

RHEA COUNTY

HOMELAND SECURITY

MAY

NEWSLETTER

2005

Emergency Response

Our main function as Homeland Security will almost always lean toward emergency response of one type or another. There are few hard and fast rules with dealing with an emergency as every situation is different and requires a different response.

The only thing that is of value to you as a responder is knowledge. This is where training is so important and any information you can gather in making yourself better prepared will be your greatest tools. Knowing what to expect or what to be on the look out for could make the difference in accomplishing your task or saving a life, possibly even your own.

Below is a little something I've gathered to help you prepare for Tornado's and their aftermath.

As I've already stated, nothing is set in stone, this is just to get you to thinking and making you own plans in the event you're ever faced with this situation.

After a Tornado

Injury may result from the direct impact of a tornado, or it may occur afterward when people walk among debris and enter damaged buildings. A study of injuries after a tornado in Marion, Illinois, showed that 50 percent of the tornado-related injuries were suffered during rescue attempts, cleanup, and other post-tornado activities. Nearly a third of the injuries resulted from stepping on nails. Other common causes of injury included falling objects and heavy, rolling objects. Because tornadoes often damage power lines, gas lines, or electrical systems, there is a risk of fire, electrocution, or an explosion. Protecting yourself and your family requires promptly treating any injuries suffered during the storm and using extreme care to avoid further hazards.

Injuries

Check for injuries. Do not attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Get medical assistance immediately. If someone has stopped breathing, begin CPR if you are trained to do so. Stop a bleeding injury by applying direct pressure to the wound. Have any puncture wound evaluated by a physician. If you are trapped, try to attract attention to your location.

General Safety Precautions

Here are some safety precautions that could help you avoid injury after a tornado:

- Continue to monitor your battery-powered radio or television for emergency information.
- Be careful when entering any structure that has been damaged.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves, and gloves when handling or walking on or near debris.
- Be aware of hazards from exposed nails and broken glass.
- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines. Report electrical hazards to the police and the utility company.
- Use battery-powered lanterns, if possible, rather than candles to light homes without electrical power. If you use candles, make sure they are in safe holders away from curtains, paper, wood, or other flammable items. Never leave a candle burning when you are out of the room.
- Hang up displaced telephone receivers that may have been knocked off by the tornado, but stay off the telephone, except to report an emergency.
- Cooperate fully with public safety officials.

Respond to requests for volunteer assistance by police, fire fighters, emergency management, and relief organizations, but do not go into damaged areas unless assistance has been requested. Your presence could hamper relief efforts, and you could endanger yourself.

Inspecting the Damage

- After a tornado, be aware of possible structural, electrical, or gas-leak hazards in your home. Contact your local city or county building inspectors for information on structural safety codes and standards. They may also offer suggestions on finding a qualified contractor to do work for you.

In general, if you suspect any damage to your home, shut off electrical power, natural gas, and propane tanks to avoid fire, electrocution, or explosions.

If it is dark when you are inspecting your home, use a flashlight rather than a candle or torch to avoid the risk of fire or explosion in a damaged home.

If you see frayed wiring or sparks, or if there is an odor of something burning, you should immediately shut off the electrical system at the main circuit breaker if you have not done so already.

If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open all windows, and leave the house immediately. Notify the gas company, the police or fire departments, or State Fire Marshal's office, and do not turn on the lights, light matches, smoke, or do anything that could cause a spark. Do not return to your house until you are told it is safe to do so.

Safety During Clean Up

- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves, and gloves.
- Learn proper safety procedures and operating instructions before operating any gas-powered or electric-powered saws or tools.

Clean up spilled medicines, drugs, flammable liquids, and other potentially hazardous materials.

Children's Needs

After a tornado, children may be afraid the storm will come back again and they will be injured or left alone. Children may even interpret disasters as punishment for real or imagined misdeeds. Explain that a tornado is a natural event.

Children will be less likely to experience prolonged fear or anxiety if they know what to expect after a tornado. Here are some suggestions:

- Talk about your own experiences with severe storms, or read aloud a book about tornadoes.
- Encourage your child to express feelings of fear. Listen carefully and show understanding.
- Offer reassurance. Tell your child that the situation is not permanent, and provide physical reassurance through time spent together and displays of affection.

