

Speaker Biographies

Silvia Ceron, Department of Human Services, Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM), Regional Emergency Coordinator

Ms. Ceron serves as the Social Services Emergency Liaison for OREM overseeing field operations for Curry, Jackson, and Josephine counties. Silvia is a first-generation immigrant who started in community support in her younger years, volunteering her time connecting families to resources, interpreting, and advocating for services to meet the needs of non-English speakers in her community. In the last 20 years Silvia has continued to support the Oregon Department of Human Services mission by helping Oregonians in her community achieve wellbeing and independence through opportunities that protect, empower, respect choice, and preserve dignity. Silvia's contribution as a Social Services Emergency Liaison, has been working with the Alameda Wildfire Survivors. She began that mission on Sept. 8, 2020, the day after the fires began and from which she and her family were evacuated. Silvia continues to be involved in emergency preparedness presentations to the community, collaborating with partners and emergency managers on improving resilience in communities.

Silvia's passion for assisting others comes from her own experienced as an immigrant with a need to be self-sufficient. She specifically prides herself on being a voice for those that do not have one and building a team that supports their community

Mary Ann Christian, Oregon State Fire Marshal, LEPC Coordinator

Ms. Christian is responsible for providing oversight, support and training for all of Oregon's LEPCs. She works with them to organize, recruit members, find funding and ensure compliance with relevant laws.

Ms. Christian has an eclectic background. In her career she has served as a City Councilor, an advocate for interpersonal crime victims, a Professor, a legal professional, an Executive Director, and a tribal Child Welfare worker. She has an addiction to education leading to her earning a BS in Psychology, a MAIS in Speech Communication/Women's Studies, a MA in Conflict Resolution (ABT) and a JD. She is currently attempting to learn the Korean language.

Sage DeLong, Umatilla County Emergency Manager

Mr. DeLong is the Emergency Manager for Umatilla County and serves on the Local Emergency Planning Committee Executive Committee, where he helps coordinate hazardous materials response and preparedness. His work focuses on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, particularly in wildfires, flooding, and hazardous materials incidents. Sage is actively involved in strengthening regional collaboration through resource-sharing agreements and multi-agency coordination. His work includes managing emergency operations, supporting critical

infrastructure protection, and ensuring that response plans are effective and community-focused. Through these efforts, Sage helps build resilience and preparedness across Umatilla County.

Monty Elder, Emergency Response Coordinator (retired)

Ms. Elder retired in 2015 from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality where she served as the Emergency Response Coordinator as well as Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Manager. Ms. Elder also served as the Media Spokesperson for DEQ. She provided risk communication and community education for the State Superfund sites as well as for high profile complaint situations including emergency response. In addition, she developed the state SARA Title III Program including Community Right-to-Know, Toxic Release Inventory, and LEPC coordination. She served as the Chair of the Oklahoma Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Commission. She is a graduate of the inaugural class of the Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (2005-2006) sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control. She is a member of several National organizations including Past President of the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials, TRI Committee of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, the Bioavailability workgroup of the National Environmental Policy Institute, and the ECOS steering committee on Childhood Asthma. In 1997, Ms. Elder received a Governor's commendation as the Outstanding State Employee for Oklahoma. Twice, in 1993 and 2001, she was honored by the US Environmental Protection Agency as a member of a Superfund Team of the Year. In the fall of 2005, Monty was detailed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Alabama to provide public information expertise as part of the recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina.

Tim Gablehouse, Attorney

Mr. Gablehouse is an attorney focusing on environmental matters, including hazmat accident prevention, emergency planning, community right-to-know, and environmental justice programs. He serves as an appointed member of the Colorado Emergency Planning Commission and on the boards of several related nonprofits. He has extensive experience at both the federal and state level regarding hazmat response and community preparedness. He is a frequent speaker and participant in national and international conferences on these topics. He has testified before Congress.

He was the primary author of the UNEP APELL handbook on community preparedness and now as an instructor in numerous APELL workshops across the globe. He was an invited speaker at the Conference on the 20th Anniversary of Bhopal held in Kanpur India.

He holds JD and MBA degrees from the University of Denver, and a BA in Environmental Biology from the University of Colorado.

Jeff Gilbert, Department of Human Services, Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM), Regional Emergency Coordinator

Mr. Gilbert serves as the Regional Emergency Coordinator for OREM overseeing field operations for 18 counties on the Western side of Oregon. He has experience with writing expansive FEMA grants (one for Oregon following the 2020 wildfires and another for the Lahaina fires in Maui). A great deal of his work is centered on the creation of resilience hubs and networks (public/private partnerships) across the Western region.

