1,907 feet long; 108 feet wide; deck 115’ above the river
2006 - average of 141,000 vehicles daily
Multiple Jurisdictions

- Federally funded bridge
- Owned and maintained by MnDOT/State of Minnesota
- Fell into river with County jurisdiction
- River banks are City property
- NIMS compliant state (National Incident Management System)
Multiple Incidents Within One Disaster

- Fires, extrication (Collapse Structure Team)
- Haz Mat scene (rail car leaking unknown substance)
- EMS (emergency medical services), ambulance (triage, treat and transport) – total of 145 injuries; 111 vehicles
- Water and land rescues
- Potential crime scene – secure perimeter of scene (land and water)
Fire Response
Hazardous Materials

Unknown substance
Emergency Medical Service

- Triage
- Treat
- Transport
Law Enforcement
Minneapolis Police Dept
- Potential Crime Scene
- Perimeter Security
Hennepin County Sheriff Dive Team
- Water Rescue
- Victim Recovery

Navy Mobile Diving & Salvage Unit 2
out of Norfolk, VA
Based on our Emergency Operations Plan

- Immediately activated EOC
- Implemented NIMS
- Made immediate contact with IC for each discipline and made sure they were on board with organizational structure of event
- Representatives from all 10 disciplines in EOC (even if we were not sure we would need them)
  - County and State representatives
  - U of M emergency management
  - Elected officials
  - Department heads
  - Red Cross
Emergency Operations Center
Public Health

Family Assistance Center

Holiday Inn Metrodome

Augsburg College
Si Melby Hall
Pre-planning/Gap Analysis Process

- Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) in Mt. Weather, VA.
- Minneapolis selected to participate in FEMA sponsored course in March 2002 under leadership of Mayor Rybak.
- Approximately 80 top city officials attended 4-day city specific course.
- Purpose – to test City’s EOP & identify weaknesses
Mt. Weather Scenarios

- Mini chemical spill concurrent with multiple public safety events and tanker rollover on 35W
- Many people taken ill at Convention Center - later determined to be plague, terrorists responsible
- People continued to get ill throughout City - hospitals closed, temporary hospitals opened
- High rise fire
- Broken Water Main
- Tornado strikes in 3 locations in City with multiple deaths, injuries and destruction
Integrated Emergency Management Course
for City of Minneapolis - Mt. Weather, VA – March 2002
Shortcomings Identified at Mt. Weather

1. Communications
2. Emergency Dispatch System
3. Emergency response readiness for structure collapse, hazardous materials & bomb squad
4. Security of infrastructure for city’s water supply
5. Lack of pharmaceutical cache in event of biological release or pandemic
6. Insufficient training of ICS and for WMD
7. Lack of continuity of government planning
8. Shortage of personal protective gear for 1st responders
9. Security of City Hall
Actions taken since Mt. Weather – 5 Year Plan
July 2002 – July 2007 ($55M-$65M)

1. **Communications** - new 800 MHz radios ($20M). Mpls rated one of top 6 cities in National Report Card on Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan.
Actions taken since Mt. Weather – 5 Year Plan
July 2002 – July 2007 ($55M-$65M)

2. **Emergency Dispatch System** - $5.2M invested in state of art computer aided dispatch system. Includes AVL that maps location of all emergency response vehicles utilizing GPS technology.
Actions taken since Mt. Weather – 5 Year Plan
July 2002 – July 2007 ($55M-$65M)

Structure Collapse/Rescue Training
4. **Security of infrastructure for city’s water supply** –
Thousands invested in computerized monitoring equipment for contamination, security cameras and equipment.
Actions taken since Mt. Weather

5. Lack of pharmaceutical cache in event of terrorist attack - Now have comprehensive plan to stockpile and distribute pharmaceuticals.
6. **Insufficient training of ICS and for WMD** – All responders & city leadership trained in NIMS. Public Safety responders trained for incidents involving WMD.

Employees trained in Haz Mat Awareness & Operations, as well as WMD Awareness

- 843 Mpls. Police Dept.
- 460 Mpls. Fire Dept.
- 80 Public Works

**NIMS Compliancy for City Departments**
- Police – 100%
- Fire – 100%
- Elected Officials 100%
- Public Health – 87%
- Public Works – 68.5%
Actions taken since Mt. Weather

8. Shortage of personnel protective gear for 1st responders – All first responders now have state of the art personal protective equipment.
Actions taken since Mt. Weather

9. **Security of City Hall** – Now have security cameras in place to make our City Hall (a public building) as safe as possible.
Training/Exercises
Operation Snowball Exercise
Debris Site

Debris Management Plan developed based on Tornado Scenario at Mt. Weather
What worked well at this incident?

- Immediate activation of EOC using NIMS and our Emergency Operations Plan
- Mutual Aid Partners
- Response successful due to good
  - Relationships
  - Communications
  - Planning
  - Equipment
  - Training
Gusset Plates
New Bridge Opened September 18, 2008
Government Administrative
Presidential Declaration - Category B Emergency

Saturday, August 4, 2007 at Bridge Site

L to R: Senator Amy Klobuchar
President George W. Bush
Jan McDaniel, CEO-Red Cross Twin Cities Chapter
Rocco Forté, Director of Emergency Preparedness for City of Minneapolis
Tim Turnbull, Director of Emergency Preparedness for Hennepin County
September 24, 2007

Mr. Rocco Forte
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Rocco:

I was honored to visit with you in Minneapolis. I appreciate your strong leadership and determination during this difficult time. In the face of terrible heartache and devastation, the fine citizens of Minneapolis are inspiring our country with their compassion and resolve. Your good work reflects the true spirit of our Nation.

Laura and I will keep you and all those affected by this tragedy in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless you.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush
Lessons

- Table Top Exercises Make a Difference
- Planning Needs to Include Cost Recovery
- Try to Anticipate Tails
Miscellaneous Matters

- Trial Lawyers – Access to Site
  *In re I-35W Bridge Collapse Site Inspection*
  243 F.R.D. 349 (D.Minn. 2007)

- Emergency Procurement Powers
Questions??

E-mail me at:

rocco.forte@ci.minneapolis.mn.us