Include your child in clean-up activities. It is comforting to children to watch the household begin to return to normal and to have a job to do.

NOTE: Symptoms of anxiety may not appear for weeks or even months after a tornado; they can affect people of any age. If anxiety disrupts daily activities for any member of your family, seek professional assistance through a school counselor, community religious organization, your physician, or a licensed professional. Counselors are listed under Mental Health Services in the yellow pages of your telephone directory.

Forged badges found in New York

By Candice Combs Staff Writer

Immigration agents this week discovered 94 counterfeit Chattanooga Police Department badges among hundreds of fake law enforcement shields shipped to a New York City apartment.

Robert Williams, special agent with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, on Monday arrested Sergio Khorosh, who was charged with receiving the forged badges from Taiwan. Federal agents posing as couriers also found stockpiled guns, police scanners and cash bundles inside the Bronx apartment, according to Mr. Williams' affidavit of complaint.

"Approximately 1,000 badges of various federal and state law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Marshals Service and the New York City Police Department were found," Mr. Williams stated in his affidavit.

Chattanooga Police Chief Steve Parks said this is the first time anyone, to his knowledge, illegally duplicated the city's colorful shield, which was created in December 1976. The police badge, which features Chattanooga's cityscape, is one of a handful nationwide that carries a copyright, he said.

"It probably wasn't a hard thing to do," Chief Parks said of the crime. "They counterfeit everything else."

He said it is unlikely the fake badges could have been used to undermine precautions taken in the name of homeland security, but people could use them to impersonate police.

However, the badge probably only would be recognized inside the state of Tennessee, he said.

"A badge means nothing if you're boarding an airplane, coming in or leaving the country," Chief Parks said. "While a badge is important, it's not going to get past homeland security efforts."

Officials said nothing about the shields seized from Mr. Khorosh's apartment is similar except for a manufacturer's stamp on the back - Blackinton. That company has made law enforcement decorations for 152 years and is based in Massachusetts, according to company Vice President Rick Hall.

Mr. Hall said, however, Blackinton did not make the fake badges.

"We are doing more things for security," he said. "But if you hear about companies making badges with something so it can't be duplicated, there's no such thing."

Mr. Hall said his company employs 200 people, many of whom have been there for more than a decade. All manufacturing is done under one roof, and items are shipped directly to the law enforcement agencies that order them, he said.

"We are putting certain markings... but we can't disclose those," Mr. Hall said. "But once a badge goes out into the market, some unscrupulous person can have it duplicated."

In August 2004, Mr. Khorosh posted a request for badge molds and dyes on ttnet.net, a business opportunity Web site, according to the affidavit. Mr. Khorosh told authorities he owned a company called Pro Police Products, based in New York at 120-28 Debs Place.

"Looking to buy USA police and federal police badges from dies and molds that you have in stock," Mr. Khorosh posted in his request. "Will buy up to 10,000."

On May 9, he accepted delivery of about 100 counterfeit U.S. Marshals Service shields, according to the affidavit. Agents began monitoring the shipments one month earlier after customs officials intercepted a different shipment in San Francisco bound for Mr. Khorosh's apartment, authorities said.

The U.S. District Attorney's Office is prosecuting Mr. Khorosh federally. No charges are pending in Chattanooga, officials said.

Mr. Khorosh does face charges in New York City of illegally transporting counterfeit badges, weapons and illegal drugs possession. He is being held there on a \$50,000 bond, according to The Associated Press.

E-mail Candice Combs at ccombs@timesfreepress.com

Here's a follow up on this story that Ed Ley submitted to me:

Sergio Khorosh, the Russian man who was charged yesterday with possessing and attempting to sell more than 1,000 fake FBI, Secret Service, DEA, and NYPD badges, was apparently finding (or trying to find) sellers via the the Internet:

As if the badges aren't enough trouble, immigration officials who searched Khorosh's apartment say they also found NYPD police uniforms, firearms, and a used casing from a shoulder-fired missile.

By the way, Khorosh isn't Russian, it's Iranian!

