

## **OEM employee takes pride making Oregon safer**

Kelly Jo Craigmiles is Operations and Emergency Program Coordinator for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM). As one of the longest tenured and most respected employees at the agency she has two primary missions. Craigmiles manages the Emergency Management Performance



Grant (EMPG) that employs 122 people in Oregon who provide the state with critical emergency services that save lives and property during disasters. Craigmiles also manages the state's new Emergency Coordination Center that organizes the disaster response of 22, state mandated agencies that support local government and citizens in Oregon.

The \$5.2 million grant she manages covers 42 local and tribal emergency management agency organizations as well as the office of OEM. Craigmiles said it is a huge responsibility because the grant covers day to day operations that provide direct services ranging from the preparation for a large earthquake and tsunami to public outreach about general preparedness so citizens are better prepared to take care themselves.

"Our EMPG grant serves a lot of purposes in the State of Oregon with over 80 percent being passed to local and tribal government entities," explained Craigmiles. "It is a 50/50 match grant that also funds 24 of OEM's 42 personnel."

Craigmiles mentioned that Oregon takes a local approach to disasters, and that being able to pass 84% of the grant funds to local emergency management entities ultimately makes Oregon safer.

"For me it's a passion," Craigmiles said. "I have been doing this full-time since 1983 and love what I do because I know that whether it's training emergency responders, or planning an exercise, it means the citizens of Oregon will be better prepared for disasters."

She said her work assists local and tribal governments set a positive tone in two ways.

"One way the work helps is with preparedness, and the other is response," added Craigmiles. "I can make a difference helping people become better prepared whether it's a flood, Cascadia subduction zone earthquake, or any other disaster that threatens Oregonians."