

# WYO CISM NET



February 2009

## *A Newsletter For Critical Incident Responders In Wyoming*

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**Proceedings of the 5th Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Conference 2006**  
(Paperback)

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1932690379/>

**Kindle Page:**

<http://www.amazon.com/Proceedings-Mountain-Disaster-Conference-RMRDMHI/dp/B000ZM0VIE>

**Proceedings of the 6th Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Conference 2007**

<http://www.amazon.com/Proceedings-Mountain-Region-Disaster-Conference/dp/1932690565/>



**Honolulu Air Ambulance - 3 Killed When Air Ambulance Crashes.** One of HAA's twin-engine Cessna 414 was headed from Oahu to Kahului to pick up a patient for transport back to Honolulu. That's when the plane crashed into the lot of a BMW dealership near the Kahului Airport. March 10, 2006.

## FAMILIES AND AVIATION DISASTERS IN RURAL ENVIRONMENTS

Airline disasters, both commuter airline and larger commercial airlines, can occur at any time almost anywhere. In rural environments in the west, most communities are served by commuter or small airlines. When an airline disaster occurs in a rural community, what is the role of mental health professionals and first responders? Who works with the families of victims? What plans are in place in rural communities for handling such a disaster? For smaller engine 2, 3 or 4 passenger aviation disasters, what is your role as a first responder and/or mental health professional? What about tour planes and "Flight For Life" and ambulance aircraft?

The Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996 requires large, scheduled airlines and air charter companies to have detailed plans for dealing with fatal aviation incidents on file with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The Act and its subsequent amendments detail specific requirements regarding what each airline's plan must contain. It describes appropriate behaviors on the part of the airlines with regards to care for families of those aboard flights involved in fatal accidents. The Act also establishes a command structure for the investigation of major air disasters. It dictates that the NTSB will designate a humanitarian aid organization to oversee the care of the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of victims' families.

There are smaller commercial aviation enterprises whose activities were not included in the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996. Among those not included are many air tour companies and non-scheduled air taxis. These companies generally fly fixed-wing airplanes and helicopters which carry fewer than ten passengers. The FAA reported that the majority of scenic airlines operate with a single aircraft, but combined, they serve as many as two million passengers during peak years. These tour aircraft frequently fly in and out of rural airports and, unfortunately, experience a considerable number of fatal crashes. For example, since implementation of the Act in 1996, there have been at least eleven fatal tour aircraft crashes in the State of Hawaii alone, all of which happened in rural areas.

Because these small companies have not been required by law to create and file plans for dealing with fatal incidents, many do not have one. When a fatal crash involving tour operators occurs, the result is often chaos. Their staffs are generally small and tightly knit. The fatal accident often results in the death of one or more employees, leaving the entire staff contaminated emotionally by the event.

In addition to the trauma of dealing with deaths of customers and/or employees, air tour proprietors recognize the incident may threaten the company's continued existence. Owners

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12 CE Hours
- *From Crisis to Recovery: Strategic Planning for Response, Resilience and Recovery*  
[http://www.psychceu.com/Doherty/crisis\\_index.asp](http://www.psychceu.com/Doherty/crisis_index.asp) 12 CE

## Give An Hour

<http://www.giveanhour.org>

Give an Hour is asking mental health professionals nationwide to literally give an hour of their time each week to provide free mental health services to military personnel and their families. Target population is the U.S. troops and families who are being affected by the current military conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.



NTSB investigators examine the site of an air-ambulance crash near the Rawlins, Wyo., airport. The Jan. 12, 2005, accident killed three. A leading cause of accidents is pilots' tendency to fly in unsafe conditions. (Post file / John Epperson)

and employees of the air tour business generally express sincere desire to take care of victims' family members, but are often ignorant regarding what needs to be done. When there is no plan to follow, the company owners look to outside agencies or their insurance company for guidance. It may be a couple of days before an NTSB investigator arrives to take charge. Various jurisdictions such as the county, state, or National Park Service are normally involved with search-and-rescue and subsequent recovery of the victims' bodies. These government entities are usually unprepared to assist the flight operator in dealing with the friends and families of those who were killed or injured.

Because the American Red Cross has been designated by the NTSB as the lead agency responsible for coordinating emotional care and support of families of passengers in fatal air incidents involving larger scheduled airlines, local chapters are often called upon to provide these same services following accidents not covered by the Act. Thom Curtis, PhD has outlined steps that can be undertaken by small non-scheduled commercial aircraft operators, local airports, various governmental jurisdictions and volunteer agencies to prepare for fatal air incidents that are not encompassed by the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996.

A functional response plan is a necessity and must reflect a community's unique characteristics and attributes. Rural tour operators, emergency service and humanitarian aid responders need to be as prepared as possible to assist those experiencing unexpected loss. Participants in the planning process should include:

- Air tour companies
- Emergency services such as police, fire and EMTs from the local jurisdictions.
- Representatives from counties, National Parks, Indian Reservations and other relevant local governmental units.
- Airport Manager or Fixed Base Operator.
- Local Red Cross.

For a plan to be of value, it must be specific enough to provide participants with concrete tasks. It must also be flexible enough to expand or contract with the demands of the disaster.

The same basic services outlined in the Acts should be planned for and provided to families following a fatal tour aircraft accident.

Creation of a working plan depends on the cooperation of the airport management, the air tour operators, emergency service agencies, and the local American Red Cross chapter or branch.

### **Emergency Preparedness Planning: Inclusion of UTSE (people unable to self evacuate) and Others with Access and Functional Needs – Laramie 8/5/2009 - 8/6/2009,**

**Albany County Conference Location: Hilton Garden Inn and UW Conference Center, Laramie**

The purpose of this conference is to:

1. Expose state and community emergency planners to national officials with experience in mitigating and responding to major events, and
2. Facilitate discussion and planning seminars for development of local plans for the four phases of emergency planning; preparation, mitigation, response and recovery. People with disabilities or special needs may apply for a travel scholarship from UW / WIND. Further detailed information is available at: [http://www.rmrinstitute.org/UTSE\\_SavetheDate\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.rmrinstitute.org/UTSE_SavetheDate_1_.pdf)

### **Australian wildfire death toll rises to 209**

The death toll in the worst wildfires in Australia's history has risen to 209, according to police. The revised toll includes one additional death in the badly-hit area of Kinglake, where a total of 38 people are now believed to have perished. "Victoria (state) police can now confirm that 209 people have died as a result of bushfires across the state," a spokeswoman said. She said a task force had been established to investigate the causes and circumstances of all fires -- police have said some were started deliberately -- and another team was working to identify victims as quickly as possible. Police had said earlier this week they did not expect the toll to go much higher than 200 as they believed the bodies of those people listed as missing had been located.

The wildfires swept through the southeastern state of Victoria earlier this month, destroying 1,800 homes and driven by hot winds and record temperatures that left the countryside as dry as tinder. Marysville suffered the most fatalities of any town, with 45 deaths, while up to 10,000 people are believed to be homeless across the disaster zone.



Building in Danger - Australia



A fire truck moves away from out-of-control flames –  
Near Marysville, Victoria, Australia

### **LARAMIE ICE HOUSE FIRE ALSO SPARKED GRASS FIRES FORCING EVACUATION OF WRI**

Shortly before noon Friday, February 20, firefighters responded to a structure fire at 3650 Banner Road, northwest of Laramie in Albany County, saying they had reports that "the roof was on fire." "the entire structure was engulfed in flames." Local emergency responders were able to take control of the blaze, preventing it from spreading to area businesses such as the Western Research Institute's (WRI) Advanced Technology Center and Laramie Trusses. No one was injured in the blaze. All city fire units responded, as did two brush units and two Big Laramie Volunteer Fire Department brush units and one Little Laramie Volunteer Fire Department tender.

