



FALL NEWSLETTER 2017

Idaho Office of **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Thanks to a federal Hazard Mitigation Grant the city of Blackfoot will address chronic stormwater issues, saving thousands of dollars normally spent responding to such events each year.



Greetings,

2017 will be remembered as one of the most challenging years in Idaho Emergency Management, and the year is not over yet. What makes me exceedingly proud as we enter into the winter months, is the level of cooperation and professional expertise that has been on display throughout the state of Idaho. Whether it was the record snowfall this past winter or the subsequent spring flooding, and then planning for the solar eclipse, the collaboration between IOEM and our local, state, and federal partners has been outstanding.

As this newsletter goes to print, Idaho currently has three active Presidential Disaster Declarations. The Joint Field Office set up by FEMA officials in Boise closed late last month with staff being reassigned to assist with life-saving critical needs related to Hurricanes in the Atlantic. A limited number of FEMA staff will be returning to Boise later this month to assist counties with recovery efforts following our year of weather-related disasters.

Preparedness is a core principle of the work we do. That's why I encourage you and your staff to take part in **Idaho ShakeOut**. This annual event underscores the importance of being prepared for one of the major threats we face in Idaho – earthquakes. Southeastern Idaho has experienced an earthquake swarm in the last thirty days, the largest registering a magnitude 5.6 near Soda Springs in Caribou County. This threat is real, and it's important that all Idahoans know exactly what to do when earthquakes happen. On page 11 you can learn more about signing up for ShakeOut so your organization can take part in the Drop, Cover and Hold On activities on October 19th.

And finally, all Idahoans will benefit from Governor Otter signing an agreement between FirstNet and AT&T to begin the process of establishing a statewide wireless broadband public safety network. Establishing a FirstNet state plan has been something IOEM has been working on for almost five years. Our State and Local Implementation Grant Program team (SLIGP) traveled to every county in the state providing important information and outreach. The new network will make our first responder communications more streamlined and effective enhancing the security of all the citizens of Idaho.

I encourage you to follow IOEM on Facebook (IdahoOEM) and Twitter (@IdahoOEM), and stay informed about new developments in emergency management and preparedness.

Brad Richy
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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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COUNTIES RECEIVE FUNDS EARMARKED TO ASSIST WITH ROADWAY REPAIR FOLLOWING WINTER WEATHER AND FLOODING

The third round of the application process for the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) closed on July 15, 2017. Through this process, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) received 465 applications totaling just under \$53 million. Projects were scored using a matrix approved by the ERF panel. Three engineers from the Idaho Military Division scored each application. There were only a handful of applications that were found to be ineligible. In the end, the ERF Panel was able to award funds to every eligible application submitted.

Round	App Total	Award Total	Ineligible
1	\$31,437,641.26	\$14,874,014.69	\$2,468,695.21
2	\$14,820,522.45	\$15,609,123.33	\$75,000.00
3	\$6,584,246.69	\$11,895,503.63	\$400,000.00
Total	\$52,842,410.40	\$42,378,641.65	\$2,943,695.21

Many of the projects have been awarded on a conditional basis due to the potential eligibility for FEMA or Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding. Applicants are required to pursue federal funds before funding from the ERF would be available. This decision was made by the ERF Panel in order to maximize the funds in the ERF by taking advantage of federal funding whenever possible. As such, the process of identifying FEMA and FHWA to fund ERF projects has been longer than expected, particularly now with the high volume of disasters happening throughout the country.

With the help of FEMA and the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC), IOEM is working to identify projects that are likely eligible for funding through FEMA or FHWA and will continue to work with them to identify which projects have been approved. To prevent duplication of funding, IOEM will not be releasing ERF awards until a final determination has been received from FEMA or FHWA. Once determined, projects will be awarded as follows:

- Ineligible for FEMA or FHWA – 90% funded by ERF, 10% match by jurisdiction
- FEMA approved – 75% funded by FEMA, 15% funded by ERF, 10% match by jurisdiction
- FHWA approved – generally 100% funded by FHWA

As of this date, IOEM has identified 113 projects eligible for an ERF award, totaling over \$11 million. Project agreements have been sent to these applicants and we await documentation for reimbursement once the project agreement is fully executed.

