

SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



# OUR TEAM



**LARRY WOODS**  
*Director*



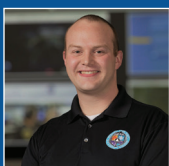
**SAMANTHA FOSTER**  
*Deputy Director*



**BRANDEN SURGNIER**  
*Public Information Officer*



**LINDSEY MERICLE**  
*Planning Specialist*



**TYREL FLOYD**  
*Area Municipalities Planning Specialist*



**LISA DAVIS**  
*Training and Exercises Specialist*



**WESLEY MANN**  
*Logistics Specialist*



**COURTNEY WHARTON**  
*IT Network Administrator*



**ROBBIN SAWYER**  
*Administrative Services Manager*



**AUBREY HARDY**  
*Administrative Coordinator*

# OUR MISSION

*We are committed to building our community's disaster resiliency by implementing best practices in emergency management in order to aggressively reduce loss of life, limit damage to property and minimize harm to the environment.*

# OUR VISION

*To be the most disaster-resilient community in America.*

# HOMETOWN READY

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

***When disaster strikes, will you be prepared?***

A disaster-resilient community is one that is HometownREADY. Disaster preparedness training, accompanied by a focus on community engagement, incorporates three core public safety programs into our HometownREADY initiative that, together, promote the vision of OEM. Those programs include:



# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT):

CERT is a national program sponsored by FEMA that is designed to help provide basic disaster preparedness and response training to people and their communities across the country. The CERT program provides citizens with disaster preparedness and response training so that they can serve as a vital resource to their community, providing help to neighbors in the aftermath of a major disaster. Trained CERT volunteers also assist the OEM during both planned events and disaster incidents throughout the year and participate in training and community outreach events that serve to highlight the importance of preparedness. Housed within CERT is the **CERT Animal Rescue Team (CART) program** – a group of trained CERT volunteers who coordinate and specialize in animal response efforts during times of disaster. The CART program partners with the Emergency Veterinary Clinic of Southwest Missouri to assist in the response to disasters involving the activation of animal search and rescue teams and animal sheltering activities.



## BUSINESS RESILIENCE:

How quickly a community recovers from a disaster is largely dependent on how quickly businesses within the community are able to return to normal operation. The business resilience program provides the framework for business continuity and response in the event of a disaster. The program also includes the local emergency planning network responsible for tracking hazardous materials within the community and providing training and education on the importance of hazardous material awareness and safety.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The community engagement program is a comprehensive approach to building disaster resiliency via outreach and education efforts. Combining a faith, school and community organization-based focus, children and adults alike are given the opportunity to learn more about disaster preparedness and enhance their awareness of severe weather and its effects. In addition, public education events, initiatives and resources serve to increase awareness of the importance of preparing now for disaster.

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the 2018 Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) annual report. This document manifests our determined progress over the last year as we aggressively endeavored to pursue our vision to become the most disaster-resilient community in America. In dedication and service to the citizens of our community, the OEM team worked diligently and continuously throughout the year to maintain a constant state of readiness so that our community is ready whenever disaster strikes.



2018 was an incredibly dynamic year that has led the OEM to focus more on our strategic and ambitious vision of building a more prepared community. Through the continued effort of building and strengthening our enduring partnerships, fostering new relationships with local businesses and community groups, carefully detailed planning for special events throughout the community and actively managing weather-related incidents throughout the year, 2018 proved to be a year full of collaboration and community preparedness.

Strengthening Springfield's and Greene County's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters is our goal. Our sole purpose as an emergency management organization is to foster a relationship with the community so that, together, we can build the most disaster-resilient community possible. To do this, we must continue to make this the mission of our organization in both attitude and action.

2018 was a lively year full of community events, weather-related incidents and new faces for us at OEM.

2018 brought us three new team members; a logistics specialist, a public information officer and an IT network engineer, all who bring an air of enthusiasm and dedication into our department. Throughout the year, we provided logistical coordination and public safety communication support for several community events, including the Ozark Empire Fair, the Route 66 Festival and the Bass Pro Marathon. We also joined various community groups by participating in dozens of outreach and public education activities throughout the year, including the Severe Weather Awareness Expo and the Safe and Sound Expo.

