



Idaho Office of **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

APRIL SPRING FLOODING CAUSES WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION IN IDAHO



Pictured above – widespread flooding destruction in Adams County. Storm activity and rapid snow melt caused significant impacts in Adams, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Valley County as well as the Nez Perce Reservation. A new flood record was set on the South Fork of the Clearwater River at Stites. The Middle Fork of the Payette River near Crouch, and the Weiser River near Cambridge recorded the second highest flows on record.

Greetings,

This spring, central Idaho was subjected to a significant flooding event brought on by heavy rain and rapid snowmelt. The resulting flooding and landslides destroyed homes and caused damage to infrastructure in several counties as well as within the Nez Perce Tribal reservation. The amount of water flowing in the South Fork of the Clearwater River near the town of Stites broke a record that had been in place since 1964. At one point, the only access into the Kamiah area was through Missoula, Montana, as all other state highways were closed due to landslides. This area, and particularly Idaho County, has seen multiple federal disasters over the past few years due to fires and floods. IOEM has been assisting the impacted jurisdictions during the response effort, and will work to make sure all available assistance will be provided to the recovery.

As recovery efforts continue following spring flooding events around Idaho, we are already preparing for wildfires. Wildland fires burn tens of thousands of acres in Idaho every year. With summer approaching it is important that we reinforce a culture of preparedness among our stakeholders. This includes building an awareness of safety issues involving drones. We are thankful to Governor Brad Little for recording a Public Service Announcement (PSA) outlining some of the risks involved when drones fly too close to wildfires. Last year drones flying near wildfires caused disruptions in firefighting efforts eight times. Please take a moment to check out the PSA on the IOEM website.

www.ioem.idaho.gov



Governor Brad Little records a Drone safety PSA in Boise County

Being aware of emerging threats also applies to cybersecurity issues. Earlier this year I was pleased to open the 5th Annual Cybersecurity Interdependencies Summit in Boise. IOEM and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region's Center for Regional Disaster Resilience collaborate each year to develop public/private sector partnerships for resilience in the state of Idaho. The series has expanded cybersecurity capabilities of

small business, government, and large industry throughout the state of Idaho. This year drew a record number of attendees from both the public and private sector.

Even more opportunities for you to enhance your communities' preparedness resources are in the works. IOEM will be hosting what will be an Annual Preparedness Conference in Boise later this year. The event will be October 1-2 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise and information. I encourage you to keep an eye out for more information on how to register.

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.

Brad Little, Idaho Governor

Brad Richy
Director, Idaho Office of Emergency Management
(208) 422-3001

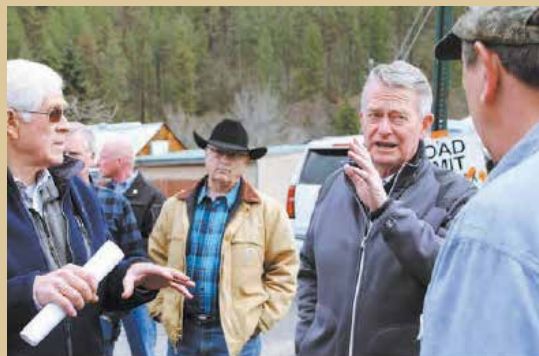
Elizabeth C. Duncan, Editor
(208) 258-6595

Dori Topholm, Design Editor
(208) 404-1027



IDAHO COUNTY FLOODING

Spring runoff wreaks havoc in Central Idaho - Photos courtesy of The Clearwater Progress



TWIN FALLS COUNTY KEEPS AN EYE ON AREAS OFTEN AFFECTED BY FLOODING

In 2017 Twin Falls County had a number of areas dramatically impacted by flooding. The following pictures show some of the areas in both the city and county that created challenges for both our citizens and the first responders.

As the coordinator for the county, working with our local Canal Company, Bureau of Reclamation and the Boise Weather Service allows for some preemptive measures when monitoring the flows of water and the potential for flooding.

Through my department, public education is done on the threat of flooding. Each of the pictures below show areas that when inundated with high water can cause life threatening issues, and significant property damage. The Lazy J Trailer Park houses a number of our seniors, and those with functional needs. The high impact of water at Rock Creek Park caused landslides and damage to the recreation area of the park, Centennial Park and the Snake River Canyon delayed recreational opportunities, and the highest impact was the threat downriver of the natural gas and water lines that support our citizens living in the city of Twin Falls.