IOEM will continue to work closely with the applicants and federal partners to ensure that funds are being allocated and released in a timely manner. With many of the remaining applicants awaiting funding from FEMA, we anticipate having a large amount of ERF that may not be utilized.

Once final accounting of all projects has been finalized, the ERF Panel will meet to discuss the wrap up of the awards, project funding still available and the potential of a fourth round of applications.

For more information on the ERF Fund visit www.ioem.idaho.gov



Creeks explode from their banks and roads are destroyed in Twin Falls County during 2017 spring runoff.

CITY OF BLACKFOOT RECEIVES \$1.6 MILLION MITIGATION GRANT

Money will address historic flooding issues


For years, when heavy or even moderate rainfall happened in the City of Blackfoot, it wasn't unusual to have flooding in streets and homes. It was a problem that plagued the Bingham County Idaho town of roughly 13,000 people for years on end. Now thanks to a federal Hazard Mitigation Grant, the city will address the stormwater drainage issue, saving thousands of dollars they would normally spend responding to such events each year.

The stormwater retrofit project will upsize approximately 2,200 feet of a storm drainage line from a 12-inch pipe to a 48-inch pipe. The total cost for the project is \$2.6 million. The City of Blackfoot applied for, and was awarded the funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the federally declared disaster in 2016. The program is authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

The purpose of the mitigation program is to fund projects identified in county mitigation plans to reduce damages from future disasters. The funding is normally 75% federal and 25% non-federal split; however, the City of Blackfoot is contributing a larger share in order to cover more areas for stormwater improvements.

The 2016 Storm Water System Assessment identified areas in the city with inadequate capacity and bottlenecks. This project will increase the capacity of the stormwater drainage system in the north area of Parkway Drive and Jensen Grove Drive. Reduced flows into the sanitary sewer collection system will alleviate flooding and overloading the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project will protect an estimated 960 people, 214 properties, and 2.2 miles of roadway and storm drain lines.

For more information about county Hazard Mitigation Plans contact Susan Cleverley, CFM, IOEM Mitigation Section Chief scleverley@imd.idaho.gov



Primary clarifier at treatment plant during storm on August 6, 2014. Storm and sanitary systems are separate but flood runoff enters sanitary system through manhole lids and overloads treatment plant.



Floating manhole lid on N. Meridian in Blackfoot in the aftermath of a rainstorm on August 6, 2014.



Roadway near 1010 Parkway Dr on October 3, 2016.

Street flooding on Wooton Way on August 6, 2014. Manhole cover was moved off manhole and an SUV fell in the hole. SUV was removed; sheriff's department blocked road until manhole lid could be replaced.



SPRING FLOODING DISASTER DECLARATION SIGNED

Idaho's 3rd Major Declaration for 2017

President Donald J. Trump signed a Presidential Disaster Declaration August 27, 2017 for five Idaho counties that suffered unprecedented losses due to spring flooding. The declaration allows the federal government to help communities recover from flooding related destruction that occurred **May 6** through **June 16, 2017**.

The declaration provides assistance under FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program for eligible local and tribal governments and certain private nonprofits in **Blaine, Camas, Custer, Elmore** and **Gooding** counties. Elmore and Gooding counties now are designated for assistance under two disaster declarations.

IOEM and FEMA are already working together closely to help reimburse applicants in 11 counties for their costs resulting from flooding that occurred in February. Those counties are **Bingham, Cassia, Elmore, Franklin, Gooding, Jefferson, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls** and **Washington**. Additionally, IOEM and FEMA are working to help reimburse applicants in nine counties for their costs resulting from the severe weather in March. Those counties are **Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Shoshone** and **Valley**.

