is there a threat to public safety or the environment?
- Has the local emergency response personnel made an initial assessment of the incident?
- Has the local jurisdiction exceeded their capabilities?
- Has the incident commander requested a team response?

Answers to each of these questions don't have to be "yes" in order to have a special team deployed to the incident. The questions serve more to help the emergency response teams coordinator paint a mental picture of what's going on. Based on firefighter feedback, HSEM and the duty officer now also scale and customize response based on the type of incident. For example, if an incident commander doesn't need a whole team of specialists, one or two experts might guide them through a specific situation. In the end, this procedural change helps provide faster, better, and more flexible service.

Incident commanders are already being pulled in dozens of different directions. This new process can help them talk to someone who can provide advice and dispatch a team immediately, so that they can get back to the critical task of containing the situation on-site. They don't have to wait for someone to call them back; it's just one call now, and then they can get back to the critical business of making evacuation decisions, delegating responsibility, and answering questions from their team.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CLEAN WATER ACT SURVEY

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) program staff coordinated with the Minnesota Duty Officer and other state agencies to respond to a Clean Water Act (CWA) Hazardous Substance and Spill Impact Survey.

The EPA developed the survey, which had three purposes:

- Collect information on the number and type of facilities that could potentially be subject to spill prevention regulations for specifically listed CWA hazardous substances.
- Identify impacts of discharges of CWA hazardous substances to surface waters over the past 10 years.
- Gather information on existing state, tribal and territorial programs in place to help prevent and mitigate the impact of CWA hazardous substances to surface waters.



# RECOVERY



## GOVERNOR DAYTON SECURES FEDERAL DAMAGE DECLARATION

Twenty-eight counties and three tribal nations in Minnesota received federal assistance after the president issued a major disaster declaration on September 5. The funds will reimburse counties, cities and tribes for repairs to damaged public property as well as response costs related to severe storms between June 15 and July 12. Governor Dayton requested the federal assistance in August.

The following locations are eligible for disaster assistance: Aitkin, Beltrami, Blue Earth, Brown, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Cottonwood, Faribault, Itasca, Jackson, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pine, Pipestone, Polk, Redwood, Renville, Rock, St. Louis, Sibley and Watonwan Counties, as well as the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, the Red Lake Nation and the White Earth Nation.

Joint federal, state and local preliminary damage assessments found more than \$21 million in damage sustained to public infrastructure. FEMA will fund 75 percent of the approved costs. Under state law, Minnesota will pay the 25 percent non-federal share out of the State Disaster Contingency Account.

## SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA TORNADOES

On September 20 at about 5:45 p.m., a severe weather front moved through southeast Minnesota. The severe weather system spun up 24 confirmed funnels across the area, making it the third largest tornado outbreak in Minnesota history. Rice County received the most damage, and the Faribault airport sustained a direct hit from an EF2 tornado. Several structures and aircrafts at the airport were damaged. The Cannon River Wilderness Area in Rice County was so severely damaged by downed trees that a month after the tornado, officials were still unable to gain access to the area to properly assess all of the damages. Due to the severe weather, eight counties and one tribal nation were granted a state disaster declaration.



*Tornado damage to the Faribault airport hangers.*



## STATE DISASTERS

COUNTIES AND TRIBES	TYPE OF EVENT	ESTIMATED DAMAGE
Nobles, Rock and St. Louis	Spring flooding	<b>\$1,459,596</b>
Lac qui Parle and Marshall	Spring flooding	<b>\$256,621</b>
Ramsey	Slope failure and landslide	<b>\$1,022,360</b>
Fillmore and Red Lake	Torrential rains and flooding	<b>\$267,640</b>
Houston and Koochiching	Torrential rains and flooding	<b>\$815,590</b>
Aitkin	Severe thunderstorms with strong winds and hail	<b>\$128,175</b>
Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Renville, Rice, Steele, Waseca, Goodhue and Prairie Island Indian Community	Severe thunderstorms, heavy rains, damaging winds and tornadoes	<b>\$4,870,407</b>
Cook	Severe wind storm	<b>\$127,735</b>

### PENDING FEDERAL DECLARATION IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Beginning on October 9 and ending on October 10, a historic storm occurred causing extensive damage to the Lake Superior shoreline facilities. The facilities include roads, shoreline revetments, parks, public utilities and Duluth's famous lakeside boardwalk.

