



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OEM: Weekly Watch Report

January 16-21, 2018

Message from the Director – Frank Kuchta, project portfolio manager for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management 9-1-1 program, thanks 9-1-1 partners and discusses working being done to improve 9-1-1 capabilities in Oregon after attending last week’s PSAP Planning for Success workshop.

Weather – You can view the current watches and warnings [here](#).

- [NWS Portland](#)
- [NWS Pendleton](#)
- [NWS Medford](#)
- [NWS Boise](#)

What Are We Reading?

Book recommendations by and for Oregon’s 9-1-1 and emergency management community

***The Control of Nature* by John McPhee (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1989) – submitted by Erik Rau/OEM.**

In learning about emergency management, case studies are a commonly used tool to teach specific points of process or action. In his 1989 book *The Control of Nature*, John McPhee takes three highly relevant case studies of humans responding to massive natural forces and tells a very detailed story of each. The first story is about a volcanic eruption in Heimaey, Iceland, that threatened to completely cover a fishing village and its harbor. Second, McPhee provides perhaps the definitive account of the complexities of flood control on the Mississippi River. Lastly, he describes the conditions leading to debris flows and landslides in the San Gabriel Mountains near Los Angeles, including the destructive event of 1968-69. Any of the three stories on its own is important for emergency managers: together they give an accurate picture of the complicated and challenging environment of natural hazard mitigation and response.

McPhee has won numerous writing awards including the Pulitzer Prize. He was one of the first to write in a way we now find common in nonfiction – story context, personal interviews, and a far-reaching scope that includes geology, economics, and social issues--to make these stories much more like hearing a story told than reading a textbook. His description of the strong personalities and quick responses in Iceland are as focused as an after-action review. When writing about the buzz of activity on the Mississippi, McPhee chooses clear descriptions of people and their individual choices, rather than simply listing obscure agencies and policies. He highlights the population, transportation, and water issues of Southern California to explain why no simple solution exists for preventing debris flows in the mountains.

While the book is more than twenty years old, McPhee's descriptions hold up very well--in most cases,

the challenges and issues have not changed. An advantage to an older title is that it is more readily available--in addition to paperback and hardcover at your local library or bookstore, *The Control of Nature* can be read in various electronic formats. Look it up--it might be one of the rare times you enjoy reading something about the business of emergency management.

Events –

- Disaster Behavioral Health Conference “Partnerships are Key” – Community College’s Threat Management Resources is partnering with many others to bring information from local and national experts on how to lead and move forward after disasters.
 - February 7-8, 2018 at the Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial St., SE, Salem
 - 16 Continuing Education Hours will be awarded
 - Registration \$495; Student Registration \$200. [Sign up here.](#)
- The Oregon Prepared Workshop 2018 workshop will be held the week of April 2, 2018, at Sunriver Resort. This year’s theme is “Bridging the Gap from Response to Recovery.” The workshop provides networking opportunities, training information and best practices for all phases of emergency management. [Registration](#) is limited to 500 attendees. The workshop is sponsored by Oregon Office of Emergency Management and the Oregon Health Authority.
 - There is no fee to attend; GSA rates are available to workshop attendees at Sunriver Resort for all reservations made prior to February 16.
 - To make your lodging reservations, contact Sunriver Resort directly at 855-420-8206, and mention you are attending the Oregon Emergency Preparedness Workshop.

In the News –

- [Tsunami resilience study at top of Gearhart’s planning goals](#)
- [Hawaiian missile alert blunder has Oregon official worried](#)
- [Amid political rhetoric and tensions, officials say they’re ready for disasters](#)
- [Lost Smith Rock hiker found safe](#)

Grants –

FY18 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant applications are due no later than 5 p.m., Friday, January 19, 2018. Application materials can be found on the OEM [website](#).

Training –

Several upcoming classes provide excellent opportunities to become current on emergency management training.

- G290-291 Basic Public Information Officer Training & JIS/JIC Planning for Tribal, State and Local PIOs – Feb 20-22, 2018, Cannon Beach, OR – Register at <http://bit.ly/2CHVVsm>
- Deschutes County Training Opportunities; contact Karen.layng@state.or.us for password info.
 - January 22-25, 2018: L0962 All-Hazards Planning Section Chief – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/l962-all-hazards-planning-section-chief-tickets-39334723216>
 - February 19-22, 2018: L0958 All-Hazards Operations Section Chief – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/l958-all-hazards-operations-section-chief-tickets-39335601844>
 - March 19-22, 2018: L0950 All-Hazards Incident Commander – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/l950-all-hazards-incident-commander-tickets-39336261818>

If you have questions regarding training or need to send in your FEMA 119 forms for a specific course, contact State Training Officer Karen Layng at karen.layng@state.or.us.