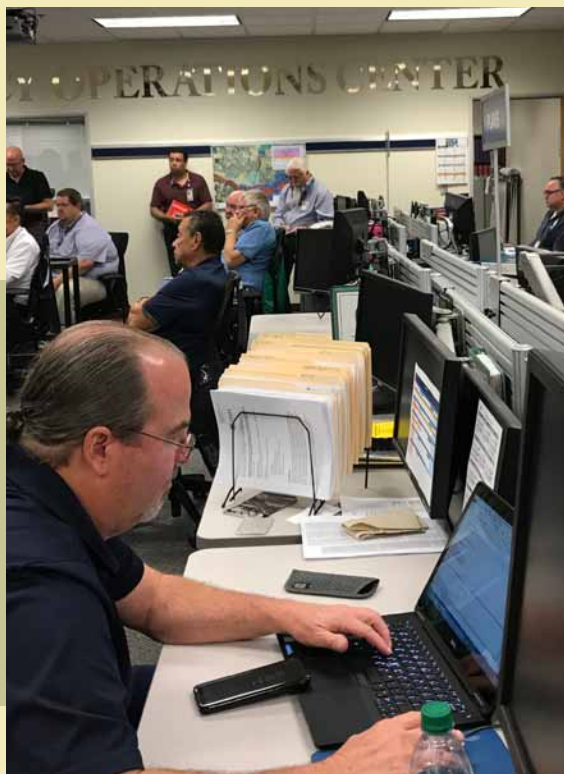
More information about FEMA's Public Assistance program can be found at www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit.

The Big Wood River swells after rapid snowmelt in May 2017, causing flooding throughout Blaine County.





FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), Tim Manner, briefs FEMA and IOEM staff on the status of the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Boise. Many FEMA staffers working in the FCO were reassigned due to Hurricanes in the Atlantic including Irma, Maria and Jose.



FEMA

LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL PLANNING, PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION LEAD TO SUCCESSFUL ECLIPSE 2017 WEEKEND

Idahoans and visitors to our state enjoyed the August 21st Total Solar Eclipse with few major challenges. While there were traffic delays as expected, the impact was relatively minimal. IOEM had worked with local, state, and federal partners for months prior to the event, pre-deploying resources and identifying potential traffic, fire, logistical, and general safety issues. Approximately 160,000 visitors, mostly from Utah and Oregon, took advantage of Idaho's open spaces to enjoy the total eclipse. While 19 Idaho counties were in the path of totality, eclipse watchers just north and south of the path had an enjoyable experience as well. The event, and planning for the event, allowed Idaho to test many of our emergency management processes and further reinforce relationships between our stakeholders.

Idaho's Eclipse Experience

What worked well:

- Coordinating and collaborating with local, state and federal partners
- Creating a robust working group with subject matter experts
- Pre-deploying assets
- Organizing workshops across the state
- Idaho Department of Commerce and IOEM websites providing extensive information to counties, the public, businesses, and visitors
- Further cultivation of state and regional media partnership in sharing safety and preparedness messaging
- Further reinforcing media partnerships in sharing safety and preparedness messaging
- Expanding use of IOEM social media for safety messaging and situational awareness
- Producing an eclipse safety Public Service Announcement (PSA) for a statewide audience



IOEM Branch Chief Ben Roeber works at IDEOC Manager during eclipse weekend.





KTVB reporter Morgan Boydston reports on Joint Operations Center activity on Eclipse day interviewing Colonel Doug Smith of the Idaho National Guard.



IOEM Public Affairs Officer, Elizabeth Duncan, shares eclipse planning and preparation information on KTVB's Viewpoint with host, Doug Petcash.