On November 20, HSEM, FEMA and emergency managers conducted a joint preliminary damage assessment. The verified damage amount was \$11.5 million. This declaration is pending the approval of the president of the United States.

### COMO FALLS, CITY OF HOKAH

On the evening of August 27 through the morning of August 28, heavy rains fell, totaling nine inches. The persistent rain caused flash flooding in the city of Hokah to the point that Thompson Creek was rerouted and the creek no longer flowed over the falls. This caused significant damage to the historic Como Falls Park, which dates back to the 1800s. A state disaster was declared to assist the local officials in Houston County and the city of Hokah to begin the recovery process and try to restore Como Falls.



*Washed out road in St. Louis County.*



*Water damage to Como Falls creek banks.*

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANTS PRO IMPLEMENTATION

EM Grants Pro is a web-based portal that centralizes information about disaster grants from federal and state declarations. By collaborating with internal staff, external departments and outside parties, HSEM has been able to tailor the product to fit our needs and those of our applicants.

The FEMA DR-4290 case (severe storms and flooding September 21-26, 2016) has been successfully entered into EM Grants Pro, allowing HSEM to record data through the portal where it can be accessed and shared by all involved parties. HSEM will also manage upcoming state declarations through the portal. Applicants have access to information on funding, payments and status of their grants. Applicants also have the ability to electronically submit applications, reimbursement requests and closeout documentation. Being able to share and access data will promote transparency and enable the applicant to become a working partner in the administration and management of their grant, which ultimately will expedite the recovery process.



*Sand bags being assembled for flood relief.*

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISASTER RECOVERY PLAYBOOK

The staff at HSEM has created guidance documents for emergency managers to use when they find themselves navigating the complexities of a disaster. The purpose of these documents is to provide officials with a quick reference so they do not have to refer to large, cumbersome planning documents. The playbook consists of individual fact sheets that address disaster recovery elements such as debris removal, emergency activities, damage reporting, donation and volunteer management, and recovery program guidance.

## FIRST TIME EVER ACTIVATION

This summer Cottonwood County activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) due to flooding in southwest Minnesota. The success of this activation is credited to several activities that include teamwork from a variety of people such as emergency managers, local officials, incident management teams and EOC support teams. Resources were combined from several entities including local and county government and private entities all working together to build dikes to protect public infrastructure. This incident was also successful because citizens were kept up to date throughout the entire activation, because the planning meetings for the city council were televised live. The neighboring communities also received information to aid them in planning. The training and exercises performed by Cottonwood County made a big difference for the first-time activation.



# PREVENTION



## ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING

In 2014, Director Kelly started the Elected and Appointed Officials Training program. This program is specifically designed for senior officials of tribal, county, township and city governments. The four modules range between two and two-and-a-half hours and are listed below:

- Senior officials' roles and responsibilities during emergencies.
- Understanding federal and state disaster assistance programs.
- Communicating with the public during emergencies.
- Review and tabletop exercise.

The county emergency management director works with HSEM to get the training scheduled. Since the inception of the program, Director Kelly has presented classes to local government leaders more than 89 times in 48 counties.

This year, Cass County became the second jurisdiction to complete the entire elected and appointed officials training cycle, culminating with an excellent tabletop exercise in June. Cass County did a great job of promoting township participation, and each module had more than 75 participants.

Additionally, more extensive training is offered to the entire county through the Community Emergency Preparedness (CEP) Program formerly known as the Integrated Emergency Management Course. The purpose of the program is to bring together multidisciplinary teams of elected officials, administrators, department heads, first responders, etc., to focus on:

- Senior officials' roles and responsibilities during emergencies.
- Emergency operations center operations and reports.

- Incident action planning.
- Public information, warnings and social media use in an emergency.
- Tabletop exercise.

The CEP program is modular and can be tailored to a county's specific needs and objectives. HSEM can deliver it in a county or at the Emergency Management Training Center at Camp Ripley.

It really is important to receive some training and participate in exercises before your next disaster. History clearly shows that jurisdictions that train and practice for emergencies have a much greater capacity to respond effectively and recover quickly. A major incident is no time to meet people and learn new things.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Communications is at the forefront of HSEM's core values model. It is imperative that we actively listen to one another and to Minnesotans. What's even more important is speaking with one voice. With the right information, people can make the right decisions at the right time to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

This work is not unique to emergencies and disasters. Rather, it takes place as we routinely engage with our constituents through a variety of outreach and education initiatives. Annual campaigns include Severe Weather Awareness Week, National Preparedness Month and Winter Hazard Awareness Week.

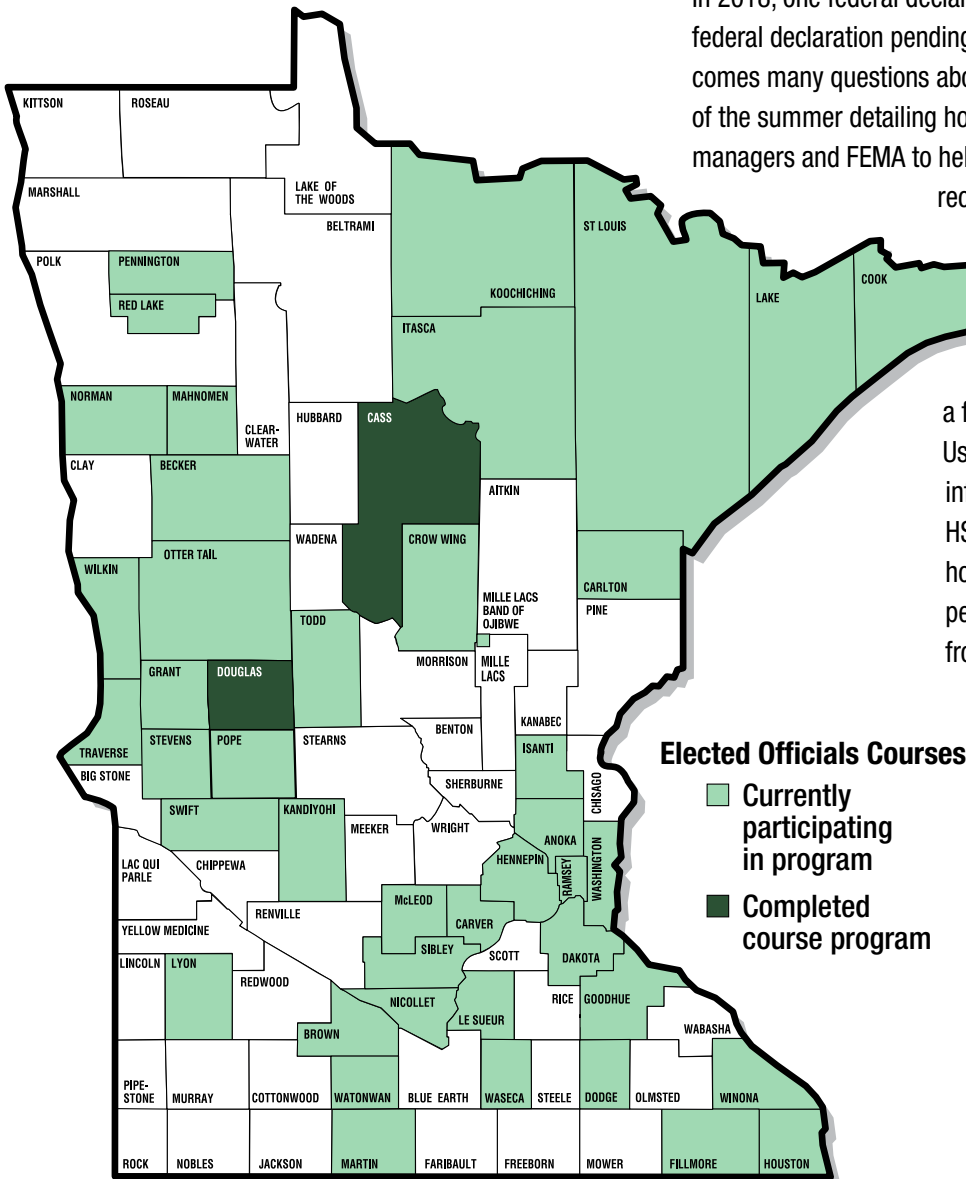
# PREVENTION

However, our work doesn't end there. Here are other communications highlights for 2018:

- When an emergency happens in Minnesota, public safety officials are responsible for informing the public of potential dangers. One tool HSEM uses is the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, or IPAWS. After Hawaii sent a false alert using the same system, HSEM took an opportunity to educate the public about Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) — two commonly used components of IPAWS. Although Minnesota has the same warning system as Hawaii does, there are measures in place to ensure that IPAWS is only used for tests and valid warnings in Minnesota.

- HSEM was presented with a unique public education opportunity when more than 100,000 visitors descended on the Twin Cities for the 2018 Super Bowl. Many traveled from warm weather climates and were unaware of the dangers of Minnesota's harsh winters. HSEM took those 10 days leading up to the big game to highlight safety measures, such as: dressing for the forecast, paying attention to road conditions, being aware of their surroundings, and reporting suspicious behavior.
