

November 6, 2014

What's Exciting This Month:

- The future of the AHIMTA: Our purpose and vision
- AHIMTA attends EMAC Advisory Meeting
- AHIMT solutions being explored by ad hoc committee
- Sacramento Metro AHIMT
- AHIMTs recognized in evolving incident management survey
- AHIMTA Elections
- AHIMTA Provides EMAC an AHIMT Mission Ready Package template

Inside this issue:

AHIMTA , NEMA, and EMAC	2
Ad Hoc Committee seeks solutions for AHIMTs	3
Mentoring for the BOD by the Experts: Garry Briese	3
Sacramento Metro AHIMT	4
AHIMTs Recognized in Evolving Incident Management Survey	4

The PIO

Letter from the President

Greetings AHIMTA Members,
 Arguably one of the toughest parts of AHIMT management is maintaining the motivation of team members. There are so many issues that can make being on an AHIMT not fun. Unsuccessful training sessions, poor attendance at meetings, lack of political support, and unhealthy team dynamics can just be a few challenges that inhibit the maintenance of motivation. So what can you do to help maintain a high level of motivation on your team, thereby maintaining your team's level of readiness?

I know that there were many things I attempted when I oversaw the Indiana Incident Management Program to help maintain motivation of 11 teams. Opportunities topped the list. If you can create an atmosphere where there are numerous opportunities for team members to participate, it will help maintain pride and commitment to the team. I always tried to find ways to enable team members to attend the AHIMTA conferences. I also tried to make sure there were bountiful training opportunities throughout the state. If there was a way to support a team being used during special events, I tried to endorse and support it. I even formed a softball team for our

members to participate in recreationally. (Note: We will be keeping our day job of incident management. We went 0-8 for the season) It was these opportunities that allowed us to participate in the team, invest in the team, and develop relationships that made us feel accountable to one another.

I would like to challenge each and every one of you to ask yourself how you are contributing to the team, maintaining motivation, and contributing to the creation of opportunities for your team members. Being a rostered team of command and general staff positions with adequate training and competency makes a good team. Having passion and commitment mixed with team cohesion makes a great team. As an AHIMTA member, are you inspiring excellence in incident management?

Enjoy this quarters The PIO and I hope to see you, and your team, in Ft. Worth next month!

Randal Collins,
 AHIMTA President

AHIMTA Elections: Ballots are in!

The 2014 Election is complete and the new board members from Regions 3, 5, 6, 9, and 10 have been determined. Incumbent Lee Williams from Chesterfield Fire and the Central Virginia All Hazards Incident Management Team won the election in Region 3. Shari Harrington, the Emergency Management Director in Montgomery County, Indiana will succeed Randal Collins in Region 5. Shari serves as a Logistics Section Chief with the Indiana Homeland Security District 4 All Hazards Incident Management Team. Troy German from Oklahoma will succeed Bob Koenig in Region 6. Randal Collins, who moved to California earlier this year and has been President for the past two years, won the Region IX election. Finally, Jesi Chapin won the election in Region X. These individuals will join or continue on with current members for the 2015 year beginning at the annual membership meeting at the AHIMTA Educational Symposium in Ft. Worth in December. AHIMTA would like to congratulate these members and thank them for their willingness to volunteer and serve the AHIMTA.



AHIMTA Attends EMAC Advisory Group Meeting at the NEMA Conference

On October 9, 2014, AHIMTA member Michael Rubenstein represented AHIMTA at the EMAC Advisory Group Meeting during the National Emergency Management Association's Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA. During the meeting, AHIMTA had the opportunity to inform the attendees of AHIMTA's progress with the Interstate Incident Management Team Qualification Standards guide which was provided to them with our request that the guide be endorsed by NEMA and posted on their website, as well as be distributed to their membership.

Rubenstein also took the opportunity to ensure the attendees were aware of AHIMTA's submission to NEMA for a standardized Mission Ready Package for AHIMTs. The group also took note of AHIMTA's progress with the development of Position Descriptions and Position Task Books.

During the meeting, Rubenstein learned that the National Integration Center discussed current efforts in the NIMS update. An update to the NIMS doctrine has not been made in several years and they are reaching out to stakeholders for their input. Part of this update will be a National Mutual Aid system. Although Resource typing is an ongoing venture, the NIC would like to hear from disciplines which have done resource typing work on their own. Their outreach recognizes that individual disciplines have done a great deal of work in this area and the NIC would welcome their input, hoping to reduce duplication of effort and to collaborate with those industry leaders.

