Missouri’s Homeland Security Program Overview

The Missouri Office of Homeland Security (OHS) is a part of the Department of Public Safety, and directly under the Director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS). The core DPS organizational chart encompasses OHS.
The overall responsibility for Missouri’s Homeland Security program falls under the Department of Public Safety. The Director of Public Safety, which is a Cabinet-level position, is the Governor’s designated “Homeland Security Advisor.”

**A. Office of Homeland Security**

The homeland security coordinator, who works directly for the director of the Department of Public Safety, manages the Office of Homeland Security and is tasked with implementing Missouri’s Homeland Security Strategy. The coordinator is responsible for the overall Homeland Security program in Missouri, and works with the Homeland Security Advisory Council, the Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committees, and the various initiatives to ensure that Missouri’s program is focused on an all threats, all hazards approach. Two “special assistants” support the different OHS initiatives. The Office of Homeland Security serves as Missouri’s State Administrative Agency (SAA) and handles the administration and fiscal aspects of the Homeland Security Grant Program, Emergency Management Grant Program and the Juvenile Justice Program.

**B. Governor’s Homeland Security Advisory Council**

The Governor’s Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) was established through Executive Order 05-20. The HSAC currently consists of 20 members. The chairman of the HSAC is the director of the Department of Public Safety. The vice chairman is the homeland security coordinator, who also heads the Missouri Office of Homeland Security.

**Homeland Security Advisory Council Membership**

- **Director or Heads of the following Departments:**
  - Public Safety
  - Health and Senior Services
  - Agriculture
  - Economic Development
  - State Adjutant General
  - State Fire Marshal
  - Public Service Commission
  - Mental Health
  - Higher Education
  - Office of Homeland Security
  - Transportation
  - Natural Resources
  - Chief Information Officer
  - MO State Highway Patrol
  - State Emergency Management Agency
  - Social Services

- **3 Public Members Appointed by Governor**
  - Local Fire
  - Local Health
  - Local Law Enforcement
• **Ex-Officio Members**
  – St. Louis Urban Area Security Initiative
  – Kansas City Urban Area Security Initiative
  – Dept of Justice Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council – Kansas City & St. Louis
  – Homeland Security Chief Medical Officer
  – Business Executives for National Security
  – Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee Chairpersons

**C. Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committees**

Local communities are focused and engaged in Missouri’s homeland security program through the establishment of regional advisory groups, called Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committees (RHSOCs). RHSOCs fall under the governance structure of the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Missouri’s “Homeland Security Regionalization” program is focused on establishing a common sense, logical governance structure and process to facilitate local, community level engagement in not only grant funding priorities and strategies, but other homeland security related decisions consistently across the state. Fourteen core disciplines at the county/local level have been identified as minimum voting participants in these regional committees.

While only one individual from each discipline in a specific region will hold a voting seat on the committee, it is mandated that they represent all segments of their core discipline members in their region, including both county and local interest. They accomplish this through establishment of working groups within each discipline.
The RHSOCs meet quarterly (January, April, July, and October), with additional meetings called as needed to discuss special topics.

The following are the core disciplines that represent the minimal template for RHSOC membership:

- **Director of Emergency Management**
- **Sheriff**
- **County Health**
- **City or County Public Works**
- **County Commissioner**
- **Emergency Medical Service**
- **Volunteer Group Representation**
- **Police Chief**
- **Fire Chief**
- **Homeland Security Response Team**
- **Mayor or City Administrator**
- **Private Industry/Public Utility**
- **911**
- **Education**

Each RHSOC Chairman represents their region and local governments at the state level and collectively as a body and communicates directly to the Homeland Security Advisory Council. This collective group of RHSOC representatives meets bi-monthly immediately after the bi-monthly Governor’s HSAC meeting, in which they also participate. The RHSOC geographic boundaries are based on the established boundaries of Missouri’s Highway Patrol Regions A-I.

### D. Grant Funding

The office of Homeland Security, which is an agency of the Department of Public Safety, has been designated as the State Administrative Agency (SAA) to apply for and administer the funds under the Homeland Security Grant Program. The SAA administers the program at the direction of the Governor’s Homeland Security Advisory Council based on recommendations from the Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committees (RHSOCs), to ensure effective and efficient utilization of the homeland security grant funds Missouri receives.

The Kansas City and St. Louis Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASIs) directly receive separate Homeland Security grants. However, as the HSAC allocates Missouri’s “non-UASI” grant funds, the UASIs participate in the discussions, as do the RHSOCs, to ensure Missouri has a seamless, unified effort to wisely invest these moneys in our citizen’s safety and security.

### Regional Funding

The emphasis and focus of Missouri’s homeland security program has been on regionalization, and as much grant money as possible has been allocated to the RHSOCs to focus on regional needs. Funding levels for each RHSOC region are based on a formula taking into consideration population, number of counties and critical infrastructure located in each RHSOC region.
Regional funds have been used to purchase assets and resources that will best benefit an entire region instead of individual jurisdictions within that region. Communication vehicles, mass care trailers containing cots and other sheltering supplies, radio caches, portable generators, and many other assets have been obtained and strategically located in each region. These resources are available, and have been deployed within each region and across regional lines in recent disasters in Missouri, including during the devastating Joplin EF-5 tornado in May 2011 and the ice storm in late January 2009.

**Homeland Security Initiatives**

**Missouri WEB EOC statewide crisis management tool**

In an emergency or crisis situation, the Missouri Web EOC tool will provide:

- Incident management
- Resource tracking
- Communications
- Asset request processing

For:

- Local city and county public safety officials
- All state agencies
- Volunteer, faith-based and private support organizations

All Hazards and Disciplines:

- Police
- Fire emergency medical
- HAZMAT
- Intelligence
- Public health and pandemic planning
- Agriculture
- Transportation

Web EOC is designed to support and produce consistent emergency management across the state through unified incident management software. Specifically, Web EOC offers resource management and request tracking, reporting, mapping (GIS), volunteer and donations management, asset management, and private sector resourcing.
Missouri Public Private Partnership Working Group

The Missouri Public Private Partnership (MOP3) Working Group, authorized under the HSAC, seeks to foster direct involvement of the private sector to augment and support Missouri’s prioritized homeland security issues and initiatives. This subcommittee serves to provide advice, information, and recommendations on issues associated with Missouri’s homeland security strategy from a private sector perspective. The subcommittee promotes the application of best business practices, partners on planning, training and exercise development, fosters participation in intelligence/information fusion, and provides a private-sector platform to address issues and concerns for homeland security initiatives.

Homeland Security K-12 Safe Schools Working Group

A K-12 level Homeland Security Safe Schools Working Group was established under the HSAC and continues to promote school safety and security in Missouri schools. While professional organizations that are stakeholders in the safety and security aspects of K-12 education in Missouri have been the primary focus for membership on the working group, the people serving as representatives are in most cases actual practitioners (school superintendents, principals, teachers, nurses, fire, law enforcement, etc.) from Missouri educational institutions or the first responder community.

Emergency Resource Information Plan (ERIP)

A sub-initiative of the K-12 Safe Schools Working group has been to evaluate existing school safety planning and to make recommendations to HSAC. After evaluating existing school safety planning tools, the group voted unanimously to embrace the Emergency Resource Information Plan (ERIP), a web-based school emergency planning toolkit that ensured “best practice” consistency across the State of Missouri and also real-time first responder connectivity to the plans— including floor plans of specific schools, photos, diagrams, etc.

In December 2006, HSAC embraced the working group’s recommendation, and voted to fund the web-based planning tool (ERIP) to provide to all public and non-public K-12, higher education, and registered day care institutions in Missouri. This tool allows law enforcement, fire, and other emergency responders to access the participating school’s floor plans and other critical information via the web portal when responding to school emergencies.

Bullying Prevention in Schools

The Department of Mental Health and the Department of Social Services have taken leadership roles, working with the Department of Health and Senior Services, professional school counselor associations, school nurses, and others to identify ways to address bullying in Missouri schools, under the umbrella of the Homeland Security K-12 Safe Schools Working Group. Bullying has been identified in numerous national studies
and is generally recognized as being one of the underlying factors in incidents of school violence.

**Pandemic Planning for Schools**

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has found the Safe Schools Working Group to be a useful forum to obtain input and cooperation for pandemic planning efforts for schools in Missouri. The working group has participated in providing relevant input on what thresholds should trigger school closure in pandemic outbreaks, as well as other aspects of pandemic planning. This group has also been utilized as one of the primary mechanisms to ensure DHSS is engaging the broadest school audience in pandemic planning for schools.

