

SAVE Coalition 2013 in Review

Missouri's SAVE Coalition

January 2014

SAVE Coalition Moves Forward on Key Projects During 2013

After a taxing past two years, with response activations to tornados in Branson and Joplin, the Missouri Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition spent a quiet 2013. Still, the year was not without activity and accomplishments within the organization.



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A key accomplishment was the further development of a database of SAVE volunteers on the Show-Me Response network. Show-Me Response is a registry of disaster response volunteers and will allow the SAVE Coalition to communicate more effectively with members regarding training opportunities and possible activations. *See more about Show-Me Response on page 2 of this newsletter.*

2013 also saw SAVE begin to acquire and program handheld GPS devices. These devices can be used to record building assessments in the field and quickly transmit

that information back to local and state emergency response officials. The State Emergency Management Agency now has 18 of these Garmin Dakota 10 GPS units which are now being programmed for future use during exercises and actual deployments.

The Coalition Board also continued to address "lessons learned" from previous disasters in Missouri. Included was an effort to improve SAVE's current operations plan for responding after a disaster. The Board formed an operations committee to work on the plan improvement, which includes adding job classifications and descriptions along with developing training for those positions.

The Board continued its work with the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium to help other Midwest states interested in starting similar programs. It also worked to ensure that trained volunteers can effectively and lawfully assist other states affected by disasters through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

Honors for Randazzo

In August 2013, the SAVE Coalition Board of Directors honored Joe Randazzo, St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management, for his long support of the organization.

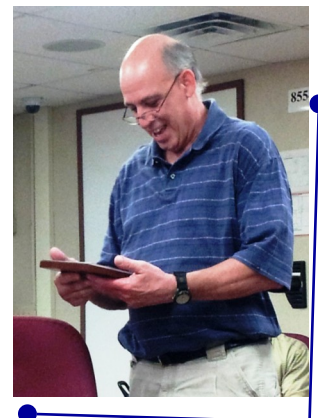
St. Louis County OEM was an early proponent of forming the SAVE Coalition in the 1990's, and Joe helped to rapidly organize it on a statewide level. He went on to be an instructor for SAVE training classes, served as the Coalition's training coordinator, and managed its growing database as membership climbed over the 1,000 mark.

Through Joe's efforts, St. Louis County public works personnel continue to attend SAVE training classes and are certified SAVE volunteers. In September, Joe also won the Otto Nuttli Award at the annual dinner of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Congratulations to Joe Randazzo for this well-deserved recognition!

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Welcome to Show-Me Response!

Missouri's Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition is transitioning its current volunteer database to an automated system integrated with the state's registry of volunteer healthcare professionals called Show-Me Response. Operated by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Show-Me Response will provide many advantages to the SAVE Coalition and its volunteers. The Show-Me Response system offers a more effective tool for managing SAVE volunteers and allows automated call-downs to be made more efficiently than our current manual process.



Additionally, after March 15, 2014, the Show-Me Response system will be the only method of managing and contacting our volunteer members for SAVE deployments.

Thus, SAVE requests that you register now as a SAVE volunteer in the Show-Me Response database.

The Show-Me Response system allows you to register as a volunteer who is willing to provide services during a disaster or emergency situation. **To register, you must be a certified SAVE volunteer and choose the SAVE Coalition as an organization affiliation when registering in Show-Me Response.** The registration system will collect basic information about you and your professional skills, such as your license number, expiration date, certifications, and contact information. **All information you provide is held under the highest degree of care and standards of security, confidentiality, and privacy.**

Upon registration, your credentials will be checked and verified. During a state or national disaster, the SAVE Coalition may receive requests for volunteers. If a decision is made to request your services as a volunteer, you will be contacted at that time through an automated system and asked about your availability. At any time, you can choose to decline a request for activation.

Show-Me Response registration is completed online at www.showmeresponse.org. Please choose the SAVE Coalition as your affiliation. All applications are reviewed by the SAVE Coalition Coordinator at the State Emergency Management Agency. You will receive an e-mail indicating the status of your application.

Once again, if you are already a member of the SAVE Coalition, you *must* register as a volunteer under Show-Me Response no later than March 15, 2014. Any person who has not registered a profile on the Show-Me Response site by that time will not be considered a SAVE Coalition volunteer in good standing.

For more information regarding Show-Me Response, visit www.showmeresponse.org. There you will find current and back issues of the Show-Me Response newsletter, *The Call*, as well as answers to frequently asked questions and a link to contact the Show-Me Response team. You may also send an email to the program coordinator at showmere-sponse@health.mo.gov. For information about the SAVE Coalition, contact Steve Besemer at steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov.

Thanks to SAVE Coalition class trainers Dennis Cox, Mike Griffin, Ben Ross, and coordinator Ted Pruess for their time and efforts during 2013!



Mark Your Calendars!

A SAVE Coalition training class may be coming to a location near you soon!

More of our free, one-day training classes will be offered around the state during 2014. These classes are for anyone wanting to update their SAVE certification for another three years, as well as for any architect, engineer, building inspector or other qualified individual who wants to become a SAVE Coalition member.



