



Wisconsin Counties Association  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
*& Exhibit Hall* **2022**

9:15 - 10:15 AM

Emergency Management  
and the County's Role

A person wearing a fire helmet and an orange safety vest with a reflective patch that reads "INCIDENT COMMANDER" is seen from behind, looking towards a fire scene with smoke and flames.

**INCIDENT  
COMMANDER**

# Emergency Management

An Overview





# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A continuous process and should not be based on a future single emergency, but on past experienced emergencies





# **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROCESS**





"By failing to  
prepare, you are  
preparing to fail."

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



# PREPAREDNESS

"a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response."

- Classroom instruction, training, and exercising
- Includes plans or preparations made to save lives and help response and rescue operations
- Preparedness activities take place **BEFORE** an emergency occurs





# RESPONSE

*"Those actions taken immediately during or directly after an emergency or disaster occurs. These actions are determined by the overall Incident Commander."*

- Putting your preparedness plans into action
- Actions taken to save lives and prevent further property damage
- Response activities take place **DURING** an emergency







# RECOVERY

*"Activities that restore community systems to operating standards that return community life to normal."*

- Short-term and long-term recovery
- Includes financial assistance to help pay for repairs and temporary housing
- Recovery activities take place AFTER an emergency





# MITIGATION

*"To make less severe by reducing or eliminating the effects of future emergencies."*

- Community education and planning
- Includes flood insurance, property buyouts, and community storm shelters
- Mitigation activities take place BEFORE & AFTER an emergency





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# ***EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT...***

- needs to be based on what is likely to happen
- anticipates problems and engages possible solutions before a crisis
  - *The appropriateness of a response is sometimes better than the speed of the response*
- is an educational activity





**What do emergency  
managers do when  
there is no  
emergency?**

# DEVELOP COUNTY PLANS



Emergency Operations or  
Emergency Response



Pandemic



All-hazards mitigation



Animal Emergency



County-wide Hazardous  
Materials /Strategic



Evacuations



EPCRA off-site facility



Interoperability



Continuity of Operations and  
Continuity of Government



Debris management



Safety (school, childcare,  
business)



Volunteer management



Mass care, Mass fatality



Municipal plans

And More





# TRAINING



## Apply for training grants

Grants will help conduct county, fire, EMS, police, sheriff, HAZMAT, schools, prisons, and volunteer agency training



## National Incident Management System (NIMS) / Incident Command System (ICS)



## Training awareness

Make responder and community partners aware of federal/state/local training opportunities



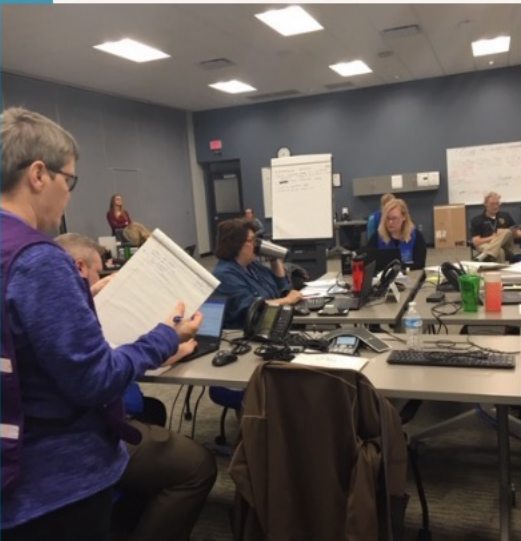
## Continuing education

Emergency manager training opportunities and conferences



# EXERCISING

- Assist with design and facilitation of exercises to test county plans
- Conduct After Action Review following exercises. Report on "what went right" and "what went wrong."
- Develop and implement improvement plan for future exercises/incidents
- Assist other counties with their exercises by serving as a controller/evaluator







