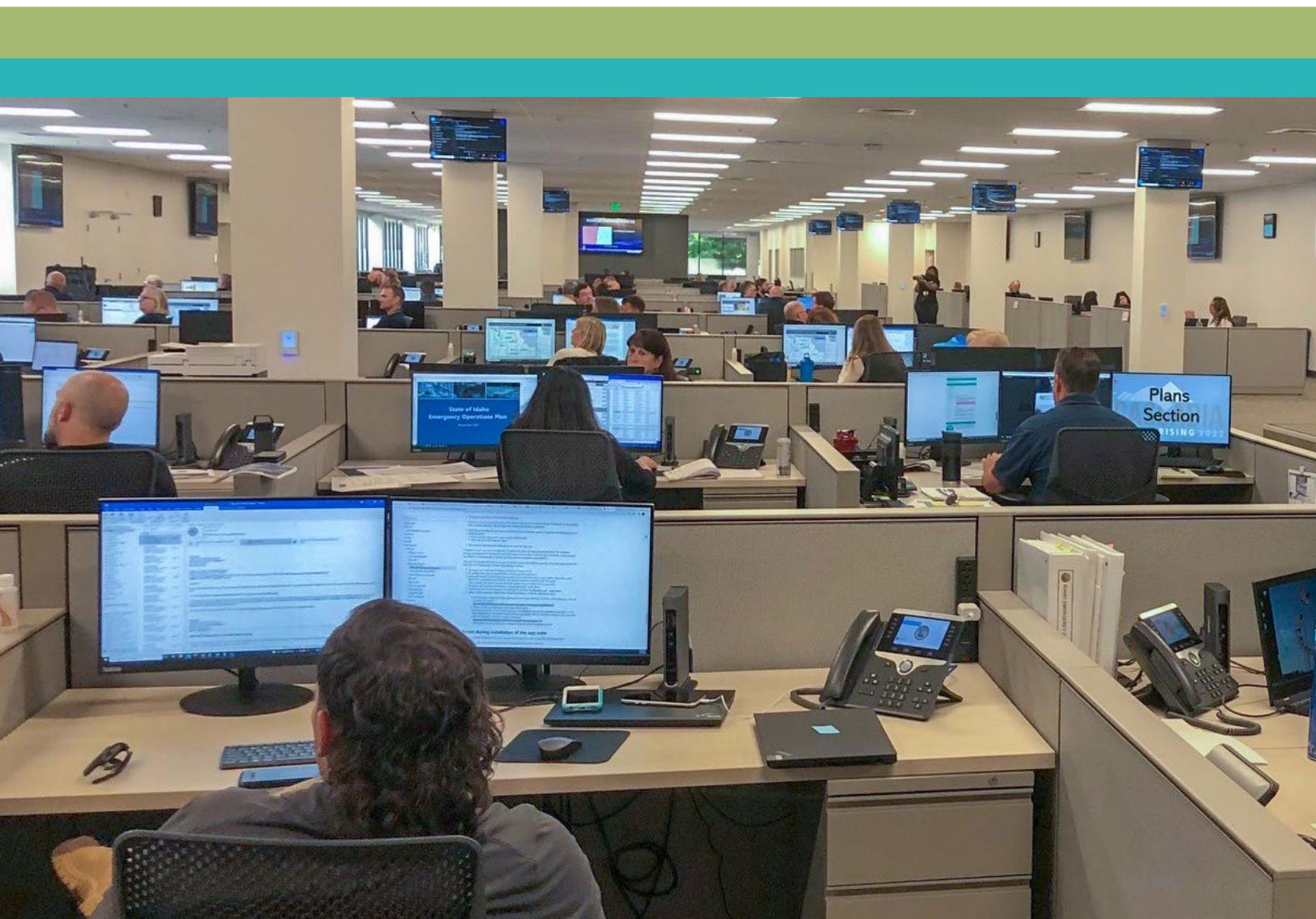




# Idaho Office of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022



Boise, ID. – June 14, 2022- Cascadia Rising 2022, Idaho Demonstration of Capabilities Exercise. This was a two-day facilitated event at the Idaho Response Center to exercise and assess the 2021 Idaho Emergency Operations Plan (IDEOP) with multiple levels of government and private sector to build a shared understanding of roles, responsibilities, and capabilities during a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) type disaster response.