- Applications for training events at EMI must be submitted at least six weeks prior to the class.
- Check the [training calendar](#) for the most up-to-date list of training.
- Clackamas Community College offers an emergency management degree program and has a unique partnership with FEMA and several states around the country, which allows students to complete their degree primarily online and at their own pace.
www.clackamas.edu/academics/departments-programs/emergency-management

Exercises –

- On January 25, 2018, OEM will participate in the RDPO Operation Fueling Anxiety TTX.
- ODOE and OEM will participate in Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station full-scale exercise on March 27, 2018.

Planning –

- FEMA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their federal partners in the Mitigation Federal Leadership Group (MitFLG) Disaster Resilience Indicators Subcommittee released a "[Draft Interagency Concept for Community Resilience Indicators and National-Level Progress Measures](#)."
- The Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration updated the [Guidance and Standards](#) used for flood mapping and risk analysis efforts. There were five standards with significant updates, three new standards, six standards with minor terminology updates and five rescinded standards in this maintenance cycle.

9-1-1 Program –

Mark Tennyson, OEM Technology & Response Section Manager and State 9-1-1 Program Manager, has announced his plans to retire from state service. Mark's last day in the office will be April 30, 2018, and he will be officially retired on June 1, 2018.

Mark joined the Oregon Office of Emergency Management in May 2007 as a 9-1-1 Program Analyst and promoted to Technology and Response Section Manager in February 2011 where he has continued to serve the people of Oregon.

While at OEM and under his leadership, the state has seen many advancements in the 9-1-1 world, including the upgrade of the antiquated Frame Relay ALI Network to MPLS technology, the implementation of Text-to-9-1-1, and great strides towards the implementation of new and emerging technologies in support of the 9-1-1 system.

Professional accomplishments aside, Mark's kindness, thoughtful approach to service, his passion for his work and compassion towards those he worked with will all be missed here at OEM. Many thanks to Mark for his service to OEM, the Oregon Military Department, the state of Oregon and her residents, and the 9-1-1 community here and across the country.

Mitigation and Recovery —

- Project awards for DR 4258 and FMAGs are still in progress.
- State review of DR 4296 **will be completed by mid-January 2018**.
- DR 4328 application development has begun, and is not open statewide.

- FEMA Region 10 has begun their review of the submitted FMA and PDM 17 application packages that were submitted last month. Once the Region has completed their review, the applications will be forwarded to the National Review Team **in February**. Awards could be as early as Summer 2018, or as late as December 2018.

RAPTOR and OpsCenter –

We have been working on updates to the OpsCenter application to address existing links into the system that were not functioning properly. Stay tuned for a notification related to these updates to the system.

Search and Rescue –

OEM will host the two-day [Basic Inland SAR Course](#) (BISC) on 16-17 August 2018 in Salem at OEM's Emergency Coordination Center (ECC). This is a U.S. Coast Guard based course, taught in conjunction with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), Tyndall Air Force Base. Class information for enrolling along with prerequisite requirements will be provided in the near future. For more information on SAR training classes or general SAR information statewide, please contact Scott Lucas, state SAR coordinator: 971-283-6135 or scott.lucas@mil.state.or.us.

Now Hiring –

- Portland Community College is accepting applications for the [Emergency Management / Preparedness Manager](#) position
- Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District is hiring [9-1-1 Dispatchers \(Communications Specialists\)](#).

Preparedness Tip –

You are the help until help arrives! Life-threatening emergencies can happen fast and emergency responders aren't always nearby. You may be able to save a life by taking simple actions immediately:

<https://community.fema.gov/until-help-arrives#interactive>

Disaster of the Week –

January 19, 1917 - A munitions factory in Silvertown, London, was destroyed when a fire broke out in a melt-pot room and ignited 50 long tons (112,000 lbs.) of TNT. The [explosion](#) claimed 73 lives, injured an additional 400 people, and destroyed 900 nearby homes.

Lessons Learned: Originally Brunner Mond Imperial Chemicals Company, the factory produced soda crystals and caustic soda until 1912, when production of caustic soda halted and left a section of the factory inactive. Two years into World War I, facing a severe shell shortage, the government decided to use the inactive portion of the factory to purify TNT. Despite concerns from Brunner Mond management regarding the incredibly dangerous TNT purification process and the factory's location in a densely populated area, production began in 1915. The blast left thousands homeless, creating the need for temporary housing and schools. An investigation into the explosion found the factory's site unsuitable for the TNT production and its safety practices lacking. This report was not released until the 1950s. Unfortunately, the Silvertown explosion was not the last munitions factory tragedy of the Great War. In July of 1918, an [explosion](#) of eight tons of TNT at the National Shell Filling Factory near Chilwell killed 134 people and injured an additional 250.

ECC –

The State ECC is currently in Steady State (Normal operations). All requests for assistance should be made by contacting OERS at 1-800-452-0311.