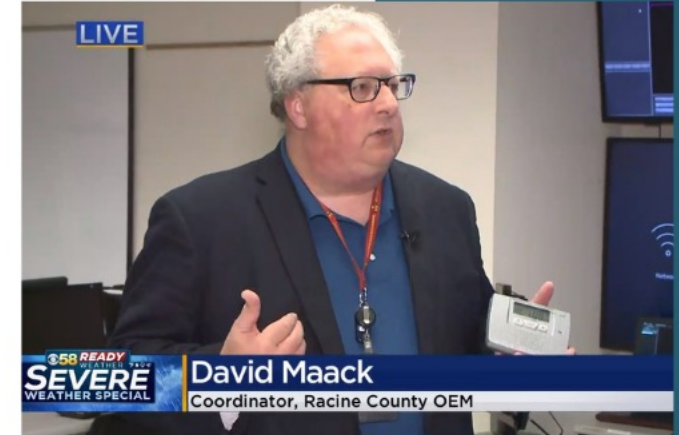
# GRANT & OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

- Apply for EPCRA & EMPCG grant (state pass through of federal funds), complete Plan of Work (POW) to receive yearly funds
- Attend monthly regional meetings. WEM has six regions
- Attend local organizational meetings (Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Volunteer Organizations)
- Apply for other optional grants such as Assistance to Firefighters (AFG), Hazardous Material Emergency Planning (HMEP), Radio Interoperability, other FEMA grants, etc.

