

Morehead Uses SHSP Grant to Enhance Special Response Teams

The City of Morehead enhanced its special teams through the purchase of gas masks, canisters, tactical helmets and shields, thermal-imaging optics, and related equipment after an incident last year.

A Morehead resident called 911 for police assistance in April 2012. Once officers arrived on the scene, a man came out of the house brandishing a screwdriver and threatening to stab officers if they came any closer. He then barricaded himself in the home.

Morehead's Special Response Team quickly reacted to the incident and used tear gas to force the suspect to surrender. Once the man came out of the home, regular officers were unable to arrest the suspect since they had no more protection from the chemicals than the suspect did.



With this specific incident in mind, Sgt. Derrick Blevins recognized a need for equipment that would allow regular officers to be able to apprehend suspects even when a chemical agent is present. He submitted an application to KOHS for a State Homeland Security Program grant.

Officers will be issued equipment to store in their individual squad car for easy access when required.

Additional uses for the equipment will include inspecting possible meth labs, hazardous chemical incidents while tactical helmet and facemask could be used during rescue and recovery after a natural or man-made incident.



Bluegrass Emergency Response Team Displays Equipment

Personnel from the Bluegrass Emergency Response Team displayed four natural disaster response trailers and a rescue boat in front of the state capitol. The equipment was purchased through the State Homeland Security Program administered by the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security.

