



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019

Idaho Office of **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

2019 FIRE SEASON



Lightning caused the Shady Fire in early July, and it has an estimated containment date of October 31st, 2019. At the time this newsletter was released, it has burned 4,234 Acres. Due to heavy fuel loading, active fire behavior, and the presence of numerous snags, firefighters have been unable to directly engage the fire. The Shady Fire is being managed with a point protection strategy (a wildfire response strategy, which protects specific assets or highly valued resources from the wildfire without directly halting the continued spread of the wildfire) to minimize exposure to fire personnel while protecting identified values.

Greetings,

Summer 2019 has been a busy one!

The 2019 wildfire season is upon us, and as I write this, Idaho has avoided the large fires seen in recent years. However, we are just now in the peak of fire season. As you continue with your summer recreation activities, it is important that you stay vigilant in your efforts to prevent fires. Remember to properly put out your campfires, create defensible space around your home, and in the event of a fire, have a family plan.

Soon Idaho's youth will be heading back to school and I am proud to say, Idaho has some pretty great kids. IOEM has had the opportunity to work with many of them over the last few months. We sponsored students from the Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School CERT Team at the International Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida in June. Our team placed in the top 20, against over 90 other teams from across the globe. Also in June, the IOEM helped sponsor ReadyKamp in Homedale, Idaho. This weeklong camp for 7th – 9th graders focused on CERT curriculum and emergency preparedness. 40 students from southwest Idaho participated in the camp learning new skills through hands-on disaster exercises. And finally, Idaho was proud to send campers to Washington State to participate in the week-long FEMA Youth Preparedness Camp. These kids were chosen from dozens of applicants and were selected for their commitment to their communities and engaging other youth on emergency management and preparedness. The Idaho team joined 30 other campers from Alaska, Oregon, and Washington to focus on how to safely assist their family and communities before, during and after a disaster event. I am very proud of all the students that participated in these events and we look forward to continuing our support of these worthwhile activities.

As we look ahead to fall we have some interesting opportunities coming up. On October 1-2, IOEM will host emergency management professionals, elected officials, and first responders at our IOEM Annual Preparedness Conference. The kind of professional growth and networking connections that will happen at this conference will allow us all to better serve our state and its citizens. You can find registration information for the conference at <https://ioem.idaho.gov/about/annual-preparedness-conference/>.

Early fall is also host to several personal preparedness moments, such as National Preparedness Month in September and the Great Idaho Shakeout on October 17th. Make sure to join us for these events, in particular the Great Idaho Shakeout by registering at <https://www.shakeout.org/idaho/register/>.

In addition, in late October, Idaho will host the annual meeting for the National Emergency Managers Association. I have been proud to be the President of this organization for the last year and look forward to welcoming my peers from across the country to our amazing state. If you are interested in learning more about the conference, you can get more information at www.nemaweb.org.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I am proud to continue to support you, and all the citizens of Idaho.

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

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IOEM OFFICIAL HEADS TO KANSAS TO HELP RECOVERY EFFORT

Preparedness and Protection Branch Chief Ben Roeber served an EMAC deployment

IOEM Preparedness and Protection Branch Chief, Ben Roeber, was deployed to Kansas in early June. Governor Brad Little approved the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) agreement with Kansas to assist with recovery efforts following flooding and tornadoes.

"Idaho is proud to assist our fellow Americans in their time of need," Governor Little said. "We support the Emergency Management Assistance Compact agreement because we believe in neighbors helping neighbors and states helping states. Idaho's highly skilled and experienced state employees will be able to share their expertise with Kansas as they work through these challenges."

Under the EMAC mutual aid agreement, Idaho personnel are paid for their time and service by the requesting state, in this case, the State of Kansas. Roeber had the opportunity to provide support and subject matter expertise in the Kansas State Emergency Operations Center, while serving as a liaison between counties and the state EOC. Roeber describes that "having worked as the Idaho Emergency Operations Center (EOC) manager on multiple occasions in response to flooding, fires, and severe storms, I can tell you that every EOC is committed to providing the best coordinated response to events like this. The objective is always to ensure that people who live, work and own businesses in areas affected by disasters can recover quickly."

The EMAC is an all-hazards mutual aid agreement between states. Through EMAC, states can share any resource available with another state following a Governor's declaration of a disaster or emergency. After getting back to Idaho, Roeber described that "The people I met in Kansas were dedicated, and the very human stories of loss, resiliency, and a focus on neighbors helping neighbors was incredible."



PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS DISASTER DECLARATION FOR IDAHO

Declaration will provide some federal assistance for repairs to public infrastructure damaged by spring flooding

President Donald J. Trump signed a Presidential Disaster Declaration for five Idaho Counties and the Nez Perce Tribe for areas affected by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides from April 7 to April 13, 2019. The declaration came after Idaho Gov. Brad Little petitioned the White House for the official disaster status.

The Presidential Disaster Declaration makes federal funding available to State, Tribal, and eligible local governments, as well as certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides. Adams, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Valley counties, and the Nez Perce Tribe are included in the Presidential Declaration.

"The devastation caused by the late spring flooding in these areas was heartbreaking," Governor Brad Little said. "We are grateful President Trump recognized the breadth and scope of the damage, and that he will make federal funds available to begin repair work."

IOEM Director Brad Richy stated that "These counties have been hit hard the last few years with repeated flood disasters. IOEM looks forward to continuing to working with FEMA and the local jurisdictions to help them get back on the road to recovery from these events."

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard

Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Chair, Shannon Wheeler, Governor, Brad Little, Idaho County Commission Chair, Skip Brand, and IOEM director, Brad Richy, observe the road failure on Glenwood Road in Idaho County.





mitigation measures statewide, including tribal lands. Dolph A. Diemont has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Diemont said additional designations may be made at a later date if warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

“This money will be critical in helping to assist with infrastructure repairs,” said Jerry Zumalt, Idaho County Disaster Management Coordinator. “The damage caused by the flooding, and mudslides cannot be overstated – it affects everything from school bus safety, to families getting to work, to commercial traffic that relies on these roadways. We are appreciative of Governor Little and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management for their efforts to secure this federal aid.”



FEMA REGION 10 YOUTH PREPAREDNESS CAMP

Idaho sent 8 delegates to FEMA Region 10 for a Youth Preparedness Camp

In August FEMA Region 10 hosted 40 youth in grade 8-12 at a Youth Preparedness Camp in Washington. The Youth Preparedness Camp was built to bring together young leaders from across the region who were interested in cultivating and growing their skills in disaster preparedness.

The camp brought together youth and subject matter experts to teach the students how they learn to safely assist in the immediate aftermath of a disaster when a professional response might be delayed or limited. A larger component of the camp was to equip the students with the skills to develop and implement a preparedness project within their own communities. Idaho sent 8 delegates this summer. See what they have to say about the opportunity below!



"What I am looking forward to about the camp is that through my participation, I will be able to acquire new leadership skills that I can use to better my school and community. I am passionate about enabling others in times of need."
-Miles Butler



"After attending this camp I will be prepared to take action instead of being scared to do nothing to help my family and neighbors after a disaster. Maybe I can explore a career in emergency preparedness too."
-Peyton Anderson

"I am most looking forward to meeting new people and doing new things. I had some very interesting experiences with real life emergencies as a counselor at Scout camp, and I want to learn more about getting trained to handle emergencies"
-Samson McKinney



"I wanted to attend this camp to bring back what I learn to my community...I also think it's something that people don't really bring awareness to enough in a small community like mine."
-Ariana Sanchez



ENGAGING IDAHO'S YOUTH AND CREATING FUTURE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS

While students have been taking the summer off from school, several of Idaho's youth have begun honing their skills in disaster preparedness and resiliency. IOEM supported several different opportunities for Idaho Youth to increase their awareness and preparedness.



IOEM SPONSORS TEEN CERT TEAM TO TRAVEL TO ORLANDO

IOEM sponsored Idaho teens to compete as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) at HOSA-Future Health Professionals Nationals. One of the teams placed in the top 20 teams in the nation. Several of these students will also be participating in a Youth and Preparedness panel at the Annual Preparedness Conference on October 1st and 2nd.

HOMEDALE YOUTH PREPAREDNESS CAMP

In early June the Southwest Idaho Medical Reserve Corps and Southwest District Health hosted a five day disaster preparedness camp for 7th-9th graders. Training was provided on: disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, search and rescue, CERT organization, disaster psychology, water safety, communications, and the national incident command system.

There was a full scale disaster exercise where the students filled the roles of the first responders and used the skills that they learned to secure the scene, rescue, triage, and treat victims utilizing the ISC. The victims were volunteers from Homedale Middle and High School and were professionally moulaged with lifelike injuries.



UPCOMING ANNUAL PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

Join us in October for a preparedness conference hosted by IOEM

On October 1st and 2nd, IOEM will be hosting an annual preparedness conference at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. Attendees will include emergency management professionals, elected officials, and first responders from all across the state for this two-day event.

The conference will be covering a myriad of different topics, including Disaster 101, Cascadia 2022 preview, Training & Exercise, Youth Preparedness Council, School Safety and Security, and more. Honored guests and speakers are set to include Governor Brad Little, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, and FEMA Region 10 Director Mike O'Hare. Make sure to register for the conference before September 15th! Information on how to register can be found at <https://ioem.idaho.gov>.



IOEM ANNUAL PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Annual Preparedness Conference?

The APC is an education, outreach, and training event for Emergency Managers, County Commissioners and Tribal Council Members. Topics will include emergency preparedness, disaster recovery, mitigation activities, and more.

This conference will allow Idaho's Emergency Managers, County Commissioners and Tribal Council Members the opportunity to hear from local, state and national emergency management professionals, as well as engage with IOEM team members and their programs.

IOEM will sponsor one County and Tribal Emergency Manager, as well as, one County Commissioner and Tribal Council Member. Sponsorship will include travel, lodging and per diem reimbursement.

When and where can I register?

Registration is currently open, complete the registration form that can be found at www.ioem.idaho.gov and email it to IOEMConference2019@imd.idaho.gov

When is the registration deadline?

September 15th, 2019

Is this an open registration for all Emergency Managers or is this just for the Main Emergency Managers and one Commissioner?

Open registration; however, only the County and Tribal Emergency Managers/Coordinators and one County Commissioner or Tribal leader from each jurisdiction will be reimbursed for attendance. There will be a conference fee for others, this will cover the cost of meals to be provided.

We encourage participation from any other interested parties.

Is the conference schedule available?

A draft conference agenda will be posted soon.

For additional information on sponsorship or any other questions, please contact, Administrative Specialist, Hope Allen at hallen@contractor.imd.idaho.gov or (208) 258-6591.

FCO CORNER

Dolph Diemont is the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) for the Federal Disaster Declaration for DR-443 that affected Adams, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Valley counties for areas affected by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides from April 7 to April 13, 2019. IOEM is excited to work with Dolph, and had the opportunity to speak with him recently about the work that he is doing in Idaho.

How long have you been in your current position?

I've been working as a FEMA FCO since April of 2007 – so that's over 12 years now!

What is your favorite part of this position?

As FCO I have the honor of being appointed by the President of the United States and placed in charge of the entire Federal Team. I like the responsibility that comes with this position, but what gives me the most satisfaction is leading the team, and as a team, overcoming the many challenges that disasters present.

What initially interested you in it? What initially pulled you into Emergency Management?

Well, back in the 1980's, I was in the Navy and I took part in several Natural Disaster responses that occurred in the Pacific overseas, volcanoes in Philippines, flooding in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and typhoon responses. I became interested in Emergency Management, and in 1997 I applied for a position with Department of Transportation that deployed to the east coast every year during hurricane season. I did that for 10 years before applying for the FCO position with FEMA.

What is it that you are doing in Idaho right now?

We are working side by side with IOEM in a severe storm recovery operation in 5 Idaho Counties and the Nez Perce Tribe that took place back in April.

How often have you been to Idaho before in this role?

The State of Idaho has had 46 Federal Disasters declared since 1953 – these include fire, flooding, severe storms, earthquakes. I have been FCO for 4 of them. In 2011, 2015, 2016, and now 2019. I love getting to be in Idaho, everyone I

know enjoys working in Idaho - it is a gorgeous state – I love the rivers, mountains, canyons. The sunrises and sunsets are spectacular. I've had some great hiking experiences over the years.

What has been one of the most memorable disasters that you have been the FCO for?

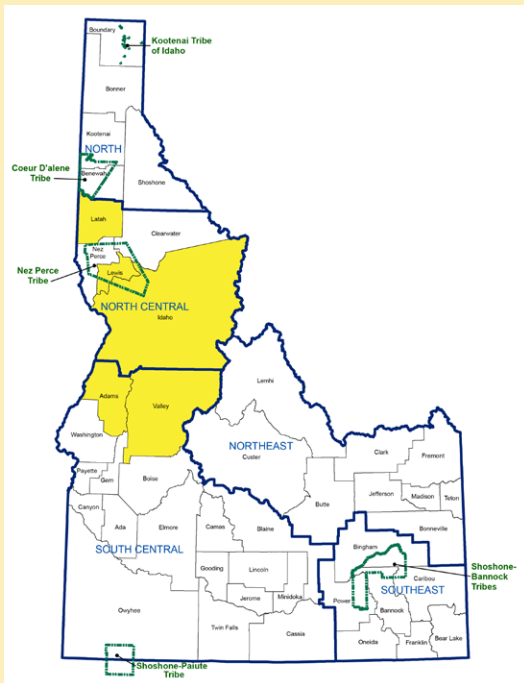
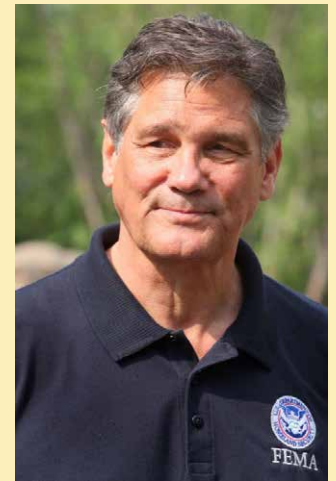
Well, last year I spent 10 months in Hawaii as FCO. It started with floods on Kawaii and Oahu, then Mount Kilauea erupted on the Big Island destroying over 800 homes, then Hurricane Lane which damaged the Big Island and Maui. So I led FEMA operations on three major disasters which impacted all of the Hawaiian islands. That was memorable.

What is it like to operate as an FCO?

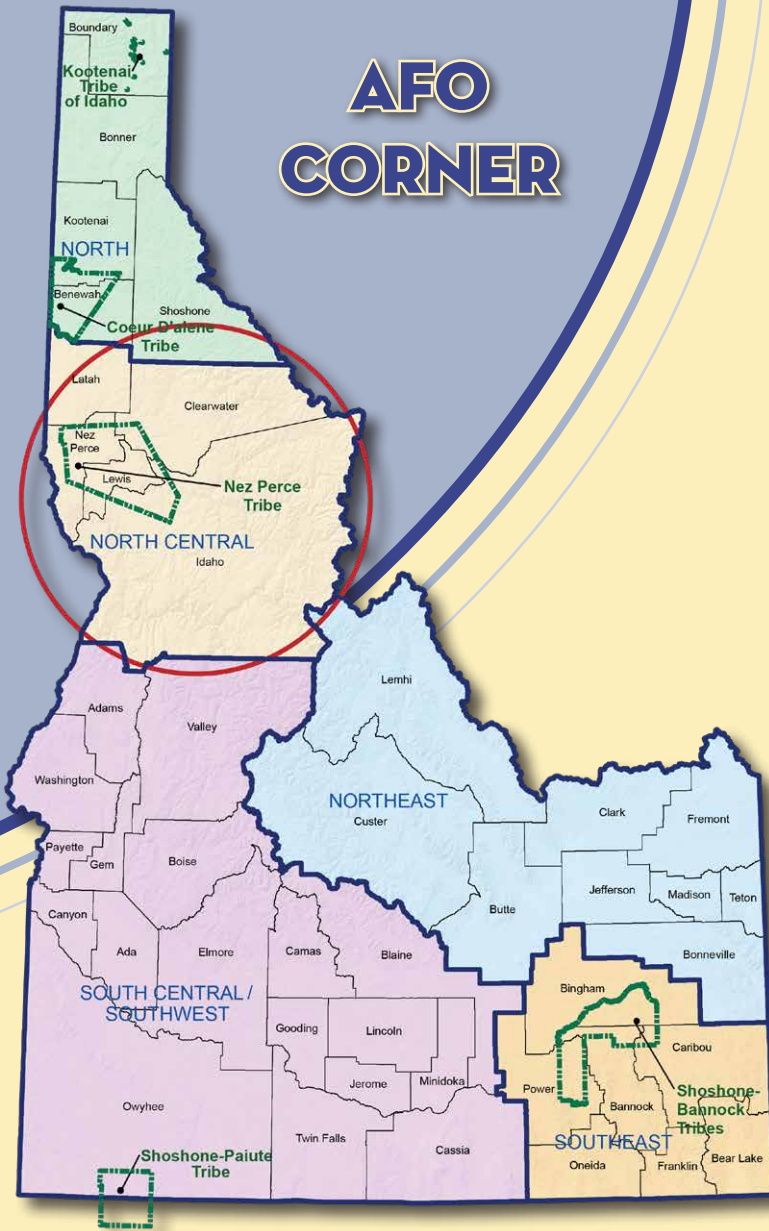
When you are appointed as FCO, you are the single person in charge. That is a huge responsibility. But being in charge and being a leader are not necessarily the same thing. Leadership is not about being in charge – its about taking care of those in your charge. I always strive to lead by living and promoting the FEMA Core Values - Compassion - Fairness - Integrity, and Respect.

What are some of the ways the FEMA is getting involved in Idaho right now?

We are meeting with the County Representatives and the Nez Perce Tribe to identify and quantify damages caused by the April storms. We will then formulate the Public Assistance Projects and provide FEMA grants to reimburse the applicants for their damage losses.



AFO CORNER



RECOVERY FROM APRIL FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES

The last edition of the IOEM newsletter was published soon after the flooding and landslides occurred in several counties in Idaho. Since that time, much activity has occurred at the local, tribal, state and federal levels to support the recovery from the event.

In any disaster, damage assessments are critically important to identify what services or infrastructure has been impacted, and to determine if additional assistance may be needed. Time is always of the essence with damage assessments, as each form of disaster assistance has deadlines that must be met. In this event it was known that there were damages to infrastructure owned by governmental entities, with much of the damage occurring on roads and bridges. It was also recognized that there was significant damage, primarily in Idaho County, to homes and private property.



Very soon after the water receded and the landslides were cleared, Idaho requested a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment from FEMA Region Ten, on behalf of Latah, Lewis, Idaho, Valley, and Adams Counties, as well as the Nez Perce Tribe. The purpose of the assessment was to quantify the impact from the disaster. This information is critically important in determining if Idaho and the affected jurisdictions would be eligible for a Presidential Declaration for Public Assistance. At the conclusion of the assessment it was determined that Idaho and the affected jurisdictions had all met the indicators that were required in order to make the request. A letter from Governor Little and a package with background information was submitted to FEMA, requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration. On June 12 President Trump approved that request.

Separately from the FEMA Public Assistance process, assessments were occurring to quantify the damage to homes and private property. FEMA Individual Assistance declarations, which provide federal aid to individuals and homeowners, are very rare in Idaho. The last declaration of that kind issued in Idaho was in 1997. In the absence of that type of declaration, assistance often falls to voluntary or faith based organizations who may have limited resources.

The Small Business Administration can make available a Physical Damage declaration, which provides low-interest loans to individuals and businesses who have been damaged by an event. To qualify for this type of assistance, a jurisdiction must demonstrate through a damage assessment that over 25 homes sustained major damage. In Idaho County, with a population

of 16,000, this can be a difficult task. Teams of assessors did document sufficient damage to qualify for the assistance and the SBA approved a disaster declaration for Idaho County, and the surrounding counties on August 1st. Shortly thereafter they opened a Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Kooskia where their staff are able to accept applications for the assistance.

At the current time, FEMA has established a Joint Field Office in Boise and an Area Field Office in Lewiston to coordinate the recovery. 21 entities have been identified as potential applicants for Public Assistance. This is the first federal declaration in Idaho since congress passed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act, which made some significant changes to how disasters are managed. Recovery takes time and patience, as well as a thorough understanding of the damages which have occurred. It also takes a team of individuals and organizations who have expertise in navigating the various disaster recovery programs. It takes a lot of communication between all who are involved. While these things are not always easy, those of us in emergency management must be prepared to explore each and every opportunity, so that no form of assistance is missed.

[Rob Feeley, North Central Area Field Officer](#)
[Idaho Office of Emergency Management](#)



IMT UPDATE

It has been awhile since there has been an update on the Incident Management Team (IMT) program from FEMA. The IMT program has been very successful, with interest from Idaho and other states far beyond initial expectations. Interests in the IMT program have been very high, with the volume of applications from Idaho and required background checks. These conditions were only exacerbated by the federal shutdown.

