



Idaho Office of **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

EMAC RESPONSE TEAM HEADS TO CALIFORNIA



Personnel from the Emmett Fire Department, Parma Fire Department, Sand Hollow Fire Department, and Weiser Rural Fire Department pose for a quick picture before departing for California. This group spent around 2 weeks aiding in response efforts from the devastating effects of the wildfires.

Greetings,

It's hard to believe this is the final 2019 IOEM newsletter. As I look at the last quarter, it's incredible to see once again how busy we are – and how quickly time passes.

In early October, for the first time in many years, IOEM held its Annual Preparedness Conference. We were pleased to have over 170 local county and tribal emergency managers, county commissioners, first responders, and other emergency management and response stakeholders gather to network with their peers, listen to the speakers, and participate in the discussions. Feedback from the attendees was very positive and we are already in the early planning phases of our 2020 event. One thing we will be sure to bring back is the Speed Networking session. Speed Networking had IOEM program managers moving from table to table in 7-minute increments having short conversations in a small group environment. By far, these particular sessions were the biggest hit of the conference. Having the Speed Networking sessions gave us the opportunity to start conversations with the professionals that we work side by side with across the state. We look forward to expanding this session next year.

In addition, in late October, Idaho had another opportunity to gather with emergency managers at the state level by hosting the National Emergency Management Association's (NEMA) Annual Forum in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. As the President of the organization, I was pleased to bring NEMA members from all across the country to Idaho. The Annual Forum was a huge success, having the largest attendance ever with nearly 500 attendees. Idaho showed off its incredible beauty by gracing the Forum guests with glimpses of all four seasons in the time they spent in Coeur d'Alene. It has been a great honor serving as the President of NEMA for the last year, and I look forward to continuing that service as the Immediate Past President and supporting Director Sima Merick of Ohio as she takes the reigns as President of the organization.

Finally, with the holiday season upon us and the end of the year fast approaching, I am reminded of the gratitude I have for the entire IOEM team. This organization is blessed with hard working, dedicated individuals that work every day to ensure Idaho and its citizens are prepared for whatever disasters might befall our state. We could not do this work without the partnerships that we have built with each of you. The relationships that we build throughout the year are the foundation for a prepared, and resilient state. I thank you for all your effort in 2019, and I am excited to share 2020 with each of you.

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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THE GREAT IDAHO SHAKEOUT

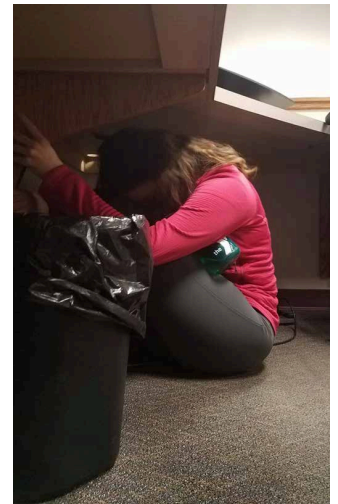
Over 80,000 Idahoans practiced how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On in the event of an Earthquake

Each year in October, Idahoans across the state participate in the Great Idaho ShakeOut. This year, the Great Idaho ShakeOut was a resounding success, with over 80,000 Idahoans participating including thousands of Idaho's students.

IOEM supported statewide participation by creating public resources that will serve to educate and help Idaho citizens in the years to come. This fall, IOEM produced two new videos aimed at educating Idaho citizens on the importance of the Great Idaho ShakeOut. The videos included a countdown to the ShakeOut and a focus on drilling for earthquakes in Idaho schools.

Earthquakes strike suddenly, without warning and can occur at any time of the year, day or night. With Idaho being the 6th most seismically active state in the USA, cultivating a consistent practice is critical to ensuring a culture of preparedness. Students that participated this year 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>.

We are already looking forward to the Great Idaho ShakeOut drill for 2020, See you then!



MAJIA REED OF IOEM GRADUATES FROM FEMA'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVANCED ACADEMY

Maija Reed, an Emergency Planner for IOEM, graduated from FEMA's National Emergency Management Advanced Academy (formerly the Leaders Academy) at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD.

