



Idaho Office of **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Brad Richy of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (3rd from left) who also serves as NEMA Treasurer, joins a panel discussion on "Lessons Learned" from the June 2016 Cascadia Rising Functional Exercise at the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) meeting in Chicago.



FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate addresses attendees at the October 2nd NEMA Conference in Chicago

Greetings,

In emergency management we sometimes see natural hazards come in cycles, and this year there has been a lot of talk about the potential return of La Niña and what that means for Idaho. For example, strong El Niño winters are sometimes followed by strong La Niña winters. In talking with those who have been involved in Idaho's emergency management community for some time, they point to a flooding cycle pattern occurring about every 20 years. 1996 and 1997 were historic years for flooding in Idaho, and were the last time Idaho saw damage significant enough to warrant an Individual Assistance Disaster Declaration by the President. Whether or not La Niña develops, we still need to prepare for winter weather. While many find it inconvenient, not preparing can be dangerous.

I certainly am not saying that any of Idaho's streams or rivers will see a 100 year flood this year, but it has been interesting that October has been the wettest on record for several locations in northern Idaho.

Since we cannot predict disasters, it is important to always be prepared. A big part of that is individual and family preparedness. We all need to ask ourselves if we and our families are prepared and if we have plans and supplies should we need them. This point was reinforced last November and December when more than one-thousand people were without power in northern Idaho following severe winter storms. Since it may take a while for services to be restored, I encourage you to be prepared by making sure you have what you and your family will need to be self-sufficient for an extended period of time.

If severe winter weather does threaten this winter, you can monitor broadcast media outlets and NOAA Weather Radio for the latest information. The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) also provides up-to-date road conditions at 511.idaho.gov or you can call 5-1-1 or 1-888-432-7623.

As we prepare our families and communities for the winter ahead, another key initiative taking place at IOEM in the months ahead is the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). EMAP accreditation is a standard designed to ensure emergency management agencies are as well prepared as possible. By receiving EMAP accreditation Idaho's state emergency management program will be recognized for its ability to respond to man-made and natural hazards that may affect our state. This accreditation project is requiring a significant level of commitment by our staff, however I believe that every effort must be taken to make sure we can successfully complete our mission when required.

I know that Idaho's emergency management community takes our mission seriously. Because of that I am confident that our citizens are provided the best service possible. As always, thank you for all you do.

Thanks,
Brad

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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.

C. L. "Butch" Otter, Idaho Governor

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SUE WELCH NAMED IOEM EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Congratulations to Sue Welch, the IOEM Employee of the Quarter. Sue has been a valued employee of IOEM for more than seven years as the Northern Region Training and Exercise Coordinator and as the Regional Programs Coordinator. Sue's expertise in training and exercise is well known around the state and her grasp of exercise design principles is unparalleled. Most recently Sue was the Lead Planner and the Lead Exercise Controller for Cascadia Rising, a multi-state, multi-jurisdiction exercise. Sue's expertise in exercise planning and her knowledge of Northern Idaho facilitated the participation of nine counties in Cascadia Rising. Sue worked tirelessly to ensure each county received the best exercise experience possible by guiding the design process and coordinating with county representatives to write exercise objectives and injects. Sue ensured all evaluators and controllers involved in Cascadia Rising in Idaho were trained and ready to perform well in what was the largest exercise in which Idaho emergency managers have ever participated. Sue's level of commitment to designing an outstanding exercise led her to put in many late nights and weekends working on exercise documentation and planning. We are grateful to Sue Welch for her tireless work and support of such an exemplary exercise. Employee of the Quarter is a well-deserved recognition for a job very well done.

EARTHQUAKE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

ShakeOut Message Highlights an Idaho Hazard

Drop, Cover, Hold billboards dotted the landscape in Pocatello and Preston, ID as part of an earthquake awareness campaign in support of the Great Idaho Shakeout exercise Oct. 20, 2016, and for a 2017 Southeast Idaho four-county earthquake exercise. This area of the state ranks high in earthquake vulnerability. Idaho ranks sixth in the nation when it comes to earthquake activity.