Also discussed was the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). EMAP presented their progress on a pilot program in American National Standard Institute (ANSI) standard creation and accreditation of State and Federal Urban Search and Rescue Teams (USAR). This pilot program had been presented earlier to the Advisory Group to bridge a creation of common terminology and qualification levels for USAR teams. The pilot project has created standards and is in the testing phase with teams completing assessment questionnaires. Finally, an update on the Mutual Aid Support System (MASS) was presented. The MASS 2.0 system is in final testing phase. Upgrades will greatly enhance state and local abilities to define status of resources. Additionally states will have more control on who can see resources within and outside of their state.

AHIMTA works with the NEMA to define AHIMTs for EMAC

AHIMTA has been working with the National Emergency Management Agency for the past year to provide recommended specifics about AHIMTs on Mission Ready Packages (MRPs) for Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests. An EMAC request is a state to state agreement to provide resources during a declared disaster. In order to avert future issues of inadequate resources calling themselves an AHIMT and to educate both requesting and assisting states on proper missions and capabilities of AHIMTs, the development of this specific MRP was created. The MRP is currently in draft form and has been provided to NEMA and it's EMAC Advisory Group. The draft includes the following four bullet points as an AHIMT Type 3 Mission Roles & Responsibilities:

- A Multiagency / Multijurisdictional team for extended incidents, formed and managed at the State, Region, Tribal or metropolitan level. A teams mission is to effectively direct and control incident activities in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Deployed as a team of trained personnel to manage major and/or complex incidents requiring a significant number of local, regional and State resources, and incidents that extend into multiple operational periods and require a written Incident Action Plan (IAP).
- All-hazards Incident Management Teams (IMT) consists of personnel from appropriate disciplines (fire, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous materials, law enforcement, public works, public health and others) trained to perform the functions of the Command and General Staff in the Incident Command System. These functions include Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Administration/Finance, as well as Safety, Public Information, and Liaison. Members of the initial responding departments often fill these functions; however, the size, complexity, or duration of an incident may indicate the need for an IMT to support them.
- Inter-State mobilization requests can be made for 1) Governor's "Emergency or Disaster Declaration" or 2) "Governor's" and Presidential Stafford Act Emergency or Disaster Declaration or 3) mutual cooperation in emergency related exercises, testing, or other training activities.

The draft also indicates that the task and purpose of a Type 3 AHIMT is to provide a multi-agency / multi-jurisdictional team for extended incidents to command and manage tactical resources to achieve objectives set by the agency administrator. Further, an AHIMT Type 3 will manage incidents with complexity of type 3 requiring significant number of local, regional, and state resources and incidents that extend into multiple operational periods and require a written IAP.

The MRP recommends the cosmopolitan of a team as 14 people to include all the command and general staff positions, and assistant PIO, a SITL, a RESL, a STAM, a COML, and a Deputy OSC. The MRP estimates the cost of such a team per 12 hour operational period as \$15,300.00. The MRP is posted in the members only portion of the AHIMTA website and has more specifics as to equipment, costs, and other subjects.

Ad Hoc Committee Forms to Explore AHIMT Solutions

Approximately nine months to a year ago, an ad hoc committee of individuals from the US Forest Service, Department of the Interior, US Fire Administration, The National Interagency Fire Center, some local governments, and AHIMTA began meeting to explore solutions on three main issues:

- 1.) How can AHIMTs be activated through the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) to support emergency incidents?
- 2.) How can AHIMTs be activated in a training status for shadowing purposes?
- 3.) How can AHIMTs enter into mutual aid agreements to support reimbursement of AHIMTs when activated?

The group has no legal standing and its members do not officially represent their agency in this committee which has simply adopted the name of "Ad Hoc Committee." Instead of appointed authority, the group has begun to make headway on the issues the same way that the AHIMT movement has developed, through a grass roots process.

