



Ready to Respond

Health Security, Preparedness and Response

Fall 2014

Special points of interest:

- HSPR updates
- Cascadia planning in Eastern Oregon
- Multijurisdictional exercise
- Remembering the moments when preparedness counts
- [September is National Preparedness Month](#)

Director's message

This summer has been a full one for the Health Security, Preparedness and Response (HSPR) program. We have an enormous amount of quality work and relationships to be proud of and we have at the same time faced our greatest trials.

As a program our greatest challenges resulted from a 40 percent cut to our HHP grant. This has caused severe program cuts including funding other programs, partners and multiple members of our own staff. We had to give notices of layoff to six of our HSPR team including two liaisons and four members of our planning unit. Such conversations and decisions are never easy, but we are determined to continue our work of making Oregonians ultimately more resilient when disaster strikes. We cannot thank those we are losing due to budget cuts enough for your effort and dedication toward that common goal, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



Mike Harryman, Director

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We recently participated in the Cascadia planning, collaboration and exercise at Camp Rilea with Oregon's Military Department and our own Oregon Disaster Medical Team (nonprofit). The first day was spent sharing and hearing about the participants' response capabilities. Jere High, HSPR planning chief, and I shared HSPR's capabilities. Other attendees included members of multiple branches of the military, Coast Guard, hospitals, local health departments and local county emergency management. HSPR's Eric Gebbie and DeWayne Hatcher coordinated the 11 SERV-OR and MRC volunteers' participation in the second day's full-scale exercise.

During the first week of July, we were honored to host our hospital preparedness project officer, Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Hill, during their site visit. We also enjoyed our meet and greet with our new CDC public health emergency preparedness project officer, Lt. Erin Grasso, on Aug. 21, 2014.

HSPR is pleased to join the Public Health Division in welcoming our new deputy director,

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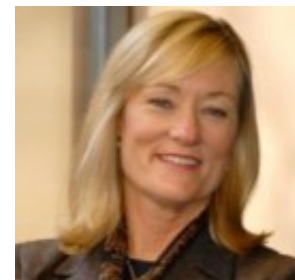
Director's Message (continued)

Priscilla Lewis, R.N., M.B.A. Ms. Lewis comes to us from Providence Health & Services and brings decades of valuable experience in health care. She has a reputation for building community partnerships and advocating for health care reform.

We are looking forward to many events this fall including [September, which is National Preparedness Month](#); the [ECHO Summit \(formerly known as the preparedness conference\) Oct. 1-3](#); and [The Great ShakeOut, an earthquake preparedness drill, Oct. 16](#).

Stay safe, stay focused,

Hman



**Priscilla Lewis, R.N.,
M.B.A.**

Eastern OR Cascadia Planning

By Justin Schumacher

In June, 40 eastern Oregon emergency planners gathered for two days in Baker City to discuss what impact a Cascadia subduction earthquake might have on that part of the state and what responsibilities might fall to those counties and tribes when it happens.

Organized by representatives from Baker, Union and Morrow counties and funded through a regional mini-grant to Morrow County, the planning workshop drew representatives from public health, emergency management, and other agencies throughout eastern and central Oregon. Guest speakers included representatives from Oregon Emergency Management, FEMA, the Oregon Health Authority, and U.S. Health and Human Services as well as representatives from private utility companies. The first day focused on what a Cascadia incident will look like, in general as well as from an eastern Oregon perspective. Day two consisted mostly of planning sessions to determine what needs to be done to improve eastern Oregon's ability to deal with this type of incident.

In the planning workshop portion, attendees determined that few resources would be available to provide assistance to the western portion of the state. However, that represented jurisdictions would commit to creating a local resiliency target time period during which they would plan to be fully self-sustaining. This will avoid making requests on an already burdened system. In small groups they developed a number of ideas for specific steps that could be taken to improve readiness, focusing largely on strengthening community and backup communications systems, and assessing fuel needs along with

"...the planning workshop drew representatives from public health, emergency management, and other agencies throughout eastern and central Oregon."



Kathleen Cox, FEMA

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Eastern OR Cascadia Planning (continued)

related devolution of services planning.