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management applied for a National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program grant to increase earthquake awareness and education. The grant was awarded to the Western States Seismic Policy Council on behalf of Idaho. The billboards were a portion of the project and a good reminder during October—Earthquake Preparedness month. Look forward to more outreach activities this spring.



CYBERSECURITY WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS BEST PRACTICES

The Idaho Cybersecurity Interdependencies Workshop held September 12, 2016 in Boise drew more than 110 participants from both public and private sectors. Participants from all over the state and the region came to the event at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center. The workshop focused on best practices in cyber policy development, including securing essential infrastructure, cyber security for small businesses, and innovative case studies that focused on collaboration between the private and public sectors. This workshop was the third event in a three year initiative to improve the resilience in Idaho in partnership with the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER). Through this event, participants seek to advance their own cyber plans by challenging their planning assumptions. They also gain a greater understanding of their interdependencies and build relationships with others across the state and region. Speakers included; Idaho Lieutenant Governor Brad Little; Brigadier General Brad Richy, the Deputy Director of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management; Jesse Ronnow, Senior VP, Zions Bank; as well as representatives from the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center, Idaho National Lab, University of Idaho with other experts from public and private sector organizations and other states on cyber security threat assessment, public and private sector partnerships, and cyber policy development. For the full agenda see <http://bit.ly/2ezVPHE>

Brandon Hardenbrook
Deputy Director
Pacific Northwest Economic Region





NOVEMBER IS WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS MONTH

November is Winter Weather Preparedness Month – an opportunity to prepare for the changing weather and have a plan in place for you and your family if severe weather happens.

www.ready.gov provides helpful information for emergency managers and the public on how to be prepared for disasters of all kind.

Winterize Your Vehicle:

- A shovel
- Windshield scraper and small broom
- Flashlight
- Battery powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Water
- Snack food
- Matches
- Extra hats, socks and mittens
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Blanket(s)
- Tow chain or rope
- Road salt and sand
- Booster cables
- Emergency flares
- Fluorescent distress flag

Crews in Northern Idaho clean up and repair damage following a severe winter storm in mid-December of 2015. The severe weather event led to a State and Presidential disaster declaration. More than one thousand people were without power for more than a week in some areas.





CLEARWATER VALLEY COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO REBUILD

Following the Municipal and Clearwater Complex fires in Idaho, Lewis and Clearwater Counties it was difficult to establish the extent of damage to homes in the area. What was known was that the lightning storm that sparked 137 different fires had created a conflagration that whipped through the area and caused widespread devastation. Assessments eventually concluded approximately 75 residences were destroyed. While the impact to the area was significant, the community's recovery from the event has been equally remarkable.

Formed in the aftermath of the disaster the Wildfire Unmet Needs Committee of Clearwater, Idaho and Lewis Counties (WUNCCIL) was organized to provide support to those impacted. Caseworkers began the process of identifying what recovery needs existed in the area. Some families were insured and would need no assistance, while others had no insurance and had lost everything.

Donations came in from many sources including individuals, non-governmental organizations and churches. Idaho Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (IDAVOAD) served as the funding mechanism where funds could be collected and distributed. In addition donations of materials and labor were made available from area businesses and other organizations such as faith based organizations and government agencies.

The donated labor, funds and material was used to rebuild homes for those with the most need. To date three homes have been completed, with three more to be completed by the end of October. Two homes were built by Mennonite and Amish groups out of Montana, one by the Kamiah Nazarene Church. The next three homes to be built are funded by a grant from the American Red Cross with the work done by National Mennonite Disaster Services.

A grant from the Red Cross in the amount of \$75K was also made available to assist with individual assistance to fire victims. These funds were made available for things like clothes, household supplies and equipment people needed for their jobs. Donations also supported restoration of 8 water supply systems, youth counseling, and an insurance workshop. In addition 8,000 trees from the Idaho Department of Lands were planted at a minimal cost. Through caseworkers identifying unmet needs, other projects included a Thanksgiving dinner last November as well as beds and books for impacted families.

More than a year since the fire, the hills surrounding the valley have begun to rehabilitate and the community is returning to normal. A community barbeque celebrating the extraordinary recovery was held September 24th, and two homes were dedicated that day. Emergency managers understand that disaster recovery is one of the most difficult things to accomplish, especially in the absence of governmental funding for individuals. What the Clearwater Valley and WUNCCIL group has accomplished has been remarkable and significant. A great deal of recognition is due

to the individuals and organizations who stood up to rebuild not only their structures, but also their community.

Rob Feeley
North Central Area Field Officer



MITIGATION EFFORTS SAVE LIVES

Mitigation – it sounds like a technical term but in reality it's a life saver. Mitigation reduces damages to life and property. It can make something less severe, less serious or less painful. In Idaho, each tribal nation and county in addition to the State itself has a mitigation plan. Those plans identify projects that can reduce hazards, and highlights the many money and lifesaving projects that have already been completed.

Idaho Office of Emergency Management Deputy Chief Brad Richy opened the opportunity statewide for entities to apply for mitigation projects through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The federal share of \$1,695,057 is available due to the Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4252-ID. Letters of Intent were due to IOEM September 16, 2016 and applications are due November 1, 2016. FEMA will contribute up to 75% of the total cost of an approved project. The subapplicant is responsible for providing the 25% non-federal match. IOEM normally offers the affected areas of a disaster the opportunity to apply first. If after 6 months there are still funds available, IOEM opens the opportunity to apply to the rest of the state.

If you have questions about this or any other mitigation programs we encourage you to call Susan Cleverley, IOEM Mitigation Section Chief at (208) 258-6545.



Deadhorse Creek Bridge near Donnelly in Valley County

The bridge was enlarged to accommodate stream run-off and debris flows. Prior to this installation the road and surrounding residences were threatened with flooding.

JEROME IS SITE OF FULL-SCALE VETERINARY STOCKPILE EXERCISE

Agriculture in Idaho is an \$8 billion a year business. That means wide-spread animal disease could cause untold economic disaster in our state. With that in mind, being prepared to effectively manage and mitigate such issues is critically important to emergency managers and the state as a whole.

Members of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Surveillance Preparedness and Response Services Logistics Center and National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) partnered with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), APHIS Veterinary Services VS District 5 SPRS Office and the Logistics Management Institute (LMI) to conduct the Idaho and NVS Full-Scale Exercise on August 24th at the Idaho National Guard Armory in Jerome, ID. The purpose of the exercise was to test the NVS' and the State of Idaho's ability to logistically respond to foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreaks. It was the capstone in a series of planning and training events conducted over a 10 month period that were designed to assist the ISDA in the completion of their NVS Plan. There were 78 attendees, including players, controllers, evaluators, support personnel, and observers from state, federal, tribal, county, industry, university extension and other organizations.

In addition to those from the NVS, ISDA and SPRS District 5, exercise participants included representatives from the ID Brand Board, ID Office of Emergency Management, ID Cattle Association, ID Dairymen's Association, ID Department of Health and Welfare, ID National Guard, ID Transportation Department, Jerome County and Twin Falls County Offices of Emergency Management, University of Idaho Extension, South Central Public Health District, Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District, Washington, Montana and Oregon State Departments of Agriculture, SPRS District 6, APHIS-MRPBS, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe and Shoshone-Bannock Tribe.

The exercise scenario was based on two fictitious FAD outbreaks; foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Jerome, ID and a concurrent outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Burley, ID. The HPAI outbreak was added to allow the state to exercise the handling of human antivirals for responders to an HPAI incident. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the District 5 SPRS Office worked together to "request" the NVS deployment of FMD countermeasures, including vaccine, according to the NVS protocols and the Idaho NVS State Plan. Idaho's NVS plan is expected to be published in March 2017.

On August 23rd, the day prior to the exercise, ISDA facilitated a visit to a large (7400 head) dairy in Jerome, ID. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a depopulation, disposal and decontamination (3D) Physical Resource Assessment to inform future planning for stockpile countermeasures and facilitate discussion of the exercise scenario by the SPRS Logistics Center, ISDA and the SPRS District 5 Office.

Dr. Marilyn Simunich
Poultry Epidemiologist, USDA, APHIS, VS

Andy Titsworth - NVS Training and Exercise Coordinator
USDA, APHIS, VS, SPRSLC





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