**Missouri Alert Network for Schools**

A related homeland security initiative, which came about because of a partnership developed through the K-12 Safe Schools Working Group, is the Missouri Alert Network for schools. This initiative was possible through a partnership between DPS, the Missouri School Boards’ Association (MSBA), and a private vendor that provides alerting services to private and government interests. This initiative allows DPS to instantly contact school officials who choose to participate in this free resource in the event emergency information needs to be shared. This is done through a recorded voice message, as well as email/text messages, to the individual designated as the point of contact for each school district. All K-12 schools in Missouri, both public and private, can participate in this initiative for free. Currently, over 80 percent of the Missouri schools take advantage of this opportunity. Higher Education is also participating in the alert network.

**School Safety and Security Conference for First Responders and Educators**

With input from the School Safety working groups, OHS has partnered with the Missouri School Boards’ Association to hold an annual School Safety and Security Conference. This conference brings together Missouri educators, traditional and mental health professionals, and the first responder community to facilitate collaboration on health and safety issues.

**Higher Education Working Group**

As a result of the Governor’s 2007 Campus Security Task Force exploring campus and university safety and security was the group recommending a number of suggestions to improve campus safety. One recommendation was the formation of a Higher Education Subcommittee under the Missouri Homeland Security Advisory Council (HES-HSAC). The subcommittee was formed, and has as its primary goal maximizing safety and security throughout the state system of higher education – which serves more than 408,000 students through 13 public four-year universities, 19 public two-year community college campuses, one public two-year technical college, one public two-year branch
campus, 25 independent colleges and universities, and 159 proprietary and private career
schools. This group is co-chaired by the commissioner of Higher Education.

**Missouri Critical Infrastructure Protection Program**

OHS, through cooperation with other state agencies, local governments, and private
sector organizations, identified nearly 4,700 critical or key infrastructure assets within the
State. These assets range over key transportation nodes such as major bridges, drinking
water sources, and major telecommunications switching nodes. A Governor’s
Homeland Security Advisory Council CI/KR (Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource)
Working Group has been established, including participants from each of the nine
RHSOCs, as well as the Kansas City and St. Louis UASIs. A Missouri focused strategic
plan for critical infrastructure protection has been developed and embraced by HSAC.

**Port Security Grants**

The U.S. Coast Guard’s Area Maritime Security Committees (AMSC), composed of
federal, state, and local stakeholders, including OHS, is committed to enhancing the
maritime domain awareness for both the upper and lower Mississippi River Coast Guard
sectors, which affect Missouri. AMSC members are working to properly identify and vet
CI/KR in their areas of responsibility. They are also constantly working to improve
response capability to probable disaster scenarios. These groups continue to foster
working relationships with the federal, state, and local partners in and around port
locations in Missouri. With a classification by DHS and FEMA as a Group 2 Port, St.
Louis received port security grant funding for the development of a Port-Wide Risk
Management and Mitigation Plan. Based on continuing work in identifying CI in the
Kansas City area, the Kansas City area was recently reclassified as a Tier II Port and will
be provided grant money to develop a Risk Management and Mitigation Plan. The lower
Mississippi sector working out of Paducah, Kentucky, are working with the cities of
Sikeston and Cape Girardeau to insure that they are engaged in protecting that section of
the Mississippi River, and have grant funds available to support these efforts.

**State Interoperability Executive Committee**

At the request of HSAC, the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) has been
reorganized and placed under HSAC as an official subcommittee. Additionally, the
position of chief interoperable communications officer has been created and staffed in the
Office of the Director of Public Safety.

The SIEC is a standing committee chaired by the director of the Missouri Department of
Public Safety. The committee consists of 10 voting members, plus alternates. A
representative from each of the following entities is included: Missouri’s three largest
urban areas—St. Louis, Kansas City, and Springfield; the rural areas of the state—the
rural north, central, and south/southeast; the three largest state government radio
systems—the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), the Missouri
Department of Conservation (MDC), and Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS);
and Missouri’s critical infrastructure and utility community. The purpose of the SIEC is to develop a statewide communications strategic plan, including but not limited to, a statewide interconnected radio system with consolidated state voice dispatch operations, consolidated administration and technical support, advanced communication training, and nationally accepted standards to implement the communications capabilities and procedures required to provide Missouri’s first responders and critical infrastructure community the communications services needed to protect the state.

**Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network (MOSWIN)**

The capability to communicate across jurisdictional and discipline lines is one of the top priorities of Missouri’s homeland security program. In an effort to strengthen Missouri’s public safety through communications, the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network (MOSWIN) has been built. MOSWIN is a network of communication towers, base stations and communications software that provides interoperable communication throughout the state to both state public safety agencies and any local jurisdictions that wish to use the system.

MOSWIN’s two primary functions are to provide internal communication capabilities for state agencies, including the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Department of Natural Resources and the State Emergency Management Agency and to provide a statewide interoperability platform and access for local agencies to achieve interoperable communications with local, state, regional and federal agencies.

MOSWIN operates five channels per site in the “trunked” radio mode and utilized predominantly VHF High Band public safety spectrum (150 MHz) consisting of 75 radio sites statewide.

**Homeland Security Regional Response System (HSRRS)**

The Missouri’s Homeland Security Regional Response System (HSRRS) has evolved from a previous focus of individual teams (Homeland Security Response Teams) to enhanced and sustainable CBRNE/WMD (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives/Weapons of Mass Destruction) emergency response capabilities at the regional level.
The program is designed to selectively build response capabilities of specialized teams using the FEMA resource type framework based on risks existing in each region. Through partnerships with UASI regions and the state-wide mutual aid system, the HSRRS provides WMD and hazardous material response, SWAT, decontamination, and tactical EMS capabilities. The HSRRS supports Missouri’s overall homeland security program to ensure Missouri is prepared at the state, regional, and local levels for any WMD/CBRNE incident. Specifically, the HSRRS is designed to:

- Ensure recognized response guidelines and best practices are used to plan for, deter, protect against, respond to, and recover from CBRNE incidents.
- Improve chemical detection and response capabilities.
- Improve biological detection and response capabilities.
- Improve radiation/nuclear detection and response capabilities.
- Improve IED detection and response capabilities.
- Maintain adequate mass decontamination capabilities to manage incidents in Missouri’s urban corridors.
- Improve terrorist neutralization capabilities.
- Improve intelligence collection and sharing participation with the HSRRS program.
- Link existing emergency responders by standardizing equipment, protocols, exercises, and training.

**Incident Support Teams/Incident Management Teams**
The concept behind the Homeland Security funded Incident Support Teams (IST) is that during major natural or man-made disaster/emergency within the region, many jurisdictions could become overwhelmed in very short order. Many jurisdictions within
the state have small populations and their first response agencies are composed of mainly volunteers, or individuals that serve in more than one position (i.e. fire chief and emergency management director). Building a system that will provide consistent support during emergency situations is a priority of this program. The ISTs are a trained, multi-discipline, all hazards response resource for an affected jurisdiction to draw on to assist their staff with command and general staff incident management functions. The ISTs are trained to fill these roles in both tactical field operations and in an emergency operations center. The ISTs are equipped so that they will be fully self-sustained for the first 72 hours of an event. Missouri IST deployments have included ice storms, floods, and most notably, the devastating 2011 Joplin EF-5 tornado. Those deployments provided thousands of volunteer hours to successfully support local incident management. In addition, Region D’s IST responded to New York to assist after Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

**Homeland Security Senior Executive Reserve**

The mission of the Homeland Security Senior Executive Reserve is to augment the Office of Homeland Security, using Senior Executive Reserve members to assist the Office of Homeland Security in developing, evaluating, validating, and coordinating ideas, concepts and programs in carrying out the mission of the Missouri Office of Homeland Security. Senior Executive Reserve members are appointed as a special advisor to the Missouri Office of Homeland Security, and work with the homeland security coordinator on state level initiatives as well as Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee initiatives. Senior executive reserve special advisor is a volunteer position, but has been authorized by the HSAC for reimbursement of travel expenses when traveling on behalf of Missouri’s Homeland Security program.

**Homeland Security Chief Medical Officer**

The Missouri Homeland Security Chief Medical Officer is a special advisor to the Office of Homeland Security, and promotes the highest quality of emergency care and is the leading advocate for patient care, health care professionals' and emergency response personnel education, safety and the public well-being in disaster prevention, planning, preparation, response and recovery activities in Missouri. The chief medical officer is a volunteer position, but has been authorized by the HSAC for reimbursement of travel expenses when traveling on behalf of Missouri’s Homeland Security program.