



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michael Dixon Selected as New Office of Emergency Management Director

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri- Michael Dixon has been selected as the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Director, effective immediately.

Dixon has extensive experience, previously serving as director and as deputy director of the Benton County, AR Emergency Management Agency. He was also the Vice President of the Arkansas Emergency Management Association. Dixon was credentialed as a Certified Emergency Manager by the International Emergency Managers Association in 2014 and served their regional board as the Arkansas liaison. He is a recent graduate of FEMA's National Emergency Management Advanced Academy, an intensive four-week course that provides strategic level training and education and the essential skills needed for emergency management professionals to manage dynamic and resilient emergency management programs.

In addition to his emergency management experience, Dixon sharpened his skills in organizational leadership and management via many years as a small business owner and minister.

"OEM provides our community with critical and vital services, as evidenced by the recent flooding event. The director position is key to its success, and Greene County is very pleased to have someone of Michael Dixon's caliber to serve in that role. Given his years of service to the emergency management industry, we feel he will be a great asset to our citizens and the county as he helps to elevate an already outstanding group of professionals," said Greene County Presiding Commissioner Bob Cirtin.

The county advertised nationwide for a replacement for the OEM Director position after Chet Hunter accepted the role of Assistant Director of Emergency Management for Washington University in St. Louis, MO in August of 2016.

Cirtin said he would like to thank Larry Woods, who has served the County as interim OEM Director since Hunter's resignation. Woods will continue to serve OEM in the position of deputy director.

"It is truly a privilege to join a team that is at the leading edge of the emergency management profession. I am excited to serve alongside them as we assist the great people in Greene County," said Dixon. "The collaborative nature of disaster preparedness and response in this community is second to none, and I look forward to working with the many local organizations who truly believe that serving people in times of need is the best job in the world."

Dixon, and his wife, Rhonda, have two teenage daughters who both plan to attend Kickapoo High School in Springfield this fall.

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