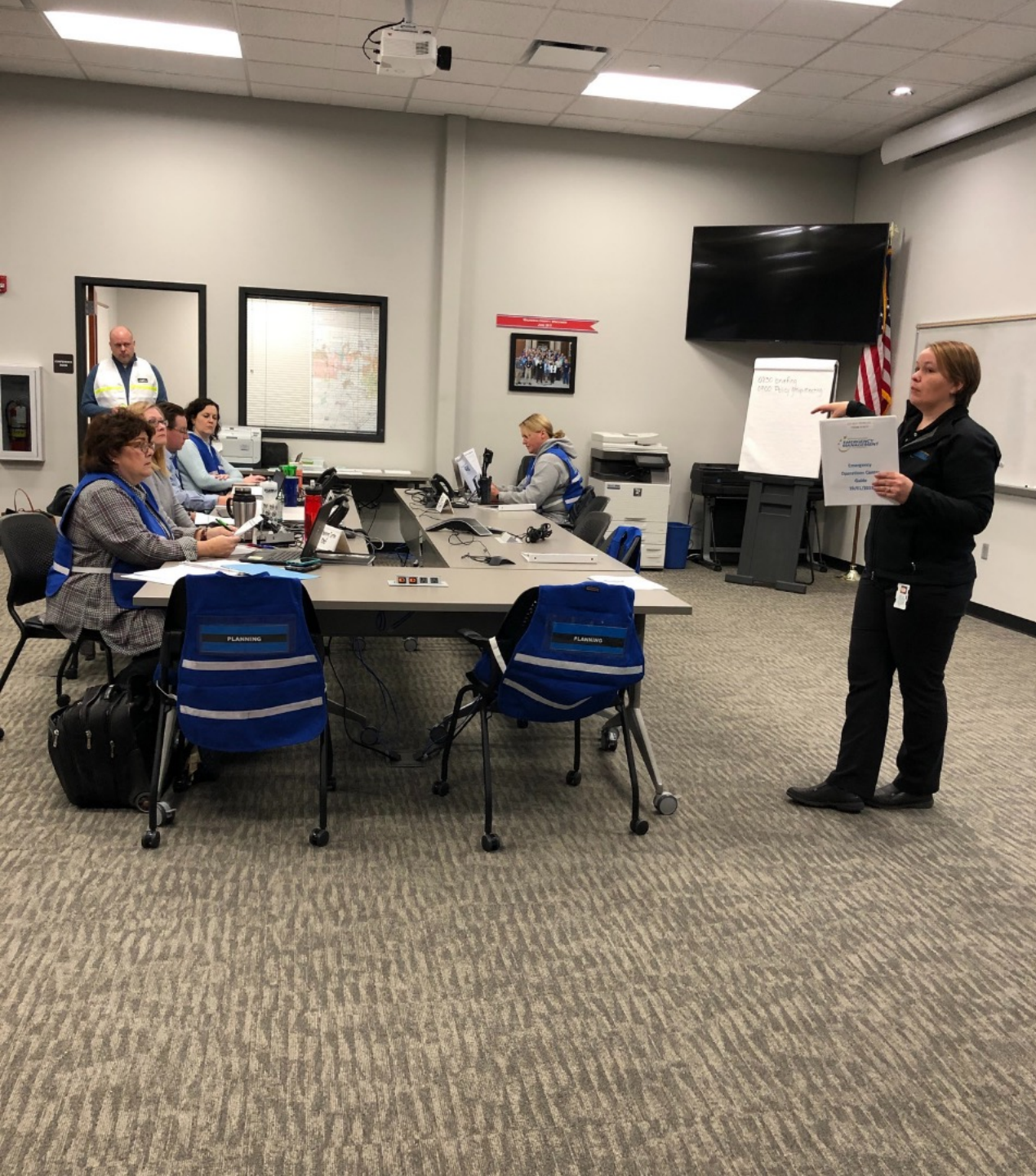
# OUTREACH

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- Conduct at least three media campaigns a year (tornado awareness, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act [EPCRA], flood safety, etc.)
- Community speaking engagements
- Written news articles
- Interviews - TV, radio, newspaper
- Attend local events (county fairs, parades, etc.)
- Tornado spotter training







# LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT

- Serve as coordinator of information
- Serve as a member of the committee
- Post public notice & coordinate all local emergency planning committee (LEPC) meetings
- Maintain Tier II chemical reports for reporting facilities
- Oversee creation and updates of Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Off-site Facility Plans (May include farm plans, battery plans, etc.)



# HAZMAT ADMINISTRATION



Apply for grants to conduct yearly training requirements



Respond to HAZMAT incidents or provide first line of defense (operations) until state resources arrive



Recover county incurred costs for HAZMAT incidents





**"THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES IN ALL ASPECTS OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND PARTICULARLY IN PLANNING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE, IS NOT JUST HELPFUL - IT IS ESSENTIAL IN SMALL JURISDICTIONS WHERE THE SMALL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE WOULD BE OVERWHELMED WITHOUT IT."**

**WILLIAM WAUGH, JR.**

Professor Emeritus in Public Management and Policy  
Georgia State University



# WHO IS IN CHARGE?



**Adjutant General  
(Department of  
Military Affairs)**



**Governor**



**Wisconsin  
Emergency  
Management**



**County and Tribal  
Emergency  
Management**



o o o o

# YOU

Wisconsin is a home rule state. This delegates power from the state to counties, municipalities, and tribes. It limits the degree of state influence in emergency management



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# Wisconsin Statutes

Local chief elected official is responsible for local emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery

Defines authorities and powers of local chief elected official to declare a local state of emergency

Defines the state role as support and assist county and local governments in all four phases of emergency management



**ALL DISASTERS START  
AND END LOCALLY**







# COUNTY ROLE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Federal / state funnels resources, information, and recovery programs through county emergency management as needed by the incident
- County emergency management is the primary point of contact
- County emergency management is the hub for preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery countywide.
- It is in support of the county's jurisdictions



# Emergency Management Functions



## Damage Assessment

- COLLECT DAMAGE INFORMATION AND REPORT TO WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (WEM)



## Liaison

- NOTIFY REGION AND STATE OF EMERGENCY STATUS
- SINGLE POINT-OF-CONTACT FOR THE STATE TO THE COUNTY
- REPRESENT COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES WITH FEDERAL DISASTER APPLICATIONS AND CLAIMS



## Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Management

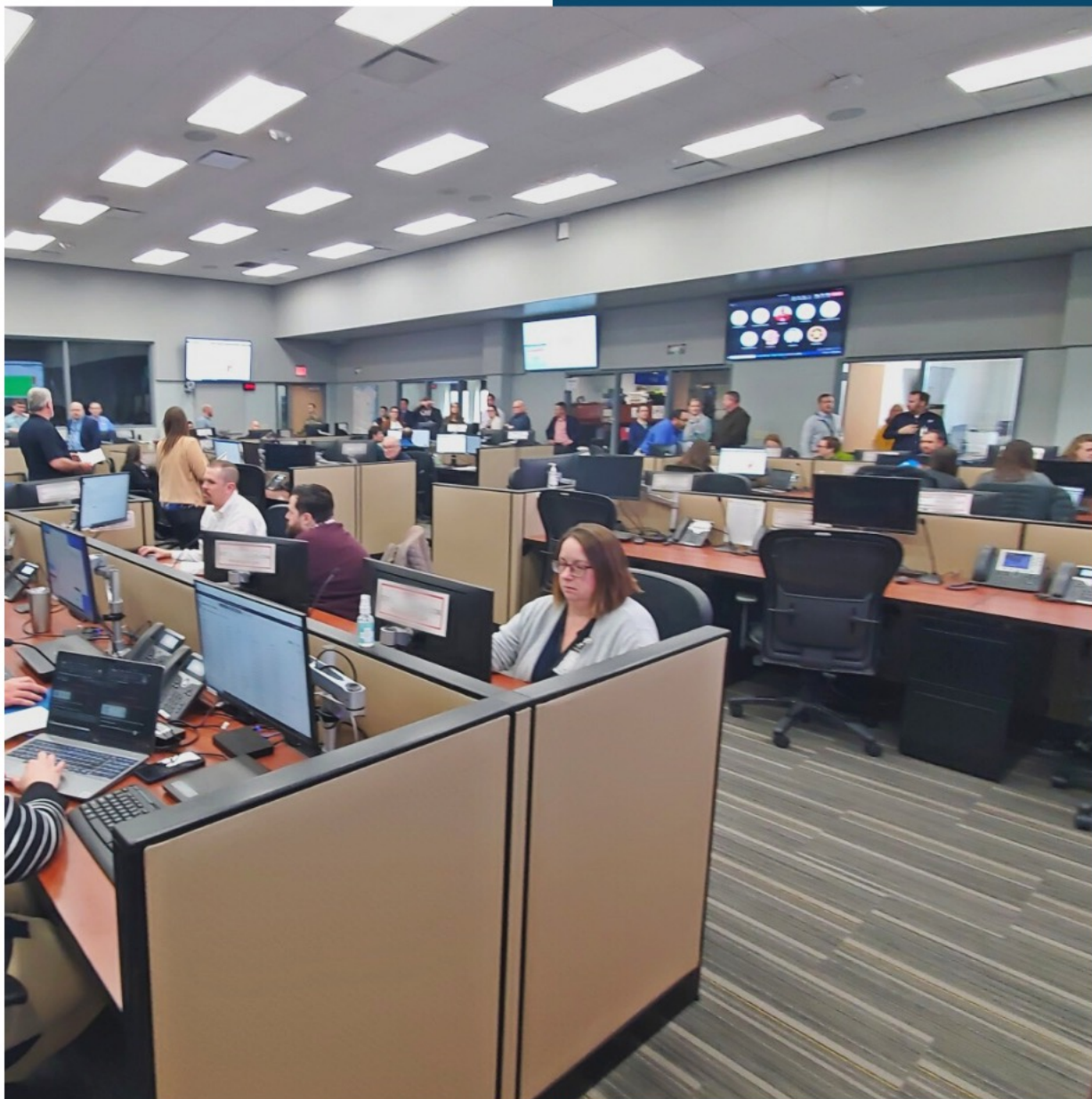
- OPEN AND MANAGE THE COUNTY EOC
- ENSURE CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY
- OBTAIN REQUESTED RESOURCES FOR INCIDENT COMMANDER
- ASSIST WITH MEDIA RELATIONS - PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER



## Recovery

- ADDRESS RETURNING TO "NORMAL" (SERVICE RESTORATION, DEBRIS MANAGEMENT, DONATIONS, VOLUNTEERS)
- SEEK OUT GRANTS AND OTHER AID FOR UNMET NEEDS
- ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES WITH RECOVERY ISSUES AND RE-COOPING COSTS FROM FEMA
- CONDUCT AN AFTER ACTION REVIEW (AAR) FOR ALL AFFECTED ENTITIES





# STATE ROLE IN RESPONSE & RECOVERY

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*Wisconsin Emergency Management  
builds capabilities and coordinates  
resources to support a safe and  
resilient Wisconsin.*





## RESPONSE & RECOVERY

- Provide resources to counties by request
- Assist with formal preliminary damage assessment process
- Works with local/tribal/county governments to request and implement state recovery programs
- Works with FEMA / Small Business Association to provide federal recovery programs



