



OEM Monthly Briefs March 2014

New Domestic Preparedness Planner

OEM pleased to announce that Zachary Swick joined the OEM team in the Plans and Training Section on March 24, as OEM's Domestic Preparedness Planner. This position has been vacant for over a year. Zach is originally from Indianapolis but moved here from St. Louis. His background in disaster preparedness and public health is a welcome addition to our team.

Contact: Zach Swick 503-378-2911 x22233

OEM Stakeholder Survey

OEM recently sought feedback from stakeholders via a survey that asked four open-ended questions. OEM extends its gratitude to those who took the time to provide feedback. This valuable information is helping OEM in its efforts to develop our Strategic Plan and will use it as a guide in the development of Service Level Standards. The Stakeholder Survey Report shows many services that OEM provides are valuable to our stakeholder missions. At the top of the list was assistance and guidance with program areas and establishing and maintaining partnerships and sharing information. One of the most articulated issues in the survey was the need for OEM to expand services in the realm of training and exercises. Lack of funding was also a major area of concern. The survey showed many areas where these stakeholders feel OEM can improve while also confirming many of valuable services OEM provides.

Contact: Laurie J. Van Leuven 503-378-2911 x22225

Emergency Management Workshop

The Oregon Emergency Preparedness Workshop will be held in Sunriver, OR, April 1-3. The schedule is full of interesting topics and the workshop will offer the opportunity to renew and build partnerships, learn new information, and share ideas. More than 130 attendees representing 34 counties, six tribes, 12 state agencies, three federal agencies, and three private/non-profit entities are scheduled to be in attendance.

Contact: Sidra Metzger-Hines 503-378-2911 x22251

February Winter Storm Update

Oregon endured significant winter weather from Feb. 6-14 to include heavy snow, ice, high winds, heavy rain, regional flooding, landslides and mudslides. As a result of the storm related damage OEM issued a statewide request for Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) from local jurisdictions. Sufficient costs were captured and substantiated within the IDA to warrant a request for FEMA Region X to activate a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) team. The joint PDA team arrived in Oregon on March 10 and met with potential applicants on March 11 to review and further substantiate estimated damages resulting from the storm. The result of the work conducted by the joint PDA team identified that Oregon exceeded the State threshold for damage, as did four Counties (Benton, Hood River, Lane, and Lincoln), with the potential for three other counties to be included (Linn, Marion, and Polk). In response to this information, Oregon is requesting a major disaster declaration be issued for the February Winter Storm.

Should a declaration be issued, the State of Oregon will receive federal disaster assistance through the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant programs. More information will be included in the April monthly brief.

Contact: Julie Slevin at 503-378-2911 x22235

Wildfire Communication Support

The OEM Public Information Office is assisting in the development of a communication support document that will be a part of the Oregon Wildfire Protocol. The effort is in coordination with DEQ, OSHA, OHA, Red Cross, and ODF. This document and continued networking efforts allows for more effective public messaging and media response during future wildfire events.

Contact: Cory Grogan or Kim Lippert 503-378-2911 x22283

Oregon Drought Status

The Water Availability Committee and the Drought Council met on March 10 and discussed the current status of water conditions in the state. Despite heavy snow and rain in February and March, the southern counties remain extremely dry and in Severe status, likely unable to make up the water deficit before the summer. Conditions in other parts of the state improved, but are still in drought status. Following the Water Availability Committee meeting, it was unanimously approved to recommend a drought emergency declaration for Crook County. This brings the current drought declared counties to five; Klamath, Harney, Lake, Malheur and Crook. The Water Availability Committee and the Drought Council are scheduled to meet from 1:00-3:30 on Tuesday April 8th at OEM. An updated water availability outlook will be discussed and drought declaration recommendations will be heard for Wheeler and Jackson Counties.

Contact: Chuck Perino 503-378-2911 x22252

Property Buyouts

On March 6, OEM and local government subgrantees completed all necessary processes to affect the last residential property buyout related to DR-4055 (Oregon Severe Winter Storm, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides). Properties in Benton, Coos, and Curry Counties, as well as the cities of Scio and Turner were identified for buyouts using Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds provided to the State in response to the disaster declaration. Demolition is complete for two out of five of the properties. Each of these properties will revert back to open space and be maintained by the appropriate jurisdiction. These property buyouts were all affected within two years of the disaster declaration, which demonstrates our ability handle the up-tempo environment the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act will bring to future disaster declarations. A commercial floodplain property acquisition in Vernonia (which was moved from a previous disaster's HMGP to DR-4055) was only recently approved by FEMA and will be acquired this summer.

Contact: Dennis Sigrist at 503-378-2911 x22247

RAPTOR Program Updates

RAPTOR is providing valuable visual data to emergency managers and critical infrastructure owners and operators throughout Oregon. Recent updates include: coordination with Washington State EMD to obtain beneficial data related to the Hanford

Nuclear Site; coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on getting the RAFT (Real Time Assessment and Flooding Tool) data into RAPTOR; coordination with DOGAMI regarding inventory of data available for RAPTOR; demonstrations to NWCC, USFS, BLM, ODF, OMD JOC, and Lincoln County; operations training presentation to Hood River and Wasco Counties; and ongoing coordination for maintenance and enhancements. The program is also working with the University of Oregon InfoGraphics team on the iRAPTOR program application and the Damage Assessment tool(to be tested in early April), and coordinating with federal, state, local, and private partners to load additional beneficial data and enhance user experience.

Contact: Daniel Stoelb 503-378-2911 x22234

OEM Hiring

OEM is currently in the process of filling vacancies of several positions. The following positions are either new positions or currently vacant:

- Planner 2 (Domestic Preparedness) – Hired Zach Swick
- [Administrative Specialist 1 \(Grants Assistant\)](#) – Interviews scheduled April 10-11
- [Office Assistant 2 \(Technology and Response Section\)](#) – Closed March 23
- [Information System Specialist 3 \(9-1-1 Database Analyst\)](#) – Closed March 25
- [Program Analyst 4 \(Emergency Management Program Analyst\)](#) – Closed March 27
- [Information System Specialist 8 \(Next Gen 9-1-1 Project Manager\)](#) – Closes April 14
- Information System Specialist 7 (Database Administrator) – Announcement soon to be posted

Contact: Laurie Van Leuven 503-378-2911 x22225