SAVE Southeast Region Alternate Coordinator Joe Leahy (left) and SAVE Board Member for AIA/MO Bud Gruchalla try out the new Garmin GPS units in August.

The first class is scheduled for Friday, April 4 in Jefferson City. The Society of American Military Engineers/St. Louis Post will again sponsor a class in St. Louis on Friday, May 16.

Other classes are tentatively planned for Cape Girardeau, Joplin, Kansas City, and St. Louis County during 2014. The SAVE training calendar is always available and updated on the SEMA website at www.sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/SAVEcoalition.asp.

What is the SAVE Coalition?

The Missouri Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition is a group of 1,100 volunteer engineers, architects, building inspectors and other trained professionals that assists the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency with building damage inspections. After a disaster, SAVE volunteers are trained to move quickly to determine which buildings are safe to use and which should be evacuated.

SAVE Coalition volunteers are called to assist when a disaster such as a tornado or earthquake causes so much structural damage that local officials need help determining the safety of buildings. SAVE inspectors are trained in rapid visual evaluations

to help get people back in their homes as soon as possible. An inspection of the building's exterior results in posting of a green card meaning that the building is safe to enter, a yellow card meaning the building is safe to enter briefly but not to occupy, or a red card meaning the building is severely damaged and cannot be entered.

The SAVE Coalition was formed by state law in 1991 to establish a building inspection program for all disaster events, both natural and manmade. There are no fees for SAVE inspections.

**Also
During
2013...**

Board Member Ben Ross gave presentations about SAVE to Shelter Insurance in Columbia and to SEMA's Area Coordinators, as well as at MU's Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Engineering Summit and The Infrastructure Security Partnership conference in St. Louis.

Board Vice-Chairman Mike Griffin conducted two SAVE training classes for the state of Kentucky. He also donated several GPS units to SAVE on behalf of his employer, CCS Group, Inc.

Training Coordinator Ted Pruess talked about SAVE to the Arkansas Governor's Seismic Advisory Council.

Sponsoring Organizations of Missouri's SAVE Coalition

- American Council of Engineering Companies/Missouri
- American Institute of Architects/Missouri
- American Society of Civil Engineers/St. Louis
- Earthquake Engineering Research Institute/New Madrid
- Missouri Association of Code Enforcement
- Missouri Society of Professional Engineers
- Structural Engineers Association of Kansas & Missouri
- Society of American Military Engineers/St. Louis
- Missouri Seismic Safety Commission

SAVE Board of Directors

David Weber, Columbia - Chairman	SEAKM
Michael Griffin, Chesterfield - Vice Chair	EERI-New Madrid
John Finke, Florissant	ACEC/MO
Michael Alberswerth, St. Louis	ACEC/MO
John Waggoner, Rogers, AR	AIA/MO
Bud Gruchalla, St. Louis	AIA/MO
James Taylor, St. Jacob, IL	ASCE-St. Louis
Benjamin Ross, Columbia	ASCE-St. Louis
Gregory Hempen, St. Louis	EERI-New Madrid
John Benisch, St. Charles	MACE
Traey Lambertz, Harrisonville	MACE
Dennis Kidwell, Columbia	MSPE
Thomas Ellis, Ballwin	MSPE
Stephen McCaskie, St. Louis	SAME-St. Louis
Mark Roenfeldt, Ballwin	SAME-St. Louis
Steve Stack, Rolla	SEAKM
James Palmer, Kansas City	MSSC

SAVE Coordinators & Other Staff

Dennis Kidwell, Columbia	Statewide
Benjamin Ross, Columbia	Statewide 1 st Alternate
Andy Bonderer, Columbia	Statewide 2 nd Alternate
Ronald O'Kane, Raymore	Northwest Region
- Vacant -	Northwest Region
John Woodson, Manchester	Northeast Region
Tom Ellis, Ballwin	Northeast Region
Darrall Hirtz, Campbell	Southeast Region
Joe Leahy, Poplar Bluff	Southeast Region
Richard "Bud" Rogers, Carthage	Southwest Region
- Vacant -	Southwest Region
Ted Pruess, St. Louis	Training Coordinator
Edward Gray, Jefferson City	Special Advisor
Steve Besemer, Jefferson City	SEMA

SAVE Coalition
c/o Steve Besemer
State Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 116
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Missouri's SAVE Coalition

Please send any updates to:

State Emergency Management Agency
Attn: Steve Besemer
P.O. Box 116
Jefferson City, MO 65102
E-Mail: steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov
Office: 573-526-9232

-- OR --

If you have already registered as a SAVE Coalition member on Show-Me Response, log on to www.showmeresponse.org and update your information there.

Remember — if your volunteer card is about to expire, or has been expired for less than a year, you can take the online re-certification test at:

www.sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/SAVEForm.asp

Hint: A quick review of your ATC-20 manual will increase your chances of a passing score!

Visit us on the web!

Click the SAVE Coalition tab in the earthquake section at

www.sema.dps.mo.gov

for SAVE Coalition background information, the latest training class schedule, and other news.



If you have received this publication in error or no longer wish to be a SAVE Coalition volunteer, please contact Steve Besemer at steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov.