

# ACTIVITIES REPORT

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2019

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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

# CONTENTS

## ONE MINNESOTA

Director Joe Kelly

## PREPAREDNESS

### Minnesota School Safety Center

New Staff

School Facility Assessments and EOPs

Unified School Response Program

School Resource Officer Training

### Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program

Monticello Exercise

Hospital Training

Evacuation and Re-entry Training

### TPT Now Channel 2.5 Partnership

### Preparedness Outreach — Property Insurance Education

### Preparedness Outreach — Non Profit Security Grant Meeting

## RESPONSE

### EMAC Missions

Nebraska Flooding

Kansas Flooding

Hurricane Dorian in North Carolina

### State Emergency Operations Center

### WebEOC Implementation Update

Agency/County Training

REP Implementation

## RECOVERY

### Federal Disasters

DR-4414 — Duluth Gale Winds and Flooding

DR-4442 — Spring Flooding

February Blizzard

April Blizzard

### Federal/State Disasters At-A-Glance

### State Disaster Highlights

Gov. Walz Tours Summer Storm Damage

September Thunderstorms Batter North Shore

### Emergency Management Grants Pro Implementation

## MITIGATION

### Elected Officials Training

### Communications

Language Translation Project

Accessibility

State Fair

### Camp Wilderness Storm Shelters

## DEVELOPMENT

### About DPS-HSEM

Core Values

Mission

Vision

### State Teams on the Move

### Reorganization

New Organizational Chart



The concept of “One Minnesota” became a reality one year ago, when Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan took office. Their vision, calls for state agencies — including the Minnesota Department of Public Safety division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management — to work together to offer services that reflect the priorities of the people who live here.

It is in that spirit that we have worked to redefine our role and provide a higher level of service as the state’s emergency management agency. Our goal is to ensure that every community — from International Falls to Albert Lea, and Pipestone to Grand Marais — has the capacity to adequately prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies. To that end, we have been hard at work carrying out specific action items within our strategic plan.

In the spring, we joined Gov. Tim Walz, our federal, state and local partners to educate Minnesotans on the importance of having adequate property insurance at a time when rivers and streams were rising. This included addressing the value of flood insurance and the benefits of having riders on your home insurance plans, including water and sewer backup coverage.

Our HSEM staff has been hard at work over this past year getting our partners up-to-speed on using our new online emergency management tool, WebEOC. The Prairie Island Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercise last summer was the first time the system was tested by various partners in the State Emergency Operations Center. We have learned a lot about its capabilities and are working in earnest to maximize them for all public safety users across Minnesota.

HSEM also continued its partnership with Twin Cities Public Television to provide public safety preparedness messages on its TPT Now 2.5 channel. Through this work, we are translating many of our public education and awareness materials into three different languages (Hmong, Somali and Spanish) to ensure that our immigrant communities are adequately prepared and informed for common emergencies. We have also worked to ensure that Minnesota’s deaf and hard of hearing community have adequate representation during emergencies and disasters. We are now committed to having an American Sign Language Interpreter at news conferences related to life safety issues. In addition, an HSEM grant project is funding a real-time closed captioning project for all videos and live news conferences produced through our Office of Communications. We anticipate this system to be fully operational by the end of 2020.

Lastly, HSEM went through a reorganization of its own over this past year in order to be more fiscally sustainable and preserve our core capabilities of service. This new model allows for us to give our stakeholders and constituents a higher level of professional and personalized service. I am very proud of the professional way in which our staff responded to this transition.

Looking forward, HSEM is dedicated to delivering top quality results to fully embrace the concept of “One Minnesota.” This happens when we work together to respond with reliable information and solutions that work. It’s our vision to create a resilient Minnesota — one that is prepared to respond and recover. I look forward to carrying out this vision through our service to you in the year to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Kelly". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Joe Kelly, Director  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management

# PREPAREDNESS



Remodeled Minnehaha Academy dining area.

## MINNESOTA SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER

Change is coming to the Minnesota School Safety Center. The (MnSSC) is preparing to welcome two new colleagues with the addition of a school emergency technology coordinator and a school communications coordinator. The 2019 Legislature approved \$250,000 each year over the next two years to support the new positions. The MnSSC will welcome the new members in early 2020.

## SCHOOL FACILITY ASSESSMENTS AND EOPS

The new Minnehaha Academy Upper School manages to be both a peaceful, safe place to learn and thrive and a memorial of the natural gas explosion that destroyed the old building and killed two people on Aug. 2, 2017.

The MnSSC has been with the academy every step of the way — even before the explosion occurred. MnSSC worked with administration on emergency operation planning, conducted a safe school facility assessment, and did some tabletop training with the staff. That last part really helped the day of the tragedy — Minnehaha Academy President Dr. Donna Harris said this work prepared them and helped them know what to do.

When the academy moved into their temporary home for two years, MnSSC staff walked through that site as well. They wanted to help the school administration make the temporary

campus into a welcoming place where the students could not only learn, but heal and recover from the tragedy.

The new building was completed in the summer of 2019, and MnSSC staff was invited back to visit before the teachers and students returned for the new school year. Their goal was to help Minnehaha Academy understand and apply the most up-to-date practices for building security, student safety, and crisis response in the new space.

The MnSSC does similar work in schools — whether, public, private, charter or tribal — all over Minnesota — for free! This includes trainings, helping with emergency operations planning, and conducting safe school facility assessments.

## UNIFIED SCHOOL RESPONSE PROGRAM

Northwest Minnesota educators and law enforcement are working across state lines in Clay County, Minnesota and Cass County, North Dakota in new ways to keep schools safe. Representatives from the two counties have developed a unified school response program, which allows them to streamline emergency planning and support each other with response procedures during a bad day. The goal of this interstate collaboration? Communities working together to keep students safe; before, during and after an emergency.