Recently, FEMA has decided to take a different approach. In the past, the vetting process has been done through the Department of Homeland Security, but now FEMA will be working with the US Forest Service to approve and activate team members.

FEMA will continue to work with IMT points of contact to identify what teams from states or regions are available for deployments. The state emergency management office will be the point of contact for FEMA to organize and deploy teams via ESF 4. It is expected that IMT applications will be activated for the upcoming hurricane season should the need arise.

In addition, FEMA is working to develop a more formal training curriculum for pilot teams to participate. Idaho has volunteered to be one of the pilot states and we look forward to continuing to work with FEMA on this program.

We appreciate your patience as this program has worked its way through some of the obstacles it has encountered. We will keep you informed as other information becomes available.

IRWA BREAKS GROUND FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING FACILITY

Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) broke ground on its almost 11,000 square foot Technical Training Center located in Boise, Idaho on August 8, 2019. This facility will be used to train incoming apprentices and help with emergency response hands-on education that will benefit small communities and rural areas all across Idaho. It will house both indoor and outdoor areas to accommodate classroom-style coursework and practical field training.

"After many years of hard work and determination by the IRWA staff and Board of Directors, the vision of providing superior training opportunities for professionals in the drinking water and wastewater industry can now become a reality," Shelley Roberts, IRWA CEO, stated as she thanked everyone who has been a part of this dream.

Those who have been most involved in this project participated in the ceremonious groundbreaking with shovels that includes: William (Brad) Richy, Director of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, Idaho Military Division; Layne R Bangerter, State Director of Idaho, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development; Shelley Roberts, CEO Idaho Rural Water Association; Robert Dial, Board President, Idaho Rural Water Association; Silvia Morrow, VP Branch Manager, D. L. Evans Bank Scott Henderson, Construction Manager, Pacific Source Construction; John Russ, Area Manager, Idaho Department of Labor; and Martin Hahle, AIA, President CSHQA.





The Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) is a nonprofit formed to provide training and technical assistance to water and wastewater facilities in Idaho with populations under 10,000. IRWA is working to ensure Idaho's rural communities are safe while still maintaining a high quality of life, even during a disaster or emergency.



IOEM EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Please join us in congratulating Karla Wassom as IOEM's employee of the quarter!

Karla has dedicated herself in the past 2 years to the Idaho Emergency Relief Fund, This fund was created by Idaho Legislature as a response to all the damages that occurred during the 2017 "Snowmagedden," which slammed Idaho with record snowfall and frigid temperatures.



In the last 2 years, Karla has singlehandedly processed over 500 applications and awards to our local communities and jurisdictions.

She has provided excellent customer service to those that were awarded ERF funds, answered question after question with a smile on her face, reviewed cost claims for reimbursement and processed over 225 reimbursements to date. Karla is much appreciated for all her hard work and dedication to this project.

CAPITAL FOR A DAY

IOEM Director, Brad Richy, attended the Capital for a Day program at Grangeville in late July. The Capital for a Day program focuses on bringing state government closer to Idaho communities by bringing members of the Governor's Cabinet to a rural town in a different Idaho county every month. Residents are able to address their issues directly with the Governor and his administration for an entire day.



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2019

Prepared, Not Scared is the theme for national preparedness month in 2019. National Preparedness month runs for the entirety of September 2019. Find out how you can be better prepared for any type of disaster by participating in National Preparedness Month by visiting Ready.Gov and following us @IdahoOEM for updates and tips.