2018 also brought its fair share of severe weather. Outside of the various flood, severe weather and tornado warnings, we were always anticipating the next move of every storm that entered Greene

▶ **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED



County. Although we could monitor the storms and alert the public to prepare, we cannot always control the storms' outcomes. In July, a severe thunderstorm warning swept through Greene County, resulting in OEM having to sound the outdoor warning sirens; this same storm ultimately led to the capsizing of the Ride the Duck-boat in Branson. In September, a Greene County sheriff's deputy died in the line of duty as a result of flash flooding in Greene County. Assisting the public with disaster preparedness is a rewarding job, but the job does not come without its tragedies. Anything and everything that we can do as an emergency management agency to prepare our communities for emergencies and disasters is of the utmost importance. Becoming the nation's most disaster-resilient community is a vision worth fighting for.

Emergency management, disaster preparedness and community resiliency is a team effort. We look forward to 2019 with determined confidence as we focus on further establishing the OEM identity and our role in the community, continuing to develop and enhance whole community disaster response efforts and continuing to mitigate potential hazards and risks in efforts to reduce disaster's effects on our community.

We invite you to join us in preparing now so that our Greene County community can stand strong in the face of disasters and its effects. Together, we can better work to achieve our vision of becoming the most disaster-resilient community in America. We welcome your feedback and stand ready to assist you in your preparedness efforts.

**Director Larry Woods**

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS



## OEM STAFF ADDITIONS

OEM WELCOMED THREE NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TEAM.



**Wesley Mann** joined the OEM team in April as the new logistics specialist. Wes has an associate's degree in allied health science. Before coming to OEM, Wes was a firefighter and EMT. He has nine years of EMS, fire and specialized rescue experience. Wes is currently pursuing a bachelor of applied science in emergency management with a concentration in homeland security.



**Branden Surgnier** joined OEM as the new public information officer in June. Branden has previous work experience in advertising and marketing. Branden graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor of science degree in journalism with an emphasis in strategic communication and a minor in business, and he has a master of arts degree in communication with an emphasis in integrated marketing communication from Drury University.



**Courtney Wharton** joined the team in July as OEM's new IT network engineer. Courtney holds a bachelor's degree in management information systems and has more than 10 years of IT experience prior to joining OEM.

# OEM RECYCLING PROGRAM

OEM facilitates a county-wide recycling program, and in 2018 a total of **15,783 pounds** of recyclable material was collected from Greene County government campus buildings. These materials include paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, glass and electronics. Since its inception in 2013, this grant-funded program has collected a cumulative total of **50,120 pounds** of recyclable material. This amount was kept out of the landfill system.



# OEM MAJOR NEWS-WORTHY STORIES

## OEM TRAINING FOR REAL-LIFE AIRPLANE DISASTER SCENARIO: OPERATION NIGHT FLIGHT

Springfield-Greene County OEM, Airport Police and Aircraft Rescue Firefighters, along with other public safety partner agencies including Springfield Fire Department, Willard Fire Department, Mercy EMS, CoxHealth EMS, CoxHealth Hospital, Mercy Hospital, American Red Cross and the 911 Emergency Communications Center, executed a planned exercise scenario at the Springfield-Branson National Airport on May 16. This was a full-scale exercise planned for four hours that evaluated fatality management services, coordination between local agencies and mass care services.



The exercise scenario was based on a high-impact plane crash due to mechanical failure, resulting in a mass casualty incident. It was designed to evaluate community response, specifically operational coordination, communication, fire management, triage, transport, decontamination, mass care, reunification services and fatality management services. The purpose of the full scale exercise was to analyze results, to identify strengths to build upon as well as areas for improvement.

This exercise provided an opportunity to test community emergency response plans. The exercise demonstrated the community's capabilities in operational coordination; operational communications; fire management and suppression; public health, healthcare, and emergency services; environmental response/health and safety; mass care services; and fatality management services.



## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS: SKLYAB DEPLOYED TO OZARK COUNTY AFTER LIGHTNING STRIKE DISABLES COMMUNICATION

In June, the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management responded to a call for assistance from the State Emergency Management Agency after a nearby county's 911/Dispatch Center was hit by lightning. The lightning strike knocked out radio communications at the Ozark County Sheriff's Office, taking out phone lines and radio capabilities. The lightning strike disabled some systems while leaving others intact.

