



# The Duty Officer

Wisconsin Emergency Management Newsletter

## Wisconsin Emergency Management Launches E-Mail Newsletter

WEM is proud to launch its first e-mail newsletter, "The Duty Officer." The newsletter will be released bi-monthly and will feature articles from WEM and the county emergency management agencies. ReadyWisconsin, WEM's preparedness campaign, will provide an emergency safety tip of the month in the right column of each issue.

Clicking the title of each article will bring the reader to a PDF version of the newsletter with complete stories and pictures.

The e-newsletter is just one part of WEM's communications outreach. It joins the e-mail news releases, ReadyWisconsin Facebook and Twitter accounts and the newly launched WEM blog as our digital outreach options for Wisconsin residents looking for emergency preparedness tips and disaster updates.

E-mail subscribers who have chosen to receive Wisconsin Emergency Management or ReadyWisconsin information will automatically be signed up for the e-newsletter. New subscribers can join the e-newsletter mailing list by visiting the WEM website, clicking "Sign Up for News Releases" in the left-hand column, and signing up for WEM and/or ReadyWisconsin news updates.



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## "Turn Around, Don't Drown" Signs in Clark and Jackson Counties

Clark and Jackson Counties have installed "Turn Around, Don't Drown" signs across low water crossing areas to warn drivers of potential danger when the roads are covered by water.

The sign campaign was created by the National Weather Service and the message has been shared nationwide. Flash flooding is a frequent occurrence at low water crossing areas throughout Wisconsin, and these signs will be added at particularly dangerous areas.

Initial locations for the signs in these two counties include Black River at Clark County Road N, four miles southwest of Withee; South Fork Eau Claire River at Clark County Road M, just downstream of Mead Lake; and the Black River at Jackson County Road VV near North Bend.



Workers add the new safety signs at a dangerous low water crossing area.

Clark County Emergency Management Director Michelle Hartness believes the warnings will be valuable for folks travelling through the region.

“We have some areas that flood quite regularly here in the county,” said Hartness. “During the floods last September...we had cars that tried to go through water and needed to be rescued. It not only puts the people in the vehicle at risk, it also puts our emergency services people at risk.”

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## School Bus Crash Exercise Tests Marquette County Responders

Marquette County emergency responders participated in a school bus crash exercise on August 13 in Montello. The exercise tested special extrication techniques, mass casualty and triage management.

“The exercise taught new skills, refreshed others, and gave us valuable information for future training and planning to assure the best emergency services possible for Marquette County,” said Marquette County Emergency Management Director Les Crandall.

Several first responder agencies participated in the exercise. Law enforcement, EMS, fire from Marquette County and various municipalities, and the Montello School District were involved in the training.



First responders from multiple departments participate in the bus crash exercise.

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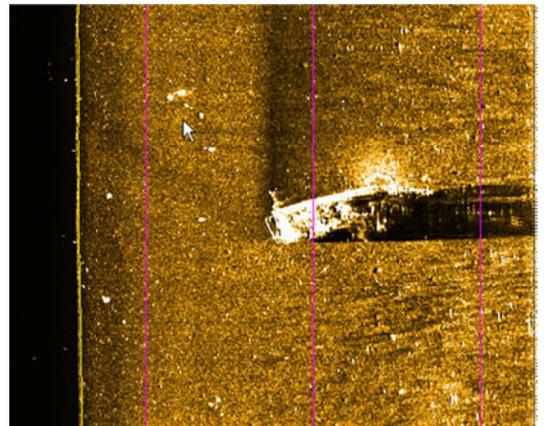
## New Equipment Assists in Marinette County Deep Water Search

This summer, the Marinette County Sheriff’s Department’s dive team used a new side-scan sonar system to locate a power boat that had sunk in Lake Michigan near the Peshtigo Point Light House.

In July, the 45-foot-long “Luna-Sea” sunk in 70-foot deep waters of Lake Michigan. Three people were rescued by a ship that was travelling with the Luna-Sea during the accident.

A week later, with the use of the side-scan sonar system, the department was able to find the sunken boat on the seafloor and mark its location. A recovery plan is being finalized for the vessel, and the location is buoyed as a warning to fishing boats.

To help locate sunken boats, a side-scan sonar system is towed through the water a few feet above the seafloor. A reflected acoustic signal is processed in real-time on a monitor in the towing vessel, creating an image resembling an aerial photograph. The system searches a wide area in each path and stores GPS information during the process, allowing users to log the location of their discoveries.



