



OREGON

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State fire marshal recognizes Oregon hazmat response team members

In February, members of Oregon's regional hazmat response teams, along with representatives from partner organizations such as local emergency planning committees, the FBI, local law enforcement, Oregon's civil support team and other agencies attended the fourth biennial Oregon Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference in central Oregon.

"Managing Chaos through Competence" was the theme of this year's conference in which more than 150 attendees participated in training and networking in a forum designed to enhance the collaboration between team members and response partners.

Courses included hands-on training on railroad and radiation responses to classroom instruction on hazmat tactics and hazmat identification.

The conference also provided the opportunity for team members to receive special recognition for the following awards:

- **Call of the Year** to HM3 Gresham/Multnomah County and HM7 Portland for their response to a nitrogen dioxide incident in May 2011.
- **Behind the Scenes** to Jerry Hochderffer of HM13 Salem for his behind the scenes contributions to the success of a team or the regional hazmat emergency response teams program.
- **So Others Will Succeed** to Mark Truax of HM11 Astoria for his tireless work helping hazmat teams succeed.
- **OSFM Appreciation Award** to Bill Henle for his career as team representative for HM7 Portland during the '90s and his work training hazmat teams and technicians for the past decade.

“We cannot overstate our appreciation for the service and dedication of all of our hazmat team members,” said State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace. “Their commitment and rapid response when needed serves an important role in keeping citizens safe from hazardous materials incidents, wherever and whenever they occur.”

“Those recognized teams and individuals illustrate the dedication of all our team members at every level,” said OSFM Emergency Response Manager Mariana Ruiz-Temple. “From saluting long term members to showing thanks to newer team members willing to take on leadership roles, the state hazmat incident response program continues to focus on succession and maintaining the highest level of success.”

Award recipients were nominated by their peers and selected by committees.

Regional HazMat Emergency Response Teams protect life and the environment by responding to chemical emergencies and minimizing the dangers associated with them. There are 13 teams strategically located statewide to provide response to hazardous materials incidents. The teams consist primarily of volunteer and career firefighters, with some law enforcement and public works employees. Team members attend a minimum of 160 hours of specialized training to become hazardous material technicians.

Visit the OSFM website for [more information on Oregon’s Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams program](#).

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