Reed completed the four resident courses with three short distance learning sessions in the Advanced Academy including: A Survey of Advanced Concepts in Emergency Management, Assessment and Application of Professional Style in Emergency Management, Advanced Concepts and Issues in the Emergency Management Organization and Advanced Concepts and Issues in the Emergency Management Community and Profession.



FEMA's National Emergency Management Advanced Academy reinforces the qualities needed to lead emergency management programs, provides relevant management theories and concepts, and utilizes appropriate case studies. By working within their series, Advanced Academy participants work within a collaborative environment on projects and establish a network of peers. The Academy is designed for emerging leaders and mid-level managers wanting to advance their skillset. Students learn skills critical to performing leadership responsibilities such as program management and oversight, effective communication at all levels, integrated collaboration, and strategic thinking. The Advanced Academy provides students the opportunity to demonstrate their critical thinking ability through a guided research project. Students apply the key learning concepts from the Advanced Academy curriculum relative to their own skillsets and abilities within their organizations, and their own performance environments.

FEMA's Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP) curriculum is designed to provide a lifetime of learning for emergency managers and includes three separate, but closely threaded, training programs including the National Emergency Management Basic Academy; a specialized and technical training program to develop specific, fundamental skill sets; the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy; and the National Emergency Management Executive Academy; a program designed to challenge and enhance the talents of the nation's emergency management senior executives through critical thinking, visionary strategic planning, challenging conventional concepts, and negotiation and conflict resolution applied to complex real-world problems.

Maija Reed completed her training this past quarter, and we are so proud of her!

For more information on FEMA's training classes through the Basic, Advanced, and Executive Academies, or other emergency management courses, go to: <http://training.fema.gov/empp/>.



TO EXERCISE COOP CAPABILITIES, IOEM TEAM TRAVELED TO WILDER, IDAHO



In early September, IOEM staff participated in a no-notice exercise, conducted by FEMA Region 10 to test their Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). COOP is an effort within individual agencies to ensure they can continue to perform Mission Essential Functions during a disruption of normal operations. COOP helps agencies recognize and plan for unexpected circumstances that may require such actions as delegation of authority, alternate work locations, and protection of assets and recovery.

The COOP document covers the actions that are to be taken in a wide variety of circumstances. The situation enacted in this exercise focused on having access to a place to work if something were to happen that would make the typical Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at Gowen Field inaccessible for any reason. Following an exercise-sanctioned notification from AlertSense, the IOEM employee notification system, employees headed out to the back-up EOC that is located in Wilder, Idaho. There was no local or state emergency in conjunction with this challenge, as this allowed the team to focus on aspects of the COOP exercise, particularly task prioritization and day-to-day functionality.



Exercises are critical to both testing plans and preparing individuals to take action. The nature of this exercise simulated the lack of notice that would be faced in the event of a real emergency and challenged the strength of the current tenets of the COOP. IOEM updates the COOP biennially and uses the feedback and results from such exercises in the revision of the plan.

Several templates and informational resources on building your own COOP can be found at www.ioem.idaho.gov/preparedness-and-protection/plans/coop



AFO CORNER

BRINGING ASSISTANCE TO A JURISDICTION: HOW AFO'S CAN HELP

Most counties and Tribes in Idaho employ one emergency manager, with many working a part-time or split schedule. When an emergency or disaster event occurs, the emergency managers can be overwhelmed with managing the requested needs of first responders, developing disaster declaration paperwork, and keeping commissioners and the state informed of event progression. This is when the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) Area Field Officer (AFO) can be a valuable resource. AFOs are a phone call, text, or email away and can often physically be in a jurisdiction within one to four hours. There are six AFOs that work regionally within the state.

Communication between local jurisdictions and IOEM Headquarters during a disaster is funneled through the online tool [WebEOC](#), a web-based Emergency Operations Center. Before, during, and after a disaster or event, AFOs spend a lot of time coaching local jurisdictions on the use of this tool to communicate daily operations, disaster operations, and disaster needs. WebEOC allows disaster information to be quickly communicated statewide to a large number of people. When local jurisdictions request the assistance of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management during an event, the AFO has the ability to respond in-person and

brings all the tools to work remotely and communicate back to the IOEM Boise Office.