An image taken by the side-scan sonar unit of the Luna-Sea on the seafloor.

Marinette County Emergency Management Director Eric Burmeister says the time saved in a search is a large part of the equipment's value. "Side-scan sonar has been used a couple of times to recover a drowning victim. It would have been days with divers searching the seafloor otherwise," said Burmeister. "In the case of this vessel, the ship was fully fueled...so being able to quickly find it and raise it off the seafloor provides an added level of safety from an environmental perspective."

The Marinette County Sheriff's Department purchased the side-scan unit with a Homeland Security grant.

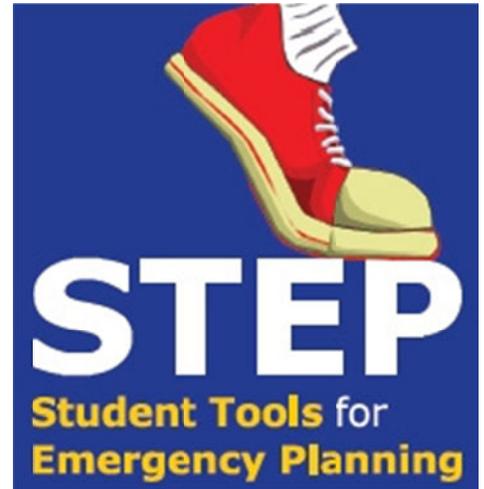
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## **STEP Program Returns to Wisconsin**

Wisconsin 5th graders will learn how to prepare for disasters and react to emergencies thanks to a special program being taught once again in schools across the state. It is called STEP (Student Tools for Emergency Planning).

"The students involved in the STEP program will gain very important and potentially lifesaving knowledge," said Tod Pritchard, Wisconsin Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. "Students take that knowledge home and share it with family and friends, making their communities better prepared for an emergency."

STEP is a turn-key classroom curriculum for teachers to prepare their students for various emergencies including tornadoes, flooding and storms. STEP also shows students how to put together an emergency kit and develop an emergency plan with their families. STEP materials include instructor guides, copies of student handouts and starter emergency kits students can take home. All the materials are supplied to schools through a grant program at no cost. The basic lesson is only one hour, but there are up to eight hours of material available. It is very flexible; if teachers would like to expand the teaching time they can.



Last spring, nearly 2,400 5th graders in 45 schools around Wisconsin participated in the STEP pilot program. The goal for 2011-12: 5,000 students in approximately 100 schools.

School officials can go to the ReadyWisconsin website (<http://readywisconsin.wi.gov/>) and click on the STEP button. This will direct educators to a simple online application. The application window will close on October 28. The awards will be announced in early November.

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## **September Preparedness Month – “A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare.”**

Where were you on September 11, 2001? It is hard to believe that this September marks the ten year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. As we take time to remember the lives lost, we need to make time to prepare for future emergencies.

Emergencies can happen anytime and anywhere. Wisconsin has several hazards ranging from tornados and blizzards to man-caused emergencies. It is important to be prepared in case your family must be evacuated or are without electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or pharmacy, or other local services. Just follow these three steps:

## GET A KIT

Keep enough emergency supplies on hand for you and your family – water, non-perishable food, a first aid kit, prescriptions, a flashlight and a battery-powered radio. If you own pets, remember to include pet food and supplies.

[Click here](#) for a complete emergency kit checklist.

## MAKE A PLAN

Discuss and agree on an emergency plan with your family.

[Click here](#) for a Family Emergency Plan

## BE INFORMED

Knowing the dangers and making good decisions can save your life. Here are just a few examples of where to find emergency information:

[Click here](#) to sign up for ReadyWisconsin on Twitter

[Click here](#) to sign up for ReadyWisconsin on Facebook

[Click here](#) for more information on emergency radios

ReadyWisconsin launched a campaign this September called “A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare.” A major part of this campaign is a public service announcement (PSA) which is airing on television stations across the state. The 30-second spot remembers the lives lost on 9/11 and urges everyone to be ready for disasters and emergencies that could strike at any time. First responders and emergency managers from across Wisconsin participated in the making of the PSA. Along with airing on TV stations, it is also posted on our website: [readywisconsin.wi.gov](http://readywisconsin.wi.gov). The site also has great tips on how to create your own emergency kit and how you can win a kit.

Individuals and families are the most important members of the nation’s emergency management team. Being prepared can save precious time and save lives.

Honor the 9/11 victims by making sure you and your family are ready!