- Severe weather is a given in Minnesota once spring and summer roll around. But it's not often the state sees enough damage to qualify for a presidential disaster declaration. In 2018, one federal declaration was declared with a second federal declaration pending for early 2019. With every disaster comes many questions about recovery aid. HSEM spent most of the summer detailing how we work with local emergency managers and FEMA to help communities respond to and recover from emergencies.

- IPAWS was thrown into the spotlight again in October when FEMA conducted a first-ever test of the WEA system. Using our blog, social media posts, infographics and media interviews, HSEM informed cell phone users how the system worked and how people can get the most benefit from the system.





## WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES: DETECTION SYSTEM WOULD KEEP SOCCER PLAYERS SAFE

Imagine this: you're sitting on the sidelines of a soccer field, watching your child play in another game. Dark clouds roll in. People are getting worried, but the coaches and refs still haven't yet called off the game. That's where a lightning and heat detection system can help make the call for you.

HSEM is teaming up with the National Sports Center in Blaine to install such a system on its soccer fields, where more than 15,000 children compete in the annual USA Cup. The system would sound a horn when there is lightning in the area or when the heat index reaches a certain limit. Currently FEMA is reviewing the National Sports Center's application. This system will be partially paid for using hazard mitigation funds.

## RAMSEY COUNTY SLOPE FAILURE

Gov. Mark Dayton authorized a state disaster for Ramsey County in April. The authorization was in response to a rockslide on Wabasha Street in St. Paul. Ramsey County was reimbursed from the State Disaster Assistance Contingency Account for eligible costs that included debris cleanup and repairs to stabilize the slope. Mitigation measures will be necessary to prevent another slope failure in the future.



*Heavy rains caused the Wabasha Street rockslide.*

# ABOUT DPS-HSEM



*HSEM recognizes emergency management certificate recipients at the 2018 HSEM Governor's Conference.*

## MISSION

Helping Minnesota prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.



*Director Joe Kelly.*

## VISION

A resilient Minnesota — prepared to respond and recover

## ORGANIZATION

The HSEM staff works in the Town Square building in downtown St. Paul. The staff of approximately 67 employees works in one of six branches with administration as a support:

- Finance
- Operations
- Organizational Development
- Preparedness
- Recovery and Mitigation
- Training and School Safety Center

**Director: Joe Kelly**

**Deputy Director: Kevin Reed**







Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
445 Minnesota Street | Suite 223 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
(651) 201-7400 | [hsem.dps.mn.gov](http://hsem.dps.mn.gov)