SOCIAL MEDIA IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



IdahoOEM



@IdahoOEM

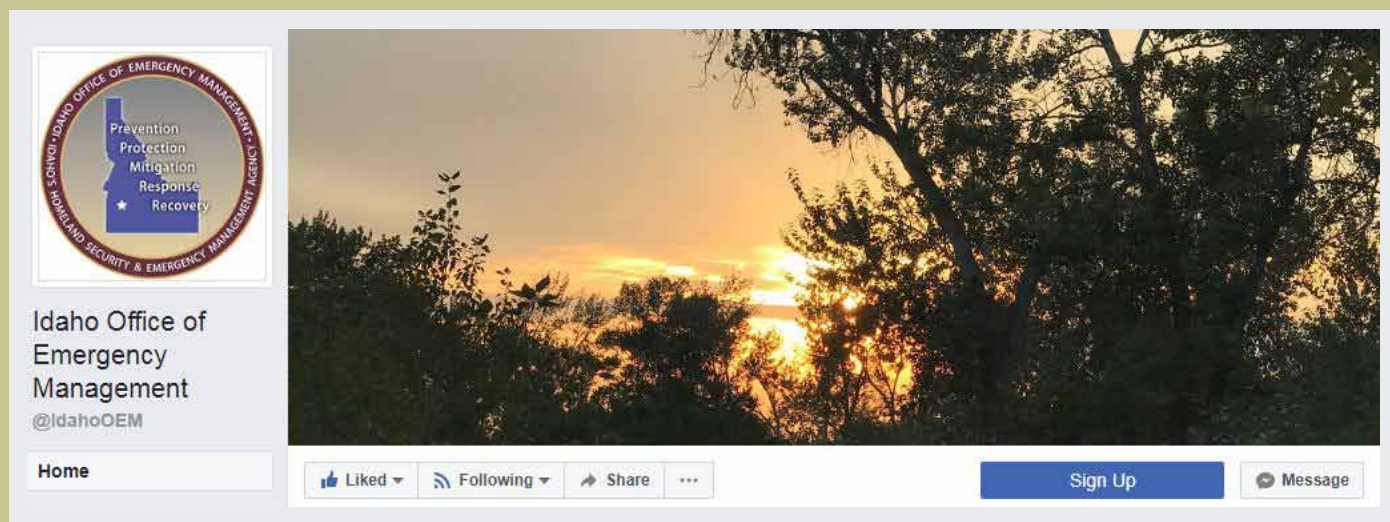
When was the last time you learned of a major news event, either in Idaho or somewhere around the globe via Facebook or Twitter? If you're like a growing number of Americans it happens quite often. According to the Pew Research Center, 62% of U.S adults get news on social media. This means a key information source is social media. For Public Information professionals in Emergency Management this new reality means we must adjust the methods we use to get the *right information to the right people at the right time*.

The total solar eclipse that passed over Idaho in August of 2017 proved how important it is to understand this concept. On the IOEM twitter page alone we received over 28,000 impressions on the day of the eclipse. This is a huge jump from the 493 followers that typically view our posts.

Our audience has shifted where they are receiving information from, and if our messages are to be received, we must shift too. The world of social media brings with it new challenges, as well as new opportunities to connect and communicate with individuals and organizations across the state.

During the Total Solar Eclipse the Emergency Operations Center was occupied in case an emergency did arise. One of the tools used at this time was traffic cameras from the Idaho Transportation Department. At one point those cameras stopped working and the flow of information was halted. However, through the use of social media, information came in from several different accounts posting on the status of traffic within their area. Social media was an integral tool to decision making in the EOC during this event. If public information continues on its current trajectory in terms of use, we can expect similar levels of usefulness into the future.

To learn more about how Idaho's Public Information Emergency Response Team (PIER) is incorporating social media in daily messaging contact Elizabeth Duncan eduncan@ioem.idaho.gov



DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON!

Great American ShakeOut is at 10:19 AM October 19th

Idaho is the sixth most seismically active state in the country, something that many Idahoans may not know. Just last month parts of eastern Idaho were rattled by a series of small earthquakes. That's why the Great Idaho ShakeOut is the perfect opportunity to make sure you and your family, and your co-workers know what to do when an earthquake happens. The Great Idaho ShakeOut is part of a nationwide earthquake drill on October 19th at 10:19 AM where people will practice the steps of Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Individuals and organizations can register and learn more on the [Great Idaho ShakeOut](#) page.



After the ground stops shaking, you need to know how to turn off utilities like natural gas, electricity, and water. Everyone should have emergency supplies of water, food, and necessary equipment so they can survive for at least three days without outside help. Remember to plan for your pets, children, and any special needs, including medical conditions. Earthquake preparedness is one important part of an overall goal of being prepared for any disaster.

