



Idaho Office of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

IDA PREPARES! A YEAR IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WITH IDA AND TANK New Book Provides Critically Important Safety Information for Idaho Children



Idaho First Lady Lori Otter signs copies of her new Ida book unveiled in late September. The book unveiling took place in the Statehouse rotunda with music provided by the Andrus Elementary Honors Choir. "As the Governor and I prepare to leave office in the coming weeks this feels like an appropriate final gift of service to this wonderful state and her citizens."

Greetings,

As 2018 draws to a close I would like to thank the IOEM team for their work with counties and Tribes throughout the state of Idaho. I would also like to recognize emergency management professionals from Jefferson County, Bonneville County, Idaho Falls Police, and Fire Departments, and our three team members for being part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) deployment to the Florida Panhandle in November to help with hurricane recovery efforts. The initial mission for the Incident Management Team (IMT) was to set up a 250 person base camp for the Command and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff for Bay County. That mission was completed in three days. The Idaho team then moved into a rotation in the EOC as part of the Command Staff. We continue to witness how important these mutual aid agreements are in responding to disasters. In late November firefighting crews from Idaho were part of response efforts following the devastating wildfires in California this year. Idaho firefighting crews from cities including Kuna, Sand Hollow, Parma, and Emmett were assigned to conduct a variety of tasks including structure protection and clearing of defensible spaces in areas along the Pacific Coast Highway. A key reason these deployments are possible is because of the regular training and exercise we undertake.

Throughout the year we stress the importance of being prepared to survive a disaster until help arrives. The overall theme of self-sufficiency and preparedness is integral to our messaging. With that in mind, this year IOEM worked with Idaho's First Lady Lori Otter on a new children's book - *Ida Prepares, a Year in Emergency Preparedness with Ida, Tank, and Duke*. The book is a helpful resource for Idaho children. When children learn early about the threats, hazards, and risks in their communities they can protect themselves and minimize their risk. The book will be used in schools across the state to build a culture of preparedness among all Idahoans. We are grateful for the First Lady's efforts in making this book a reality. The outreach to Idaho youth was underscored at a FEMA event where two Idaho teenagers were selected to travel to Seattle and participate in the Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council.

And finally, I was honored to be sworn in as President of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) this year. The nationwide organization helps emergency management agencies throughout the country stay abreast of best practices in the emergency management field. I look forward to working with the organization in the coming year.

I hope you and your families have a safe and enjoyable holiday season and we look forward to working with our state, federal and Tribal partners in the coming year.

Brad Richy
Director, IOEM



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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IOEM UNVEILS NEW IDA BOOK WRITTEN WITH IDAHO FIRST LADY LORI OTTER

The children's book is the latest in a series of books focusing on the unique aspects of the Gem state

When school children learn at an early age how to recognize dangers in their environment, and how to prepare and protect themselves, the knowledge lasts a lifetime.

This year IOEM was honored to work with Idaho First Lady Lori Otter on a book geared toward young children that explains in a fun and easy to understand way how to reduce their exposure to the threats, hazards, and risks that we encounter in Idaho.

Ida Prepares – A year in Emergency Preparedness With Ida and Tank – is the latest in a series of books featuring a young Idaho girl who shares her experiences of living in Idaho. The book unveiling took place at the Idaho State Capitol building.

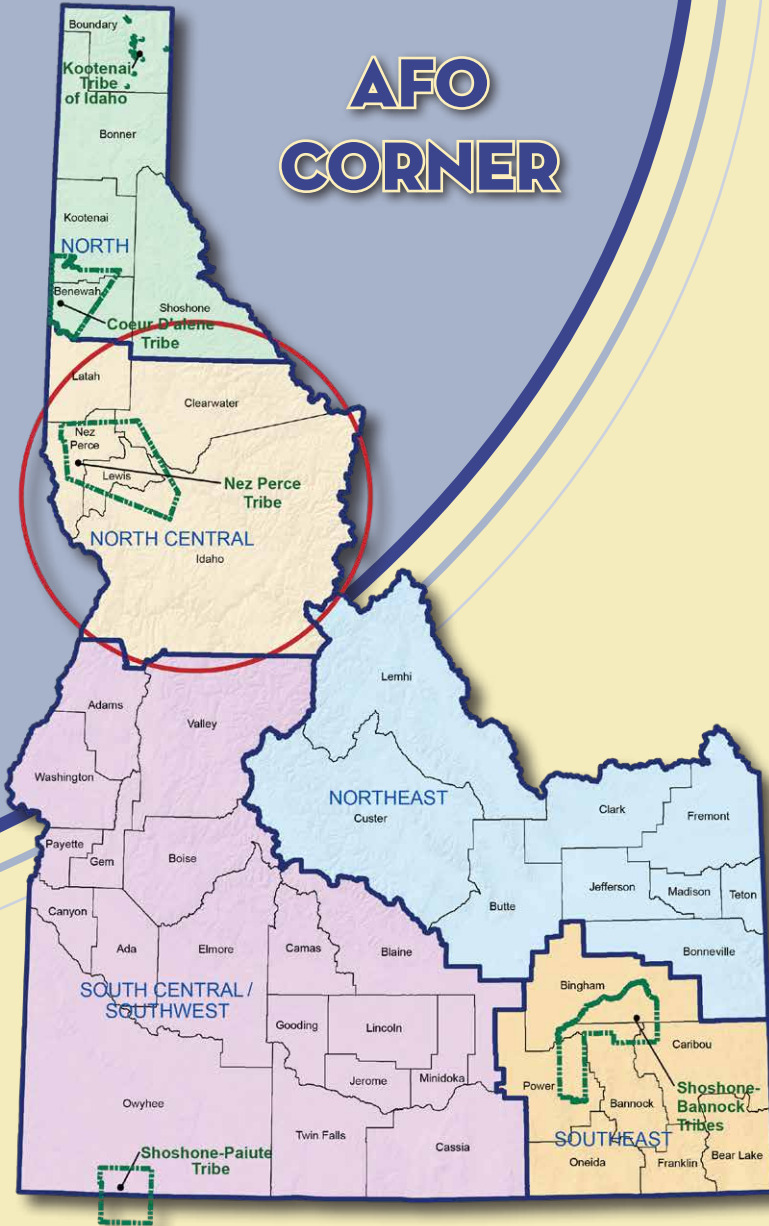
"Idaho is a vast and beautiful state, and with that beauty and natural ruggedness comes some danger we have to plan and prepare for," said Idaho First Lady Lori Otter. "When children learn how to be responsible for their actions, and aware of how to stay safe, they can be incredibly smart, responsible, and resilient."

The book will be available at many Idaho Libraries and schools and can also be read online by going to www.ioem.idaho.gov



NORTH CENTRAL REGION

AFO CORNER



After the floods, landslides, and major disaster declarations of 2017, the emergency management community of the north central region looked forward to a calmer 2018. While the year did not generate additional federal declarations, it was a busy year of managing recovery efforts, staying on top of issues that came up, and catching up on things that needed attention.

Wildland fire season in the north central region can be extreme. This year the Rattlesnake Fire in southern Idaho County and northern Adams County had the potential for major impact to communities near Riggins. At several times evacuations were recommended by the fire management teams and issued by Sheriff's Offices. Thankfully no homes were lost prior to containment. The Goose Rapids Fire in Nez Perce County also had the potential to be particularly damaging due to its location in the hot, dry and combustible Hells Canyon. A strategy by wildland fire agencies to pre-stage a task force of equipment and personnel during the height of fire season was instrumental in suppressing the fire before it could expand and cause major loss of acreage.

The counties under the federal declarations understand very well that the recovery process is one that takes time. Much time and effort

was put in by emergency managers and transportation officials to rebuild infrastructure and to navigate programs like Public Assistance and the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF). Many jurisdictions sincerely appreciated the ERF program as authorized by the Idaho Legislature, and recognized that without it, many roads and bridges would not have been fixed.

Photos: courtesy of Dean Neufeld with North Central Public Health, taken within an hour of ignition, from his home near Riggins.