AFOs can also assist local jurisdictions during "blue-sky" days. They provide subject matter expertise in grant management, understanding emergency management fundamentals, and act as a conduit for sharing information from IOEM out to local jurisdictions. When new grant management concepts are introduced, AFOs provide the first level of interpretation and training to local emergency managers. AFOs work to be the conduit for jurisdictions to interact with IOEM Program Managers who can help with ideas on community emergency preparedness, updating Emergency Operation Plans (EOP), updating Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP), accessing trainings specific to emergency management, and assisting with other programs.

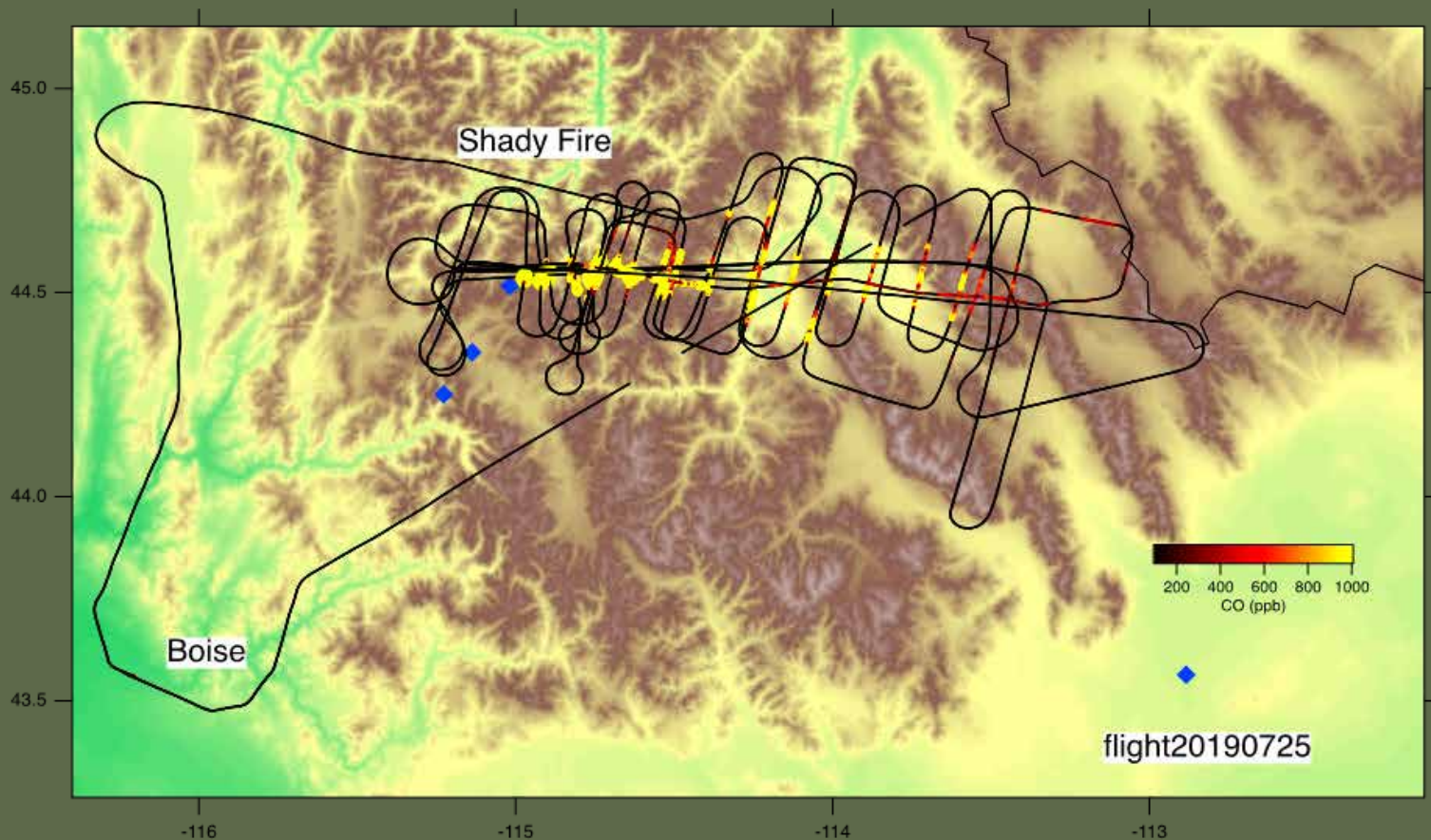


Heidi Novich,
AFO - South Central/Southwest Region

NASA FLYING LABORATORY AT GOWEN FIELD

The NASA DC-8 flying laboratory arrived at Gowen Field in Boise on July 22nd along with a contingent of scientists and crew to study the impacts and chemistry of wildfire smoke. The interagency study led by scientists from NASA and NOAA is called Fire Influence on Regional to Global Environments and Air Quality (FIREX-AQ). Over the first two weeks of the study, flights have targeted eight fires across the Pacific Northwest. Fires specific to Idaho include the Sheep, Shady, Lick Creek, and Mica Creek fires. Along with the DC-8, FIREX-AQ includes two NOAA Twin Otter aircraft, the NASA ER-2 aircraft, three mobile laboratories, and temporary ground sites to observe smoke across the region. By methodically sampling smoke from fires across a range of conditions and ecosystems, the study will improve understanding of the contents of wildfire emissions, the chemical evolution of wildfire smoke, and downwind impacts on health and air quality. This will contribute to improvements in forecasting local impacts of smoke from wildfires and simulation of the integrated impact of fires on the global atmosphere.

The DC-8 will depart from Boise and transition to Salina, Kansas to finish the study by evaluating small fires associated with agricultural and managed lands across the eastern US. Special thanks goes to the Idaho National Guard for hosting the FIREX-AQ team and providing excellent support and access to the facilities at Gowen Field. The image below highlights the DC-8 flight on July 25th over the Shady Fire located northeast of Boise. The colorscale along the flight track indicates the concentration of carbon monoxide as the aircraft sampled downwind of the fire with successive crossings of the smoke plume as it traveled eastward.



EMAC DEPLOYMENT HEADS TO CALIFORNIA TO HELP WITH RECOVERY EFFORT

17 personnel from Idaho fire departments were deployed in response to the California Wildfires

Personnel from Emmett Fire Department, Parma Fire Department, Sand Hollow Fire Department, and Weiser Rural Fire Department, including 5 engines and 17 personnel, were deployed in late October to California. Governor Brad Little approved an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) agreement after the state had been afflicted with severe damage from the wildfires.

"Idaho has an amazing depth of emergency management professionals that are willing to step up and help our fellow Americans during their times of need," Governor Little said. "Their skills and expertise were an asset as we worked with Californians in the disaster response."

The deployment of state, county, and municipal government employees from Idaho is made possible through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a mutual aid agreement between states, created to provide assistance in the event of a disaster. More information is available at <https://www.emacweb.org/>

"Participation in the EMAC is vital to retaining a strong network of emergency management professionals and resources across the nation," Idaho Office of Emergency Management Director Brad Richy said. "Idaho has helped with many calls for EMAC support in the past and we are proud to continue to do so in the future."

The deployment for the teams is expected to last 17 days. Under the EMAC mutual aid agreement, Idaho personnel are paid for their time and service by the requesting state.



EMAC[®]
Emergency Management Assistance Compact

IDAHO DEVELOPS PROGRAM THAT CLOSES THE GAP BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS

Merging cyber response with emergency management

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR – Diego Curt, State of Idaho Office Information Technology Services

Our nation's critical infrastructure is more than just the power grid. There are sixteen (16) critical infrastructure sectors which includes the defense and healthcare sectors, critical manufacturing and food production, water, and transportation. Over the last several years, cyber threats to the critical infrastructure have been on the rise and the trend isn't changing. Preparing for these threats, the State of Idaho is developing a disruption response program that bridges the gap between Information Technology (IT) personnel (virtual world) and emergency management personnel (physical world).