Clay County Unified School Response Program participants.

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER TRAINING

HSEM Training staff, in conjunction with the MnSSC, offered several learning opportunities for school resource officers (SROs) in 2019. The classes are meant to assist SROs in maximizing their effectiveness in delivering law enforcement services in schools. They also inform SROs about current school safety issues and offer best practices to respond to them.

In August, 55 new SROs completed two Beginner courses. In October, the MnSSC co-hosted a class with the Minneapolis Police Department to provide an Advanced course for 33 SROs.

## RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

### MONTICELLO FEMA EVALUATED EXERCISE

Once again, Minnesota demonstrated its readiness in the unlikely event of a radiological incident at one of the state's two nuclear generating plants. HSEM staff — along with Xcel Energy, federal, state, local and non-profit partners gathered in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to test our response and preparedness plans for the Monticello plant. More than 450 people participated in the exercise, which was evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA reported that all criteria selected for evaluation was successfully demonstrated by the 52 organizations involved.

### HOSPITAL TRAINING

HSEM's Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program staff make routine training visits to our public safety and response partners — including hospitals. In 2019, medical staff and paramedics at North Memorial Health Hospital in Minnetonka practiced wearing personal protective equipment while treating a simulated patient who fell and injured their arm at a reception center — which is where people would be asked to evacuate in the unlikely event of an emergency at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant.

# PREPAREDNESS



REP training at North Memorial Health Hospital in Minnetonka.



Evacuation and re-entry training at Camp Ripley.

## EVACUATION AND RE-ENTRY TRAINING

Another portion of radiological preparedness includes evacuation and re-entry plans. In October, HSEM staff joined partners on the county level at Camp Ripley to practice these procedures. During this training, emergency managers discussed critical infrastructure challenges and opportunities during a radiological emergency — including maintaining access to law enforcement, fire, medical and government services.

## TPT NOW CHANNEL 2.5 PARTNERSHIP

As DPS Commissioner John Harrington shapes the agency to his vision, he has made multilingual communication a priority across the state. HSEM is accomplishing this through a unique partnership with the Twin Cities Public Television's *TPT Now 2.5 public service channel*. The collaboration allows DPS to communicate daily, seasonal and situational public safety messages in four languages- English, Hmong, Spanish and Somali.

## PREPAREDNESS OUTREACH — PROPERTY INSURANCE EDUCATION

People work hard to buy their homes and spend lots of time and effort making improvements to the property. Why not have flood insurance to make sure none of that hard work goes to waste?

Not living in a high-risk flood area may not be a good enough reason to forgo buying insurance, considering that 25 percent of flood insurance claims are in areas that aren't considered high-risk. Homeowner's insurance cannot replace flood insurance as most policies do not cover flood damage (though some do).

It's not a given that FEMA will cover any damage caused by a flood. That takes a federal disaster declaration to include individual assistance. And even if an individual qualifies for their Individual Assistance Program, it won't restore a home or property to its pre-flood condition. The goal of individual assistance is to make survivors homes safe and sanitary, not to recreate it. Even though individual assistance can



Spring flooding along lakeshore damages many homes.

provide up to \$33,000 for home repairs, the average applicant only gets about \$3,800 when a disaster is declared. Compare that to the maximum residential coverage from flood insurance — \$250,000 for the building and \$100,000 for its contents — and the benefit of having flood insurance is apparent.

Flood insurance is available to 95 percent of Minnesotans and not just those living in a flood plain, because so many communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Despite its widespread availability, only about one percent of Minnesota homeowners have flood insurance. In other words, our state has more lakes than flood insurance policies.

It's imperative for property owners to acquire flood insurance before it is needed as these insurance policies typically have 30-day waiting periods. Acting now will ensure Minnesotans will be prepared and protected when the snow melts and the rains come.

# PREPAREDNESS



DPS leadership meets with community leaders to discuss non-profit security grants.

## PREPAREDNESS OUTREACH — NON PROFIT SECURITY GRANT MEETING

Minnesota’s religious and non-profit organizations are placing a greater emphasis on security as they work to keep people safe. That’s why representatives from all backgrounds gathered in 2019 to learn about federal and state grants that would help them step up their security practices. HSEM and DPS leaders met with Muslim, Jewish and Christian-affiliated leaders to listen to their security concerns, review security trends, and answer questions about grant funding opportunities.

HSEM oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) Non-Profit Security Grant (NPSG) Program. The funding provides support for target hardening and other physical security enhancements to non-profit organizations that are at high risk of attack.

# RESPONSE



Guard members assist with response efforts during Nebraska flooding.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT MISSIONS

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) allows states to send supplies, equipment and personnel to other states during a disaster or an emergency when all local resources are exhausted. The Department of Public Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) division coordinates EMAC requests. In 2019, HSEM facilitated three missions.

### NEBRASKA FLOODING

A Minnesota National Guard Chinook helicopter, along with 10 guard members, took on deadly and devastating floodwaters in Nebraska in March. They deployed after Governor Tim Walz issued an executive order through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

Nebraska experienced rapid snowmelt in the spring which led to inundating floodwaters across the region. The mission supported emergency aerial operations during the flood fight — including transporting cargo and reinforcing a man-made dike at a nuclear power plant.

### KANSAS FLOODING

The Minneapolis Police Department sent one of their employees to the front lines of the flood fight in Kansas over the summer to assist with extended response and recovery efforts. Floodwaters up to 60 feet deep topped tree lines and

roads led right into the growing floodwaters. Dams also worked overtime — releasing 224,000 gallons of water per second at the height of the flooding.



Ambulances assembled for hurricane Dorian relief efforts.

# RESPONSE

## HURRICANE DORIAN IN NORTH CAROLINA

Thirty-six first responders and 15 ambulances accepted an EMAC mission in September to assist with Hurricane Dorian response efforts. The medics, EMTs and their support staff were several hours into the drive to North Carolina when the request was withdrawn and the teams were called back to Minnesota.

## STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The SEOC saw plenty of activity during the spring and early summer months when the flood threat was high. The SEOC was partially activated to monitor flood conditions around the state and assist emergency managers with any response or recovery actions. During the partial activation, the SEOC hosted daily meetings between local, state and federal partners.

The SEOC also played host to a joint news conference on the spring flooding forecast in late March. Elected officials (such as Gov. Walz and Minnesota's congressional delegation) joined HSEM Director Joe Kelly, as well as state and federal agencies, to detail the coordinated preparation and response efforts that were underway to protect public property and infrastructure around the state.

The SEOC also served as a central location for numerous drills, exercises and trainings throughout the year.

## WEBEOC IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

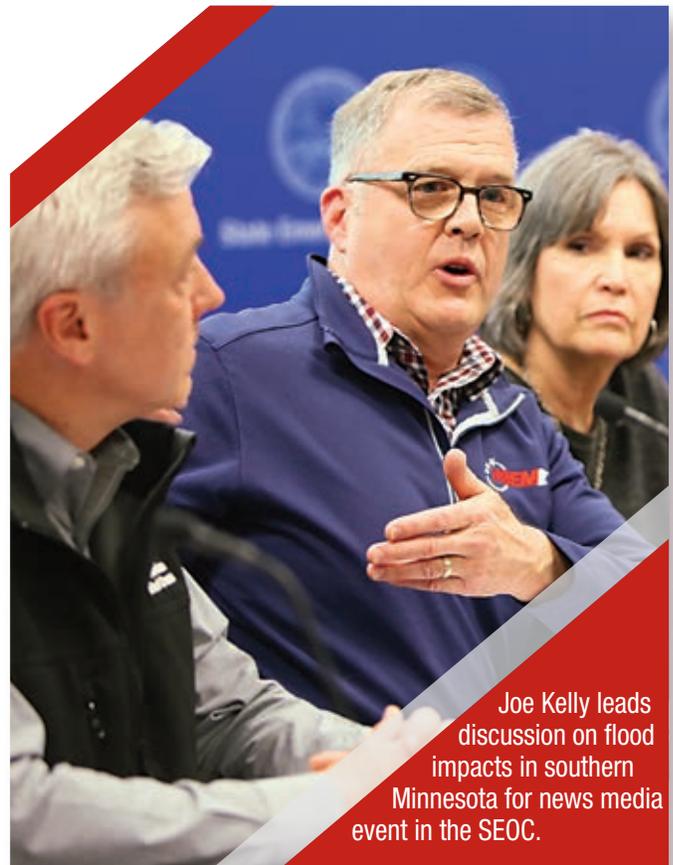
HSEM Operations and Training staff went on a road trip in 2019 to conduct several WebEOC Functional Activities Workshops within the state's various regions. During these trainings, emergency management partners were given hands-on experience in a no-fault environment. This allowed for interactive discussion of questions and suggestions to improve WebEOC development. In turn, HSEM received invaluable feedback from users that will ultimately improve WebEOC use for efficient and immediate information sharing in an emergency.

- 165 people participated in training held in 68 counties.
- 7 of the 11 Minnesota tribal nations were represented.
- 4 cities of the 1st class were present.

HSEM staff will focus on offering future training opportunities for state agency staff along with the remaining 19 counties. They will also begin developing WebEOC exercise activities to further test the system.

This past year also proved to be a successful one for the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program as it implemented WebEOC into its processes and procedures. This included developing daily boards for REP use, including: an events calendar, plant status, and training and equipment tracking. The web-based crisis management system was tested for the first time during the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant drill and exercise. Users used this training environment to practice utilizing specific boards within WebEOC:

- Activity Log
- Evacuations
- Planning Assessment Center
- Reception Centers
- Status



Joe Kelly leads discussion on flood impacts in southern Minnesota for news media event in the SEOC.

# RECOVERY



High winds in the Duluth area caused major wave damage to the city boardwalk.

## FEDERAL DISASTERS

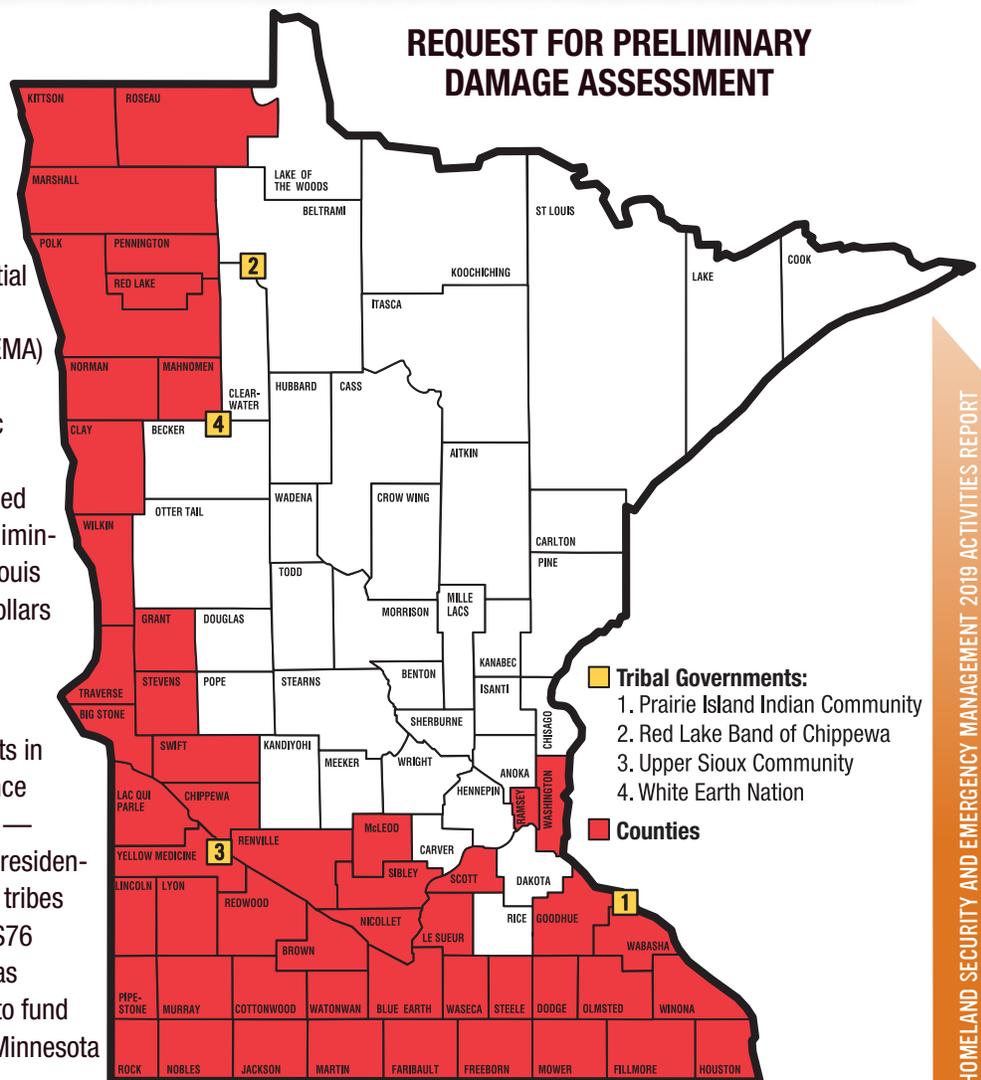
### DR-4414- DULUTH GALE WINDS AND FLOODING

Communities along Lake Superior received much needed help to recover from devastating gale force winds that damaged major tourist towns in October 2018. The Presidential Disaster Declaration came in early 2019. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will reimburse St. Louis County is using the federal disaster aid to make repairs to public property and infrastructure which include a battered lakeside boardwalk and overwhelmed water/sewer systems. A state-local joint preliminary damage assessment determined Saint Louis County sustained more than \$11.5 million dollars in damages during this historic storm.

### DR-4442- SPRING FLOODING

Fifty one counties and four tribal governments in Minnesota received federal disaster assistance following severe weather in March and April — including flooding, ice and high winds. The presidential disaster declaration means counties and tribes will be reimbursed for repairs to more than \$76 million in damaged public property; as well as response costs. HSEM will work with FEMA to fund 75 percent of those costs. Under state law, Minnesota will pay the 25 percent non-federal share.

## REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT



# RECOVERY



A February blizzard dropped 13 inches in Minnesota.



Ice, snow and high winds caused damage in April 2019.

## FEBRUARY BLIZZARD

February 24 and 25, 2019 may not be significant for you, but the southern half of Minnesota may remember getting pummeled by a blizzard those two days. In some areas, 13 inches of snow fell, and winds gusted up to 50 miles per hour. Large swaths of interstates and other roads were closed, and more than 600 people had to be rescued from their vehicles. State troopers, sheriff's deputies, state conservation officers, snowplow drivers, and the Minnesota Army National Guard soldiers mobilized to rescue stranded motorists after Gov. Tim Walz declared a state of emergency.

After they were rescued, those motorists stayed in hotels, lobbies, convenience stores and churches. Once those filled up, more than 200 took refuge at National Guard Armories in Owatonna, Albert Lea, Olivia and St. James. The St. Cloud State men's hockey team even stayed in the St. James jail when their bus got stuck between two snowdrifts.

## APRIL BLIZZARD

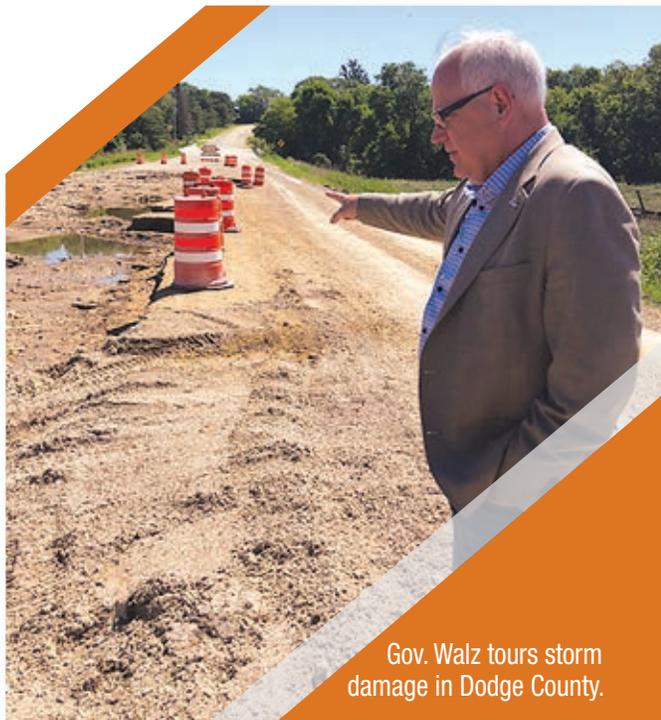
For the second straight year, winter decided to stick around through April in Minnesota. In 2019, the annual Severe Weather Awareness Week Tornado Drill was cancelled due to a strong snow storm from April 10-12. The late winter storm contributed to historic snowfall amounts for the year.

# RECOVERY

## 2019 FEDERAL/STATE DISASTERS AT-A-GLANCE

COUNTIES AND TRIBES	TYPE OF EVENT	TYPE OF DISASTER	ESTIMATED DAMAGE
Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Olmsted, Redwood, Renville and Wabasha	Heavy rains and flooding	State	<b>\$5,098,469</b>
Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Le Sueur, Wabasha and Winona	Severe thunderstorms, heavy rains, damaging winds and flooding	State	<b>\$2,060,361</b>
Murray, Pipestone, Rock and Traverse	Severe thunderstorms with heavy rainfalls and flooding	State	<b>\$620,005</b>
Dakota and Pope	Spring flooding	State	<b>\$1,673,860</b>
Wabasha	Severe thunderstorm and tornado	State	<b>\$103,650</b>
Cass and Itasca	Severe thunderstorm, heavy rains and damaging winds (gale force winds)	State	<b>\$160,842</b>
Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Clay, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Grant, Houston, Jackson, Kittson, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Mahnomen, Marshall, Martin, McLeod, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Norman, Olmsted, Pennington, Pipestone, Polk, Ramsey, Red Lake, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Roseau, Scott, Sibley, Steele, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, Wabasha, Waseca, Washington, Watonwan, Wilkin, Winona, Yellow Medicine, Prairie Island Indian Community, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Upper Sioux Indian Community and White Earth Indian Reservation	Severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding	Federal	<b>\$76,000,000</b>
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Severe thunderstorm, heavy rains, hurricane force winds	State	<b>\$253,535</b>
Carlton, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall and Roseau	Heavy rains, flooding	State	<b>\$1,325,465</b>

# RECOVERY



Gov. Walz tours storm damage in Dodge County.



September thunderstorms in Minnesota's Arrowhead.

## STATE DISASTER HIGHLIGHTS

Minnesota's state disaster assistance contingency account reached a milestone in 2019 — having been implemented five years ago. Prior to becoming law, legislators often had to convene in a special session to approve disaster assistance funds. This account bypassed this lengthy and costly process. Since 2014, there have been 40 state disaster declarations where either Governor's Dayton or Walz has made state aid available for affected Minnesota communities.

### GOV. WALZ TOURS SUMMER STORM DAMAGE

Severe weather — including inundating rains and flash flooding — hit southern Minnesota hard in late June and July resulting in significant damage to public property and infrastructure. That's why Gov. Tim Walz visited Dodge and Olmsted counties. While there, Gov. Walz and HSEM Director Joe Kelly met with local elected officials and emergency managers in Mantorville and toured damage in Oxbow Park in Byron. The storms led to a state disaster declaration for seven counties.

### SEPTEMBER THUNDERSTORMS BATTER NORTH SHORE

Severe thunderstorms targeted the Arrowhead region of the state in late September, dropping more than seven inches of rain in some locations. This led to extreme rises in streams

and rivers and caused roadway and other infrastructure damage, especially in Carlton and Pine Counties. The estimated damages total more than \$1.3 million and led to Minnesota's 40<sup>th</sup> state disaster declaration of the year.

## Emergency Management Grants Pro Implementation

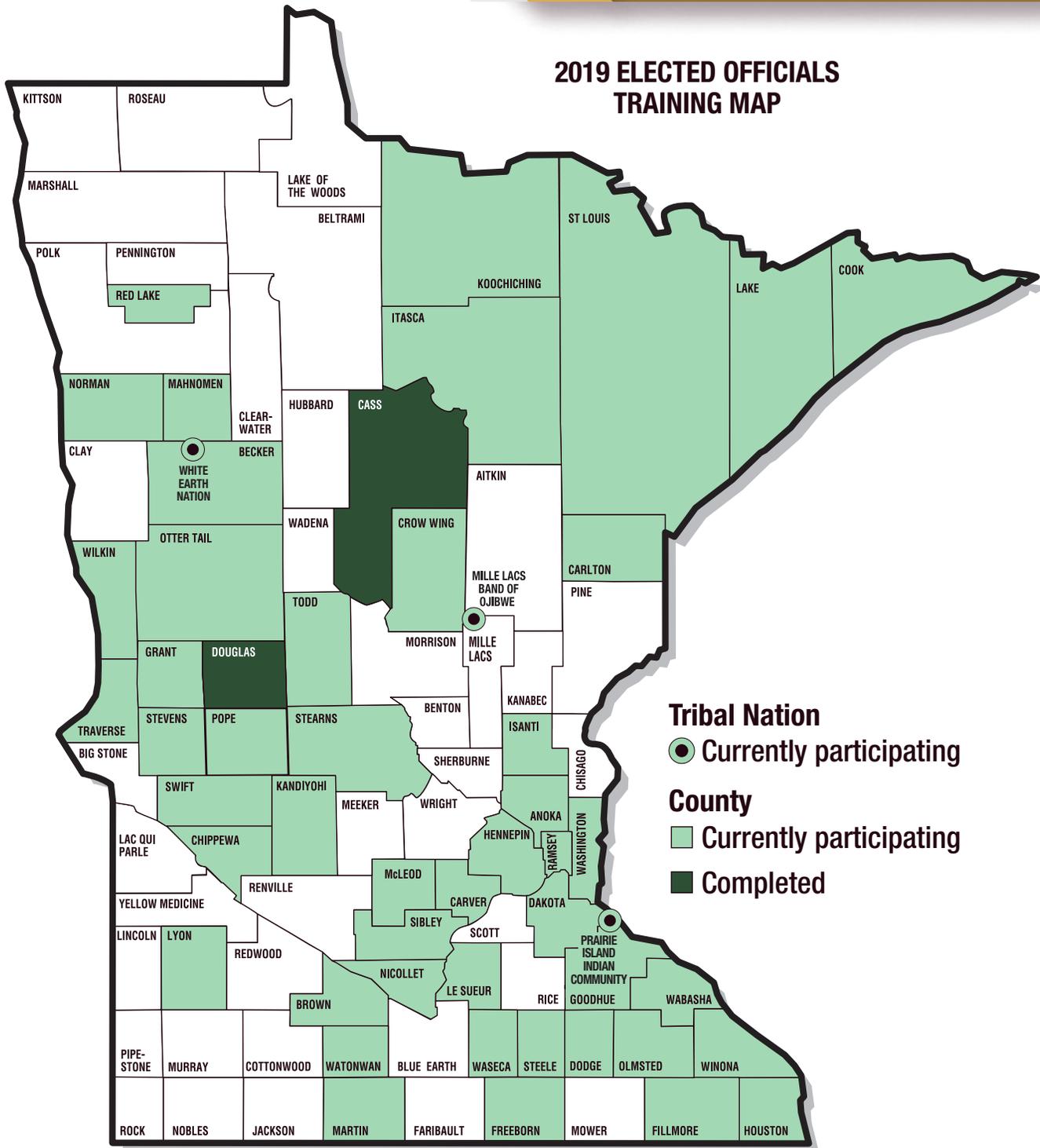
HSEM staff is quickly becoming proficient in using EM Grants Pro with a goal to continue developing the system and its processes. In the last year, staff worked on improving our process to help communities throughout Minnesota respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

In 2019, this system was used to:

- Open eight disasters, including two federal and six state disasters.
- Officially close five state disasters
- Make approximately 700 payments to communities that have been impacted by disasters within the State of Minnesota.
- Collaborate with approximately 700 communities, counties, organizations, and applicants to manage their open projects, efforts, and recovery processes.
- Close more than 400 projects after tasks were completed and funds were paid.

# MITIGATION

2019 ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING MAP



## 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 include:

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

# MITIGATION

**English:** Monthly Siren Test  
 Wednesday's of every month at 1 pm  
 Local officials sound the siren

**Hmong:** KEV CEEB TOOM:  
 Kev Sim Lub Cuab Yeej Ceeb Toom Txhua Hli  
 • Hnub Wednesdays hauv txhua lub hli thaum sij hawm 1 teev tav su dua  
 • Tso lub cuab yeej ceeb toom hauv zos kom nrov yog raws li txoj cai

**Somali:** Xasuusin: Baaritaanka Siren ee Bil kasta  
 • Arbacooyinka bil kasta 1-da duhurnimo  
 • Saraakiisha maxaliga ah ayaa ka codsaday Siren

**Spanish:** RECORDATORIO: Prueba mensual de sirena  
 • Los miércoles de cada mes a la 1 p.m.  
 • Las autoridades locales hacen sonar la sirena.

Severe weather notification translations in english, hmong, somali and spanish viewed on TPT channel 2.5.

The county emergency management director works with HSEM to get the training scheduled. Since the inception of the program, Director Kelly has now completed trainings for 116 jurisdictions. Additional 2019 highlights include:

- The first-ever elected officials training session specifically for a tribal government for the Prairie Island Indian Community's tribal council on their roles and responsibilities during emergencies and disasters.
- Expanded partnerships by presenting abridged versions of the three primary modules to four chapters of the Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association (MCFOA) of Minnesota.
- Stearns County began the training as part of their Community Emergency Preparedness (CEP) training and exercise program that will culminate with exercise at the Emergency Management Training Center (EMTC) in the fall of 2020.

Looking ahead, we want to expand delivery of the recovery module, specifically marketing to townships to help them better understand the processes of the state and federal disaster assistance program.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### LANGUAGE TRANSLATION PROJECT

HSEM's partnership with Twin Cities Public Television continues as our public information officer works to translate our public education and outreach materials into three other languages including Hmong, Somali and Spanish. TPT Now channel 2.5 is a great resource for people to learn about public safety threats and preparedness efforts. All translated materials are also shared on HSEM web and social media channels as situations warrant.

### ACCESSIBILITY: ALS INTERPRETERS AND CLOSED CAPTIONING

The Department of Public Safety Office of Communications (DPS-OOC) has started work on a real-time closed captioning project that would provide a transcript of media events that address vital public safety actions. Twenty percent of Minnesotans have some form of hearing loss; whether they are deaf, deaf blind or hard of hearing.

# MITIGATION



HSEM staff recommend flood insurance at the Minnesota state fair.



HSEM staff handing out emergency kit bags at the Minnesota state fair.

The DPS-OOC aims to reach a broader audience by fulfilling accessibility requirements through closed captioning on all live and post-production video products. This project will sustain DPS live video capabilities by maximizing our closed captioning compliance. We anticipate this project to be operational by the end of 2020.

In addition, HSEM and OOC are working together to ensure the deaf and hard of hearing community is able to receive important messages. We are currently adjusting procedures to include American Sign Language interpreters and Certified Deaf Interpreters at our important media events.

