



**State of Wisconsin
Homeland Security Council**

SCOTT WALKER
Governor

MAJ GEN DONALD P. DUNBAR
Homeland Security Advisor

Department of Military Affairs
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

(608) 242-3075

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For more information: Lori Getter, 608-516-0293

Wisconsin Homeland Security Council reports reflect continued collaboration

The Governor's Homeland Security Council unveiled two preparedness reports today that discuss the accomplishments and ongoing collaborative efforts by state and local agencies in 2014 along with an assessment of risks facing Wisconsin. Despite continued improvement, the reports reflect that the state must remain vigilant and continue to improve efforts to protect lives and property.

"Federal, state, tribal, local agencies and the private sector have worked hard to improve homeland security in Wisconsin. This includes making sure our first responders are trained and equipped, our critical infrastructure is secure, and plans are in place to respond to disasters and emergencies," said Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor Major General Don Dunbar. "However, our threat and risk assessment shows we still have work to do to prepare for a potential catastrophic or cyber event."

The 2014 Wisconsin Homeland Security Annual Report outlined updates and new initiatives. These include:

- **Improving Cyber Security** – Wisconsin has held two cyber security summits and has a cyber security annex in the State of Wisconsin Emergency Response Plan. The state continues to work with its partners to improve upon and strengthen the state cyber security system and proactively guard against attacks.
- **Creation of Wisconsin Task Force One** – A regional response collapse rescue team made up of members from 10 fire departments across the state that could assist local responders at events such as a building collapse or confined space search and rescue.
- **Food & Agricultural Security** – The state continues to support multi-state training and exercises to support the security of the food and agricultural industries in Wisconsin.

- Strengthening Public Health Preparedness – WI Department of Health Services (DHS) continues to work with public health agencies to prepare, plan and respond to emergencies. Since last fall, DHS has been leading Ebola readiness efforts in Wisconsin by providing guidance and ongoing information to public health agencies and the health care sector.
- Readiness Efforts – In 2014, more than 2,900 Wisconsin first responders participated in emergency management training courses. In addition, WEM supported 34 exercises that allowed local communities and agencies to test their response plans.

The Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report was also released. The document, which is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, outlines risks facing the state. The report covered eight threat and hazard scenarios along with the state's current capability assessment to respond to those events. Some of the scenarios highlighted included flooding, an EF 5 tornado outbreak in a populated area, widespread cyber/power outages, and a terrorist event. The report outlines the risks and vulnerabilities and helps state and local partners develop plans, conduct exercises, and ensure adequate resources are available or accessible to respond to threats/hazards and protect the public.