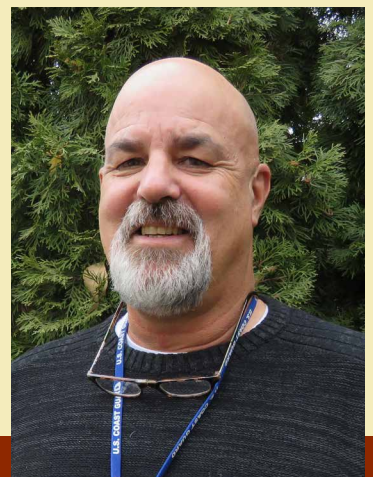
One of the key challenges in bridging the two disciplines is that cybersecurity threats continue to evolve and the emergency management community is faced with a growing dilemma in addressing the cybersecurity threat; the disconnect between IT personnel who are responsible for maintaining IT, critical infrastructure, and those responsible to address physical threats that can also impact IT and critical infrastructure--emergency management personnel.

The State of Idaho is addressing this challenge by bridging the two worlds through a program that has three foundational components:

- 1. One governance framework:** A governance framework that is based on best practices that promotes continuous improvement, alignment, and collaboration.
- 2. One language or taxonomy:** A language that defines a set of metrics and provides a common language for describing cyber incidents in a structured and repeatable manner for effective communication and information sharing.
- 3. One application:** An application that is a web-based solution providing 24 hour access to both disciplines that is capable of providing real-time communication for effective and efficient decision-making.

With Idaho's new program (expected to rollout phase one starting January 1, 2020 with the State Agencies), emergency management personnel will be able to collaborate with IT personnel before, during, and after a virtual and/or physical attack occurs. The program will offer many benefits including fostering a learning environment where one discipline learns from the other and vice versa. This aspect of knowledge sharing and transfer will accelerate the maturity of the program by bridging the gap between IT's technical knowledge and emergency management's operational, coordination, and communications knowledge.

Our vision from the beginning has been to unite all of Idaho in this area. We have incredibly talented personnel on both sides of the fence. However, we haven't been able to link them effectively together--until now. In the past, incident handling was divided. IT would manage the cyber response such as taking a system off the network, investigating a compromise, forensics, remediating malware, etc. and emergency management personnel would manage the physical response such as establishing a unified area of command and providing on-scene incident management from a physical disaster. This program is just the first step towards uniting the two worlds. The continuous improvement and collaboration efforts stemming from this program is going to be incredible for Idaho.



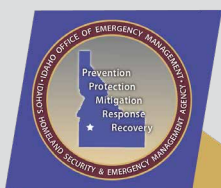
IOEM HOSTS ANNUAL PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

Emergency management professionals and stakeholders gather at the IOEM Annual Preparedness Conference

In early October, for the first time in many years, IOEM brought back its Annual Preparedness Conference. The reemergence of the event was based on the results of last year's IOEM stakeholders survey that requested we bring the conference back to life.

Held in Boise over two days, the conference brought together local emergency managers, federal partners, tribal leaders, county commissioners, and numerous other stakeholders across Idaho to discuss the latest in emergency management. Participants had the opportunity to hear from numerous speakers including a welcome from Idaho Governor Brad Little, local

county commissioners, local, state and federal emergency management professionals and Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri. Sheriff Gualtieri has recently served as the Chairman of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission. Gualtieri's presentation stood out as a particularly memorable event, reviewing the findings of the commission to the school shooting in Parkland Florida.



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

*Keeping Idaho Communities
Prepared and Resilient*

2019

Since IOEM has not held the conference in many years, we used time on the agenda every day to re-introduce ourselves to our stakeholders through what we called Speed Networking. Speed Networking had Program Managers move from table to table every seven minutes to give a short presentation to attendees. This allowed our Program Managers to discuss new initiatives and remind participants of the many programs and services that IOEM offers. The Speed Networking sessions were the most highly rated

sessions of the conference with numerous requests to expand on these sessions at our next event. IOEM staff really enjoyed the opportunity to visit with small groups and re-establish and enhance our relationships with our stakeholders.





Another great session included Idaho's youth. IOEM has been working to expand its reach to the youth in our community and engage them in community preparedness. Some of Idaho's youth leaders in emergency management joined us for a session to discuss what they are doing to engage their peers, their families and their communities in emergency preparedness.

A post-conference survey showed overwhelmingly positive responses from the attendees, including lots of ideas for next year. IOEM intends to make this an annual event, reconvening in 2020. Information regarding registration and future updates can all be found on the IOEM website.



Governor Little delivers a keynote address during the Annual Preparedness Conference, highlighting the importance of strong emergency management in the state of Idaho.





Director of IOEM, Brad Richy delivers opening remarks and welcome to all of the attendees of the Annual Preparedness Conference. This conference allowed 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.



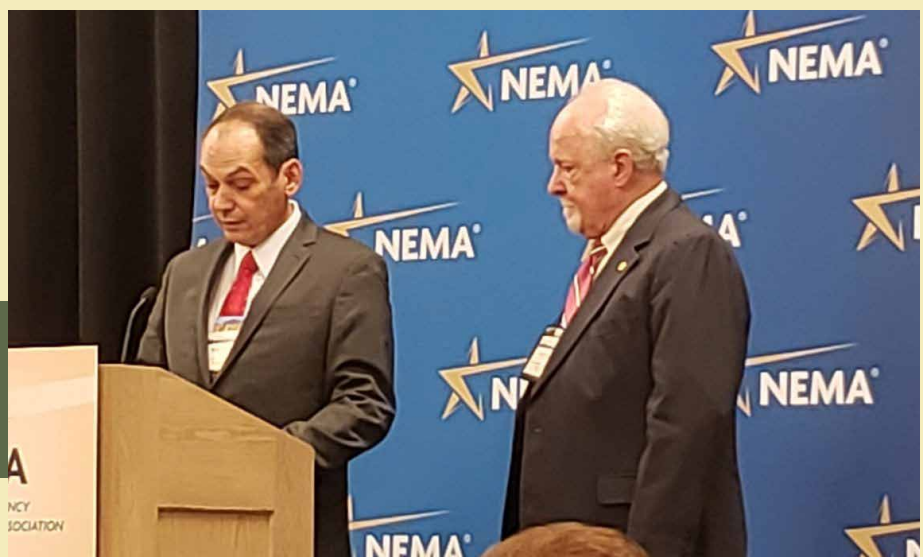
IDAHO HOSTS THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN NORTH IDAHO

In late October, nearly 500 emergency management professionals from around the country descended on Coeur d' Alene, Idaho to attend the National Emergency Management Association's (NEMA) Annual Forum. As the President of the organization for 2019, Director Brad Richy and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management had the pleasure of hosting the event for four days of professional development, discussions with national leaders, and to conduct the business of the association.

The conference was opened by Idaho's own State Senator Carl Crabtree who discussed the importance of preparedness and resiliency, especially within small communities. Notable speakers included FEMA Acting Administrator Peter Gaynor, Ken Buell – Director of Emergency Response and Recovery for the U.S. Department of Energy and Mark Harvey – Senior Director for the Resilience Policy for the National Security Council.

Attendees spent the forum discussing important topics such as agricultural disasters, public private partnerships, supply chain flow during a disaster, earthquake resilience and much more. In addition, NEMA Committees presented their work of the past year, reviewing best practices, suggested initiatives and lessons learned.

NEMA members ended the conference by selecting new board members, including the election of Director Sima Merick of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency as the organizations next President. Said Director Richy – who will continue on the NEMA Board as the Immediate Past President – "It has been a true honor serving as the President of NEMA for the last year. NEMA members and staff are some of the most dedicated, hardworking individuals I know. The opportunity to bring the best and the brightest of emergency management to Idaho was invaluable and the beauty of Coeur d' Alene did not disappoint. It was a great week of learning and networking with peers from across the country."