OEM deployed two of its staff members and three regional communications specialists to assist with communication support. The Region D Mobile Communications Support Vehicle was also deployed in order to assist with receiving and dispatching calls. A great example of neighbors helping neighbors!



# OEM HOSTS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN COURSE

OEM was host to a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Communications Technician (COMT) Course at the Public Safety Center in July. This 40-hour course taught incident radio communications, infrastructure and information technology skills to responders that would be deployed to disasters and emergencies. Participating groups included OEM, MoDOT and Mercy Emergency Medical Services.

The purpose of the COMT training is to introduce prospective COMTs to the role of the COMT at an incident or planned event, to introduce the technologies that may be deployed in support of an incident, and to provide resources and tools that a prospective COMT can use to better understand what assets are available locally and plan how those resources might be brought to bear in times of crisis. Jonathan Ayres, former OEM Network Engineer and current OEM reservist, is one of three certified instructors in the State of Missouri.



## SEVERE WEATHER EVENT RESULTS IN SIREN ACTIVATION & MUTUAL AID RESPONSE

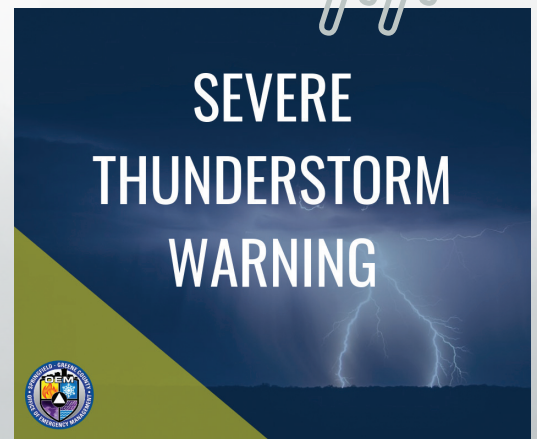


On July 19, severe thunderstorms came through the Ozarks, including parts of northwestern and central Greene County. While a couple of large hail reports were received, straight-line winds caused the majority of the damage. Numerous reports of damaging winds with trees uprooted and power lines down were received. The National Weather Service also measured 74 mph winds in Springfield.

Due to the damaging winds and severe weather, OEM sounded the outdoor warning sirens. The siren policy permits the use of outdoor warning sirens for damaging straight-line wind events. The outdoor warning sirens were activated without a tornado warning due to the abundance of concern for several outdoor events occurring in the community that evening. OEM was alerted by trained weather spotters, as well as the National Weather Service, of potential damage in communities to the west of Springfield and of damaging winds in the city of Springfield itself.

The severe weather conditions resulted in a fatal accident on a duck boat at Table Rock Lake in Branson. Unfortunately, these conditions led to the sinking of one duck boat, which resulted in 17 fatalities. OEM provided support to the Greene County Medical Examiner's office during the response efforts.

OEM aims to build a disaster-resilient community. Educating and advocating for disaster preparedness is at the heart of OEM's mission.



# OEM ACTIVELY MONITORED WEATHER YEAR-ROUND

**2018 WAS AN ACTIVE YEAR FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF SEVERE WEATHER, BOTH NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY. BUT, FOR THE MOST PART, WEATHER WAS RELATIVELY MODERATE WHEN COMPARED TO YEARS PRIOR.**

OEM staff actively monitored these severe weather events, communicating with the National Weather Service, 911 and public safety partners to receive real-time weather updates. The Emergency Operations Center was activated to an Operation Condition Level 3 on multiple occasions throughout the year to help assist partner agencies with managing severe weather.

## THROUGHOUT 2018 THERE WERE:

- 28 – SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS
- 14 – WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES
- 8 – WIND ADVISORIES
- 7 – FLOOD WARNINGS
- 7 – HEAT ADVISORIES
- 6 – DENSE FOG ADVISORIES
- 6 – SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCHES
- 5 – TORNADO WATCHES
- 4 – TORNADO WARNINGS
- 3 – FRONT ADVISORIES
- 2 – WIND CHILL ADVISORIES



### OEM DIRECTOR LARRY WOODS DEPLOYED TO HAWAII AND THE CAROLINAS TO ASSIST IN HURRICANE OLIVIA AND FLORENCE RESPONSE EFFORTS



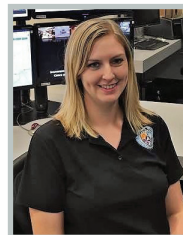
Hurricane Olivia was the first tropical cyclone to make landfall in Maui and Lanai in the state of Hawaii, and it was the sixth major hurricane of the 2018 Pacific hurricane season. Larry deployed in advance of Olivia as the planning section chief for one of two Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Incident Management Teams (IMT). As planning section chief, his responsibilities included management of personnel that facilitated the accountability of all deployed HHS resources and the development of incident action plans.



As soon as the threat diminished for Hawaii, Larry was transferred to the Carolinas for Hurricane Florence to assist that IMT as their deputy planning section chief.

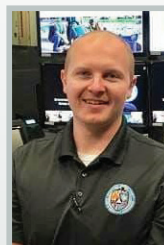
## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

### OEM DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAMANTHA FOSTER TAKES LEAVE TO PURSUE ARMY OFFICER CANDIDACY



OEM Deputy Director Samantha Foster left for Army basic training in October 2018 and returned to OEM in February 2019. Foster is an officer candidate for the Army National Guard where she hopes to further her logistics and leadership training to support our troops and her position as deputy director at OEM.

### OEM LOGISTICS SPECIALIST WES MANN TAKES LEAVE TO PURSUE ADVANCED TRAINING IN CYBER INTELLIGENCE WITH THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD



Wes Mann, OEM's logistics specialist, is gearing up for a five-month advanced training in cyber intelligence with the Air National Guard. Mann has been a member of the Air Guard since May 2017 and is currently working on a degree in emergency management with an emphasis on homeland security. Not only will this training help him in the military, but it will benefit his community disaster readiness role at OEM.

### OEM DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAMANTHA FOSTER EARNS GREENE COUNTY TOP BRANCH AWARD

On Sept. 7, Greene County lost one of their own, Deputy Aaron Roberts of the Sheriff's Office. Samantha Foster responded to the Public Safety Center, coordinated OEM staff and worked with the Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Team to coordinate their planning efforts for Deputy Roberts' funeral. As stated in the award, Foster displayed integrity, professionalism, dedication, competence and character during this tragic event. This embodied the values and attributes of the heart of Greene County.

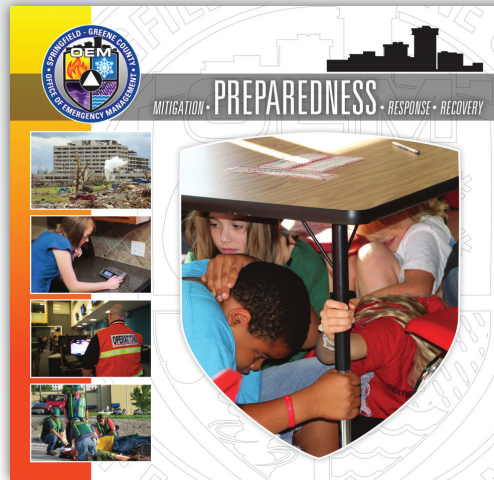
### OEM PLANNERS TYREL FLOYD AND LINDSEY MERICLE SELECTED TO ATTEND THE HIGHLY COVETED, POSITION-SPECIFIC ALL-HAZARDS PLANNING SECTION CHIEF TRAINING



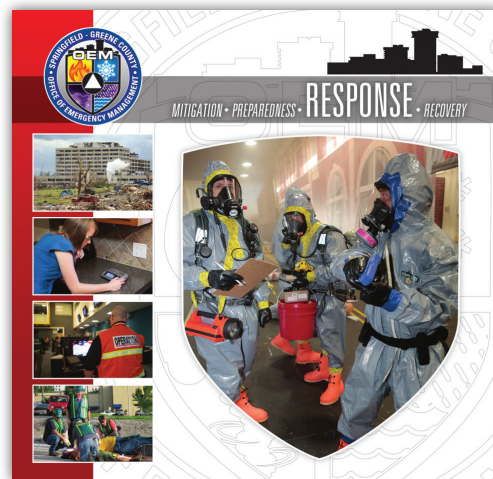
In November, OEM Planners Ty Floyd and Lindsey Mericle were chosen to attend SEMA's highly-selective All-Hazards Planning Section Chief Training in Jefferson City. Only a few who apply are selected to attend this highly sought after, four-day training that focuses on resource tracking and data gathering for incident plan development. "This training will help to benefit their roles when we activate our Emergency Operations Center," said OEM Director Larry Woods.

# PLANNING

Every five years, **OEM updates the Whole-Community Emergency Preparedness Plan.** In 2018, OEM staff worked together to make edits and update the Preparedness Plan to ensure a comprehensive approach to disaster preparedness. The OEM planning specialist actively participates in revising the comprehensive preparedness plan that addresses the need for an all-hazards approach to emergency preparedness, a process that takes six months.



The OEM planning specialist also, in cooperation with community and public safety partners, **updates Greene County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** each year. The EOP is a thorough emergency response plan that provides guidance for departments and agencies in the event of an emergency or disaster. The EOP lays a framework that allows Springfield and Greene County the best possible opportunity to save lives, minimize injuries, protect property and the environment, preserve the functionality of government and maintain economic activities essential to the community's recovery from the effects of disaster. The review and editing for this community response plan is a year-long process that involves the collaboration of all OEM staff.



OEM's **partnership with the municipalities** throughout Greene County continued this year with the update and approval of an EOP for each city. OEM helped to lead the implementation of an elected and senior official's training and exercise program for these municipalities. In addition, the planning partnership with Springfield Public Schools also continued with the update of their EOP and a total of 25 SPS building safety walk-throughs. These site visits allow OEM staff to meet with administrators to collaboratively identify areas of refuge and review safety-related topics.



OEM hosted nine **interns and volunteers** this year completing a combined total of 1,210 hours, equivalent to a part-time employee, saving about \$15,000. Interns and volunteers undertake projects on a variety of topics including vulnerable populations, accommodations for religious minorities, and research on tornado sheltering best practices.

# TRAINING & EXERCISE

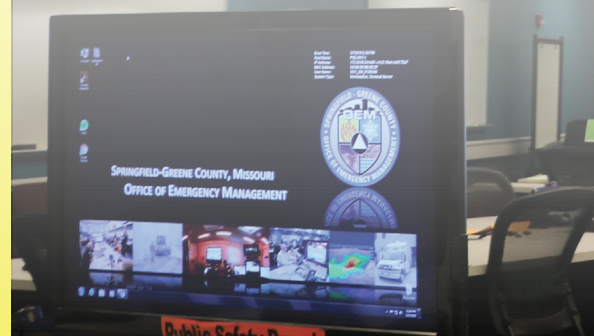
OEM staff participated in a diverse range of exercises and training events throughout the year that helped to strengthen and reinforce preparedness efforts to better serve the Greene County community.



Twice a year, in the spring and fall, OEM teaches Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) courses at the Public Safety Center. CERT training consists of three classes that teach citizens how to respond to disasters in their community.



Throughout the training, participants learn basic disaster preparedness skills in the classroom and in the field. In 2018, 37 Greene County citizens graduated from the CERT program, which grants them eligibility to become an official CERT volunteer with OEM for a variety of roles during disasters (ice storms, tornadoes, floods, etc.) or pre-planned events (fairs, parades, concerts, etc.).







This year's annual **Missouri statewide tornado drill** was held on March 6. The statewide drill proved to be a successful exercise opportunity as OEM activated Greene County's outdoor warning sirens and encouraged Greene County residents to practice their sheltering plans and ensure readiness in case of a severe weather emergency.

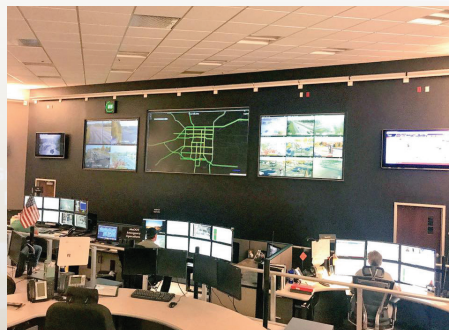


OEM held our **Annual EOC Workshop** on March 27. This year's workshop events included a dynamic and engaging presentation by Keith Stammer, the Jasper County Emergency Management Director during the 2011 EF-5 Joplin tornado. In addition, the 75+ workshop attendees played the Extreme Event Game, an interactive exercise addressing resource management in disaster preparedness and response. The competition grew intense and resulted in quite a bit of healthy competition and good humor!

OEM coordinated **Operation: Night Flight**, the Springfield-Branson National Airport Full Scale Exercise, on May 16. This is a whole-community exercise held every three years, in which multiple agencies participate to test our response plans for a mass casualty scenario. Exercising our community emergency operations plan maintains our readiness, allows us to identify gaps, and improves our response capabilities. Read more on page 5.



On Sept. 18, OEM hosted the **Region D Full Scale Exercise**. The Region D Exercise committee coordinates two exercises per year to assist emergency management programs funded by the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in meeting the grant's requirements. The objectives of this year's exercises were to increase the communications and resource management capabilities of emergency managers in a disaster.



In 2018, OEM staff participated in an **Alternate Emergency Operations Center Staff Drill** designed to test and increase our readiness to deploy to an alternate emergency operations center location.



The annual **Great ShakeOut earthquake drill** is an earthquake drill that took place this year on Oct. 18. The event provides citizens the opportunity to practice how to be safer during big earthquakes and highlighted the importance of "Drop, Cover, Hold On!" OEM actively promoted the importance of disaster preparedness through a social media campaign that drew local media attention, resulting in a news story.





The National Weather Service and the Missouri Department of Transportation gave a **regional winter weather training seminar** that helped to provide insight and awareness on how winter weather forecasts are produced and the types of winter weather hazards commonly experienced in southwest Missouri. Attending these weather-related trainings with our partner agencies helps OEM to better understand winter weather behavior and its effects.

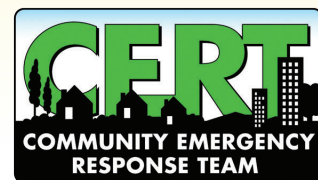
**Regular staff training** on emergency operations center equipment, functions and procedures ensured that OEM watch officers and on-call staff members were ready to coordinate future disaster activations. These ongoing staff trainings allow OEM staff the opportunity to gain further insight into each OEM staff member's roles in the incident command system, the system that is used when the emergency operations center is activated during a disaster or emergency.



# CERT/CART PROGRAMS

## STRENGTHEN CITIZENS' ABILITY TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a national program sponsored by FEMA that is designed to help provide basic disaster preparedness and response training to people and their communities across the country. The Greene County CERT program trains citizens to learn and practice basic disaster preparedness skills, basic first aid and light search and rescue techniques. This training emboldens individuals to respond quickly during times of disaster when emergency officials may not be able to immediately assist.



In 2018, a total of 37 graduates successfully completed CERT training. CERT members assisted OEM staff with a variety of special events, trainings and community speaking engagements throughout the year.

Members of the CERT Animal Response Team (CART) shared important pet disaster preparedness information with visitors to various community events in 2018, including Commercial Street's annual Love Your Pets Day and Pets and Pumpkins event.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## VISIT TO WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM

On Feb. 7, OEM had the opportunity to visit and meet with the emergency management team from Washington University in St. Louis. This field trip allowed OEM to see firsthand how the university coordinates emergency response efforts and to learn how they operate in the event of an emergency situation or disaster. The emergency management team at Washington University in St. Louis also gave a tour of their brand new Emergency Operations and Public Safety Dispatch Center. Networking and building relationships with other emergency management organizations is a great way for OEM to continue to improve emergency response efforts and plans when a disaster occurs.



FEB.



## CERT ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM (CART) ACTIVATED

The CERT Animal Response Team (CART) was activated on Feb. 15 when a large fire broke out in the Welcome Inn Extended Stay in Springfield. Pets are an important member in many families, so OEM strives to take great care of pets in times of disaster when needed.

## SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS EXPO

OEM and the National Weather Service (NWS) attended the annual Severe Weather Awareness Expo at the Battlefield Mall on Saturday, Feb. 24. The expo allowed for local agencies and partners to teach members of the community how to prepare for the upcoming severe weather season of tornadoes, flash flooding and severe storms. OEM and NWS provided expo attendees with disaster preparedness and severe weather safety resources.