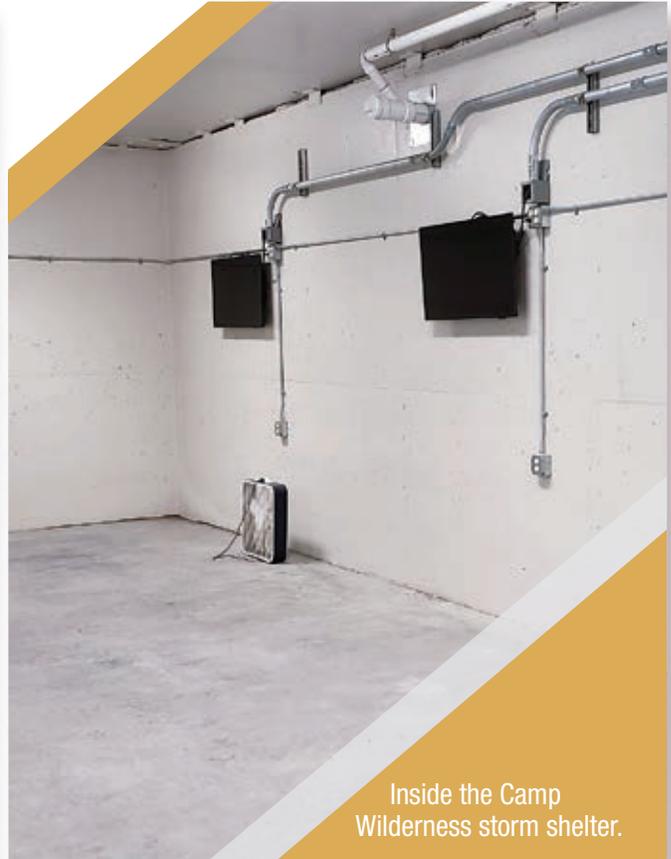
## STATE FAIR NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE OUTREACH

Once again, HSEM joined Minnesotans at the 'Great Minnesota Get Together' during Governor's Fire Prevention Day. This year's public education efforts included valuable information on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). HSEM believes it is important for all property owners to have adequate insurance coverage, especially when rivers and streams topped their banks in the spring. Our communication efforts encouraged people to consider riders to their home insurance plans, including water and sewer backup coverage.

# MITIGATION



HSEM staff examine the outside of the Camp Wilderness storm shelter.



Inside the Camp Wilderness storm shelter.

## CAMP WILDERNESS STORM SHELTERS

Camp Wilderness Boy Scout Camp's nearest tornado shelter used to be 20 miles away. But for the past three years, they have worked with Hubbard County and HSEM to solve that problem. They unveiled the solution in 2019: two safe rooms built to protect up to 500 people from EF-3 tornadoes and winds up to 165 mph. The \$1.4 million project was partially funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which is facilitated through HSEM. The safe rooms are no more than a five-minute walk from all program areas and campsites, and they feature back-up generators.

Camp Wilderness will also install a state-of-the-art outdoor warning siren system. The campers, the hundreds of lake property owners and the surrounding community can all hear the sirens. All of this makes Camp Wilderness the first youth camp in the U.S. to be a National Weather Service StormReady Community.

The Camp Wilderness safe rooms proved useful just weeks after being finished. Campers and members of the surrounding community used them to shelter in place during two severe weather events. The first was when severe storms struck around midnight. Camp staff had to wake the campers and take them to the safe rooms, where they sheltered for two hours. In the second instance, their check-in process was interrupted by a tornado warning. Campers, staff and 14 guests from a nearby resort took shelter in the safe rooms.

Before the shelters opened in 2019, seven tornadoes touched down in that region of Minnesota. It appears the safe rooms at Camp Wilderness came none too soon. No more traveling 20 miles, no more hunkering down in tents or wood-framed buildings and hoping for the best. Instead, those at Camp Wilderness carry out the Boy Scout motto: "Be prepared."



2019 Governor's Conference discussion panel.

## ABOUT DPS-HSEM

### OUR CORE VALUES

**Communications:** We speak with one voice. We actively listen. We get the right information to the right people at the right time, so they can make the right decisions.

**Service:** We are available to help promptly and respectfully with reliable information and solutions.

**Teamwork:** We work together. We build trust by sharing our experience and expertise, and respecting each person's perspective.

**Excellence:** We are dedicated to delivering top quality results. We pursue personal growth and continuous improvement.

**Professionalism:** We hold ourselves and each other to the highest standards of conduct.

### OUR MISSION

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

### OUR VISION

A resilient Minnesota- prepared to respond and recover.

## STATE TEAMS ON THE MOVE

The state contracted response teams (hazmat, technical rescue, and bomb squads) went on the move to the State Fire Marshal (SFM) on May 1. This move also included the state railroad and pipeline safety program, as well as the federal hazmat emergency preparedness (HMEP) grant program.