FIRST WEDNESDAY EVENT HELD IN EMMETT IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



IOEM Community Preparedness Coordinator, Aaron Blake, and FEMA Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council team member Amber Blake attend the Emmett First Wednesday event held in conjunction with National Preparedness Month. Gem County's Emergency Manager, Laurie Boston, hosted and coordinated the event, which drew presenters from the Gem County Sheriff's Office, the Gem County Sheriff's Posse (a volunteer search and rescue organization), Emmett Fire Department, the Idaho Fire Marshall, and Southwest District Health.

IDAHO'S PUBLIC INFORMATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (PIER) SHARES BEST PRACTICES

State Agency Public Information, Public Relations, and Communications Professionals provide a critically important resource for the state during disasters and emergencies.



At the bi-monthly meeting of the Idaho PIER team, Boise State Communications Director Greg Hahn (pictured front left) shared key initiatives and programs the University is focusing on in the coming months. The PIER team, originally created by Executive Order, meets regularly to maintain situational awareness on issues of importance in Idaho. The team can be activated during a state disaster or emergency and provides public information support to counties, or individual state agencies that request assistance. The team performs their duties in the Idaho Joint Information Center (JIC) at Gowen Field. The PIER Team can also function virtually to support public information dissemination needs.

IDAHOANS ASSIST WITH HURRICANE RECOVERY EFFORTS IN FLORIDA

Mutual Aid Agreement between states made two week deployment possible

Ten Idahoans from state, county and municipal agencies are back in the Gem state following a two week deployment to Bay County Florida. Bay County, took a direct hit from Hurricane Michael, a category 4 hurricane that made landfall October 10, 2018.

Three staff members from IOEM, North Central Area Field Officer (AFO) Rob Feeley, Southeast (AFO) Darin Letzring, and Hazard Mitigation Branch Chief Susan Cleverley, were among the ten Idahoans deployed.

"I helped wherever they needed me," said Susan Cleverley. "My primary area of focus was ensuring the accuracy of the daily situation reports." Susan also said the magnitude of destruction was incredible to see. "Everywhere you went you saw destruction. Every tree was either downed or broken in some way. Overall though, this experience was not only helpful on a human level – it will also make me even more effective in the Idaho Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when Idaho has its next disaster."

"One of the most rewarding elements was how this team from Idaho was able to quickly and seamlessly function in hurricane response situation," said Rob Feeley, North Central AFO. "It really stood out to me how well the team worked together in such a dynamic environment. They were all emergency management professionals."

Darin Letzring has been with IOEM as the Southeastern Area Field Officer for just over four months. "This experience was fulfilling both professionally and personally," Letzring says. "Being able to help folks who need and appreciate our assistance was so important. Additionally, this will make the entire team even more prepared to respond to significant events that happen here at home in Idaho."

Emergency Management professionals from Jefferson County Emergency Management and Bonneville County Sheriff's Department, along with Idaho Falls Police and Fire Department staff were also part of the team.



The Emergency Operation Center in Bay County was fully occupied as recovery began after Hurricane Michael.



L-R, back row, Robert Feeley, IOEM; Cody Anderson, Battallion Chief, Idaho Falls FD; Dave Hanneman, chief, IFFD; Darin Letzring, IOEM. Front row; Kerry Hammon, IFFD PIO; Kevin Casper, LT, Bonneville Co SO; Bill Squires, Cpt, Idaho Falls PD; Rebecca Squires, EM, Jefferson Co; Susan Cleverly, IOEM; Eric Day, EMS Chief, IFFD.

IOEM staff regroup and begin work in Bay County



The All Hazards Incident Management Team assisted with managing a shelter base camp for Bay County Emergency Operations Staff.

Under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) mutual aid agreement, Idaho personnel are paid for their time and service by the requesting state, in this case, the State of Florida. Sixteen states sent staff to assist with disaster recovery efforts.

Feeley, Darin Letzring standing in the Hall of Fame for Public Safety



IOEM staff pictured in front of the Bay County Emergency Operations Center. L-R Robert Feeley, Susan Cleverly, Darin Letzring

The Idaho Falls contingent that was deployed to Florida, posing in the airport before boarding their plane



Sleeping quarters for the staff





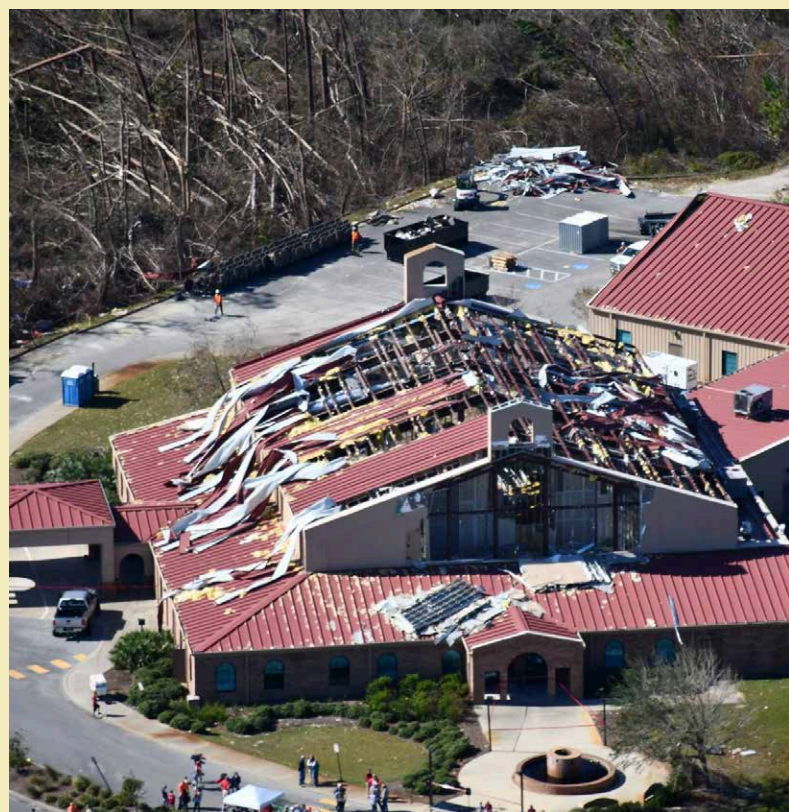
EMAC[®] Emergency Management Assistance Compact

Utilizing helicopters helped operations staff develop a better view as it related to resources, roads, recovery, etc. IOEM had three staff members deployed. The group was deployed through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) along with additional experienced staff from the Idaho Falls Police and Fire Departments, and Bonneville and Jefferson Counties.





Emergency Management subject matter experts deployed to Bay County Florida spent time in the field evaluating the level of damage. These pictures show the damage in the city of Mexico Beach.



STATES CAN ASSIST WITH LARGE SCALE DISASTERS

FEMA unveils new initiative



Dan Alexander with the National Integration Center and Dan Frazee with FEMA lead a presentation at the Idaho Office of Emergency Management on a FEMA pilot program that would create a national incident workforce. The locally sourced teams would assist FEMA when surge staffing is required. Representatives from Caldwell, Nampa and Boise Fire Departments, Boise Police, Idaho Falls Fire, StateComm, Idaho Health and Welfare, and all of the IOEM staff attended the presentation.



IDAHO REPRESENTATIVES JOIN NEW FEMA REGION 10 YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

Two teens from Meridian were selected to be part of the inaugural Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council, or YPC. The council has nine members representing the four states of Region 10 – Idaho, Alaska, Oregon and Washington. The two representatives chosen from Idaho are DevRee-Jayden “DJ” Rapp and Amber Blake, both of Meridian. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, created the National YPC in 2012 to bring together young leaders from across the nation who are interested in supporting and promoting disaster preparedness in their communities.

IOEM Director Brad Richy said, “We are proud to recognize these young leaders for their dedication to service and commitment to helping communities become more prepared for emergencies”.

Rapp has completed over 30 hours of community emergency response team training in basic disaster response skills, which includes fire safety, search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. She has organized community outreach projects in conjunction with the Idaho Emergency Preparedness Coalition and the Idaho Medical Reserve Corps. She co-founded her school’s Junior Medical Reserve Corps three years ago.

Blake has learned how to use an amateur radio. While living in New Jersey in 2012, she survived Hurricane Irene and the subsequent blackout. Because her family was prepared, they were able to offer support to their neighbors.

Youth council members will meet with FEMA Region 10 and Idaho emergency management staff throughout their term to provide input on strategies and projects.

Each year, young people grades 8-11 apply to be part of FEMA’s YPC. This year marks the kick-off of Region 10’s council, coinciding with FEMA’s National Preparedness Month in September and back-to-school safety campaigns throughout the Region.



Meridian teens DevRee-Jayden “DJ” Rapp and Amber Blake were selected to be part of the inaugural Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council.



Members of FEMA Region 10's new Youth Preparedness Council pose in front of FEMA's headquarters building in Lynnwood, WA.

IOEM PRODUCES EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS VIDEO FOR IDAHO SCHOOLS

2018 Great Idaho ShakeOut participation continues to grow

Each year in October, Idahoans across the state participate in the Great Idaho ShakeOut. This year more than 83,000 signed up to participate. The event is an important part of the larger October Earthquake Awareness Month program, and critically important considering Idaho is the 8th most seismically active state in the United States.

This year IOEM reinforced the agency's commitment to earthquake awareness and preparedness by producing a "Great Idaho ShakeOut" preparedness video available for schools throughout the state. You can watch the video by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gS7-Lil2nFk>. The video describes the causes, and effects of earthquakes, as well as instructions on what to do if you feel an earthquake. The latest official guidance is to Drop, Cover and Hold On.

On October 18th at 10:18 AM, over 75,000 Idaho K-12 students joined nearly 30 million other students around the country to participate in the Great ShakeOut. They practiced the life-saving skills of taking cover under their desks and waiting for the shaking to stop. The greatest danger in an earthquake is falling objects, including heavy objects on nearby shelves, broken glass, and ceiling tiles and lights in the classroom. For more information on earthquakes and how to protect yourself, see <https://www.fema.gov/earthquake>.



Dr. Lee Liberty, Boise State Seismologist is interviewed for a segment in an IOEM video explaining why Idaho is earthquake country. The video will be shown in schools across Idaho in the years to come.

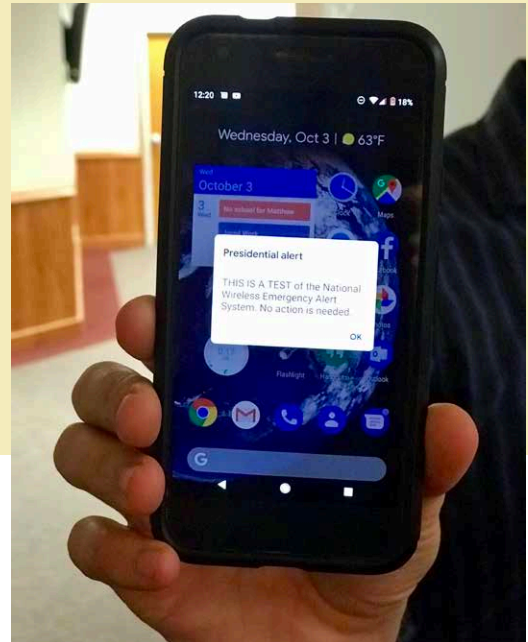
Also pictured – students in Cassie Tipton's Class at Fairmont Junior High School in Boise, Idaho practice earthquake preparedness measures – **Drop, Cover, Hold On!**



NATIONWIDE WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TESTED

The Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), conducted a nationwide test of the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) and Emergency Alert System (EAS) on October 3rd of 2018.

This test took place to assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of a national message and determine whether improvements were needed.