The county consists of eight cities, and of those cities, many are rural with limited resources. The issues with free-standing water, road wash outs, damage to our city streets, and highways deflate budgets and effect taxes. The ability to be informed and pro-active will ensure that while flooding may occur, mitigation can take place before the damage is severe and local resources can be utilized without declaring a county disaster!

Jackie Frey, Coordinator
Twin Falls County Office of Emergency Management



DRONES AND WILDFIRES DON'T MIX

Governor emphasizes safety message

Idaho Governor Brad Little recorded a Public Service Announcement in Boise County this month emphasizing the dangers associated with private drones flying near wildfires. If drones are spotted near a wildfire, firefighting aircraft must land, giving fires the opportunity to grow and put lives and property at risk. The Governor's PSA encourages private drone users to follow FAA rules to ensure the safety of firefighters and the suppression of wildfires.



THE IDAHO CLEARING HOUSE



The Idaho Clearinghouse Plan passed the test during Operation Shared Response March 5-7, 2019, a functional exercise conducted by the Idaho Office of Emergency Management. The plan was developed through National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) 2017 funding under the direction of Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) and the Idaho Seismic Technical Working Group and was recently exercised with Western State Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) assistance and 2018 NEHRP funding. Matthew Wall, WSSPC, facilitated a tabletop exercise (TTX) February 21, 2019 to walk through the Clearinghouse Plan. The group discussed the call down procedures, logistical needs, partnership roles and tracking, communications with the IDEOC, and gathering data via the virtual clearinghouse portal. The TTX determined deactivation criteria was missing from the plan, aftershock mapping, detail about coordination calls, and a clearinghouse management checklist.

OPERATION SHARED RESPONSE

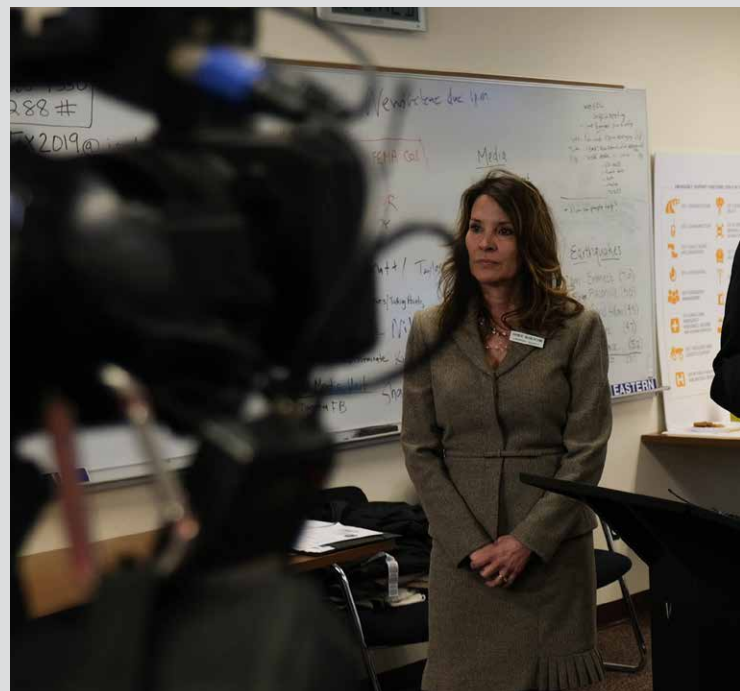
March Exercise included dozens of local, state, and federal agency partners

Idaho is the 8th most seismically active state in the United States, which means that Idaho is an earthquake prone state. A major seismic event was at the center of a three day state exercise called "Operation Shared Response". The Functional Exercise was an effort to test emergency plans and bring together partners from across the state and region.

Ada, Boise, Canyon, Gem, and Payette Counties participated in the event along with a multitude of state and federal partners.

Agencies involved included:

- Ada County Emergency Management
- Boise Police Department
- Boise State University Emergency Management
- Boise County Emergency Management
- Canyon County Emergency Management
- College of Southern Idaho
- Idaho Commerce
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Defense – Emergency Preparedness Liaison
- Federal Emergency Management Association
- Federal Highway Administration
- Gem County Emergency Management
- Idaho Air National Guard
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Health and Welfare
- Idaho Military Division Communications
- Idaho National Guard
- Idaho Office of Emergency Management
- Idaho Office of Emergency of Management Reservists
- Idaho State Police
- Idaho Transportation Department
- Idaho Public Utilities Commission
- Latah County Emergency Management
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/
National Weather Service
- Nez Perce County Emergency Management
- Payette County Emergency Management
- Twin Falls County Emergency Management
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Department of Energy
- Utah Office of Emergency Management
- Washington State Emergency Management Division





Idaho state leadership including Idaho Governor Brad Little, Idaho Lieutenant Governor Janice McGeachin, and Brigadier General Michael Garshak Commanding General of the Idaho National Guard were on hand to observe the activity. Brad Richy, the director of IOEM led the exercise and acted as host to this delegation. The tour of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Joint Information Center (JIC) allows elected leadership to access Idaho's emergency preparedness exercise and training efforts. The story was covered by several media outlets, including KIVI, KTVB, and CBS 2.

IOEM is grateful to all of those who attended the exercise briefing, and to staff who worked for months to plan and coordinate a complicated, multifaceted exercise. Thank you also to our FEMA Region 10 colleagues, along with county officials, state agency staff, volunteers, and reservists who dedicated three full days of their time and many of whom traveled to Boise from out of town. Your hard work and efforts allow us all to work to keep Idahoans safe and prepared for disasters.



IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOREMEN GATHER IN BOISE

Group hears from IOEM PIO on how the Idaho PIER team functions

IOEM Public Information Officer Elizabeth Duncan addressed a group of more than 150 Idaho Transportation Department Foremen at the 2019 annual meeting in Boise. Duncan, who manages the Idaho Public Information Emergency Response Team (PIER) explained how the PIER team functions as a State of Idaho resource.

The Idaho PIER Team can be activated to provide public information support for all 44 counties and four Tribes during a disaster or emergency. The team includes experienced subject matter experts in public information and communications who work for state of Idaho agencies. The team can also provide informal support. Many de-facto members work for health districts, school districts, municipal agencies and the federal government.

Most recently the PIER team was activated to provide public information support for Idaho County following widespread spring flooding.

The PIER team meets bi-monthly for training and exercise events, and to discuss best-practices in the public information space. Duncan also shared with the group how the Public Information Officer course she teaches, that is offered by IOEM, can reinforce the skills of PIOs throughout the state.

The Foreman's meeting is yearly discussion of winter operations and best practices. ITD Foreman are responsible for a wide variety of work including supporting Operations Engineers and managing road maintenance crews.



2019 CYBERSECURITY EVENT DRAWS RECORD CROWD



The 5th Annual Idaho Cybersecurity Interdependencies Summit was held in Boise this Spring. A record number of people attended the event at the Red Lion Hotel. Guest speakers included Idaho Governor Brad Little, IOEM Director Brad Richy, State Director of Information Security Jeff Weak, and more than a dozen experts in the field of cybersecurity. The event's keynote speaker was Eric Holdeman, Director of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Center for Regional Disaster Resilience.



STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION

IOEM and STARBASE Idaho partnered to teach courses to Idaho 5th graders

The IOEM Mitigation team partnered with STARBASE Idaho in March to teach Idaho fifth graders about the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) behind emergency management and mitigation.

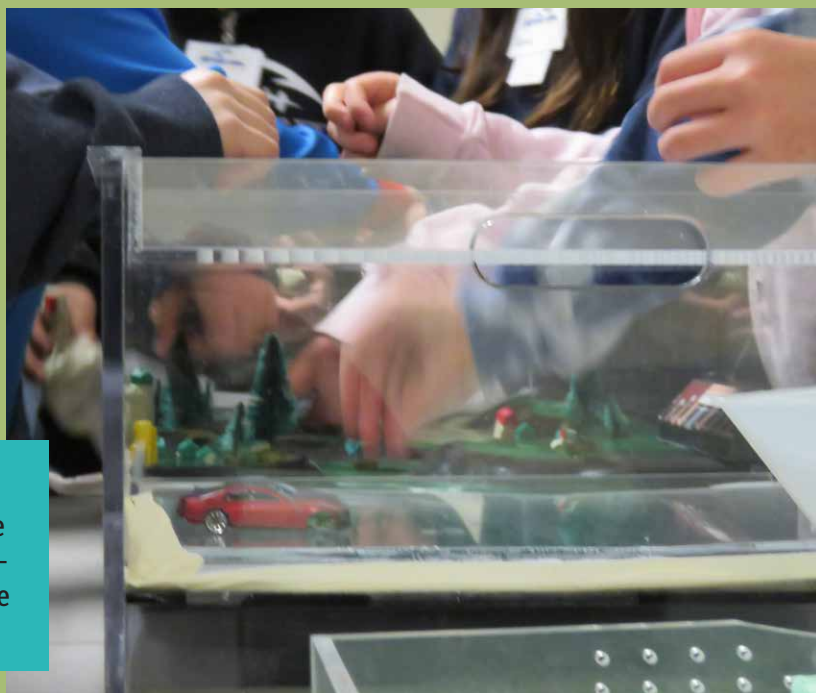
The students were introduced to some of the career fields they could go into that can directly affect the safety, security and resiliency of their community. Brief job overviews of Hydrologists, Geologists, Structural Engineers, Flood Plain Managers, Emergency Managers and Meteorologists were presented and then the kids were given the opportunity for some hands-on activities.

"These kinds of activities are really important for getting kids interested in STEM and mitigation," said Mary Mott of IOEM. "Getting kids started young can begin a life-long interest."

The tables included exhibitions on flooding, earthquakes, foundation erosion, and liquefaction. The fifth graders got to engage with these topics in a hands on way. Having emergency management professionals there to explain both what damages disasters can do as well as explain how to mitigate some of those harms certainly enhanced the overall experience.

"Programs that offer interactive learning, like this one, can be really important," said Lucille Webster. "Not every kid learns the same, and for some of them they really need to do hands on things to understand the concepts."





Students created their own miniature towns and then witnessed the effect that a flood can have. They had the opportunity to consider what structures are vital to mitigating flooding impacts and apply that in their miniature city planning.

STARBASE Idaho is an offshoot of a Department of Defense Program that is focused on fostering a love of STEM for America's youth. The program focuses on the inclusion of students that would likely not have similar access to high-caliber STEM programs.

"Mitigation is a great solution to lessen the impacts of disasters and how they can end up impacting everyone, and it is important that we start conversations about it early," described Lorrie Pahl of IOEM. "Being prepared for disasters includes understanding what the impacts can be and what you need to watch out for. I believe we had the ability to help many Idaho kids begin that process through this collaboration."



IDAHOANS ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP FOR STARCARD

October 2020 is the deadline for Idahoans to sign up for the StarCard, a secure driver's license that allows you to board a plane, or enter a federal facility without having to present additional identification like a military ID or a passport.

- My driver's license doesn't expire for several years. Do I still have to get this card?
- How much does it cost?
- What kind of identification do I take to the DMV to get this StarCard?
- Why is this enhanced driver's license necessary?



For answers to all these questions go to www.itd.idaho.gov/STARCARD

Or call (208) 334-8736

You can also listen to a message from Governor Brad Little about the new card by going to <https://youtu.be/9p6uzlqPmRQ>

You'll need a Star Card by October 1, 2020, to board a flight.

He's cleared for takeoff because he got a Star Card – Idaho's REAL ID.

An illustration of an Idaho Star Card driver's license. The license is white with a blue border. It features the Idaho state logo at the top left, which includes the words "IDAHO The Gem State" and "DRIVER'S LICENSE". Below the logo is a stylized human figure. To the right of the figure, there are several lines of text representing license information, including a star icon in a circle. At the bottom right of the license, there is a small circular seal of the Idaho Department of Transportation. In the background, a man with glasses and a blue shirt is standing at an airport terminal, talking to a woman.

You'll need a Star Card by October 1, 2020, to board a flight.

Don't get grounded. Get a Star Card – Idaho's REAL ID. Your license to fly.

An illustration of an Idaho Star Card driver's license, identical to the one in the previous block. In the background, a woman with short grey hair and a colorful scarf is standing at a DMV counter, talking to a man in a blue uniform who is wearing gloves.

CONGRATULATIONS

Graduating with Distinction



IOEM Social Media Coordinator Janice Witherspoon graduated with honors from Boise State May 11, 2019. Janice was a Top Ten Scholar at Boise State, and was president of the debate team. Janice received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Bachelor of Science in Political Science.

After taking a gap year, Janice plans to pursue a career in public service, and attend law school. Janice's professionalism, collaborative spirit, and outstanding work ethic have benefited both IOEM and the taxpayers of Idaho. We are proud to have Janice as part of our team.

GRADUATES OF THE TWO DAY IOEM G-290 PUBLIC INFORMATION CLASS IN HAYDEN, IDAHO.