Dan Giles, Oregon State Fire Marshal Hazmat Rail Trainer

Mr. Giles has worked in public service in Oregon for his entire career, joining OSFM in August 2024. Prior experience includes working as a Firefighter with a variety of roles in the Regional Hazmat Emergency Response Program and as a public high school teacher and coach. Dan is excited to help build preparedness through delivering excellent training and exercises throughout the state.

Mike Harryman, President, Oregon Emergency Management Association

Mr. Harryman serves as the Resilience Manager, Office of Resilience and Emergency Management, Oregon Department of Human Services. In this role, he is responsible for Continuity of Operations & Continuity of Government planning and activating their Leadership COOP Group for Oregon Department of Human Services.

Mike served as Oregon's first State Resilience Officer, confirmed by the State Senate on May 25, 2016. The position was created in response to the Oregon Resilience Plan, the 50-year long-term planning document that addresses reducing risk and improving recovery for the next Cascadia Earthquake and Tsunami. During Mike's tenure he created the white paper for Gov. Kate Brown outlining the next steps on key resiliency issues, fostered strong resiliency network, and established 33-member interagency council to ensure government continuity, and developed the first ever Executive Branch Continuity of Government guidance. Mike also sponsored the 2021 Transportation Regional Resiliency Assessment (RRAP) conducted by USDHS-CISA.

Prior to his appointment, Mike served as the Director of Emergency Operations within the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division: Health Security, Preparedness and Response program since February 2006, leading the state's Emergency Support Function-8, Public Health & Medical Services.

Mike is the current President of the Oregon Emergency Management Association and has been awarded a Lifetime Membership of the association.

Mike received his master's degree with honors in Disaster and Emergency Management from the American Military University. He holds a B.S. in Business Management from the University of Phoenix and completed the Naval Postgraduate School's Executive Leader's Program.

Mike is a veteran of the 1991 Gulf War and in 1999 retired after a 22-year career at the rank of Master Sergeant from the U.S. Army and has two sons serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Rich Heuchert, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Training Specialist

Mr. Heuchert is a seasoned instructor with over 10 years' experience, currently specializing in Lithium-Ion battery emergency response. With a deep understanding of battery systems, he has become a trusted instructor in the field, offering training and insights to emergency response professionals and organizations.

Throughout his career, Rick has worked with first responders, helping to advance their understanding of battery chemistry, thermal runaway, emergency response, and preparedness. As a passionate educator, he has taught courses, and delivered presentations to diverse audiences, making complex topics accessible and engaging.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Rick is a dedicated volunteer serving the Silverton Fire District as a volunteer Lieutenant for over 17 years. In his free time, Rick enjoys exploring the wonders that Oregon's vast outdoors has to offer.

Mark Johnston, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Assistant Chief Deputy

Chief Johnston served five years in the Oregon fire service and has served 23 years with the department of State Fire Marshal. He is currently responsible for administering eight programs in the Regulatory Services Division. These programs are related to hazardous materials, public safety and planning and preparedness.

During his time with OSFM he has served as Compliance Specialist, Program Coordinator, and Manager. He served 12 years on the department's Incident Management Teams, and ten years with the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard. He has been a member of the National Association of SARA Title Three Program Officials (NASTTPO) for twelve years and is currently serving as President of the association.

Richard Hosmer, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Hazmat Program Coordinator

Mr. Hosmer is responsible for overseeing the 12 Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams. He ensures that they are trained, funded, and equipped to meet the needs of their mission for the citizens of Oregon. Rich is a born and raised Oregonian and former Major with the Oregon Army National Guard, where he served for 24 years before retirement.

During his military career, Rich spent time as a chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, and explosives (CBRNE) response specialist before commissioning as a Nuclear Medical and Environmental Science Officer. For over a decade he served as an emergency response scientist charged with operating and maintaining a state of the art mobile laboratory that could respond to

hazardous materials incidents and steady-state events in the State of Oregon. He has assisted with, and developed, CBRNE and Hazmat response plans for major public events such as the World Athletic Championships, the US Olympic Track and Field Championships, Presidential visits, His Holiness the Dalai Lama visit, BCS College Football games, MLB All Star games, and the NFL Super Bowl. In 2011, he was sent to Vietnam to represent the Oregon National Guard and strengthen international relations through the State Partnership Program, focusing on development of long-term training objectives that centered on CBRNE response management and the use of the Incident Command System. From 2014 to 2016 he also served as the National Science Chair Representative for National Guard Bureau, assisting in force management and design of the Common Analytical Suite for each state, developing training requirements, equipment load outs, and response processes and guidelines. During his final years in the Oregon National Guard Rich served as the Deputy Commander, and Commander of the 102nd Civil Support Team, a 24/7/365 response team whose mission is to support civil authorities at a domestic CBRNE incident site by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current or projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for additional follow-on state and federal military forces.

Rich holds a BS in Biology and Chemistry from Oregon State University, a MS in Public Health and Preventive Medicine from American Military University, Graduate Certificate in Radiation and Applied Health Physics from Oak Ridge National Laboratory and is a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College.

Ivonne Mora-Hernandez, Department of Human Services, Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM), Regional Emergency Coordinator

Ms. Mora-Hernandez serves as the Social Services Emergency Liaison for OREM overseeing field operations for Benton, Linn, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties.

Robert Quinn, Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OREM), State Exercise Officer

Mr. Quinn has been serving in that role for the past two years. In this role Robert has the opportunity to develop exercise events that build readiness at the State of Oregon Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) and support exercise events occurring around Oregon with technical assistance or direct design and development.

Terra Ralph, Department of Human Services, Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM), Social Services Emergency Coordinator

Ms. Ralph serves as the Social Services Emergency Liaison for OREM overseeing field operations for Coos, Douglas, and Lane counties. Terra has been with the Oregon Department of Human Services for 24 years and part of OREM since immediately following the Labor Day fires in 2020. She is passionate about helping her communities prepare for and recover from

disasters with a focus on service equity and trauma informed care. She graduated from the University of Oregon and has completed countless FEMA training courses, including the Integrated Emergency Management course at the National Fire Academy, Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg. Terra lives in Eugene and enjoys escaping to the ocean any chance she gets.

Mike Russell, Columbia County Public Works, Director

Mike has been in public service in various Public Works roles over his entire 28 year career serving in Klamath Falls, Lincoln City, Lane County, and Columbia County. He is currently the Public Works Director for Columbia County. In his roles he has consistently been involved in emergency management functions and supported the first responder community.

Mike is currently the Chair of the Columbia County LEPC, serves on the Executive Committee of the SERC, and is a member of the National Association of SARA Title Three Program Officials.

Darlene Thao, Department of Human Services, Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM), Social Services Emergency Coordinator

Ms. Thao serves as the Social Services Emergency Liaison for OREM overseeing field operations for Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. She has worked for the Oregon Department of Human Services for the past 15 years providing resources and assistance to Oregonians.

Randy Thorpe, Tillamook County Emergency Manager

Mr. Thorpe has been the Emergency Management Director for Tillamook County since 2022. He enjoys the great partnerships in Tillamook County that help make his job a lot easier.

He comes from Utah and is enjoying his time here on the Oregon Coast. Quite a little change from Utah. He went from lots of snow and temperatures ranging from highs in the summer 90 to 100 degrees and winter temperature getting as low as -10 degrees. The average rainfall was around 20”.

He started his career as a Forester for the State of Utah which included working as a Planning Section Chief for a Type 2 Management Team. He also was a volunteer EMT for over 30 years and enjoyed coordinating and teaching EMT courses.

Melinda Todd, Harney County Emergency Manager

Since May 2023, Ms. Todd has led the Harney County Emergency Management program with strategic vision and determination. With a background rooted in public health emergency preparedness (PHEP), she first demonstrated her ability to adapt and lead during the COVID-19

response, quickly earning a reputation for decisive, compassionate leadership. Her experience coordinating complex public health efforts provided a solid foundation for taking on the multifaceted responsibilities of county emergency management.

In January of 2024, Melinda initiated the development of the Harney County Local Emergency Planning Committee, bringing together 55 representatives from diverse agencies to establish a unified approach to emergency preparedness. Under her guidance, the LEPC evolved into a dedicated team of 20-25 active participants who regularly collaborate on planning, response readiness, and community safety initiatives. Her efforts have revitalized the county's emergency management program, focusing on interagency coordination, resource development, and proactive planning.

With her ability to bridge creativity and structure, Melinda has enhanced Harney County's capacity for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. From coordinating emergency plans to fostering resilience through strong community partnerships, she continues to strengthen local preparedness and build an emergency management program capable of withstanding future challenges

Shaun Parkman, Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal

Mr. Parkman has served as a Grants Manager for the Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal since August 2022. In this role, he coordinates and implements over \$65 million in agency grants across more than six programs, supporting wildfire preparedness efforts throughout Oregon. He also oversees the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant and works closely with other state and federal agencies to ensure coordination of emergency preparedness funding. Additionally, he leads the application process and monitors compliance for all federal grants managed by the agency.

Conference Planning Team

Laura Barquist	Lamb Weston, Environmental, Health and Safety Manager
Brandy Bishop	Grand Ronde, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Emma Brickell	OSFM, Administrative Assistant
Mary Ann Christian	OSFM, LEPC Coordinator
Hanna Lee	OSFM, Business Analyst & Project Manager
Felix Monroy	Lamb Weston, EHS / Sr. Process Safety Management Coordinator
Heather Wills	OSFM, SERC, LEPC, and HMEP Program Assistant