

# **HSEM Region IV**

## **Regional Homeland Security and Emergency Management Strategy**

**April 2012**

### **Executive Summary**

The Region IV Homeland Security and Emergency Management Strategy provides strategic direction for enhancing the region's capability and capacity to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from, any number of hazards faced by individual or multiple jurisdictions of the region.

Region IV is located in west central Minnesota and covers a vast and diverse 13,953 square mile geographic area (see image 1), with a total population of 622,602 (2010 U.S. census) (see table A). Region IV consists of eighteen counties and one tribal community: Benton, Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pope, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Wilkin, Wright and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe with counties that border North and South Dakota.

Located within the region is the headwaters of the Red River of the North and the Minnesota River and it contains a large portion of the Mississippi River.

Among the many critical resources and assets within the region are Camp Ripley – a regional training facility for the Minnesota National Guard and other military and civilian personnel, and site of the State Emergency Management Training Center – and one of the state's two nuclear power plants.

The purpose of this strategy is to identify, organize and mobilize the assets, resources and plans of the region to advance the preparedness and response levels of governments, communities, businesses, organizations and residents throughout the region and the state.

In recent years, significant steps have already been taken to improve prevention, intervention, mitigation, response and recovery; but a great deal of work remains. This strategy plan will help guide the work that has yet to be completed. It will provide direction to local, regional and state organizations, and includes steps that can be taken to improve the region's capacity.

Basic and advanced resources to prevent, mitigate and respond to these hazards are extremely stretched and/or absent from the region, making even some basic operations difficult and ineffective.

Region IV supports critical infrastructure planning and protection programs and utilized data tools available for that purpose.

Unless we act to address these risks, the hazards we face are likely to continue to occur, and have increasingly devastating effects. The region must be prepared not just to respond and recover from an incident once it has occurred, but actively plan and work to prevent and mitigate them.

## **Critical Mission Areas**

Compiling the eleven critical mission areas was accomplished by conducting a regional capability assessment, and analyzing the results to develop a gap analysis. Once complete, identified gaps were further analyzed to determine whether the gap existed because of a lack of planning, training, exercising, equipment or organization, and whether the resources necessary to fill the gap existed within the region or other areas of the state. Primary status and consideration was given to gaps that existed with the region's ability to fill, supported by those requiring outside relationships and assistance.

As a final analysis, each mission area was considered in light of the federally defined core capability targets and target capability outcomes, on which the originating assessment was based.

This regional strategy is divided into and focuses on the following eleven critical areas:

1. Ensure the region has access to timely, accurate and actionable intelligence information
2. Enhance the region's ability to delay, divert, intercept, halt, apprehend or secure threats and/or hazards
3. Enhance the region's ability to identify, assess and prioritize risks
4. Reduce or mitigate risks by protecting critical infrastructure
5. Strengthen the security and resilience of the regional supply chain
6. Ensure a safe and secure environment through security and protection operations
7. Provide lifesaving medical treatment and avoid additional disease/injury by providing targeted public health and medical support and products within the region
8. Provide life sustaining services to affected populations with a focus on hydration, feeding and sheltering and reunification
9. Provide critical transportation for response priority objectives, including the evacuation of people and animals, and the delivery of vital response personnel, equipment and services to the affected areas
10. Stabilize critical infrastructure functions, minimize health and safety threats and efficiently restore and revitalize systems and services to support a viable, resilient community
11. Return economic and business activities to a healthy state and develop new business and employment opportunities that result in a sustainable and economically viable community.

**Table A**

| <b>County</b>           | <b>Population<br/>(2010 Census)</b> | <b>Land Area<br/>(Square Miles)</b>                           |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Benton County           | 38,451                              | 408.30  |
| Big Stone County        | 5,269                               | 499.02  |
| Douglas County          | 36,009                              | 637.30  |
| Grant County            | 6,018                               | 548.16  |
| Kandiyohi County        | 42,239                              | 796.79  |
| Meeker County           | 23,300                              | 608.18  |
| Mille Lacs County       | 26,097                              | 572.31  |
| Morrison County         | 33,198                              | 1,125.06  |
| Otter Tail County       | 57,303                              | 1,972.07  |
| Pope County             | 10,995                              | 669.71  |
| Stearns County          | 150,642                             | 1,343.13  |
| Stevens County          | 9,726                               | 563.60  |
| Swift County            | 9,783                               | 742.08  |
| Todd County             | 24,895                              | 944.98  |
| Traverse County         | 3,558                               | 573.90  |
| Wadena County           | 13,843                              | 536.27  |
| Wilkin County           | 6,576                               | 750.96  |
| Wright County           | 124,700                             | 661.46716   |
| <b>Region IV Totals</b> | <b>Population<br/>622,602</b>       | <b>Square Mile<br/>Geographic Area<br/>13,953.2814,007.82</b> |