For additional information on earthquake preparedness, please contact your local county emergency manager for specific threats and resources in your area. You can also visit the [Idaho Office of Emergency Management's web page](#) or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's [Ready.gov](#) for information on many other potential disasters and how to prepare yourself for them.

Additional questions can be handled by Aaron Blake, Community Preparedness Coordinator for the Idaho Office of Emergency Management at 208-258-6522, ablake@imd.idaho.gov.

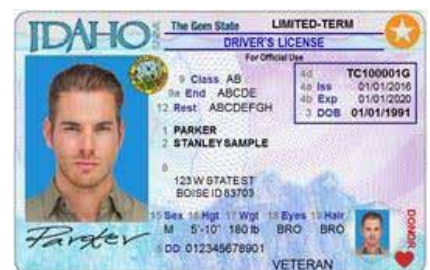
IDAHO PREPARES TO LAUNCH STAR CARD REAL ID

Beginning in early 2018, Idaho will begin issuing REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses, or identification cards, called Star Cards. Citizens statewide will have the ability to renew their license before new identification standards are enforced, which are set to begin October 1st, 2020

Congress passed the REAL ID Act in 2005, following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, mandating minimum security standards for identity documents, such as a driver's license. The Idaho Legislature placed a moratorium on ITD from taking action to comply with this federal law, but dropped the moratorium in 2016. Since then, ITD has been working to create a license that complies with REAL ID standards.

Some of the new restrictions will affect an Idahoan's ability to board a commercial flight or to enter a federal facility if they have not updated to the Star Card. The new standards will secure licensing and identification in the state of Idaho.

For those who want to learn more about the changes, the type of documents to bring with you to the DMV, or about the Star Card in general, you can visit the website for the Idaho Transportation Department at <https://itd.idaho.gov/starcard>.



GOVERNOR OPTS IN TO FIRSTNET / AT&T PLAN

Idaho Joins 20 other states opting in

After nearly five years of data collection, community outreach, and planning, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) plan to build a broadband network in Idaho has been approved. On 12 September 2017, Governor Otter signed a letter addressed to FirstNet, partnered with AT&T, accepting a 5 year state plan to build, operate, maintain, and continually improve a wireless public safety broadband network. This network is dedicated to the first response community. This plan was reviewed by the Idaho Public Safety Communications Commission (IPSCC) in summer 2017 with a recommendation to "Opt In" immediately. With the Governor's decision comes significant federal funding that has already been set aside for the buildout. The plan includes an ongoing collaborative effort between Idaho, FirstNet, and AT&T.

In 2013, the Department of Commerce / National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded a federal grant known as State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) to each state. This grant was awarded to assist state planners in the FirstNet consultation process. Over the course of the SLIGP grant, the IOEM team has diligently provided timely, accurate, and on-going community outreach and education on FirstNet to all of Idaho's first response community and multiple stakeholders within the region to include all Tribal Nations within the region. This outreach has spanned a four year period (2013-2017), included community involvement, education, data collection, and scientific consultation regarding the communications needs within Idaho. Of additional significant note this year, was a listening tour dedicated to gathering grass roots data directly from Idaho's first responders. This data assisted in the analysis of FirstNet as well as providing critical operational data directly to the FirstNet innovation laboratory. The data will be used to develop a robust software applications system leading to safer and more efficient response operations.



FirstNet is expected to boost broadband access in rural areas and was created in 2012. It followed a recommendation from the 9/11 Commission that a dedicated nationwide broadband network be created to help public safety agencies communicate during large-scale emergencies.

BASIC ACADEMY CLASS OF 2017

IOEM, in collaboration with FEMA Region 10, and the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), kicked off a new version of Basic Academy in Boise in late August.

Basic Academy is a comprehensive course for emergency management professionals. The course covers important

components of emergency management that are applied to daily operations. This new version of Basic Academy consists of 4 weeks over the course of 4 months. The course design allows people the opportunity to stay local as opposed to traveling to EMI in Maryland to receive this training. Once complete, participants will be graduates of the Basic Emergency Management Academy.