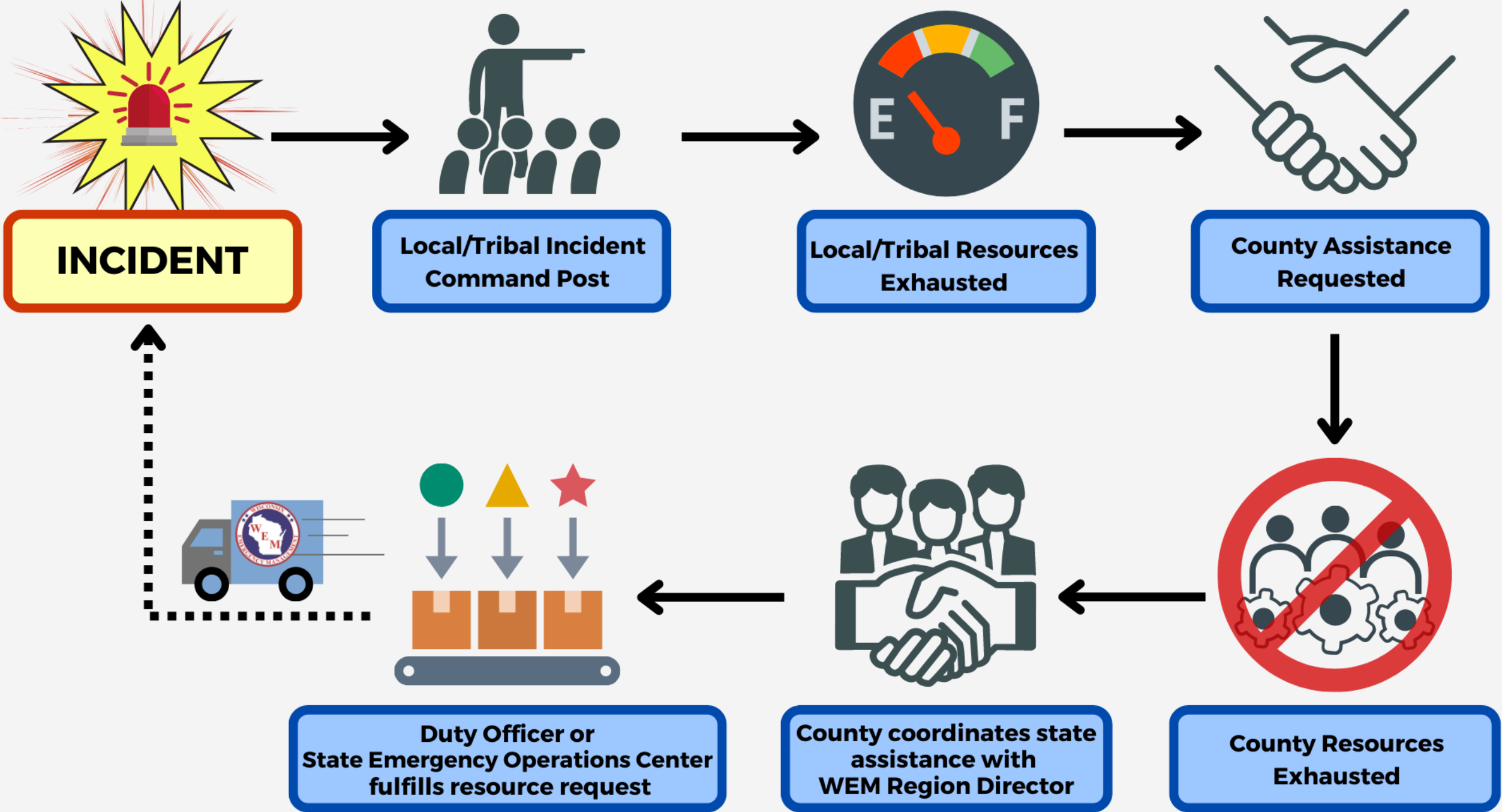


**The State of Wisconsin**

**NEVER**

**takes over local disaster  
operations from local  
jurisdictions**









# Resources Available







# WISCONSIN DISASTER FUND

- State reimburses 70% of eligible costs to local government units
- Can be used for debris clearance, protective measures, and some road and bridge repairs following a disaster
- Does NOT cover individuals, businesses, agriculture sector, costs associated with snowstorms, damages covered by insurance, or mitigation activities.



