

Saskatchewan Emergency Planners Association

SEPA: An Overview

Forest fires, tornados, flooding, structural fires compromising local drinking water – communities in Saskatchewan have experienced these and many other emergencies in 2010.

The centre of every response should be the emergency plan and the role of Emergency Manager in the communities of Saskatchewan is filled by a wide variety of people: volunteers, Fire Chiefs, council members or reeves, RM employees, Town Administrators. The common thread for the Emergency Manager (perhaps referred to as the Emergency Coordinator, or EMO Coordinator) is the desire to work as a team, mitigate as many risks in

a time to meet other individuals working on strengthening responses within their communities.

Peer support for Saskatchewan Emergency Managers can be found within the Saskatchewan Emergency Planners Association, or SEPA. This organization has been around for approximately 14 years, but has had a relatively low profile.

Previous SEPA boards identified the need to create more of an identity and has worked at generating awareness at the SUMA and SARM conventions.

More needs to be done to heighten awareness, and the present board is currently working on ways to

communicate more actively with the public, communities, and responders throughout the province.

Emergency planning and preparedness affects all of us – personally and professionally; as individuals and members of communities.

SEPA is an organization which tries to support and foster relationships among emergency responders and community members who may be called upon to react during crisis or extreme situations. General information and contact names can be found at www.sepa.ca.

Kathleen Henderson
President, SEPA
Excerpted from a recent SARM newsletter article

Save the Dates:

SEPA Annual Conference

The theme this year is “Expanding our Knowledge” and it will be hosted in Regina on March 15, 16, and 17th, 2011. The conference has an exciting line-up of key note speakers already planned and a preliminary agenda is on page 5.

Key Note Speaker Lineup:

Shannan Saunders is currently working on plans for caring for families of emergency responders. She is a member of the International

Association of Emergency Managers and is currently studying Emergency Management at Royal Roads University.

Scot Phelps is a New York City lead Professor and Facilitator at the Emergency Management Academy and an emergency management consultant with clients which include hospitals, state government, the Department of Health & Human Services and Health Canada.

Sgt. Don Webster has served as a police officer for 31 years and is currently a search and rescue coordinator with the OPP. He is the spokesperson and energy behind “Project Lifesaver” which is emergency planning for families, friends and caregivers of individuals suffering from Alzheimers or dementia. Anyone with aging family members or friends can take away important information to help with daily life, in addition to gaining knowledge to be used within the community.

Farewell Message
Harry Kerr
Resigning President, SEPA

“It is a most mortifying reflection for a person to consider what he or she has done, compared to what he or she might and could have done”

Samuel Johnson

Reflecting on my experiences being involved with SEPA I look back on the times at the conferences and the multitude of people I had the privilege and opportunity to interact. It was a most enjoyable and rewarding period in my life, but life has with it challenges that one must contend and grow upon. The members and board are one of the most professional I have encountered for some time and I will miss this very much.

My position with the city of Yorkton has changed and I am no longer responsible for emergency social services and I thought it best that since I am no longer involved in emergency planning that I resign my responsibilities with S.E.P.A. so that it may carry on with those that have an active duty decide where they wish to go.

I believe that the organization, its membership and the board have a strong desire for success. I also believe the board has a shared vision for success.

If we look at things as they are they will remain as they are, but if we look at things as they could be they will become what they should be.

I wish the board all the luck for the future as you lead this outstanding organization.

An Update from Heather McEwen, long standing member and current Secretary/Treasurer

I have been involved with and on the SEPA Board almost 15 years. I have more than enjoyed my time over the years.

As Secretary/Treasurer all that time and doing the registration of people for the annual Conference I have got to meet and know a lot of people from all over Saskatchewan and outside our province as well.

Being on the Board has had many rewards and challenges, ups and downs, forging of great friendships and I wouldn't trade any of it for the world.

My term is up in March and I have decided not to seek re-election this time, but I will remain a member of SEPA for many years to come and will continue to support its promising future in whatever way I can. It has been a privilege and a pleasure being part of SEPA.

A Call for Nominations

At the upcoming annual SEPA conference on March 15 – 17, 2011 there will be a number of board positions which will be up for election.

Please consider this your invitation to put your name forward for a position on the board. Nominations will be accepted up to the day of elections at the conference. Currently there are the following board positions available:

- 3 - 1 year term
- 2 - 2 year terms

Other volunteer positions

Not certain that you have enough time in your busy schedule to commit to a board position?

Are you interested in helping out in other ways? We are looking for people to submit ideas for the website, introduce speakers at the conference, contribute articles to this fledgling newsletter...

The possibilities for contributing are endless, and do not need to be onerous. For more information please contact Kathleen Henderson, EMO Coordinator, Town of Kindersley at highflight@sasktel.net

SEPA Conference 2011 registration forms now available. See page 4.

Saskatchewan Emergency Planners Association

Annual Awards

Each year SEPA conducts an awards ceremony at our Annual Conference to recognize deserving individuals, communities, groups or agencies.

Do you know anyone who would meet the following criteria?

A. INDIVIDUAL – PAID EMERGENCY PLANNER

This award is dedicated to the devoted fulltime, paid Emergency Planner Manager/Coordinator /Responder.

B. INDIVIDUAL – DAVID LILEY VOLUNTEER AWARD

This award is dedicated, on behalf of David's family and the community of Maple Creek, to the devoted part time volunteer emergency planner/manager/co-ordinator/responder.

C. COMMUNITY AGENCY OR GROUP

This award is dedicated to the organization, a community or a group that through its commitment to Emergency Preparedness and Management serves as a model for other communities, groups or agencies. The recipient of this award will be nominated by SEPA for recognition at Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.

Look for the nomination forms at the upcoming SUMA convention as well as the January newsletter.

If you have any questions about the nominations, please contact Heather McEwen at (306) 735-4281.

Sharing Ideas

Do you have any success stories from establishing an EMO committee?

Do you have lessons learned from a live mock exercise that can be shared with those of us who haven't conducted one?

Are there some great new scenarios that you've heard about or tried?

Articles for the SEPA newsletter are welcome from members at any time and can be submitted to Kathleen at highflight@sasktel.net.

Check this out!

www.swpilotproject.com

Read all about the Public Safety Review Committee's pilot project, volunteer opportunities and next steps.

Do you have some interesting websites that our readers might find useful for emergency planning? Suggestions are always welcome.

Saskatchewan Emergency Managers are:

Volunteers:

- who give of themselves and their talents for the benefit and safety of Saskatchewan residents
- who work diligently in planning and hosting an annual, provincial conference
- who network with other agencies who have EM responsibilities and constituents
- who, provincially, represent its constituents in an advisory capacity

Professionals:

- who have a strong passion and commitment for Emergency Planning in Saskatchewan
- who have expertise in a variety of different fields represented under the umbrella of Public Safety

A High Quality Emergency Response System:

- Prepares Our People
- Mitigates loss of lives and property through proactive emergency preparedness programs
- Supports its constituents



SEPA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2011

Regina March 15 – 17, 2011

Pre-Conference Workshops Start March 14th

BOX 310 WHITEWOOD, SK
SOG 5C0

Phone: (306) 735-4281

1. Registration will not be processed unless fees are submitted with this form.
2. Payment can be made by cheque or money order. Please make payment payable to Saskatchewan Emergency Planners Association
3. Conference registration fee is \$250.00. Conference fee includes 2011SEPA membership, lunches, banquet and all conference events.
4. Registration deadline is March 10, 2011. No registration will be taken at the door and registration by fax or email is not available.
5. Registrations are **non-refundable** however they are transferable. SEPA must be notified of any changes of registrants prior to the conference commencement.
6. Please use a separate registration form for each registrant. Photocopy as needed. Please print legibly.

NAME _____

(LAST)

(FIRST)

ADDRESS:

CITY/TOWN:

POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE

TITLE/POSITION

AFFILIATION/FIRM

EMAIL ADDRESS

Preliminary Program-at-a-Glance

<p><i>Pre-conference</i></p> <p>Monday, March 14</p> <p>08:00 - 05:00 Basic Emergency Management</p> <p>Tuesday, March 15</p> <p>08:00 - 11:30 Basic Emergency Management (continued)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>08:00-11:30 Exercise Design</p> <p>Separate registration forms for Pre-conference sessions are available by contacting Kathleen Henderson at highflight@sasktel.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Day 1 Tuesday, March 15, 2011</p> <p>10:30 - 11:30 Registration Desk Open for Delegates</p> <p>11:30 - 01:00 Luncheon Opening Ceremony Welcome speeches</p> <p>01:00 - 02:00 Public Safety Review Panel Southwest Pilot Project</p> <p>02:00 - 02:30 Refreshment Break – courtesy of the Travelodge Regina</p> <p>02:30 - 04:00 Key Note Speaker: Prof. Scot Phelps</p> <p>04:30 - 07:30 Meet and Greet Evening Cash bar Displays</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Day 2 Wednesday, March 16, 2011</p> <p>08:30 - 10:00 What do you mean it's flooding? This is Saskatchewan! Panel discussion from Maple Creek and Yorkton.</p> <p>10:00 - 10:20 Refreshment Break (sponsorship opportunity still available)</p> <p>10:20 - 11:45 This is Saskatchewan, and it really did flood. Now what? Panel discussion from agencies working after the flooding in Maple Creek and Yorkton.</p> <p>1145 – 115 Luncheon & Annual General Meeting (door prizes offered – must be present at AGM to win)</p> <p>115 - 200 Expanding our Knowledge Panel discussion: Emergency Management organizations in Canada & what's new in the field.</p> <p>200 – 300 Breakout Sessions A Project Lifesaver – Sgt. Don Webster B Emergency Responders: caring for your families during an emergency – Shannan Saunders C Woodland Forest Fire Management – Rebecca Wade D Victim Services – Wayne Johnson</p> <p>300-320 Refreshment Break (sponsorship opportunity still available)</p> <p>330-430 Breakout Sessions A Project Lifesaver – Sgt. Don Webster B Emergency Responders: caring for your families during an emergency – Shannan Saunders C Woodland Forest Fire Management – Rebecca Wade D Fatigue Management – Janelle Graham</p> <p>630 – Cocktails 700 – Banquet 800 – Awards 830 – Entertainment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Day 3 Thursday, March 17, 2011</p> <p>0800 – 08:45 Interactive Exercise</p> <p>0845 – 09:40 Breakout Sessions A Project Lifesaver – Sgt. Don Webster B Fatigue Management – Janelle Graham C Victim Services – Wayne Johnson</p> <p>0940 – 1015 Refreshment Break and hotel check out</p> <p>1015-1115 Key Note Speaker: Prof Scot Phelps</p> <p>1115 - 1130 Conference Wrap-up</p> <p><i>Additional banquet tickets can be purchased for \$35 at the Registration Desk until noon March 16th</i></p>
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