Each month, members discuss hurdles and red tape which results in fact finding assignments and hypothesis of solutions. The following month, conducted research is presented with potential solutions and new hurdles appear. Committee (group) members have been successful at making change from within based on their new discoveries by participating in the committee (group). The committee (group) has found that in order to solve the problems listed above, an AHIMT needs to be entered into ROSS (in which there was no specific task organization listed in the system) and the team needs to have an agreement with a federal entity. To date, the committee (group) has been successful at recommending a definition of an AHIMT Type 3 as it pertains to ROSS so that an AHIMT may be entered into the system. That recommendation is as follows:

Recommendation: All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT)

For the purposes of ROSS, an order for an AHIMT will be filled with twelve members of an AHIMT comprising the following positions:

Incident Commander; Operations Section Chief; Planning Section Chief; Logistics Section Chief; Finance/Administration Section Chief; Safety Officer; Public Information Officer; Liaison Officer; Resources Unit Leader; Situation Unit Leader; Staging Area Manager; One Deputy or Assistant Command/General Staff member or Unit leader, based on the assignment

The twelve AHIMT members, and any other AHIMT members subsequently ordered to support the original order, shall be from an organized, government-sponsored AHIMT and shall meet recognized qualifications for the positions they are filling. An order for an AHIMT is for the personnel only, and does not include any communications or office equipment or supplies (this should be supplied by the IMT or government entity the AHIMT is supporting). If the AHIMT arrives and determines that they need additional or specialized personnel, equipment or supplies, they can order those through the appropriate process.

NOTE: This is a starting point for the ability to order AHIMTs through ROSS. It is not the current intent that an AHIMT would be ordered through ROSS for initial response where the team would be first to arrive; rather, ROSS would be used to order an AHIMT for a mission to either:

1. Support a wildland fire IMT at a wildland fire, or
2. Support an IMT or other local, State or Federal government entity with a defined mission (such as managing a logistics facility) during a disaster response after the State and FEMA have arrived and have determined what the needs are.



Sacramento Metro AHIMT

Midday on Sunday, September 14, 2014, the 2nd day of King fire, under Calfire command the fire crossed the action point for initiating unified command with the Eldorado National Forest. Immediate need orders were being placed for 800 + personnel along with a Type 1 IMT. There was a need to expand and fill the organization to support the complexities of the incident. The Sac Metro AHIMT was ordered and arrived on scene within 2 hours. Calfire and Eldorado National Forest kept the command and operations positions and Sac Metro AHIMT filled other ICS elements of the organization. They filled the necessary positions from Sunday till Tuesday morning when the type 1 IMT assumed command. Members of the Type III Team embedded into with the Federal organization and continued to function for up to 10 days.

Some interesting facts about the Sacramento Metropolitan AHIMT:

- The Team services the areas represented by the signatory members, which is specifically Sacramento, El Dorado, and Amador Counties.
- There is no expectation for reimbursement for any type of incident for the first 48 hours. After that, consideration can be made to convert local government members to California Fire Assistance Agreement if on an State Responsibility Area wildland fire.
- Non-wildland incidents have no expectation for reimbursement.
- The Team went through Advanced All-Hazards Incident Management Course in 2012
- The Team has a monthly conference call and statuses on an online roster. The roster and admin is administered through Sacramento Metropolitan FPD.

AHIMTs Recognized in Evolving Incident Management Survey

- In a recent survey regarding evolving incident management conducted by the NWCG IMT Composition Work Unit, All Hazards Incident Management Teams were referred to numerous times by type 1 and type 2 incident commanders. The context to which AHIMTs were mentioned was that AHIMTs are possible solutions, or a part of the solution, for problems being experienced within incident management.
- In the anonymous survey, many supporting comments about the use of AHIMTs were recorded. AHIMTs were recognized as a resource that can be mobilized locally, be on scene rapidly, and increase the national pool of qualified incident managers to draw from to support operations and fill team rosters.
- The recognition AHIMTs received from those surveyed is arguably another indication that AHIMTs are necessary component to a strong national posture of readiness.





“AHIMTA exists to inspire excellence in incident management.”

AHIMTA Website and Email issues

AHIMTA continues to struggle with glitches and bugs in the new website and our email distribution system. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please continue to let us know if you experience any issues so that we can continue to address them as they arise. Some members may have not visited our new website because they have identified www.AHIMTA.org as a

favorite in their web browser. This automatically sends you to the old website's IP address. In order to view the new website, we encourage you to clear the AHIMTA from your web browser favorites and delete your cookies and history in your web browser. Once you have completed these steps, visit us at www.AHIMTA.org. Please be patient with us as we continue

to trouble shoot these glitches in our system, both on the website and in our emails to the membership. Thanks.

In the Next Issue

Symposium After Action Report!

AHIMTA 2014 in Review

Private Incident Management Teams, Will They Work?

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