A film crew shoots footage for the public service announcement with the Stevens Point Fire Department.

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## ReadyWisconsin’s “Tip of the Month”

Make it a goal in September to put together a survival kit.

Include items that meet your special needs. For example, if your child has food allergies, make sure you have some non-perishable food items. If you are evacuated from your home you might not have access to those specialty foods, so planning ahead can make a valuable difference.

For more information, visit [readywisconsin.wi.gov](http://readywisconsin.wi.gov).



## Personnel Changes at WEM

Wisconsin Emergency Management has been busy of late, welcoming new co-workers and saying “goodbye” to old friends.

### *New Faces – Regional Offices:*



Lisa Olson-McDonald  
WC Regional Director

**Lisa Olson-McDonald** recently began her role as WEM’s West Central Regional Director. Prior to this position, Lisa was a GIS/REP Planner with WEM for more than four years. Lisa can be contacted at 715-839-3825 or [lisa.olsonmcdonald@wisconsin.gov](mailto:lisa.olsonmcdonald@wisconsin.gov).

**Ben Schliesman** joins WEM as Southeast Regional Director. Ben has served Kenosha County as Emergency Management Director and was President of the Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA) for four years. Ben was also an Emergency Management Program Manager for Milwaukee Area Technical College. Ben can be contacted at 262-782-1515 or [ben.schliesman@wisconsin.gov](mailto:ben.schliesman@wisconsin.gov).



Ben Schliesman  
SE Regional Director

### *New Faces – WEM Central Office:*

**Kathryn Campbell** joins WEM as a limited-term employee (LTE) working in public assistance and mitigation. Kathryn graduated from UW-La Crosse in August, majoring in community health education. Kathryn can be reached at [kathryn.campbell@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kathryn.campbell@wisconsin.gov).

**Katie Sommers** was recently named Disaster Response and Recovery Planner for WEM. Katie has worked for the agency since November 2010 as a Hazard Mitigation Specialist. She can be reached at 608-242-3222 or [katie.sommers@wisconsin.gov](mailto:katie.sommers@wisconsin.gov).

**Caryn Stone** will join WEM’s public assistance program in late September, with a focus on managing the Wisconsin Disaster Fund. Caryn previously served as Community Services Specialist in the housing division of the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

**Dave Mclean** will begin his new role as Grants Specialist – Advanced within WEM’s fiscal section in late September. Dave has worked for WEM as an LTE financial specialist since September 2010. He can be reached at 608-242-3237 or [david.mclean@wisconsin.gov](mailto:david.mclean@wisconsin.gov).

### *Moving On:*

Following 36 years of distinguished service with the agency, **Diane Kleiboer** has retired from her position as Disaster Recovery Program Supervisor. Diane began her career with WEM in July 1975. Over the course of her career, Diane participated in 32 presidential



Kathryn Campbell, Public Assistance and Mitigation (left) and Katie Sommers, Disaster Response and Recovery Planner (right)



Dave Mclean  
Grants Specialist – Advanced

disasters, multiple U.S. Small Business Administration declarations and countless other emergencies and disasters. Notable events included a downburst of winds that felled trees in a swath 121 miles long and 23 miles wide during summer 1977; the tornado outbursts of 1980; Barneveld's F5 tornado in 1984; the floods of 1993; reception of Hurricane Katrina evacuees in 2005; and the floods of 2008.

**Rob Rude**, Northeast Regional Director and Response Section Supervisor, has also retired. Rob served 26 years in emergency management, including six years as Wood County Emergency Management Director. Rob's experiences include serving in the command post during the Native American spear fishing operations in the early 1990's, the Weyauwega train derailment in 1996, and assisting the State of New York with the planning section after the September 11, 2001 attacks under an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)

deployment. Rob also served as WEM's Director of the Bureau of Response and Recovery and as Deputy Administrator.



Lynsey Kawski

**WEM Disaster Planner Lynsey Kawski** recently left her position to attend law school at Loyola University New Orleans.

We wish Diane, Rob and Lynsey nothing but the best in the future!



Diane accepts a service award from Larry Reed (left), WEM Deputy Administrator and Pat O'Connor (right), Director of the Response & Recovery Bureau.



Rob Rude (second from left) celebrates his retirement during a ceremony at the State Emergency Operations Center. With Rob are Larry Reed (far left), WEM Deputy Administrator; Brian Satula (second from right), WEM Administrator; and Pat O'Connor (right), Director of the Response & Recovery Bureau.

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