

Marion County Purchases Reeves Incident Command Post

THE MARION COUNTY HEALTH Department in Indiana recently purchased the Reeves Incident Command Post (ICP) for multiple applications across the county.

Home to Indianapolis, the state's capital and largest city, officials in Marion County wanted a system that could easily be deployed to the field to support emergency responders during a catastrophic event.

"We face all different types of threats in Indiana, and here in Indianapolis our biggest threat is tornadoes," explains Gregory A. Hall, Public Health

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Marion County. "We wanted equipment that would let us run operations from

any location, especially in the event that we can't get our department operations center up and running."

After seeing the Reeves ICP recently purchased by neighboring Hamilton County, the health department quickly decided the ICP

"You can hook it up to a truck and take it anywhere...."



The Marion County Health Department mobile command post gets ready for shipping.

was the perfect choice. Officials purchased a Large system to offer personnel 214 square feet of usable space to use as a command post or point of distribution center.

"I was impressed with the way you can hook it up to a truck and take it anywhere in the county without requiring a great deal of man power," says Hall.

Once delivered to Marion later this Spring, the Reeves ICP will be used by various agencies in the county as well as nearby counties when needed.

Large Screen Display Added to Mobile Incident Communications Equipment

DHS SYSTEMS RECENTLY UNVEILED several changes to the company's Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) Deployable Command and Control Equipment (DC2E).

When introduced to customers in 2005, DRASH DC2E, which combines various feeds onto single or multiple displays using state-of-the-art projector and audio-visual switching systems, consisted of a shelter screen and projector designed to fit into a DRASH M Series shelter.

DHS Systems soon discovered, however, that the screen and projector, later named the Medium Screen Display, would not accommodate users operating in large workstations, including the company's larger-sized J Shelters.

"The Medium Screen fit very well in the M



shelters, but we quickly realized it would not work in a J Shelter," recalls DC2E Manager Curtis Nail. "We placed a few Medium screens in the shelter and the images were just too small for a workspace of that size. The screens also sat too low for soldiers to make out the image while they were sitting at their workstations."

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Mardi Gras Expands Reeves Mobile Clinic

FOR A SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR, DHS Systems lent support to New Orleans' Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness during the city's week-long Mardi Gras celebration.

Hoping to relieve overwhelmed emergency rooms and EMTs, city officials first used DRASH shelters last year as medical surge facilities. Offering nearly 3,000 square feet, the facilities helped responders answer 1,164 calls for service by the end of the week.

Expecting even larger crowds, officials decided to expand their clinic to support this year's Mardi Gras activities. Using additional DRASH shelters and showers, officials were able to deploy a 9-bed medical care area and a 10-bed, 23-hour observation holding area just blocks away from main parade routes.

A command and control center provided police, fire, EMS and other federal and state agencies a place to coordinate public safety throughout the event as well.

Faced with a million tourists, the largest turnout post-Hurricane Katrina in 2005, officials claim that DRASH allowed the city to properly handle such an influx of visitors while still recovering from the storm's devastation.

"The average wait time for EMS responders in the emergency room is 60 minutes," explains Matthew Kallmyer, Deputy Director of the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness. "These surge facilities greatly reduce the wait time for EMS providers."

Since first partnering with DHS in 2008, the city of New Orleans has worked with DRASH representatives during Hurricane Gustav relief efforts, the National Weather Service Hurricane Conference and other events held in the city. The longstanding relationship helped make response efforts during Mardi Gras a success.

"It's been a great partnership between the city and DHS Systems. The company knows our needs and works to accommodate them," says Kallmyer. "There were a lot of people involved with the planning of this, and all of them were impressed with the help we received."

Large Screen Display Added to Mobile Incident Communications Equipment

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To better serve their customers, Nail and other DC2E experts went to work on a display system specifically designed for large DRASH shelter models. The result was the J Series Large Screen Display.

Featuring three DLP projectors that project images with 90" diagonal viewing areas and are able to be set up five feet above the ground, the Large Screen Display allows for images large enough and high enough to be seen from the back of a J shelter. The new display system can also be packed into three lightweight cases for easy transport.

Now able to see images clearly despite other soldiers sitting in front of them, users of the Large Screen Display appear pleased with the new equipment.

"All the feedback we've received about the Large Screen has been very positive," says Nail. "Everyone is overwhelmed with the image quality and people like that the image is high enough above the ground so they can still see the image no matter where they are in the shelter."

"And because the projector is the same one used in the Medium Display system, many customers are pleased that they are already familiar with the equipment."

DC2E audio-visual systems, which are available in four sizes, also underwent several changes earlier this year. The systems are now able to operate on European voltages, can display labels for individual window processors using touch panel control, and have faster start up times.

DHS Systems also plans to reveal a J Series Large Screen Rear Display later this year. The display system will allow for even greater floor space and improved image quality.



NY OCME personnel respond using the DC2E inside a mobile command shelter during an exercise at Penn Station.

Shelter Serves as Mobile Field Hospital During Carnival



Inside the DRASH Mobile Field Hospital. Lighting, air conditioning and a sterile environment gave nurses, EMT paramedics and doctors the conditions needed to properly care for nearly 30 patients.

EACH YEAR, HUNDREDS OF thousands of people travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to take part in Carnival. For four days, local businesses shut down, tourists flood the city, and elaborate parties and parades mark the beginning of the Christian Season of Lent.

Throughout the festival, local samba schools compete in parades at the Sambódromo on Avenida Marques de Sapucaí. Wearing ornate costumes and playing and dancing to music, members of the samba schools perform for hours each night despite temperatures as high as 90 degrees and severe humidity.

Realizing the potential health issues that can develop in such an environment, Brazil's Department of Health and Civil Defense turned to DHS Systems for support during this year's festivities.

After touring DHS Systems' production plant in Orangeburg, New York earlier this year, the Commander of Civil Defense Forces for the State of Rio de Janeiro requested a DRASH TMSS Medium System to serve as a mobile field hospital. Outfitted with state-of-the-art striker beds, monitors and fibulators, the hospital was deployed near the entrance of the Sambódromo to treat performers

suffering from such ailments as heat exhaustion.

By offering environmental control, lighting and sterility, the DRASH TMSS System gave nurses, EMT paramedics and doctors the conditions needed to properly care for nearly 30 patients over the course of the festival.

"We weren't in Iraq or Afghanistan, but our equipment was still able to withstand a harsh environment and offer support for a very unique purpose."

Successfully deployed for nearly a week amid huge crowds and extreme temperatures, DRASH proved that its durability reaches far beyond the battlefield.

"Seeing our shelter operate in that environment for that period of time was very impressive and proved how versatile our products are," says Mark Tallo, director of Disaster Preparedness at DHS Systems.

"We weren't in Iraq or Afghanistan, but our equipment was still able to withstand a harsh environment and offer support for a very unique purpose."

Reeves ICP Training Gets Great Review

ON FEBRUARY 11TH, DHS Systems representatives attended a training exercise organized by the Hamilton County Health Department in Indiana. During the training, personnel learned how to properly set up the Reeves Incident Command Post (ICP) and DRASH MX shelter recently purchased by the department.

Health Department officials purchased the Reeves ICP last fall to be used as a mobile dispensing site. Additionally, the ICP, when combined with the DRASH MX shelter, will serve as a drive-thru clinic.

Throughout the exercise, DHS Business Development representatives Mark Vidovic and Mark Williams taught members of the department proper set up procedures for both the ICP and shelter. With a

portable, user-friendly design, personnel had little trouble deploying the command post.

“When we started training at 12:30 we set everything up, went over the products’ features and answered questions,” explains Vidovic. “By 4:30 everything was torn down and placed in a storage trailer and off they went.”

Able to work directly with DHS Systems to learn more about their equipment, Health Department officials were impressed by the company’s customer support as well.

“All day, organizers kept telling their staff, ‘I want everyone to realize how well DHS took care of us,’” says Vidovic. “They were very pleased with the product and everything we did for them.”

“I want everyone to realize how well DHS took care of us.”

Teddy Bear Hospital Brings in Hundreds

MORE THAN 800 PARENTS and children filed through the DRASH Teddy Bear Hospital held at the 2009 Rockland County, NY Youthfest this year.

The Hospital was literally a simulated emergency room for 40 inch stuffed teddy bears donated by GUND.

Children were given a bear to take into the shelter where a nurse would ask the child to explain the emergency. Illnesses ranged from bears that had fallen off of their bike, which were treated with bandages, to more serious tummy troubles, which necessitated bear X-rays. Each bear received discharge instructions before leaving the shelter.



Parents and children lined up by the hundreds to get “teddy bear treatment.”

“The goal is to make children feel comfortable about what happens in an emergency room should the need ever arise for them to go there,” said Amy Massimo, director of Public Affairs at Nyack Hospital. “This will be our third year partnering with DRASH on this event, and we are thrilled.”



Participants Stay Warm in DRASH Shelters During Ice Festival



ON JANUARY 24, 2009, THE NEW YORK STATE Palisades Interstate Park Commission kicked off the third annual Knickerbocker Ice Festival at Rockland Lake State Park.

Hoping to make this year’s festival larger than previous years, organizers turned to local companies in Rockland County for support. With the show in need of shelters to house food vendors and serve as warming stations, DHS Systems quickly offered to help.

“We wanted to think of ways that businesses in the county could contribute and DHS volunteered to supply the event with their shelters,” explains Roger Scheiber, Vice President of Development for the Rockland Business Association.

Throughout the festival, local restaurants and businesses managed stands in two J Series Shelters. An MX shelter also served as a heating station for volunteers.

“It’s been a place for people to come get warmed up, enjoy some food and have conversations,” observed DRASH project manager Chris Murphy, who attended the event. “In such cold weather, the shelters have definitely allowed people to stay longer at the Ice Festival than they normally would.”

Attended by more than 15,000 people in the first day alone, organizers believe that DHS Systems played a major role in making the festival a success.

“Having the shelters has made such a difference for everyone from tourists to restaurants to volunteers,” explains Maria Rodd of Casablanca, an event planning company that handled the event.

“We’ve had people working here from 6:00 in the morning to 10:00 in the evening and to be able to have a place like this to get warm or display your products has been wonderful. We cannot express our gratitude enough.”

Visit ReevesEMS.com for updated product information and specifications.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the DHS Systems booth at these upcoming events or contact a representative at 800.328.5563.

Florida Governor Hurricane Conference

May 10 - 15, 2009
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Police Security Expo

June 23 - 25, 2009
Atlantic City, New Jersey

FRI 2009

August 27 - 29, 2009
Dallas, Texas



ABOUT REEVES EMS

Reeves EMS manufacturer DHS Systems LLC sells and services a full line of emergency medical products and accessories, including fully-operational rapidly deployable emergency treatment facilities; command and control shelters and trailers; decontamination shelters, suits and accessories; patient movement equipment and gear bags. Reeves EMS mass casualty systems have been deployed as part of the U.S. Homeland Defense initiative to terrorist incident locations and in disaster recovery situations. Additionally, a large number of mobile medical decontamination systems have been sent to emergency response organizations in the United States and around the world, including departments of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Army Reserve; state, county and local government entities; and U.S. and international corporate agencies. Located throughout the United States, DHS Systems' professionals provide 24/7 customer service, technical support and product information via phone, email or on location. To find out more about the company and its products, visit www.reevesems.com.

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