WASPC Rapid Responder Training Calendar

WASPC has provided hands-on training in the use of Rapid Responder in virtually every part of the state. However, it may be time to schedule some new or refresher training for your schools, community colleges, first responders, and other sites.

We are putting together a training calendar for the rest of 2012 and for 2013. Please let us know if and when you would like us to come to your area. Our present priorities, based on length of time since last training and specific training requests, are listed on the last page of this newsletter, but we will be happy to add you to the list. As sites and training dates are developed, we will send “Save the Date” notices to affected Rapid Responder users.

If you are willing to host training for your own staff, first responders, and nearby schools and sites, or if you just want training for yourself, please contact Bruce Kuennen or Andee Lugo.

The training is typically provided in a computer lab with the following components:

- Navigation – for all users
- Administration / Data Workshop – for those responsible for keeping information current

Ideally, the computer lab should have a teacher station which can project the instructor’s computer screen for the class and access to the Internet for all stations. The following Internet browsers are preferred: the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Internet Explorer 9. If these options are not available, we can make training available by other means.

We can also come to individual schools or other sites for personalized training. This model works well for widely scattered schools.

Webinar-style training, using GoToMeeting software, has also been successful. In this method, we can see each other’s computer screens while talking on the telephone.
New Training Resources

If you don’t have time to come to hands-on training, or if you just want to supplement other training, we have new resources available for you to “self-train”. The following resources are available in electronic format, and can be customized, if necessary, for your own needs

- Quick Start Guide — Accessing Rapid Responder
- Quick Start Guide — Mobile Client
- Navigation Training (PowerPoint)
- Navigation Training (Interactive)

The interactive training resource, soon to be available for use in the King County Sheriff’s Office, is now available for other users in Washington State. Using this tool, first responders and site personnel (schools and other sites) can turn the system on at their convenience, access a real site (the Criminal Justice Training Commission in Burien), and learn how to navigate to find specific information.

They can also learn how to use these advanced tools:

- Explosive Threat Modeling
- Chemical Release Modeling
- Incident Command Tools

Test questions are incorporated into the model, so that people taking the interactive course will be able to demonstrate that they have learned the material. (Optional)

If you are interested in any of these training resources, please contact Bruce Kuennen or Andee Lugo.
National Terrorism Advisory System

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has created the National Terrorism Advisory System, or NTAS, which replaces the color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS). Most agencies and sites in Washington have made the changes from the old system with Yellow, Orange, and Red threat levels to the new Elevated and Imminent alert system.

Here is an example of the present display:

WASPC has now completed over 100 pre-threat tactical plans, most as part of a Buffer Zone Protection Plan conducted under contract to the Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD). Most of these pre-threat planning meetings were conducted under the old HSAS system, with three levels of threat. So, most of the plans were uploaded prior to the development of the NTAS, and were carried in Rapid Responder at the three levels.

WASPC has just completed a review of all of these pre-threat plans. All recommended or planned actions at the previous Yellow level have been moved to the second-highest level (Elevated), and added to the Orange level actions. There is now no content under the Tactical Tab, Sub-Tab for Yellow.

In the next upgrade to Rapid Responder (expected in August 2012), the third-highest level will be eliminated, and the tabs for the two highest levels will be renamed Elevated and Imminent, to coincide with the new DHS system’s terminology.
Tabletop Exercises

On April 11, WASPC conducted a unique tabletop exercise as part of a Rapid Responder demonstration for the Partners in Emergency Preparedness conference. Players were at their own physical locations in different parts of the state, not in the same room with the facilitator.

The scenario simulated a tsunami warning, with a potentially large wave approaching the Washington coast. Bruce Kuennen was the facilitator, located at the conference center in Tacoma. The other players were located at the Clallam County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Port Angeles and the Pacific County EOC in South Bend. Also participating was Andee Lugo, physically located that day at the WASPC office in Lacey, providing technical assistance on behalf of the WASPC Tactical Operations Support department.

Using the Rapid Responder Incident Command module, participants interacted with each other in an event discussion. A multi-agency, interactive chronological log of significant activities was created. FEMA forms were downloaded and completed at one site, and uploaded back into the system for access by the others. The annotation tool was used at one site to indicate the locations of key functions geographically within the county.

WASPC has facilitated violent intruder, shelter-in-place, and other scenarios for schools and other facilities. Upon request, WASPC will work with mapped sites and first responders to develop custom designed tabletop exercises to improve communications between the groups and to demonstrate the usefulness of Rapid Responder. These exercises are low-stress, facilitated discussions of how sites and responders would interact in a simulated scenario.

WASPC Tactical Operations Support

Are you planning a large exercise or event? One that involves multiple jurisdictions? Why not take advantage of the Incident Command System (ICS) tools in Rapid Responder?

The WASPC Tactical Operations Support department can set up the event for you in Rapid Responder and upload maps and other graphics for annotation appropriate to your event. Other responder and emergency management agencies can be invited into the secure communications “space” for documentation and communication before, during, and after the event.

Examples:

- Tabletop and Functional Exercises
- Full-Scale Exercises
- Planned Demonstrations or other Events
- Visits by Presidential Candidates or other dignitaries
- School Graduations, Sports, or other Community Events

WASPC can also train users and support them in the use of the software during the event, as necessary.
New or Remodeled Schools?

Has your school been built or opened recently, or been significantly remodeled? Have the streets surrounding your school been changed? Do you need to develop a new or revised pre-planned tactical response to your school? Have you built new buildings on your campus which have not yet been mapped? If so, WASPC has funding and resources to help.

Depending on the site size, a site visit can normally be done in 4 hours or less. All that is needed is an escort who is familiar with the building(s), someone who can access areas such as utility shut-offs and roof access.

A pre-plan tactical meeting is normally 1 ½ hours. Required participants are the school principal or assistant principal, district representative, law enforcement, and fire department. WASPC or Prepared Response, Inc. (PRI, our contractor) handles the invitations and provides the facilitators.

Quick Rapid Responder Surveys – Are You Prepared?

Please take a few minutes to answer a brief survey, to see if you are using some key features of Rapid Responder to improve the safety of your site(s). You can respond anonymously, or you can provide contact information via the survey if you would like training or other assistance.

Click on the link below.

The first survey is for schools, school districts, community and technical colleges, and other sites:

Site Survey

The second survey is for First Responders, Dispatchers, Emergency Managers, and other agency responders:

Responder Survey

Thank you for your participation.

WASPC Rapid Responder Training Priorities

This is not intended to be a complete list, nor is it listed in order of priority. These areas have either specifically requested training, or have been identified as not having had training for a significant time. Even if your school, site, or agency is not listed here, we would love to come to your area to train or support you in other ways.

Pierce County (All school districts – need multiple locations)
Connell Police Department
Spokane County (East Valley, West Valley, and Central Valley School Districts)
Coupeville Police Department
Lewis County
Port Townsend Police Department
Pend Oreille County
Asotin County
Okanogan County
Kitsap County (North Kitsap School District, Bremerton School District)
Whatcom County (Bellingham School District, Blaine School District)
Union Gap Police Department
Kittitas County
Klickitat County
Clallam County (Quillayute School District, Port Angeles School District)
Kittitas County
Grays Harbor County (Montesano Police Department)
Stevens County

Please contact Bruce or Andee to request training, or to volunteer to host training at your location. Thank you.