



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Terry C. Anderson, Director
Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director*

TO: DIRECTORS, COUNTY AND REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES
FROM: Representative Joan Ballweg, Chair, Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning
RE: Participation by Private Sector Organizations and Businesses
DATE: December 22, 2006

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning. The committee's charge includes making recommendations in the area of public and private cooperation. At its December 13 meeting, the committee members requested that I forward a recommendation to county and regional emergency management agencies.

The committee strongly recommends that all county and regional emergency management agencies develop and maintain a partnership between government and private sector organizations and businesses, such as the Salvation Army and professional associations trained in emergency response, to encourage the participation of these organizations and businesses during and after a disaster. In particular, the committee highly recommends that each county and regional emergency management agency develop a strong partnership with its local Red Cross chapter. The Red Cross is a federally chartered humanitarian organization and should be utilized in disaster response. As such, the Red Cross should be provided access to enter a disaster area shortly after a disaster has occurred to provide humanitarian relief, regardless of the magnitude of the disaster.

Private sector organizations and businesses have the capacity and desire to assist government during and after a disaster, and the committee strongly encourages county and regional emergency management agencies to utilize this assistance. Please review your current plans to ensure the inclusion of private organizations and businesses, including your local Red Cross chapter, in your preparedness planning.

We look forward to your response to this recommendation.

Representative Joan Ballweg
Room 115 West, State Capitol
(608) 266-8077
Rep.Ballweg@legis.wisconsin.gov