"At the height of the fire, there were over 40 firefighters and support personnel committed," an e-mail sent to the Laramie City Council and mayor by Laramie Fire Department Chief Randy Vickers read. "Over 2,000 feet of five-inch hose line was laid from the waste water treatment plant hydrant to the fire. Flames rose hundreds of feet above the structure when the roof failed and main fire wall collapsed."

Arriving on scene, first responders employed an incident command system, taking advantage of the integrated communications between fire, police and sheriff departments. "Most of this fire was in the county so what they developed was an incident command system, which included the Laramie Fire Department, who was in charge of the command post. Then you have the county representative from the sheriff's office and a representative from our department since they were using some of our manpower," Laramie Police Department Commander Mitch Cushman said.

Residents living in the affected area were also notified of the situation through the six-month-old Code Red Alert System. The first alert of its kind was sent to approximately 1,457 telephones, warning residents to be aware of the smoke and the possibility of evacuation. "We were able to specifically target a number of people that lived in the area of the fire or the plume area, which would be downwind from where the smoke is and where the fire might possibly move," Cushman said. "It did that in less than 20 minutes, so the very first launch of our code red system was very successful."



**Laramie Ice House on Fire**

**BOOKS AND PUBLISHED  
CONFERENCE  
PROCEEDINGS**

**JUST PUBLISHED:**

**RETURN TO  
EQUILIBRIUM: Disaster  
Mental Health and Returning  
Military and Families -**

Proceedings of the 7th Rocky Mountain Disaster Mental Health Conference – Laramie, WY

**ORDER AND PURCHASE  
BOOKS online**

<http://www.rmrinstitute.org/books.html>

**From Crisis to Recovery:  
Resilience and Strategic  
Planning For the Future -**

Proceedings of the 5th Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Conference Casper, WY November 8-11, 2006

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**From Crisis to Recovery:  
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Planning For the Future -**

Proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Conference - Cheyenne, WY November 8-10, 2007

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Although the Advanced Technology Center is located on the opposite side of the railroad tracks and Laramie River, high winds carried burning embers away from the initial blaze, sparking grass fires around the facility before emergency units arrived on scene.

Firefighters were able to gain control of the blaze and stop the fires from spreading to the Advanced Technology Center. The large number of chemicals, such as oil, natural gas and oxygen could have made for a much worse situation had the fire spread further.

As of Friday evening, the blaze, fully contained, had completely destroyed the structure at 3650 Banner Road, also known as the Ice House, but all surrounding structures had sustained only light damage, Fire Chief Randy Vickers said.

Originally built in 1924, the ice house building was used by the railroad to store massive amounts of ice before shipping it elsewhere, local historian and Plains Museum volunteer Jerry Hansen said. Once the largest facility of its kind, the building fell into disrepair after shutting down in the 1960s.

The fire was not expected to be fully extinguished until this afternoon, Vickers said. Fire crews and first responders were to remain on scene for at least 24 hours.

"We do not expect to achieve full extinguishment until Saturday afternoon. Fire investigation cannot proceed until that time. We do not know the cause at this point," Vickers said.

**WYOMING CISM TEAM UPDATES**

**SWEETWATER ASSIST CISM TEAM** - MEETING MINUTES - Tues Jan 20 2009 5:30-7:30p in the RSPD Training Room. Attending:

**RSFD**-Ron Adkins **SW Counseling**- Steve Sorenson **SW CO Em. Mgmt**- Judy Roderick **Daggett CO Em Mgmt**- Winston & Shirley Slaugh **RSPD**- Randy Hanson, Bob Cottrell, Wauneta Lutes **Christ's Ministries**-Bonnie Rice, Dennis Crofts **Social worker**-Libby Bougere

**Topics:** First off I would like to acknowledge several new people to our team:

**LIBBY BOUGERE**- Libby has expressed a desire to become a team member and has a history in social work and experience in CISM

**BONNIE RICE**- is a minister at Christ's Ministries church. She is very interested in being able to help and learning. She is bringing the clergy perspective that we can surely use. This past meeting she brought **DENNIS CROFTS** who I have briefly spoken to, however he seems to be right on track for our team, also.

TO ALL THE NEW MEMBERS....."WELCOME"

Ron presented a SOP (standard operating procedure) for the RSFD. It looks like he did a good job, and presented it well. ..Thanks.

Along the same lines, we discussed a call where a debriefing should have been called, where a 3 week old baby died. Bob Cottrell said he did a couple 1 on 1's concerning this with Ambulance personnel. Bob also notified VASE Amb. of our meetings/ team and invited them to become involved. I also did some follow up with the members of RSPD that were involved. The fire personnel who responded sounded like they were shook from the incident also.

We discussed the latest issue of WYO CISM.NET. Also we talked about things that we have annexed in our e-mail account. **SWEETWATER\_ASSIST @YAHOO.COM** Password (rocksprings)

We discussed the possibility of "personal certification" through Rocky Mountain Disaster Mental Health Institute. Randy was open to suggestions as to possible funding for the team, as he doesn't want to create a burden to members of the team for being involved, however sees the benefit of the program.

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12 CE Hours

Up coming events:

**MARCH MEETING-** “Gate Keeper”- Suicide Prevention class

**APRIL MEETING-** we agreed to have another “OPEN HOUSE” meeting

**JUNE** – sponsor Beginning and Advanced classes for our newer members

**JULY-** our yearly “TEAM BUILDER PICNIC”

**GOALS for 2009 are:**

- To keep old members interested, and train new members as we grow

\*\*\*\* NEXT MEETING \*\*\*\*

Tues Feb 17th 2009, 5:30-7:30pm @ RSPD Training Room

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !!!!

**Reminder:** We meet EVERY third Tuesday of the month, 5:30-7:30p (2 hours per month, to learn and network) YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE TEAM – Randy Hanson, Team Coordinator



ABOVE: **I-80 at Rock Springs**  
View of I-80 at Rock Springs on Thursday, January 31. WYDOT webcam photo.

**SNOWY RANGE CISM TEAM** Gary Wilken and George Doherty provided a debriefing and one-on-one interventions to personnel in Cheyenne who responded to a vehicle chase that resulted in a suicide by the car driver driving her car into an oncoming truck.

Our Team is looking for additional members as well as upgrade training.

**CAMPBELL COUNTY CISM TEAM** The Campbell County CISM Team provided a number of debriefings and one-on-one interventions following an incident in which a child died in an accident involving a school bus.

The January CISM Training offered in Gillette was successful with over 20 attendees.

- Bob Rudichar, Team Coordinator

**UPCOMING TRAININGS**

**ROCK SPRINGS:** June 15-19, 2009 – Combined 3-Day CISM Course: Individual and Peer Support and Group – 6/15-6/17 \$150/person; One-Day Course – AWR160: Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness Course (pre-requisite for response ID) – 6/18 – no fee; CISM Certification Exam and Update – 6/19 \$50. Registration available: Call 307-399-4818 with questions. Additional information and forms will be included in mailings and the next WYO CISM NET Newsletter. Please register and sign up as soon as possible to ensure a place and an accurate count. POST Credit for CISM and for the AWR160.

**36 years ago, on February 21, 1973**, a Libya Arab Airlines Boeing 727-224 crashed near Ismaliya, Egypt after being hit by a missile. 110 of the 113 passengers and crew aboard were killed.

**WINTER DRIVING IN WYOMING**

To be better prepared for winter driving motorists should plan their trips carefully, letting their people know their route of travel and give them an anticipated time of arrival. They should also check road and weather conditions at [www.wyoroad.info](http://www.wyoroad.info) before leaving home and can periodically check weather conditions along the way by calling 1-888-996-7623 or 511 to keep their people informed of conditions the motorist will be encountering. Using these road and weather tools, it is possible for motorists to actually track a storm moving across Wyoming and make better, more informed decisions in traveling during winter months.



BELOW: These horses on a ranch near Big Piney try to shelter from the bizzard conditions. Their thick fur protects them very well as the snow covers their backs. Photo by Dawn Ballou, Pinedale Online!