HSPR will continue Cascadia Planning activities with other regions and coalitions. Jere High, HSPR deputy director and planning chief, will provide an overview to all coalitions over the next months and asking how we can engage and have further discussions with local jurisdictions to further the statewide planning effort.



Eastern Oregon Cascadia planning

Welcoming the fall 2014 VISTAs

By: Jocelyn Lang

This fall, the Oregon Health Authority/AmeriCorps VISTA Partnership Project welcomes 15 new volunteers, bringing the full team to 26 members. These VISTAs come from around the country to serve in Oregon at the state's Public Health Division, local nonprofit organizations, county health departments and health equity coalitions.

Each team member focuses on a unique project, yet every one of these projects encompasses the program's three priorities: building an organization's capacity, addressing public health issues and approaching service with an anti-poverty perspective. Projects include document collection for accreditation processes, conducting program assessments from a climate and health perspective, implementing an oral health program, identifying underserved populations for a housing nonprofit, and much, much more.

During this time of transition, members of the program's spring team are making impressive progress at their sites. Kayla Warner, who is serving at Clatsop County's Public Health Department, says: "My year, thus far, has been a steady and opportunist experience. I've attended more community meetings and conferences than I can count, and have learned so much about how the health web is made up of more than just providers." Acadia Osborne, another spring team member, began her VISTA service with Emergency Medical Services for Children only two days after graduating from Pepperdine University. She says, "I can't think of a more hands-on, worthwhile way to experience the post-grad real world and public health than serving at the Oregon Health Authority."

The program has two teams that run concurrently — one team begins service in the spring, the other in the fall. Although this means ongoing transition, it also allows incoming members time to learn from team members who are already serving. Huling Pan, a spring team member serving in Roseburg, explains: "It's really remarkable that we are each fully immersed in the local context and challenges of the communities we serve, but we also have our Oregon Health Authority-VISTA network to lean on for support and

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Tom Joseph, PHD VISTA
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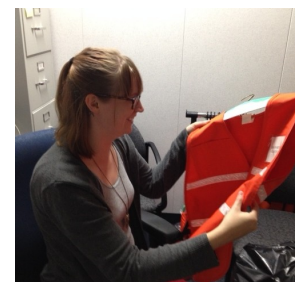
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Welcoming the fall 2014 VISTAs (continued)

experience-sharing. Although I will miss being able to reach out to the fall 2013 team for project advice when I feel a tad lost, I look forward to sharing my lessons-learned with the incoming team.”

Chelsa Greene, a departing member, says of her VISTA service year: “Thus far my VISTA year has been incredibly fulfilling. It has brought joy, challenges, numerous learning experiences, and a peek into the real world and life beyond college.”

Updates about individual member’s projects will be shared throughout the year — stay tuned! For more information about becoming a VISTA with this program, please contact VISTA Leader Zach Fund at 971-673-0032 or Zachary.Fund@state.or.us.



Lindsay Deal, OHA VISTA Leader, Fall 2014

In the field: Disaster medical surge exercise at Camp Rilea

By: DeWayne Hatcher, SERV-OR systems coordinator

Operation Pathfinder Minuteman

On August 4–5, 2014, SERV-OR volunteers participated in a multi-agency exercise called Operation Pathfinder Minuteman at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon. Participants included medical teams from the National Guard and Air Guard; Oregon Disaster Medical Teams; Oregon Public Health Division’s Health Security, Preparedness and Response (HSPR) Program; and the State Managed Volunteer Pool (SMVP) and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and leaders.

On day one, agencies conferenced to discuss capabilities and barriers to respond to a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake. According to Dr. Jon Jui of Oregon Disaster Medical Teams (ODMT), it is critical for partnering agencies to collaborate because each agency brings assets to the table that no one else has. There is immense value in building these relationships.

Colonel Gentry of the Oregon National Guard said one goal of the exercise was for multiple agencies to have the experience of learning how to work with each other. Getting stakeholders together in one room to share what they bring to the response and developing relationships helps to make a joint response much more successful. Collaborations bring an amazing synergy.

A BIG SHOUT OUT OF APPRECIATION AND THANKS!

