

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DMA 3/5/02

LRB Number	01-4806/3	Introduction Number	AB-850	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Bioterrorism; emergency health powers					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The Department of Military Affairs houses the Wisconsin National Guard and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Both these entities would most likely be activated in the event of a Biological Incident within the State of Wisconsin. Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) is the agency responsible for managing "State of Emergency" Declarations by the Governor. WEM is the coordinating agent between the various state agencies and local governments to facilitate a coordinated response.

The Wisconsin National Guard currently has appropriated a sum sufficient appropriation for the use in the event the Governor should activate them. The following is a synopsis of the costs of State Active Duty call ups in the last 8 years. These costs reflect State Active Duty Costs only.

1994 - \$222,737.95
1995 - \$ 46,236.25
1996 - \$156,261.38
1997 - \$ 27,641.05
1998 - \$ 39,449.70
1999 - \$ 25,920.39
2000 - \$ 6,504.57
2001 - \$ 40,927.54

Wisconsin Emergency Management however, does not have a sum sufficient account to help cover the costs of emergency responses. The most common response handled by WEM involves the response in the event of a natural disaster. The severe events are usually declared by the federal government as Presidential Disasters and qualify for funds which reimburse WEM for their over-time and expense outlay directly related to the event. WEM currently has a sum sufficient appropriation used to cover the State's matching portion of grants authorized under a Presidentially declared disaster. Grants are paid to State agencies, local governments, qualifying non-profit organizations as well as eligible individuals.

Wisconsin Emergency Management will be a key player in any State of Emergency declared by the Governor. In 1996, WEM played a key role in the trail derailment and chemical release which occurred at Weyauwega Wisconsin. This event resulted in 24 hour Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operations for a number of days. The overtime and related expenditures for WEM were approximately \$57,800. In this case, the railroad's insurance carrier, reimbursed the Division for all expenditures related to this event. Without the insurance reimbursement, WEM would have had to file a 13.10 request with Joint Finance to cover this outlay. The National Guard's costs in this event were \$147,650.16.

The cost of a response to any type of hazard is unknown and is contingent on many factors. The information provided here is the best available information at this time.

The potential costs which could impact local units of government are related to the services provided by Department of Health & Family Services, hence no estimate is provided.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Unknown at this time.