## REORGANIZATION

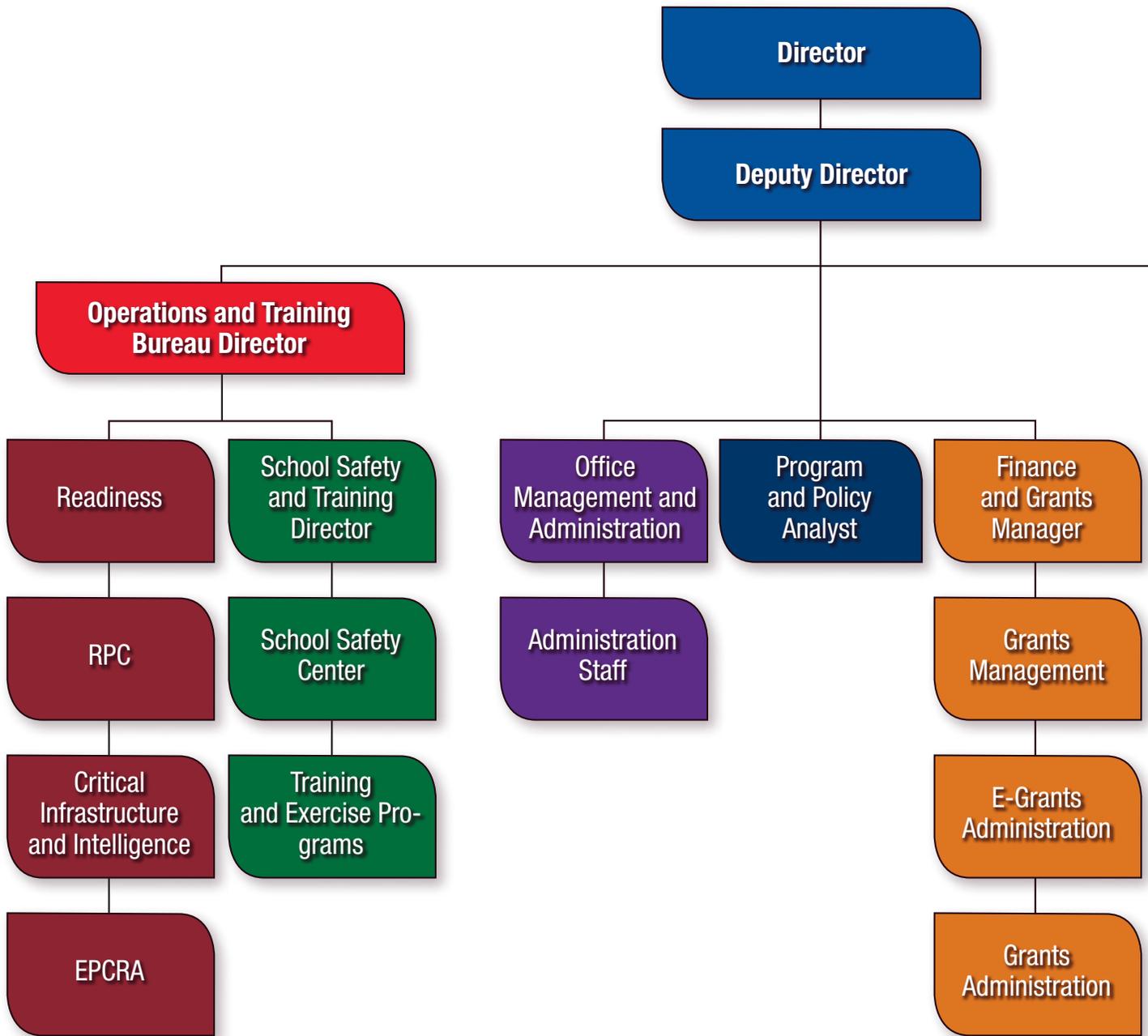
One of the objectives of the HSEM strategic plan is to reorganize the division to a "fiscally sustainable structure that preserves core capabilities." To that end, HSEM's reorganization plan took effect in September 2019.

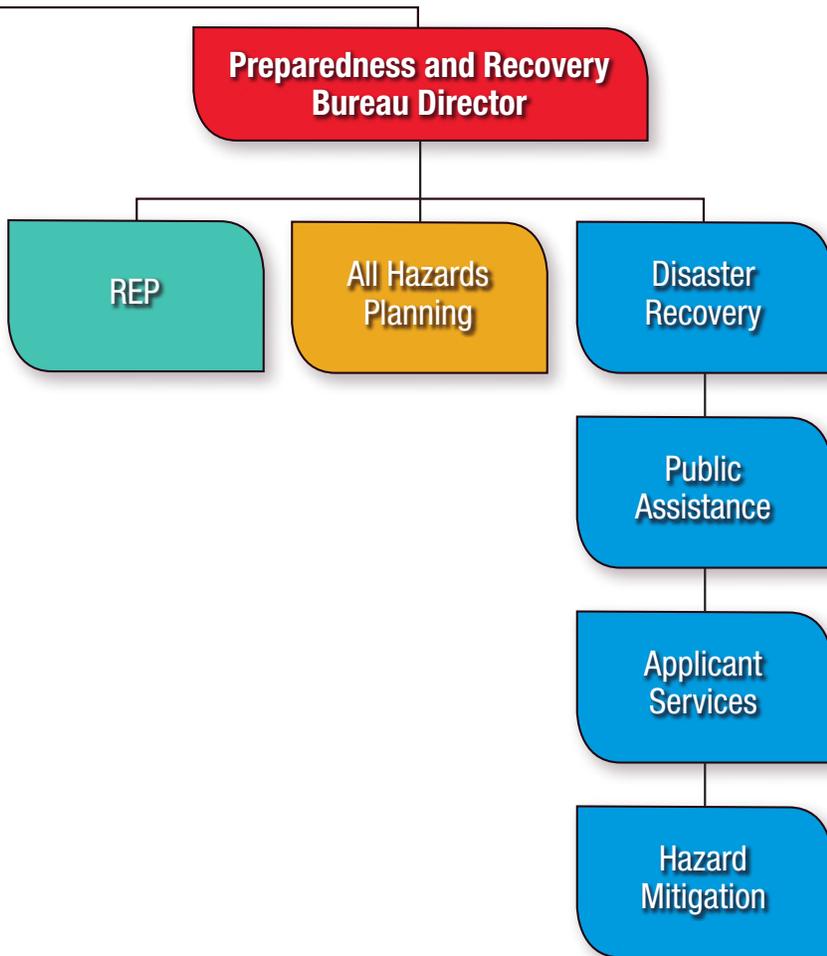
The plan eliminated four branch directors for operations, recovery, preparedness, and organizational development. Those positions were replaced by two new bureau directors: one for operations and training — which was filled by Joe Neuberger — and the other for preparedness and recovery — which was filled by Brian Olson. HSEM also eliminated the rest of the organizational development team, but reactivated a program and policy analyst position to support the new leadership group.

Finally, HSEM also did not fill the vacant community emergency preparedness (CEP) exercise coordinator position. The training and exercise team is assuming the responsibilities of the community and emergency preparedness (CEP) exercise coordinator position with the assistance and involvement of the regional program coordinators (RPC).

# DEVELOPMENT

## HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART











**Minnesota Department of Public Safety**  
**Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management**  
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