



OKLAHOMA REGIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM



The Oklahoma Regional Response System was developed by the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) in 2006 and currently consists of 115 specialized resources located throughout the state of Oklahoma. More than \$40 million in U.S. Department of Homeland Security (U.S. DHS) grant funding was utilized for the creation of the project. Currently, over \$2 million in grant funding is spent each year for sustainment and training purposes.

CURRENT DEFICIENCIES

The system is comprised of different levels of specialized units capable of responding to chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) incidents, agriculture emergencies, technical rescue incidents, and natural disasters. The Regional Response System units are standardized across the state and contain interoperable communications devices providing for more effective and efficient training, exercising, and response.

Participating state and local agencies across Oklahoma have agreed to respond to local, regional, and statewide public safety incidents. These agencies have designated team members representing multiple jurisdictions that participate in their response team.

- ✓ Communication equipment is no longer supported by the manufacturers.
- ✓ CBRNE electronic equipment is outdated with much of the equipment no longer supported by manufacturers. New equipment with drastically increased capabilities and efficiencies are now available.
- ✓ Technical Rescue equipment has exceeded its life expectancy and is no longer safe to use.
- ✓ Vehicles were purchased in 2006 and need repair and/or replacement.
- ✓ New technology is available that will increase communication, as well as hazard identification to allow for real time information sharing.

Unfortunately, U.S. DHS Grant funding has drastically decreased nationwide, and current funding amounts do not allow for proper upkeep of this critical state response system. OKOHS has been able to sustain critical needs and provide training for the Regional Response System through its annual allocation.

After an in-depth review of the Regional Response System, and input from partner agencies, \$65 million in funding would allow for a complete refresh of all units, equipment, and training. This refresh would be completed on a seven-year cycle and maintain standardization of units.