IOEM PIO Elizabeth Duncan teaches both G-290, Basic Public Information, and G-291, the Joint Information Center/ Joint Information System (JIS/JIC) courses. Counties interested in providing the training may contact Natalie Lahti, State Training Specialist with IOEM to coordinate and schedule classes. nlahti@imd.idaho.gov



EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to Cherylyn Murphy, Jarod Dick, and Elizabeth Duncan on being named IOEM Employees of the Quarter. Ordinarily the Employee of the Quarter is one person, but the collaborative work they did following a state disaster declaration in Idaho County deserved special recognition.

Cherylyn Murphy functioned as Liaison to Idaho County Disaster Management supporting Jerry Zumalt with the response to the flooding incident. Cherylyn's work traveling around the community and gathering information, helped create an accurate picture of how extensive the flooding damages were. Cherylyn also helped coordinate the Needs Assessment Teams that went door to door in the community gathering firsthand information from individuals about their damages, and spreading the word about the Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC).

"This was an amazing experience to be able to work closely with the county, actually in their office, and in the community," describes Murphy on her experience.



Jarod Dick went to Idaho County to provide recovery support, and present local jurisdictions with information regarding the processes associated with state and federal declarations. Jarod assisted in the MARC by coordinating with state and federal agencies to participate, and providing citizens with information about the various programs and services available. Jarod also assisted local residents during the intake process by ensuring their assessment forms were complete and directing them to the appropriate MARC representatives. "This was a great opportunity to interact first-hand with the people who were directly impacted by the incident and learn from their experiences. It's helpful to understand the effects of the disaster, and the different ways the voluntary and government agencies may be able to provide support."

Elizabeth Duncan assisted Idaho County as part of a PIER Team activation, and spent her deployment working with Idaho County Disaster Manager Jerry Zumalt. The objective was to make sure as many people as possible knew about the MARC. "On the day of the MARC, we were hoping ten or twenty people would show up. We were so pleased that more than 100 people showed up because that meant one hundred-plus people could be helped.

This was the kind of experience that can't be duplicated via phone call or email. Physically being in a community allows us to empathize even more, which makes us ultimately more effective. My mission was to ensure that as many people as possible knew about the MARC, so being able to have face-to-face discussions with local media, and the individuals and families directly affected by the flooding, made a huge difference."



ISLAND PARK WORKSHOP

Idaho participates in a business resiliency workshop

On May 15, businesses in and around Island Park, Idaho participated in a “business resiliency” workshop aimed at providing business owners with the information needed to prepare for the coming 2019 Fire Season. About 40 people attended the 3 hour event. The workshop brought together local, State and Federal agencies as well as private sector companies and organizations to share ideas and best practices designed to keep communities sustainable and livable, before, during and after any wildfire.



Island Park, Idaho has been designated a “Sustainable Fire Community” which is “a collaborative group of concerned citizens, representatives from private businesses, and non-profit organizations working closely with the public sector to balance the scales of the wildland-urban interface and fire adapted communities.”

“A thriving private sector is the economic engine that sustains small communities all over this country,” said Jon Hanian, the Public-Private Partnerships Program Manager with the Idaho Office of Emergency Management. “It was great to answer questions and show these businesses what they can do now, before a wildfire threatens, to ensure a more resilient and better equipped community, able to deal with whatever Mother Nature throws at them.”

“The presentation was exactly what we had hoped for and was informative beyond expectations,” said K.C. Jones, Executive Director of the Island Park Sustainable Fire Community. “The feedback I received following the presentation was excellent. ‘That was wonderful. So much information.’ And, ‘I have so much to do. I am going to start tonight while it is fresh in my mind.’ This workshop was wonderful!”

The workshop brought together individuals from FEMA, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, Fremont County, private insurers, and local businesses leaders. Presenters provided tips on the steps businesses should take before an event happens. Attendees were shown what they can do to prepare before disaster strikes, as well as share their concerns and get answers dealing with a wildfire disaster.

“This workshop and exchange of information was so important for businesses in Island Park to participate in, because we want a community to be here after a wildfire and these businesses are an integral part of that community,” said Liz Davey, the District Ranger for the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.



FEMA





Idaho Office of Emergency Management
4040 W. Guard Street
Boise, Idaho 83705



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

*Keeping Idaho Communities
Prepared and Resilient*

2019

Prevent Protect Mitigate Respond Recover

Idaho Office of Emergency Management
Annual Preparedness Conference



SAVE *the* DATE

October 1-2, 2019

The Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho

Registration begins soon. Please watch for updates!

Connect with us by using **#IdahoPrepares2019**