PREPARED, NOT SCARED

National Preparedness Month 2019

Week 1: Sept 1-7

Save Early for Disaster Costs

Week 2: Sept 8-14

Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters

Week 3: Sept 15-21

Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters

Week 4: Sept 22-30

Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness

THE GREAT IDAHO SHAKEOUT

**Shake
Out.**
**Don't
Freak
Out.**

October 17, 2019

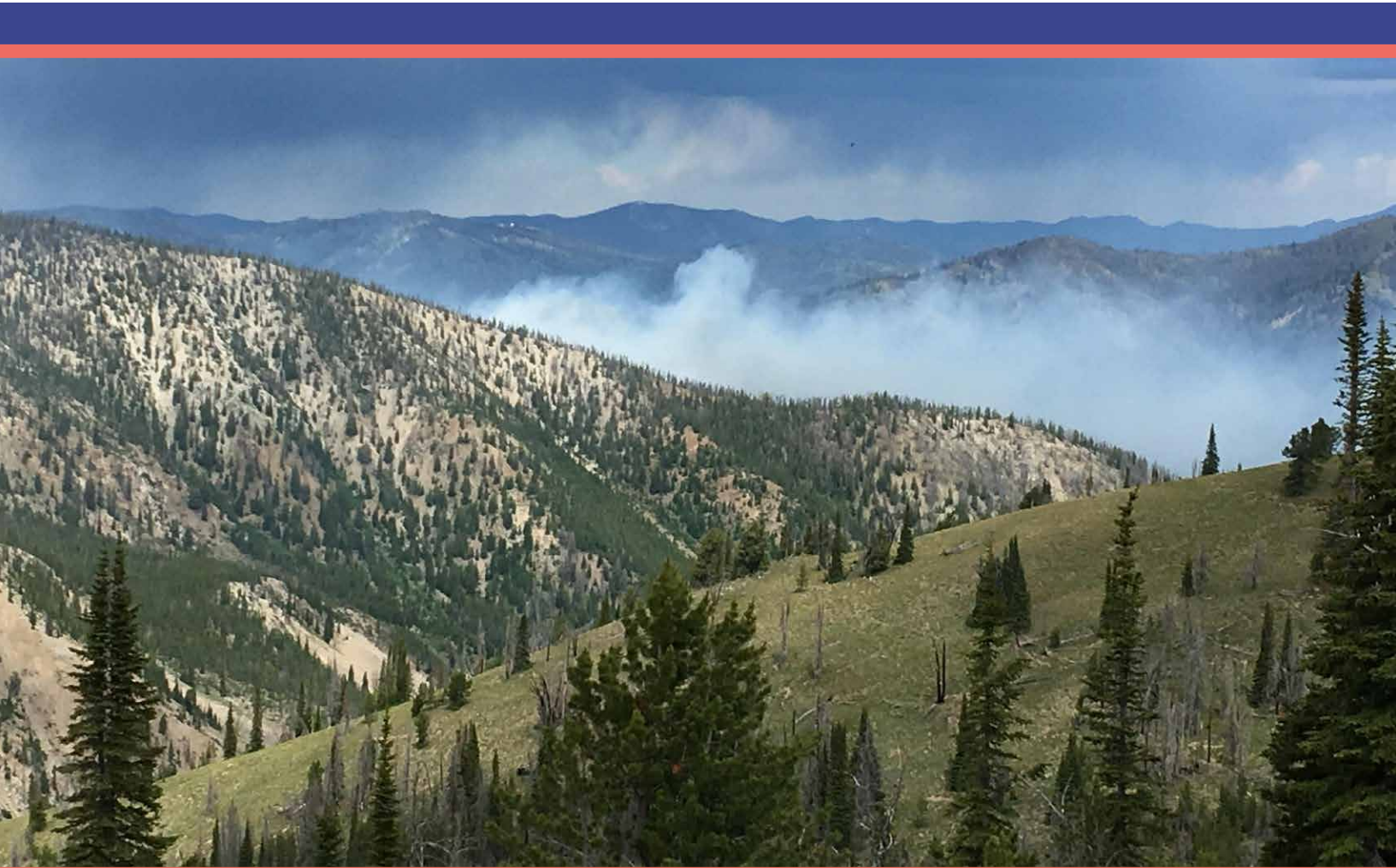
Shake
Out™

www.ShakeOut.org

Have you registered for the Great Idaho ShakeOut yet? Make sure to do so soon! On October 17th at 10:17 AM, millions of people worldwide will practice how to **Drop, Cover, and Hold On**. Idahoans can join them today by registering for the 2019 Great Idaho ShakeOut. Participating is a great way for your family or organization to be prepared to survive and recover quickly from big earthquakes—wherever you live, work, or travel. Make sure to send the photos of yourself, your family, organization, or workplace practicing to @IdahoOEM on October 17th! Register here <https://www.shakeout.org/idaho/register/>



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



The lightning caused Shady Fire was reported the evening of July 10. The fire is located approximately two (2) miles east of Seafoam Guard Station in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness on the Middle Fork Ranger District.

Photo Credit: Inciweb, 7/14/19