



July 15, 2009

Honorable Mayor
And Common Council

The City of Racine Fire Department was recently awarded a Department of Homeland Security, Office of Justice Assistance Grant to acquire an AreaRAE Rapid Deployment Chemical Detection and Monitoring System. This is part of a project started by the Urban Area Security Initiative, based out of Milwaukee, to provide the two (2) Regional Level-A HazMat teams with the ability to detect chemical, biological and nuclear emissions during any type of catastrophic emergency.

This device is manufactured by the RAE Systems and is distributed by Clarey's Safety Equipment in Wisconsin. Clarey's is the regional representative for RAE Systems. Both Racine and Milwaukee Fire Departments are part of this UASI initiative. The Milwaukee Fire Department has acquired their unit recognizing there is no substitute available for the unit. Additionally, both Milwaukee and Racine need to have compatible equipment since both agencies may be required to respond to a catastrophic emergency in either community.

Details on the unit: The AreaRAE is a five-sensor gas detector equipped with a wireless RF modem which allows the unit to communicate with a remotely located computer. In standalone mode, the AreaRAE is a rugged, weather resistant, portable monitor that can do air sampling for over 24 hours. The unit has a photo ionization detector (PID) for detecting volatile organic compounds in parts per million. In addition, the unit monitors lower explosive limits (LEL), oxygen levels, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, chlorine, hydrogen cyanide and phosgene. This unit can be remotely monitored from up to two (2) miles away.

When deployed with Milwaukee and Madison's AreaRAE, all three units can be remotely monitored to receive an accurate, real-time picture of what is happening with the air downwind from an incident. This is critical information, especially if an evacuation of a neighborhood is anticipated. Milwaukee Fire Department deployed their AreaRAE during the Patrick Cudahy fire on July 5th.

The Fire Department is requesting to waive formal bidding and instruct the purchasing agent to sole-source this purchase; there are no substitutes available.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief