EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 16-07

GOVERNOR’S DISASTER MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Events of the past decade have proven that successful emergency response and recovery actions are the result of a proactive state posture. The destruction left behind by natural or human-caused disasters creates ongoing hardships and economic challenges for the whole community. While the federal government is an invaluable partner in resolving crises, local cities, counties, tribes and the State of Oregon bears initial responsibility for saving lives and protecting property and the environment.

Accordingly, this Executive Order establishes a Disaster Management Framework to facilitate Oregon’s response and recovery actions and provides a flexible instrument for making recommendations to the Governor for the provision of policy direction and coordination of response resources and recovery efforts. This Disaster Management Framework outlines a proactive approach that serves people before process.

Existing law, Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 401, grants the Governor broad authority to protect the public by declaring a State of Emergency for the state or for a portion of the state. These powers enable the Governor to respond to all emergencies, regardless of cause. Pursuant to the Disaster Management Framework outlined in this Executive Order, in the event an emergency has occurred or is imminent, the Governor may choose to activate statewide response and recovery functions including the launch of the Governor’s Disaster Cabinet and Economic Recovery Council. Upon a declaration of emergency, the Governor may designate Economic Recovery Zones and associated Economic Recovery Councils to focus recovery efforts in areas requiring extraordinary assistance.

In the event the Governor is not available immediately following an emergency, the emergency powers bestowed to the Governor as described in OAR 401.165 are delegated to the Secretary of State, then to the State Treasurer, including the activation of the Governor’s Disaster Management Framework.

The Disaster Management Framework is a necessary tool to respond to the exigencies of large scale incidents. Reactive strategies are not sufficient. Under current protocols, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may not
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reimburse state and local governments for expenditures for legitimate, tailored response and recovery actions. The Disaster Management Framework will enable state agencies to make key investments in our response and recovery system, execute sound emergency policies, and ensure an effective and efficient response and recovery program during significant emergencies.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Governor’s Disaster Cabinet (GDC) is hereby established and may provide recommendations to the Governor regarding statewide priorities, allocation of limited state emergency resources, and use of monies and appropriations of funds as described in OAR 401.168 (3) to help Oregon effectively respond to and recover from disasters. While immediate state response to emergencies will proceed under the coordination of the Oregon Military Department, Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Governor may activate the GDC at any time during the response to an emergency.

   a. The GDC shall be directed by the Director of Department of Administrative Services or other Governor designee and membership will be comprised of agency heads or their designee from agencies identified in ORS 401.054, supplemented by other agency representatives as needed depending on the situation. The Office of the Secretary of State and the State Treasurer may appoint a staff member to reside on the Governor’s Disaster Cabinet to ensure continuity.

   b. Once activated, the GDC, shall provide overall leadership and policy direction to the State Emergency Coordination Center in coordinating emergency response and recovery efforts. The GDC shall meet as needed, and receive regular briefings from OEM on situational status and ongoing areas of concern.

   c. The GDC shall coordinate with legislative leadership as needed to assess risk factors and facilitate solutions to ensure effective
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response and recovery capabilities and mitigate economic losses throughout Oregon.

d. The GDC shall remain activated until the Governor is satisfied the crisis has passed.

2. Upon finding that circumstances require extraordinary levels of assistance for emergency recovery, the Governor may establish an Economic Recovery Council (ERC) to advise and make recommendations on identifying needs by geographic zones and economic priorities.

   a. The ERC will mirror the collaborative framework used on a day-to-day basis by Oregon’s Regional Solutions and Business Oregon, and serve as the state’s primary mechanism to address economic recovery priorities and promote and sustain healthy communities as described in the State’s Recovery Plan for State Recovery Function (SRF) 2 – Economic Recovery.

   b. If the impacts are significant and widespread, the ERC may establish separate Councils for each Economic Recovery Region, comprised of private, public and local government representatives.

   c. The ERC shall be directed by the Governor’s Regional Solutions Director or other Governor designee and shall exist until the Governor is satisfied that state has recovered from the emergency.

3. Designated agency participants shall gather periodically at the Governor’s request to conduct pre-event emergency planning, training, and to participate in exercises. Prior to the declaration of an emergency, response and recovery agencies shall work with OEM and DAS to establish effective measures to limit loss of life and property in the event of an emergency. Proactive planning for response and recovery efforts is necessary to clarify agency responsibilities and enhance essential agency functions.

4. This order rescinds and supersedes Executive Order 08-20.
5. In the event of a conflict between any provision of state or federal law and this Executive Order, state or federal law will prevail and the remaining terms of this Executive Order shall remain in force and effect.

6. This Executive Order shall remain in effect until it is otherwise modified, amended or terminated.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 21st day of March, 2016.

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Jeanne P. Atkins
SECRETARY OF STATE