

2025



YEAR IN
REVIEW



• From the Director



Erin McMahon
OEM Director

This past year tested Oregon in profound ways—from severe flooding and another challenging wildfire season to the continued evolution of our alerting systems and uncertainty around federal funding. Through every challenge, Oregon's strength was clear: collaboration. Emergency managers, tribal partners, first responders, state agencies, nonprofits, and community leaders worked together to strengthen readiness and response statewide.

Together, we made meaningful progress by strengthening alert and warning coordination, expanding preparedness resources, and improving the systems and partnerships that keep Oregonians safe.

At OEM, we continued to grow and professionalize the department—formalizing coordination, updating plans, and strengthening governance across our mission. Our team also supported partners nationwide through disaster deployments, reflecting Oregon's commitment to helping others in times of need.

As we move into 2026, our path forward is clear. Through collaboration, innovation, and dedication, OEM will continue to build stronger relationships, enhance our capabilities, and advance a more resilient Oregon for all.



2025

At a Glance



"OEM's strength lies in coordination—bringing the right partners together at the right time."

READY, RESILIENT OREGON

OEM supported communities through overlapping disasters while advancing major system improvements and strengthening statewide coordination. From response and recovery to preparedness, mitigation, communications, and partnerships, OEM continued to mature as a department—focused on delivering timely, equitable, and effective emergency management across Oregon.

- Supported emergency operations to include activation of the State Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) for 215 days—more than half the year
- Expanded our finance section to process grants more efficiently
- Coordinated response and recovery across multiple disasters, such as the Rowena Fire in Wasco County which included coordination for \$3.5 million for debris removal
- Supported recovery flooding impacts in Coos, Curry, Douglas, Harney, and Josephine counties and the Burns Paiute Reservation, including coordination for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Oregon
- Launched OEM Grants platform for improved customer service to subrecipients
- With the Washington Department of Commerce and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, hosted Fuel Rail Workshop bringing together public and private sector partners to discuss strategies to move fuel via rail following a disaster

Response & Recovery

"Coordination turns complexity into capability."



COORDINATED ACTION WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

OEM led statewide coordination during complex, overlapping emergencies, ensuring timely response, recovery, and partner alignment. OEM supported communities from initial response through long-term recovery.



- We deployed 392 people on eight Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) missions to California, Texas, and Washington state, totaling \$19.3 million in assistance
- Coordinated 250 requests for assistance through the State ECC, with 17 agencies, 27 counties, and three Tribal nations
- Coordinated response to flooding, wildfires, winter storms, and infrastructure disruptions, including major communications outages, a statewide hunger emergency, the Olympic Pipeline shutdown, and a significant landslide in Lincoln County
- Information sharing across state, local, tribal, and federal partners to improve situational awareness and decision-making
- Updated the Oregon Disaster Recovery Plan
- Outreach to volunteers active in disaster (VOAD), community organizations active in disaster (COAD), and long-term recovery groups, and distributed nearly \$300k to these groups
- Supported 1,111 Search and Rescue missions statewide
- \$1.1 million in Small Business Association disaster loan assistance
- Created preparedness stockpile with \$5 million appropriation
- Managed concurrent incidents with sustained operational readiness





OEM laid the foundation for Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) and enhanced capabilities.

- 2 million 9-1-1 calls processed statewide
- 137,000 Text-to-911 messages delivered
- \$80 million Emergency Communications Tax collected
- \$50 million distributed to local 9-1-1 districts
- NG911 service provider selected; lifecycle refresh initiated statewide
- Statewide job board launched for all 40 Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs)
- Geographic information system (GIS) readiness advanced to national NG911 standards

Public Safety Communications





INTEROPERABILITY & WATCH

The Office of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) advanced Oregon's emergency communications governance and coordination. Following the passage of Senate Bill 826, the SWIC function was formally integrated into OEM on July 1, 2025. The office supported multiple emergency incidents, including wildfires, internet and cellular outages impacting public safety communications, and ESF-2 activations, both at the ECC and in the field. The office helped expand operational capacity through radio communications training and hosted IT Service Unit Leader and Communications Unit Leader courses.

- 95,098,076 public views of the statewide fire evacuation map
- Organized and hosted the 2025 Radio Conference which drew more than 180 attendees statewide
- OR-Alert opt-ins increased by 36,847 (^5.7%). The system was used 1,882 times to alert the public in 2025, generating over 4.8 million individual messages.
- Supported over 22,000 internal notifications for state agencies, local public safety users, search and rescue teams, and special districts
- Updated Bi-annual Strategic Plan for Statewide Interoperability Emergency Communication

Emergency Communications





Preparedness

"Preparedness investments today protect lives tomorrow."



STRENGTHENING READINESS ACROSS OREGON

Building Capability Before Disaster

OEM used planning, training, exercises, grants, and community outreach to strengthen statewide readiness and community preparedness. Through FEMA preparedness grants and statewide initiatives, OEM supported local, Tribal, nonprofit, and state partners building sustainable emergency management capabilities.

- Administered grants including Emergency Management Performance Grant, Homeland Security Grant Program, Nonprofit Security Grant Program, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
- Delivered funding for counties, cities, Tribes, nonprofits, and statewide projects
- Advanced continuity planning at enterprise scale
- Implemented State Homeland Security Strategy across preparedness grant programs
- With 431 participants, 2025 Oregon Prepared Conference served as valuable forum for emergency management professionals and partners to collaborate and build capacity
- Coordinated 3 preconference trainings, 42 breakout sessions, 6 plenary speakers, and 1 keynote; over 60 hours of training over 3.5 days at the Oregon Prepared Conference
- Supported 158 training courses around Oregon
- Supported 2,353.5 hours of training
- Expanded OR-Alert enrollment to 4,815,443 and 124 public preparedness campaigns
- Increased multilingual and accessible outreach, including Be 2 Weeks Ready
- Hands-on education through Cooking Without Power and preparedness webinars
- State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment (SPIRE) Grant Program awarded 96 pieces of equipment to 63 jurisdictions for an estimated cost of \$8.1 million



Mitigation



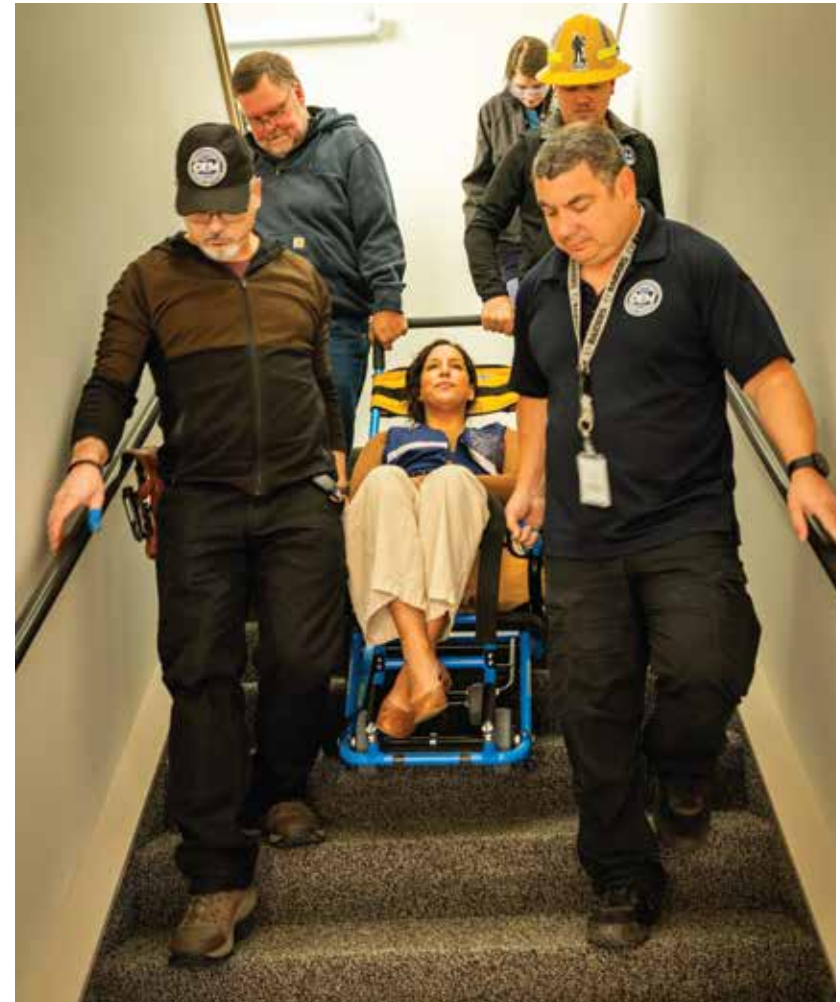
"Mitigation works—and its benefits last for generations."

REDUCING RISK BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

OEM advanced hazard mitigation planning and implemented grant programs that reduced flood, wildfire, and seismic risk across the state.

Section Highlights

- Oregon's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted in 2025
- Managed post-disaster and non-disaster mitigation grants statewide
- Fire detection cameras helped contain a vegetation fire near Phoenix
- Fuels reduction and home hardening protected homes in Josephine County
- Flood mitigation projects reduced damage during spring flooding
- **17 mitigation projects and two grant rounds closed** in 2025
- RiskMAP program traveled over 3,200 miles supporting flood mapping and risk awareness



Public Assistance



"Recovery is about rebuilding systems, services, and trust."



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND REBUILDING

The Public Assistance section supported communities recovering from declared disasters by helping local jurisdictions access federal funding for emergency response and infrastructure repair.

- Supported Public Assistance across multiple open disasters, including for 2020 Labor Day fires, COVID-19, 2024 winter storms, and several others spanning multiple years
- Assisted with debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent repairs
- Provided reimbursement training, technical assistance, and project coordination
- Worked closely with federal and local partners to move projects toward closeout
- Helped communities restore critical facilities and essential services
- OEM has eleven open Major Disaster Declarations (DR) with a total projected estimate of over \$2.9 billion
- Since 2020, over 3,329 project payments totaling over \$2.34 billion in reimbursements to subrecipients, with over \$571 million of these reimbursements in 2025

Looking Ahead

Appreciation

- Emergency management in Oregon is a shared responsibility
- Grateful for strong partnerships with local, tribal, state, federal, nonprofit, private-sector, volunteers, and philanthropic and community organizations
- Special recognition of local and tribal partners whose leadership strengthens statewide resilience

Looking ahead in 2026

- Continue Next Generation 9-1-1 rollout
- 2026 State of Oregon Recovery Plan update
- 2026 State of Oregon Emergency Operations Plan update
- Update OEM strategic plan
- Oregon Prepared Conference 2026
- Statewide Functional Exercise, Lahar'd Times, October 12-16, focused on recovery from a volcanic event
- Transition of the 24-hour/7-day/year-round OERS Watch capability to OEM by July 1, 2026



2025



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