*"Emergency planning is not accomplished through one meeting of the appropriate representatives. It is an ongoing process within the community."*

- Wendy A. Schafer, John M. Carroll, Steven R. Haynes, and Stephen Abrams





# COLLABORATION

- Requires a commitment to participate in shared decision making
- The willingness to share information and resources to achieve a common goal
- Respect for each other's mission and diversity
- A sense of community



# BENEFITS TO AGENCY COLLABORATION



Requires a commitment to participate in shared decision making



The willingness to share information and resources to achieve a common goal

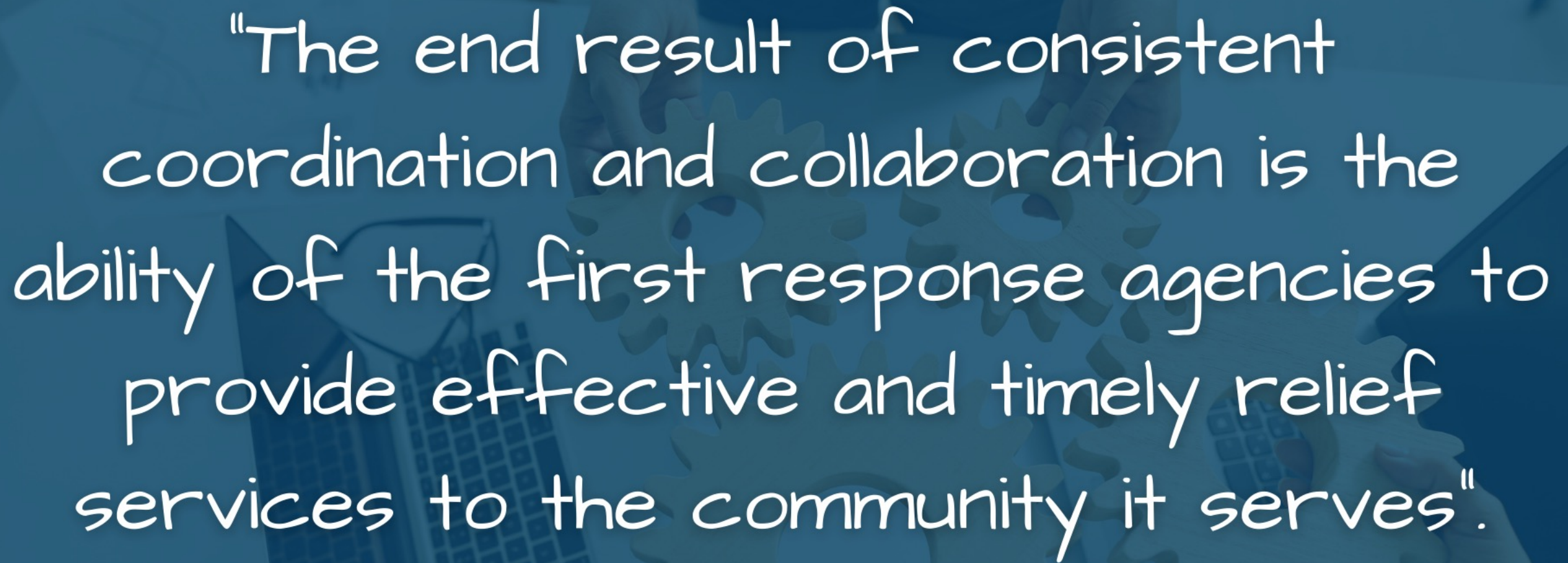


Respect for each other's mission and diversity



A sense of community



The background of the slide is a dark blue overlay. It features a faint image of several hands reaching in from the top and bottom, interacting with a set of interlocking white gears. In the lower-left corner, a portion of a laptop keyboard is visible. The text is written in a white, handwritten-style font, centered on the slide.

"The end result of consistent coordination and collaboration is the ability of the first response agencies to provide effective and timely relief services to the community it serves".



# QUESTIONS

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[wem.wi.gov](http://wem.wi.gov)



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[wemaus.wpcomstaging.com](http://wemaus.wpcomstaging.com)



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