



OEM Monthly Briefs

April 2015

Oregon Drought Update

Oregon is experiencing severe and continuing drought conditions in Southern and Eastern Oregon this year, based on low stream flow and snowpack levels. The Water Availability Committee has confirmed various federal and state agency reports of drought conditions. Many counties are already suffering agricultural and economic impacts of water shortages, and based on recommendations from the OEM-chaired Drought Council, the Governor has confirmed drought emergency status for five counties: Crook, Harney, Klamath, Lake, and Malheur. A separate process from the U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated Grant and Jackson counties as drought emergencies. Furthermore, several other counties have made local declarations, which will be discussed for recommendation to the Governor at the next Water Availability Committee and Drought Council meeting on April 9.

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State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

The SHSP application period is closed and the Grant Review Committee has provided the recommended, ranked list to executive leadership. The final ranked list has been released and the Federal funding announcement, which includes Oregon's funding allocation for the grant, will be used to determine project funding based on available local funds.

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OEM PrepareAthon! Events for Social Media in Emergency Management

FEMA's National PrepareAthon! Day kicks off April 31, and the Public Information Office will be conducting two events to promote social media in emergency management. On April 30, a twitter chat will be held using #OregonEM for citizens and emergency management professionals to have a general discussion about emergency preparedness and management. On May 5, a hands-on activity and webinar will be held in the Emergency Coordination Center to learn about Virtual Operations Support Teams (VOST) including demonstrations to demonstrate VOST capabilities. VOSTs are trusted volunteers that can support crisis communications via social media.

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Hazard Mitigation Assistance

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs provide funding for eligible mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. FEMA's HMA grant program includes the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program. HMGP is included with FEMA's major disaster declarations, while PDM and FMA are offered, annually, when authorized and appropriated by Congress. Although not yet formally announced by FEMA, it is expected the FY15 offering of the PDM and FMA grant programs will be announced in April and have a 90-day application period. Once announced by FEMA, OEM will post the announcement on OEM's web page to include the amount of funding offered and

FEMA's priorities for both program offerings. Both grant programs operate in a national competitive environment.

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Next Generation 9-1-1

The OEM Next Generation 9-1-1 Project Management Team and the Department of Administrative Services, Enterprise Technology Service (DAS ETS) meet weekly on the Frame Relay Replacement Project. The Frame Relay is used to deliver Automatic Location Information (ALI) along with a 9-1-1 call to the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). The Frame Relay Replacement Project was identified as a priority in the Governor's 2015 to 2017 budget. CenturyLink provides the Frame Relay architecture that facilitates delivery of ALI to the PSAPs. DAS ETS, along with the Project Management Team, met with CenturyLink several times this month. The meetings created a dialogue to better understand issues related to data exchange. A Project Manager with Enterprise Technology Services will be assisting the OEM 9-1-1 Project Management Team with the Frame Relay Replacement Project. OEM 9-1-1 is developing a strategy to ensure that Text-to-9-1-1 becomes reality throughout Oregon.

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OEM Communication Officer

Terry Pietras, a recent graduate of Clackamas Community College's Emergency Management Degree program, has been hired as OEM's new Communication Officer effective March 23. His responsibilities include auxiliary communications liaison between volunteer organizations, the improvement of emergency alert warning systems, community emergency communication support, and other responsibilities to improve the local, tribal, state, and federal radio, crisis-communication network.

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OEM Tsunami Awareness Coordinator

Karen Parmalee, Tsunami Awareness Coordinator, to Oregon Office of Emergency Management. Karen joins us as a part-time limited duration employee funded by the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In the beginning, her main focus will be the Oregon Coast Visitor Tsunami Awareness program and will expand her duties as time goes on. She comes to us with a wealth of experience with the American Red Cross and Americorps.

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RAPTOR Program Updates

The RAPTOR program provides valuable visual data to emergency managers and critical infrastructure owners and operators throughout Oregon. Recent updates during the last month include:

- Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake scenario data is now in RAPTOR. This data is loaded by default on the tsunami/earthquake and default configurations of RAPTOR.
- It's still winter storm season—you can be prepared by checking out the National Digital Forecast Database for expected conditions (wind gust, wind speed, precipitation, and snowfall) for the next 72 hours.

OEM encourages all stakeholders to share data and learn how to use the free RAPTOR program (training available upon request). More details can be found here: http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/plans_train/RAPTOR.aspx. Sign up for the RAPTOR ListServe to receive updates here: <http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/raptor>.
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