

# Press Release #1

## **Richland County Emergency Management**

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## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE TO BE HELD IN RICHLAND COUNTY**

*Viola, WI:* The Richland County Local Emergency Planning Committee will be conducting a hazardous chemical response functional exercise around 9am on Saturday, August 13, 2011 at the intersection of US Hwy. 56 and Co. Hwy. G in Viola. While the roads will be open to local traffic, motorists could experience some delays that morning.

This functional exercise is intended to test the collaborative skills of the Viola Fire Department, Kickapoo Valley Rescue Squad, Vernon County Sheriff's Department, Richland County Sheriff's Department, Vernon/Richland/Crawford Hazmat Team, Vernon County Emergency Management, and Richland County Emergency Management.

The mock scene will include the release of anhydrous ammonia from a tank being pulled by a farmer and a vehicle that comes upon the scene transporting 4 individuals. Richland County Emergency Management Director, Darin Gudgeon wishes to assure the public "there will be no live agents or chemicals released during this mock exercise." The purpose of the functional exercise is to provide a training opportunity for local emergency response agencies to practice their skills in a non-life threatening environment. Our goal is to improve local response and demonstrate to the community

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that their local emergency response agencies are well equipped to handle these types of emergencies.

The Richland County Local Emergency Planning Committee has organized this functional exercise, along with the assistance of the Southwest Technical College, as a means to fulfill the requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and a US Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Exercising and Planning (HMEP) Grant. The Richland County Local Emergency Planning Committee would also like to thank the Lafarge Fire Department and the Richland Center Fire Department for their donation of equipment and expertise.

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