Thank you to the 14 volunteers from across the state who participated in the Operation Pathfinder Minuteman exercise. They include volunteers from:

- State Managed Volunteer Pool (SMVP)
- Clackamas County Medical Reserve Corps
- Nehalem Bay Medical Reserve Corps
- Eastern Oregon Medical Reserve Corps

Your participation contributed greatly to the success of this exercise.

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Disaster medical surge exercise at Camp Rilea (continued)

During the second day of the event, agencies were able to put these relationships to the test in a full-scale training exercise of disaster medical surge response under unified command. A team of trained State Managed Volunteer Pool (SMVP) members were deployed to the exercise through the SERV-OR system and were added to the ODMT medical team rosters to manage surge capacity. Some SERV-OR volunteers were integrated in squads of military search and rescue teams to conduct field triage of live victims in the training village at the camp.

For the exercise, the military reserve medical teams and Oregon Disaster Medical Team, reinforced by State Managed Volunteer Pool members, triaged hundreds of people with physical injuries and emotional trauma. Dr. Jui stated that SMVP and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers add tremendous value because of their surge capacity. He added that volunteers also help bring Public Health to the table, as well as add the perspective of community members.

To be eligible for this advanced exercise, volunteers had to have completed all the basic volunteer requirements, as well as Basic and Advanced Disaster Life Support. Those trainings ensure that the participating volunteers understand shifting standards of care, triage and field operations under the Incident Command System., Volunteers also learn the importance of working with any and all partners on scene.



Integrated squads triaging volunteers during the exercise

Preparedness Moments to Remember — Fall 2014

By: Julie Black

Aug. 29, 2014, marks the nine-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. She devastated the Gulf Coast with winds in excess of 170 mph over water, 140 mph at landfall and 125 mph sustained over land. ([NOAA](#))

Sept. 11, 2014, is the 13th anniversary of the World Trade Center's north and south towers, the Pentagon, and United Airlines' Flight 93 terrorist attacks. ([World Trade Center](#))

October 1962, The [Columbus Day Windstorm or "Big Blow"](#) came through the Northwest as a result of Typhoon Freda. Some cities lost power for weeks, thousands of homes were ravaged and 38 people were killed. ([OPB](#))

Holiday season 1964 to 1965, flooding affected central and western Oregon. "The town of Valsetz in the Central Oregon Coast Range received nearly 23 inches of rain. Many homes were destroyed and 17 people died." ([OPB](#))

"Some cities lost power for weeks, thousands of homes were ravaged and, according to the National Weather Service, 38 people were killed." (The Columbus Day storm of 1962)



World Trade Center, 2014 marks the 13th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

Stay safe, stay focused



Health Security,
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September is National
Preparedness Month

About Health Security, Preparedness and Response

Our efforts are an emergency response collaboration with Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) and our local, regional and national Emergency Management partners.

The Health Security, Preparedness and Response program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cooperative Agreement and the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP).

HSPR ensures that Oregon's communities and hospitals have an improving level of preparedness for health and medical emergencies by supporting the development and testing of plans, providing training, managing volunteers and encouraging collaboration.

To ensure that the required elements of federal preparedness grant agreements are implemented, HSPR coordinates work plans with state staff working on:

- Epidemiology and disease surveillance
- Public health laboratory preparedness and Laboratory Response Network (LRN)
- Strategic national stockpile

HSPR upcoming events

[September — National Preparedness Month](#)

Preparedness Month is a great opportunity to look at your [preparedness kit](#) and [plans](#), think about what supplies you already have and what supplies you could add. It is also a good time to learn about [hazards that are likely to occur in your area](#), join a [community emergency response team \(CERT\)](#) or update your out-of-town emergency contact's information.

The ECHO (Explore • Connect • Highlight • Obtain) Summit, Bend Ore., Oct. 1–3, 2014

Oregon's annual Public Health Preparedness Summit offers training and networking opportunities for emergency planners from Public Health, health care and tribes throughout the state. Sessions are designed to be relevant for all and partner agencies are welcome. [Register now!](#)

[The Great Shakeout – Oct. 16, 2014, 10:16 a.m.](#)

The Great Shakeout is a nationally initiated, locally coordinated earthquake drill. Thousands participate each year including individuals, businesses, educational institutions and government agencies. The Public Health Division is pleased to take part again this year.