

To all:

I am writing to clarify some things regarding the recent letter I put out to you regarding Personal Protection Equipment. The kits have not yet been assembled, but we are looking at something similar to the kits issued by Dane County and others throughout the state. I have a teleconference this Friday, April 29th with WEM and OJA to discuss this very topic.

As for what the kits will include, there have been different opinions on that. At a minimum, Gas Masks are recommended, although gas masks don't offer complete protection. They offer at least enough protection to the respiratory system to allow for escape if an officer finds themselves in a Hot or Warm Zone. Ideally, we don't want our employees in these areas at all without proper equipment and training, but conditions at an incident change and an officer in a "cold" zone could find themselves in an exposed position.

We are trying to put together a complete kit so Chiefs don't have to do the research. Those Kits may contain pants, shirts, booties, gloves, air purifier cartridge, chem tape, chemical agent test kit, etc... The WCPA Board recognize that communities and jurisdictions have different priorities and that grant funding is very limited. This program is not intended as mandate, but a recommendation from your Board of Directors.

Finally, I understand that some of you have contacted your local EM's, and they were not aware of our program. We have partnered with WEM and OJA on this, so they are fully aware of what we are doing at the state level. With our teleconference on Friday, April 29th, WEM may be waiting to notify local EM's pending the outcome of that meeting.

I apologize for any confusion. This has been a major undertaking. Our goal was to have this ready to go as part of the FY 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program and we wanted to get this out there before grant requests were due. I hope this answers any questions you may have. More information will be coming after our meeting on Friday.

Thanks, Randy Williams