– Mary Jean Edmon, FEMA

Welcome, it's been awhile! Those of us here at the **Idaho Office of Emergency Management** want to take a minute to reintroduce ourselves.

## ABOUT

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management is a Division of the Idaho Military Division. IOEM is the state's emergency management agency tasked by Idaho code with providing assistance to the 44 counties and four Tribes in managing man-made and natural disasters in the state. Key to the agency's role is developing and updating the state's Emergency Operations Plan. This detailed all-hazards plan establishes a framework for managing disasters in Idaho, and develops mechanisms for state support to state, local, and tribal emergency managers. The Idaho Response Center (IRC) is housed within IOEM and is a central hub for coordination efforts and situational awareness during a disaster. IOEM ensures that partner agencies are trained and prepared to assist in managing disasters.

The four branches are:

- Operations,
- Preparedness and Protection,
- Administration and Outreach, and
- Grants Management.

IOEM is accredited by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), and is a division of the Idaho Military Division.



IOEM is part of FEMA's Region 10 along with Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

## OUR MISSION

IOEM guides the State of Idaho in effectively preparing for, protecting against, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all hazards.



This is the official newsletter of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management. This quarterly publication produced in Boise, Idaho is intended for use by the State of Idaho's emergency management community, legislators, government officials, and others who are interested in learning about Idaho's emergency management operations and procedures around the Gem state.

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# IDAHO RESPONSE CENTER

The Idaho Response Center (IRC) is complete.

The Idaho Response Center (IRC) located in building 8 at the State of Idaho Chinden Campus is complete.

Build out of this space began in 2020. At 21,622 square feet, this space allows for all state agencies to co-locate and manage a disaster during a disaster event using the 132 work stations. The IRC is large enough for key experts from every agency to support response to a disaster or emergency. The advanced audio-visual capability allows each emergency support function to be able to display vital information for their group and have the capability to easily share it with everyone in the Idaho Response Center. This will allow for a common operating picture giving the State Emergency Response Team the information needed to make decisions to ensure the state resources are sent where it is most beneficial.



This June, over 150 participants, including federal and state partners, gathered at the IRC for the Idaho Demonstration of Capacities exercise. This exercise allowed us to test the capabilities of the IRC and use the lessons learned from it to better prepare for real life disasters and emergencies.

Learn more about this exercise on page 6.



# COVID-19 IN IDAHO

## Idaho's public health emergency declaration for the COVID-19 Pandemic ended

After more than two years of activation, on April 15th, 2022 Idaho's public health emergency declaration for the COVID-19 Pandemic ended. The Idaho Office of Emergency Management has handled the state's response to the pandemic since early 2020.

Throughout the pandemic, IOEM has successfully delivered more than three million items of personal protective equipment. During the first year of the pandemic, obtaining PPE, setting up testing facilities, and educating the public about the virus were the main focus. As the virus continued and a vaccine was developed, IOEM shifted focus to make sure the COVID-19 vaccine was accessible to all Idahoans who wanted it. With the help of FEMA and our public/private partners, mobile vaccination units were deployed to several rural areas across the state.

As the vaccine rolled out, the pandemic appeared to slow through the summer of 2021. However, by September of 2021, COVID cases started to rise and hospitals began to become overwhelmed. At this point, Crisis Standards of Care was activated statewide and, the mission focus changed to providing support to healthcare facilities.

IOEM worked diligently to enter into a contract via the General Services Administration with ACI Federal to deploy over 600 medical professionals to healthcare facilities in need throughout Idaho. Additionally, 150 Idaho Guardsmen provided support in non-clinical settings.



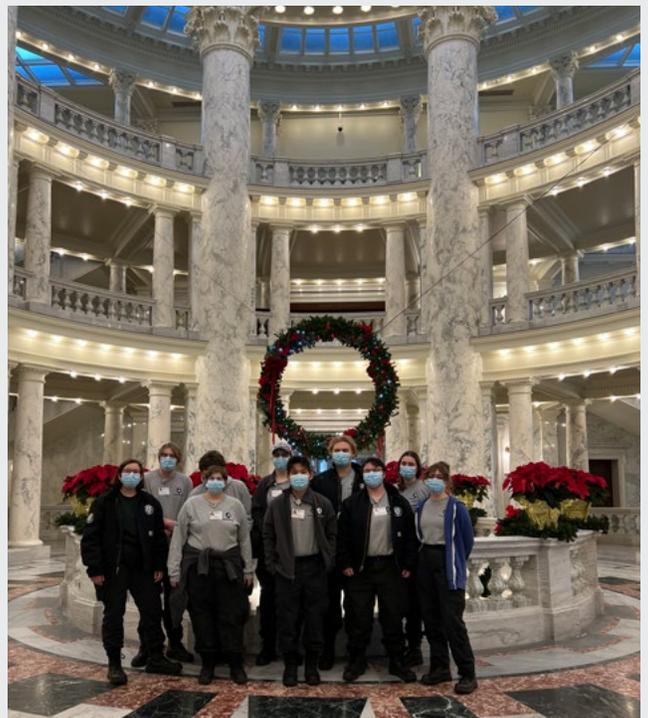
As the stress and strain on the healthcare community continued, IOEM also partnered with AmeriCorps to bring support to Idaho. The team filled roles in the St. Luke's Boise hospital kitchen which included cafeteria cleaning, working the customer-facing food service line, kitchen prep work, and getting patient meals assembled and up to the various floors. The team also did administrative work for CHD that included filing and sorting approximately eight thousand COVID investigations, completing more than 750 COVID-19 lab closeouts, and other tasks to help support CDH staff.



*"The Idaho Office of Emergency Management worked tirelessly to help offset some of the staffing issues Idaho health care facilities have been experiencing. While exploring the best ways to do this, the opportunity to bring an AmeriCorps team to Idaho presented itself," said Director Richy. "We knew this would not only be a great benefit to St. Luke's and Central District Health, but also an excellent experience for the AmeriCorps members."*

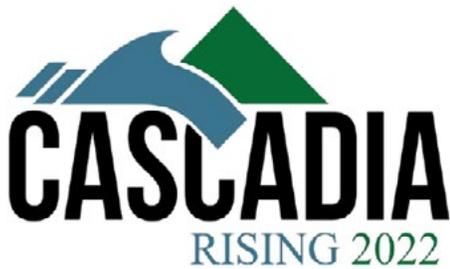


AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a national service program that brings full-time members to projects related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development.



# CASCADIA RISING NATIONAL LEVEL EXERCISE

Training and Exercise held Idaho's Demonstration of Capabilities Exercise on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 - Wednesday, June 15, 2022.



This exercise is aligned with Cascadia Rising 2022, a National Level Exercise involving Idaho, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, FEMA, and other federal and private partners. The Demonstration of Capabilities aims to familiarize the planning community with the Idaho Response Center (IRC) staff and facility capabilities, exercise and assess the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan (IDEOP), and exercise with multiple levels of government and the private sector to build shared understanding of roles, responsibilities, and capabilities during a Cascadia Subduction Zone rupture type disaster response.

The Demonstration of Capabilities Exercise was held in a hybrid format with both virtual and in-person participation.



# IDAHO'S HAZMAT TRAINING

Idaho's HazMat Training was held in early April. Agencies from across the state participated in trainings throughout the week to prepare for incidents ranging from carbon monoxide leaks to chemical spills at industrial facilities, and more. Idaho has several Regional Response Teams that were designed as support units for hazmat incidents that exceed the resources of local response agencies. These specially trained teams are available to provide 24-hour coverage, seven days per week, and are presently located in fire departments of Boise, Nampa/Caldwell, Lewiston, Pocatello, Coeur d' Alene, and Idaho Falls.



# SEISMIC AWARENESS WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT IDAHO

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management hosted several Seismic Awareness Workshops throughout the state this spring. Community members were invited to learn about seismic hazards, vulnerabilities, and mitigation actions to build a culture of preparedness to include assessment signups, non-structural retrofit demonstrations, ShakeOut information, insurance, building codes, and funding opportunities.



# NEW POSITIONS



Sid Brown is now the Emergency Housing Planner. This is a new position at IOEM that was recently awarded through the FEMA Regional Catastrophic Grant Program. Sid will conduct extensive research and facilitate meetings related to essential emergency housing and response plans to support the planning, response, recovery, and mitigation of emergencies and disasters for the State of Idaho.

Chris Volmer accepted a new position as IOEM's Cybersecurity Program Manager and Critical Infrastructure Key Resources Planner (CIKR). He will coordinate with public, private and non-profit sectors, and every level of government to report, prevent, respond to, mitigate, and recover from state emergency level cyber security incidents and disaster events. In addition to managing IOEM's cybersecurity program, Chris will also develop, implement and maintain Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource (CI/KR) Protection Program as a component of the state's overarching Homeland Security Program.

Congratulations to Sid and Chris!



# RETIREMENTS



After 49 years in the Idaho Military Division, 18 of those with IOEM, Jay Baker retired at the end of April. Jay served as the Area Field Officer for the Northern Idaho Region.

*"Working with each of you has been very rewarding," he said. "I will miss our friendships, and hope we can stay in touch".*

Jay and his wife planned a vacation to the Dominican Republic for May and from there forward he says his retirement plans are up-in-the-air. However, he says this time will surely consist of traveling, working on "honey do's", and spending time with family and close friends. Jay is excited for this next chapter of quality time!

Craig Logan, IOEM's 911 Program Manager, retired in May. Craig spent 25 years with the Idaho Military Division, eight and a half of those with IOEM.

During his time as the 911 Program Manager, Craig rolled out 100 percent text to 911, got two ESI Nets in the state up and running and helped process over \$16 million in state 911 grants to counties. His favorite part of his job was working with the IPSCC and visiting with PSAPs, Sheriffs, and Dispatchers across the state.

While Craig doesn't have anything specific planned for retirement, he is looking forward to starting this new adventure. His advice to anyone still in the workforce is to make sure you recognize and thank your colleagues for the hard work they do every day.



# IOEM WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES

In March, Sarah Cerda joined IOEM as the new Hazmat and Special Teams Program Manager. Prior to coming to IOEM, Sarah worked for the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections as a Rehabilitation Specialist/Case Manager for 13 years. While at the IDJC, Sarah wrote treatment plans for juveniles in custody and tracked their progress; was the liaison between the courts, community, families, and the juveniles; and served as a member of the Compensation Advisory Committee, a High Liability POST instructor for Appropriate Use of Force, Mechanical Restraints, and Remote Wilderness First Aid/CPR and many other courses.

Before IDJC, she spent more than nine years with the Eagle Fire Department as a paid volunteer where she received the Rookie of the Year award as well as a Service Award.

During this time, Sarah also worked for St. Alphonsus Life Flight as an EMT-A/ Dispatcher. She received a Harvel's Hero Award for quick response and teamwork in saving a critically ill patient.

When she's not at work, Sarah likes to spend her free time in the great outdoors where she likes to hunt, fish, hike and camp. She especially loves spending time with her daughter, sisters and father.



IOEM's new Logistics Manager, Bryce DeVries started at the end of April. Bryce recently retired from the U.S. Coast Guard as an Electronics Chief Warrant Officer (CWO/ELC4) with over 30 years active duty service. Bryce was directly responsible for the maintenance, repair, and support of all electronic, information, and weapon systems onboard ships and land units, and the technicians needed to maintain them. These systems included; Communications, Radar, Navigation, Weapons, Command/Control, Computers, Telephone, and Network Connectivity systems.

Most recently, he was in charge of the Coast Guard's most advanced Electronics and classified training facility located in Petaluma, California where he taught technicians how to maintain, troubleshoot and repair the Coast Guard's newest electronic and information systems. Additionally, he taught operators how to properly utilize and make the most out of these advanced tools.



During his time in service, Bryce spent more than 12 years at sea and has sailed the Pacific Ocean as far south as Santiago, Chile, as far north as the Arctic circle, and as far east as Yokosuka, Japan.

You can find Bryce spending time outdoors hiking, kayaking and mountain biking during his free time, but most often he is off-roading in his Jeep. Bryce and his fiancé have been teaching off-road driving and recovery techniques for several years now. So, if you want to learn or just go wheelin' give him a call!



**Idaho Office of Emergency Management**  
4040 W. Guard Street  
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**Idaho Office of  
Emergency Management**  
Annual Preparedness/Cyber Conference

*Keeping Idaho Communities  
Prepared and Resilient*

**2022**

— Prevent Protect Mitigate Respond Recover —

*Idaho Office of Emergency Management*  
**Annual Preparedness/Cyber Conference**



**SAVE *the* DATE**

**October 11-13, 2022**

**The Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho**

Registration begins soon. Please watch for updates!

Connect with us by using **#IdahoPrepares2022**