This class includes 23 participants from Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. There are also 2 participants from Alaska. The class is very diverse with backgrounds ranging from emergency managers, to law enforcement, and public health officials.



GOVERNOR APPOINTS IDAHO'S FIRST DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SECURITY

A veteran United States Air Force information technology and cybersecurity officer has been named Idaho's first State Director of Information Security.

Jeff Weak is a retired Lieutenant Colonel having served a 20-year military career that included stints as Chief of Information Security for a strategic NATO base in Germany and for Multi-National Forces Iraq while deployed to Baghdad. He was most recently Chief of the IT/Cyber Portfolio Management Branch at Air Force headquarters at the Pentagon. Past positions have included Commander of the Air Combat Command Communications Support Squadron in Virginia; network operations at Yokota Air Base in Japan; and the Defense Intelligence Agency as a programmer/analyst before and after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Jeff has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Idaho, and a Master's degree in management from Troy State University in Alabama. He is also a graduate from numerous advanced Air Force leadership and technical training courses.



IOEM EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to Jesse Cole, the IOEM Employee of the Quarter. In the short time Jesse has been with the agency she has proven herself to be an invaluable asset. Jesse started her IOEM career in the middle of what was being called Snowmageddon, and quickly rose to the occasion providing invaluable assistance on multiple disaster related projects.



In her short time at IOEM, she has nearly single handedly managed the Emergency Highway Relief Fund project, (see page 3 for article) working with dozens of local jurisdictions to help them through the process. Additionally, Jesse designed the website, all the necessary forms and the applications materials, and managed the scoring process. Jesse also took a lead role in the Eclipse Working Group, creating all the agendas, organizing speakers, and keeping the whole group informed and moving forward. Congratulations to Jesse for a job well done!

IOEM NAMES NEW PLANS SECTION CHIEF

Mallory Wilson has been promoted within IOEM to Plans Section Chief, replacing Autumn White who left the agency earlier this summer. Mallory began her time at IOEM as the Community Preparedness Coordinator, but has most recently been learning the ropes of the IOEM Plans Section as Emergency Planner. Before joining IOEM, she spent five years as a Fire Prevention Officer for the Bureau of Land Management.

As Plans Section Chief, Mallory will oversee the maintenance and update of the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan, IOEM Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government Plans, and is responsible for the development of the annual State Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report. She is looking forward to continuing to assist state and local partners with their planning efforts and building upon relationships with IOEM stakeholders.

Mallory can be reached at mwilson@imd.idaho.gov or 208-258-6592.



IOEM NAMES NEW AREA FIELD OFFICER

New Region created

Heidi Novich is the newest IOEM Area Field Officer (AFO) and will be partnering with Dale Nalder to cover the newly created Southwest/South Central (SW/SC) Area. The area includes 16 counties stretching from Washington County in the West to Blaine County in south central Idaho.

Heidi has been with IOEM since 2007, and has worked in Administration, as the Citizen Corps Coordinator/Community Education Program Manager, and most recently the Critical Infrastructure Protection Program Manager.

Area Field Officers provide management and oversight of IOEM regions, and ensure that the State of Idaho has full disaster and emergency operational capability. The SW/SC Area Field Officers can be emailed jointly at SWSCAFOS@imd.idaho.gov and Heidi's contact number remains (208) 258-6523.



IOEM WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Lucille Webster is the latest addition to the Mitigation and Planning team as a Program Assistant. Lucille has a breadth of experience including administration for the insurance and airline industries, data analyst for a computer firm, and as a process engineer for a state agency. She likes to be busy, which is exactly what we have planned for her! Lucille will be assisting the Mitigation Section, the Plans Section, and the Branch as a whole with numerous projects in the coming months.



With multiple ongoing disasters in the state, Lucille will be assisting with the administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Her other projects will include supporting the updates of the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan and State Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as the State Preparedness Report, and the IOEM Strategic Plan. Lucille has 4 children and a new grandbaby – congratulations! We are proud to have Lucille on the team!



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A spectacular Total Solar Eclipse image captured
on August 21, 2017 at Chicken Out Ridge on
Mount Borah in Custer County Idaho