## Section 2: Goals, Objectives, and Implementation Steps

### Region IV West Central Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management

#### Regional Strategy to Achieve Core/Target Capabilities

##### PREVENTION

Goal 1: Ensure the region has access to timely, accurate, and actionable intelligence information

Objective 1.1: Locally generated threat information is identified, gathered and provided to appropriate analysis centers

##### Implementation Steps:

1. Provide training on the collection of intelligence information
2. Support activities to catalog information in stakeholder compatible formats

Objective 1.2: Actionable intelligence/information products are produced in support of prevention, awareness, deterrence, response, and continuity planning operations

##### Implementation Steps:

1. Establish/maintain relationships with the MN Joint Analysis Center
2. Provide training on MN Joint Analysis Center capabilities and operations
3. Support local/regional efforts to archive intelligence/information
4. Provide equipment to safely respond to highly sensitive incidents

Objective 1.3: Effect and timely sharing of intelligence/information occurs to all stakeholders

##### Implementation Steps:

1. Provide training on intelligence information sharing/dissemination
2. Establish/maintain relationships with the MN Joint Analysis Center

Goal 5: Strengthen the security and resilience of the regional supply chain

Objective 5.1: Threats to food and agriculture safety are prevented, mitigated and eradicated

Implementation Steps:

1. Establish/maintain relationships with the MN Department of Agriculture, Board of Animal Health

Objective 5.2: Animal disease is prevented, mitigated and eradicated

Implementation Steps:

1. Provide training on animal health emergency support
2. Establish/maintain relationships with the MN Board of Animal Health, regional veterinarians, and voluntary agencies
3. Support the development of a regional animal health equipment/supply cache, and/or the sustainment of existing caches
4. Support local and regional efforts to recruit and train volunteers

Goal 6: Ensure a safe and secure environment through security and protection operations

Objective 6.1: Threat assessments are conducted, explosive/hazardous devices are rendered safe, and the area is clear of hazards

Implementation Steps:

1. Provide training on explosive device response operations
2. Support efforts to conduct formal explosive device risk/vulnerability assessments
3. Provide equipment to detect and safely respond to CBRNE incidents

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**RESPOND**

Goal 7: Provide lifesaving medical treatment and avoid additional disease/injury by providing targeted public health and medical support and products within the region

Objective 7.1: Agents causing or having the potential to cause illness or death are rapidly detected and identified

Implementation Steps:

1. Provide training on specimen/sample procedures and local agency responsibilities
2. Establish/maintain relationships with the MN Department of Health
3. Provide equipment and training to detect and respond to CBRNE incidents

Goal 9: Provide critical transportation for response priority objectives, including the evacuation of people and animals, and the delivery of vital response personnel, equipment and services to the affected areas

Objective 9.1: Affected and at-risk populations/companion animals are safely sheltered-in-place and/or evacuated to safe refuge areas, and safely reentered into the affected areas if appropriate

Implementation Steps:

1. Support member jurisdiction efforts to address reentry and recovery strategies for evacuation and shelter-in-place activities
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**RECOVER**

Goal 10: Stabilize critical infrastructure functions, minimize health and safety threats, and efficiently restore and revitalize systems and services to support a viable, resilient community

Objective 10.1: Conduct accurate situation needs and damage assessments; identify and prioritize mitigation projects to lessen the impact of future events

Implementation Steps:

1. Provide training on conducting situational, damage and mitigation assessments
2. Support local and regional efforts to recruit and train volunteers
3. Develop regional critical resource lists and acquisition procedures

Objective 10.2: Sufficient lifeline services are available to safely support ongoing recovery activities

Implementation Steps:

1. Develop methods to identify all entities affected by the loss of infrastructure
2. Ensure member jurisdictions provide for the essential service/logistic needs of mobilized personnel

Goal 11: Return economic and business activities to a healthy state and develop new business and employment opportunities that result in a sustainable and economically viable community

Object 11.1: Economic impact is estimated, priorities are set for recovery, businesses are returned to operation, and victims are provided with appropriate relief

Implementation Steps:

1. Provide training on recovery activities/operations