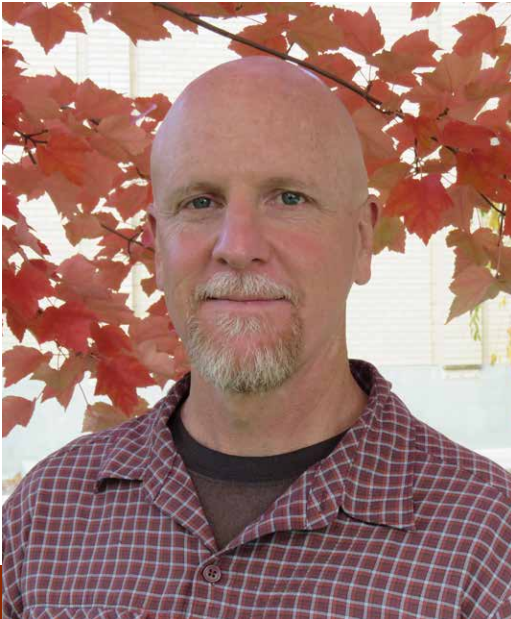


IOEM STAFF TAKE PART IN THE ANNUAL FIT ONE RACE IN BOISE



NEW STAFF MEMBER HIRED FOR IOEM TRAINING AND EXERCISE PROGRAM

IOEM is pleased to welcome David Ayers to the Training and Exercise Section. As a Training and Exercise Specialist, Dave's duties will include assisting with the section's far reaching exercise program. Dave comes to the agency with extensive experience in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Emergency Management, and hazardous material response. He will assist the IOEM Training and Exercise team with implementation of IOEM's Training and Exercise Program.



Dave was born and raised in Wyoming and Montana. He says the majority of his leisure time is spent outdoors with his Border Collie Kenai enjoying what our great state has to offer. "I enjoy fly fishing Idaho's amazing rivers and alpine lakes, wandering aimlessly through the backcountry, hitting the slopes during the winter, and riding my motorcycles. I also attempt to find time to show off my non-existent skills through an occasional round of golf."

Dave and his wife Maleeka moved back to Idaho after living in Texas for five years. He has two children who attend Boise State. His son is poised to receive a degree in Electrical Engineering and his daughter is a sophomore pursuing a degree in Psychology.

You can contact Dave at dayers@imd.idaho.gov

IOEM WELCOMES NEW EMERGENCY PLANNER

Blake Brandon joins the IOEM Plans Section as an Emergency Planner. The role includes updating portions of the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan (IDEOP) and annexes. Blake will also assist with coordinating roles and responsibilities as it relates to working with other state agencies. Additionally, Blake will maintain and update IOEM's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

A long time Idaho native Blake graduated from the undefeated Eagle High School and then attended the University of Idaho and Boise state University. Blake's area of study include Business and Conflict Management. Blake has worked in the aviation industry in multiple roles before transition to Fire/Rescue for the Idaho Military Division.

When not planning, Blake can be found enjoying the great outdoors of Idaho, volunteering with Bogus Basin Ski patrol, and working toward a Certified Flight Instructor rating through the Ponderosa Aero Club in Boise.

Blake can be reached at bbrandon@imd.idaho.gov



STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN IS UPDATED



Tyre Holfeltz, with the Idaho Department of Lands, updates the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) Executive Committee on the 2018 Fire Season. Holfeltz's presentation was one of several updates the committee received at the annual meeting at IOEM November 15, 2018. The annual event brings together subject matter experts from state and federal agencies. The group also receives updates on the status of mitigation projects around the state, as well as the broader implementation of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.



Attendees included the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW), and Boise State University.



IOEM EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER – CARLO FENICOTTERO "FEN"

