

# The Communicator

January 2012



## Interoperability Exercise

-Gary Vance

On October 18, 2011, representatives from Kentucky's Bullitt and Jefferson Counties came together to evaluate and improve their ability to coordinate and communicate in an incident. The one-day meeting included a training session on MetroSafe's communications resources that are available for regional use—as detailed in the Regional Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP)—and a functional exercise focused on establishing cross-county communications in an incident. Meeting participants primarily consisted of “first, first responders”—the communications personnel who support traditional first responders (police, fire, emergency medical services) in an incident—and communications leaders from the region. While

vital to the success of any response, communications are all too often overlooked. Opportunities such as the Bullitt-Jefferson County Regional Interoperability Exercise bring communications to the forefront and provide participants with an opportunity to practice their skills, identify communications challenges and solutions, and build relationships among partnering agencies.

Participants noted a number of positive outcomes from the exercise, including *improved awareness* of the resources available across counties, increased *comfort within their own roles* and expectations in an incident, and *strengthened relationships* across counties. In addition, a number of successes demonstrated the skills of the group and the potential for problem solving in action, including:

- **Successful Distribution and Inventory of Cache Radios.** Two MetroSafe technicians managed the administration of the radio cache to exercise participants. Using the Radio Cache Resource Request Form (found in the TICP), they documented which radio went to which “responder.”

## Interoperability Continued...

- **Streamlined Roll Call.** Using the MERV as an on-site command post, one of the MetroSafe dispatchers took the initiative to lead a roll call. Leveraging the Radio Cache Resource Request Form, the dispatcher was able to keep track of both radio user IDs and user names
- **Radio Cache Usability.** Although most were unfamiliar with the MMVRS 800 MHz cache radios, participants were able to successfully operate the radios during the incident. The radio cache cheat sheet detailed operational instructions, providing participants with a basic framework to communicate.
- **Use of Harris Tri-Band Radios as a Back-up Solution.** While participants were not able to establish interoperable communications through the MMVRS 800 MHz radio cache, the Harris tri-band radios provided a successful alternative to dial directly into the Zoneton Fire Department.



The Bullitt-Jefferson County exercise is the first in a series of exercises that are intended to increase awareness, assess capabilities, and identify solutions for improving interoperability across the Louisville region. As with any exercise, the goal is to not only reinforce what is known, but also to identify challenges that agencies have not anticipated or planned for. In the case of this first exercise, communications were not always smooth, but participants were able to identify solutions that will be instrumental in future responses. Future exercises will provide partners the opportunity to improve regional communications by sharing challenges, lessons learned, and solutions.



*"The exercise was a great experience. I used to think the problem with Bullitt County was their old technology, when in fact we have equipment that could be better utilized to help them communicate with us."*

*Mark Jeziorski*

*"... I think the most important thing that a calltaker can take from the exercise is that of flexibility." Taylor Hamilton*

*"There is so much that goes on behind the scenes of a major incident, and we were able to see what some of those things were." Kristen Ware*

## National Crime Information Center

Missing Persons

-Sherrie Whitford



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) Missing Person's File was implemented in 1975. Records in the Missing Person's File are retained indefinitely, until the individual is located or the record is cancelled by the entering agency. The Missing Person's File contains records for individuals reported missing that have a physical or mental disability, involved in a catastrophe, endangered, juveniles, involuntary disappearance, and any other with a reasonable concern for safety. As of December 31, 2011, NCIC contained 85,158 active missing person records. LMPD has 105 active missing person records. Each month, MetroSafe's NCIC enters more than 300 missing people, most of which are located and returned home within 30 days.

For a missing person that does not meet the nationwide or state requirements, LMPD has an Operation Return Home policy. In addition, the Amber Alert Program is a nationwide program that works with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's organization to return missing juveniles. Currently there is not a nationwide alert for disabled and endangered adults; however, Kentucky has a Golden Alert, which is similar to Indiana's Silver Alert. Search the internet for "HR.112" to read more about the possibility of having a nationwide program for adults.

If you are interested in nominating someone for an EMA/MetroSafe Award please send your nomination to [EMAMetroSafeAwards@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:EMAMetroSafeAwards@louisvilleky.gov), or interoffice mail to Jody Johnson. The awards are for service from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 and include: Calltaker of the Year, Commendable Merit, Dispatcher of the Year, Employee of the Year, Leadership Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, Rookie of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, and Technician of the Year.

**January 2012**

## EMA/MetroSafe Perfect Attendance 2011

Jim Bottom, Jim McKinney, Elaine Baltimore, Lee Cravens, Dan Logsdon, Bob Schmid, J.A. Wilson, Kevin Zierer, Doug Hamilton, Tonya Sangester, Debbie Fox, Mark Zorn, Traci Crenshaw, Angie Downes, Mindy Glenn, Jody Johnson, Sherrie Whitford, David Smallwood, Michael Alvey, Larry Anglin, Alan Hart, Chester Keys, James Lawson, Eddie Lewellen, Dana Logsdon, William McGrew, Matt Oliver, Paul Richardson, Richard Salings, Gary Vance, Brenda Morton, Freida Zaremba...Congrats!

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