



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

June 14, 2016

To all Cascadia Rising participants,

I want to thank you all for your impressive work last week during our Cascadia Rising exercise, and all of your efforts over the past two years preparing for this important activity. Whether you were part of the exercise design, control, or evaluator team, a player, or conducted your own exercise activity outside of the state ECC, each of you contributed to the tremendous success of this test of our capabilities.

I could not be more proud of OEM's performance, and that of our partners, last week. Our ability to run the state's ECC, take all of the challenges and hiccups in stride, creatively solve problems and overcome obstacles as they were presented was impressive and I don't believe that emergency management agencies elsewhere in the country could have done it better. The feedback that I received from our local, tribal, state and federal partners throughout the exercise, including the Governor's Office, validates that belief.

While the after-action review will be conducted over the coming months, your willingness to test the scenario that was given, make decisions based on our plans and what was presented (as opposed to creating artificialities to make our decisions easy), take on roles you'd never filled before, and test processes that were new to our structure allowed us to learn more than I think any of us anticipated.

I am honored to work with you all as we plan our state's response to the worst disaster facing our country. There are larger, better-resourced agencies out there, but none that I would trust with the task we are facing more than all of you.

Again, thank you for all of your work last week and in the months leading up to Cascadia Rising. I'm really proud of you all.

Best regards,

Andrew Phelps
Director
Oregon Office of Emergency Management