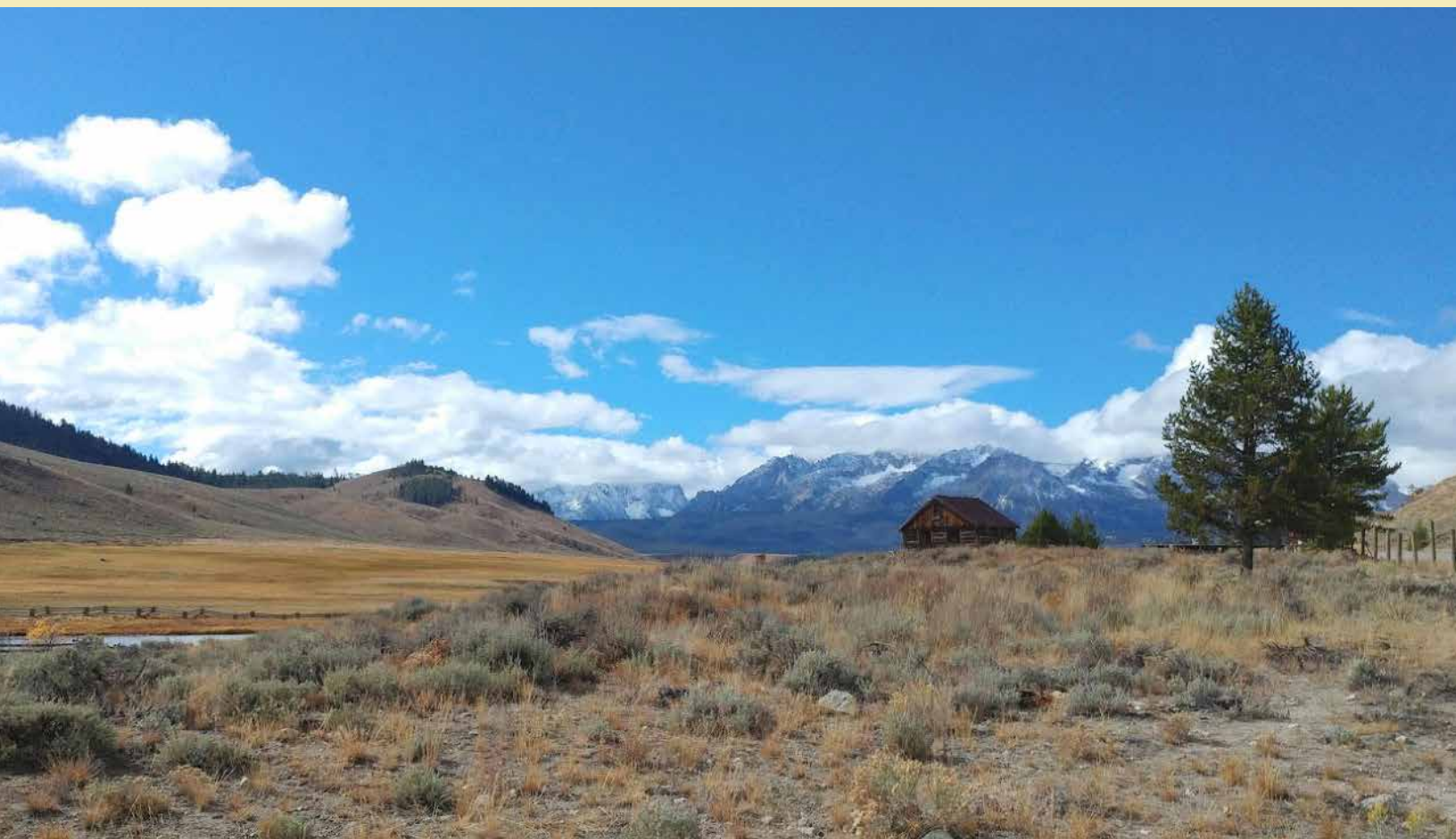
Congratulations to Carlo Fenicottero (Fen) the IOEM Employee of the quarter. Fen and his team were instrumental in facilitating two major Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests this quarter – one to hurricane ravaged Bay County Florida, and one to areas of California's Pacific Coast region devastated by some of the worst wildfires in that state's history. This kind of work requires the ability to quickly and efficiently coordinate travel, lodging, and reams of paperwork to get crews where they need to be. It is logistical planning and coordinating at its best. Throughout the year, and especially during disasters, Fen's work is exceptional. He works closely with counties during Emergency Operation Center (EOC) activations and can be counted on for his reliability and quality of work.

Fen has been with IOEM since January 2016 and during that time he has built a solid reputation among his co-workers as a collaborative and authentically warm person. Fen came to IOEM following a career in the military. "I spent much of my life serving our great nation in uniform all over the world. Never knew anyone we helped, just went in did our job and left. Now, in this job, I get to serve the people and communities I know. These are the communities that made me. This has been the greatest privilege to serve my home."

This acknowledgment is especially poignant because Fen's last day with the agency is November 30, 2018. We will miss Fen and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.



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A brisk fall morning view of the Sawtooth Mountains and Salmon River north of Lower Stanley.
Photo taken October 7, 2018 by Dori Topholm

Do you have a picture of quintessential Idaho you'd like featured in the IOEM Newsletter?
Send your images to eduncan@imd.idaho.gov Please note where and when the photo was taken and we may use your images.