CONGRATULATIONS TO WAYNE HARRIS - IOEM'S EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER!

IOEM's Logistics Program Manager, Wayne Harris, wears many hats at IOEM and is the go-to guy for managing IOEM's facilities, fleet vehicles, and local equipment acquisitions purchased with federal grant funding. In addition, Wayne manages our Hazmat Cost Recovery program, ensuring the Idaho Special Team Responders recover response cost from responsible entities. As logistics manager he makes sound decisions, being prepared as possible to sometimes make key decisions under what sometimes is a stressful environment.

When the IOEM Emergency Operations Center is activated for a disaster, Wayne serves as the Logistics Section Chief and does so with great humor and personality. However, the most rewarding part of Wayne's job may be his role as IOEM's Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Coordinator.



EMAC is an agreement between all states that allows for the sharing of resources during a disaster. As you might imagine, disasters rarely happen from nine to five, yet Wayne is always ready to step in at a moment's notice to help facilitate a request for help. Most recently, Wayne spent the better part of his weekend, including late into the night, working with over 20 jurisdictions to respond to a request from California for help with wildfires. Within hours of the request for assistance, Wayne had coordinated several fire teams and equipment to deploy to California. EMAC coordination and response is one of the most important functions that IOEM performs. It is always rewarding when Idaho's emergency management professionals answer the call for help when other states are suffering. Wayne has done an admirable job managing this program and we appreciate his dedication.

Congratulations Wayne!



BE READY FOR THE ROAD

Our cars don't always work perfectly. Make sure you're ready to deal with being stranded during winter weather.

 **FEMA**

[fema.gov/safetravels](https://www.fema.gov/safetravels) **#SafeTravels**

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CHRIS VOLMER IS THE NEW COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR

IOEM welcomes Chris Volmer as the Community Preparedness Coordinator and Voluntary Agency Liaison. Before joining IOEM as the Community Preparedness Coordinator and Voluntary Agency Liaison, Chris served as the Western Idaho Disaster Program Manager for the American Red Cross of Greater Idaho. During his time with the Red Cross, he was appointed to several leadership roles on both local and national level disaster response operations. His most notable disaster responses include serving in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria, and leading the immediate response operation during the 2018 Camp Fire in California.

Prior to his work in the non-profit sector, Chris spent 15 years in the United States Army as both an Active and Reserve Soldier and was assigned to a variety of stateside and overseas locations. Chris continues to serve as a member of the Army Reserve's International Combat Marksmanship Team and has competed against allied forces around the world.

He and his wife Kate met while studying at Boise State University and both love to call Idaho home. The couple enjoys spending free time with their dog Ruger, and seize every opportunity to adventure throughout the Pacific Northwest.



NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER AT IOEM

Janice Witherspoon officially joined the IOEM team this October as the new Public Information Officer. Janice has been with IOEM since August 2017 when she got started as a Social Media Intern.



Janice graduated in May with a degree in Political Science and Communication from Boise State. She was also recognized as a Top Ten Scholar, the highest academic honor granted to a Boise State University undergraduate. She previously worked alongside Elizabeth Duncan, the former Public Information Officer, to help create and execute the public information campaigns at IOEM for the past 2 years.

Janice is planning to attend law school in the Fall of 2020 and is currently in the midst of the application cycle. She has a strong history in presentation and persuasion through her 8 year tenure as a member of the speech and debate community and most recent role as President of the 5-Time national championship team the Talkin' Broncos. In her free time, Janice enjoys dragracing at Firebird Raceway and competed this summer in a comedian competition that earned her the title as "Boise's Funniest Person".



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The aftermath of a fire in between Stanley and Lowman transitions into rejuvenation.
Photo taken by Dori Topholm

Do you have a picture or story that you want featured in the Idaho Office of Emergency Management Newsletter?
Send an email to jwitherspoon@imd.idaho.gov and you just might get featured in the next newsletter!