Strawberry Festival Fund Raiser

For those of you that missed it, The Slush Puppy Trailer we had set up at the festival proved to be a profitable event for the group. Not just in monetary gain either, the P R we got was just as valuable.

I won't even try and list all the names of the members that came out to help, but let me say a Big Thank You to those that did. Your efforts were greatly appreciated and Thanks to you folks, we now have a good start on obtaining equipment and training we need.

Do let me take a minute to recognize a few members that went above and beyond the call to make the event a success. Thanks to Joe Bowman for arranging the use of the Slush Puppy Trailer and for maintaining it for us. Joe was there from the time we picked it up until we took it back and every day open to close, and I know he had to wore down to a nub by the time it was over.

Thanks to Team Leader Gary Roddy for putting together the Emergency Preparedness Kit and setting up the drawing. Gary Donated all the items that were in the kit. Thanks to Tim Morgan for donating the Health Department Permit and for manning the trailer all day long. Thanks to Donnie Revis and Scott Davis for the long hours they put in. By the way, Scott was hobbling around with an injured knee and still managed to volunteer. Thanks to Dennis Tumblin with Coca Cola for the donation of soft drinks, and a Thank You to Karen Hughes (wife of Willie Hughes) with First American Cash Advance for getting us started with all the money we needed to make change with.

Let me give out another Thank You to Rob and Debbie Martin, who incidentally are not in Homeland Security yet but, volunteered to help us out selling soft drinks up and down the parade route, and because of them, our profits went up considerably.

I know I've left some people out, and if you're one of them please accept my profound apology, but rest assured that your efforts were appreciated.

I'm sure that every member that was there had to make some kind of a sacrifice and it's that type of commitment that makes our group successful.

This was a pretty big undertaking and we pulled it off together. Hopefully next time we will have even more participation and generate more interest in Homeland Security.

Homeland Security Gives away Emergency Preparedness Kit



(Picture Courtesy of Tom Mize)

(Pictured on Left, Team Leader- Gary Roddy and on the Right is Ron Phillips, Winner of Homeland Security Drawing)

The Rhea County Homeland Security Team Held a drawing on Saturday May 14th after the Strawberry Festival for an Emergency Preparedness Kit. The Kit was donated by Rhea County Homeland Security and contained various items for Emergency use.

The Winner was Ron Phillips of Dayton Mountain.

The Rhea County Homeland Security Team recently operated a concessions stand at The Strawberry Festival Event and raised money from selling Slush Puppies, Frozen Lemon aid, Soft Drinks and taking donations.

All money raised at the event goes toward equipment and training for our Team Members.

Our teams are made up of around 70 volunteers, which have a variety of skills. We have participated in several events over the last two years and we are able to do various jobs that will free up paid professional staff and Sheriff's Deputies so they can be of the most benefit to the community.

We have had a few local Companies donate Equipment and money for training, but there is always a need for more training and equipment as we grow and continue to advance.

We would like to thank everyone that came by our stand during the festival and either made a purchase or gave a donation.

The Members of Homeland Security are your neighbors,

friends, family and co-workers. They put in countless hours of training and spend many of their own hard earned dollars to support their community and we appreciate all the support we get from the community.

Anyone interested in earning their Amateur Radio License?

Recently, several team members have expressed an interest in getting their Ham Radio license.

The most popular license for beginners is the Technician Class license, which requires only a 35 multiple-choice

Getting a ham license isn't as hard as you might think. If you'd like some info on how to become a ham, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/hamradio.html> and learn more about it, or contact me, Tom Mize -KO4SY at 570-0840 or e-mail at ko4sy@volstate.net.

My recommendation is to get a book called "Now You're Talking" which is one of the best study manuals on the market and will give you all the info you need to start you out in the Amateur Service.

These books retail for around \$19.95, but if enough people want one, I can get them at a lower cost.

Next Homeland Security Meeting
Thursday May 26th
6 PM
Civil Air Patrol Complex

Next C.A.P. Fly-In Breakfast
Saturday May 28th

Next Rhea County
Amateur Radio Society Meeting
Saturday June 4th
7 PM
C.A.P. Complex