**2018  
STORM SPOTTER  
TRAINING**  
**MARCH 9 - 6:30PM**  
AG National Leadership & Resource Center Auditorium  
1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield

## STORM SPOTTER TRAINING COURSE

The annual storm spotter training course took place this year on March 9. OEM staff and meteorologists from the National Weather Service led the course to help educate the public in attendance about the importance of providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. The course was open to community members of Greene County and included topics such as the role and function of a trained storm spotter, severe weather safety tips, thunderstorm basics, fundamentals of storm structure and supercell formations. The training was held in coordination with the Missouri's annual Severe Weather Awareness Week.

MARCH

APRIL

## SAFE AND SOUND EXPO

On Saturday, April 14, members of the Greene County community visited the Ozark Empire Fair E-Plex to attend the annual Safe and Sound Expo, hosted by KY3. The event afforded attendees the opportunity to speak with OEM and other public safety-related organizations to learn more about safety and preparedness. OEM hosted a comprehensive exhibit space that included representation from Greene County CERT, Greene County ARES, Springfield-Greene County 911 and the National Weather Service, Springfield, MO. OEM team members provided tours through “Skylab”, OEM’s mobile communication vehicle, and provided visitors with important preparedness information.



## WESLEY MANN STARTED AT OEM AS THE LOGISTICS SPECIALIST

Learn more about Wes on page 4.

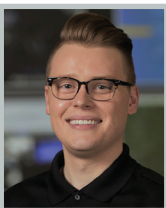
MAY

## OPERATION: NIGHT FLIGHT

OEM executed a planned high-impact airplane crash exercise scenario at the Springfield-Branson National Airport on May 16. This was a full-scale exercise planned for four hours that evaluated Fatality Management Services, coordination between local agencies and Mass Care Services. More details on page 5.



JUNE



## BRANDEN SURGNIER STARTED AT OEM AS THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Learn more about Branden on page 4.

JULY

## GOVERNOR MIKE PARSON SIGNS HB 1456 AND SB 870 INTO LAW AT PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER

On July 6, OEM and the Springfield-Greene County 911 Emergency Communications Department had the pleasure of hosting Governor Mike Parson in the Public Safety Center as he signed HB 1456 and SB 870 into law. These bills addressed emergency medical service protocols and funding for 911 technology. Also present with Governor Parson was Representative Jeanie Lauer, who worked for more than six years on HB 1456.



## COURTNEY WHARTON STARTED AT OEM AS THE IT NETWORK ENGINEER

Learn more about Courtney on page 4.



## 82<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL OZARK EMPIRE FAIR

From July 27 to Aug. 4, OEM staff were on site for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ozark Empire Fair to help coordinate public safety communications and support from the Region D Mobile Communications Support Vehicle, also known as Skylab. Along with OEM staff, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members operated the first aid booth, providing assistance to fair attendees with minor medical issues.



**AUG.**

## BIRTHPLACE OF ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL

Approximately 56,000 people came out to this year's Birthplace of Route 66 Festival in downtown Springfield on Aug. 10 and 11. OEM staff helped manage public safety communication throughout the two-day event, as well as provide logistical assistance and support to event staff and organizers. CERT members volunteered their time providing first aid assistance for minor medical issues.



**SEPT.**

## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

**Disasters Happen**

**PREPARE NOW**

**LEARN HOW**



FEMA



## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September is National Preparedness Month, which provided OEM the opportunity to remind our community to prepare now and throughout the year. All month long, OEM worked diligently to emphasize the importance of preparing for disasters by promoting helpful and easy-to-implement preparedness to the community. 2018's theme was "Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How." Each week featured a different preparedness tactic and included topics such as making and practicing emergency plans, learning lifesaving skills, checking insurance coverage and saving money for emergencies. At the end of the month, OEM partnered with City Utilities for a live social media event to help promote the importance of an emergency preparedness kit, and to give away an emergency preparedness kit to a member of the community.

**SEPT.**

## OEM ASSISTS MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR HOME FOOTBALL GAMES

Starting in September, and throughout the 2018 football season, OEM assisted Missouri State University (MSU) in the management and coordination of emergency services for home football games. In collaboration with the Springfield Police Department, Springfield Fire Department, MSU's emergency management team and emergency medical services, OEM helped to coordinate MSU's emergency management operations for home games throughout the season. Go Bears!



## PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP VISITS MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

OEM activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in support of President Donald Trump's visit to Missouri State University (MSU) on Sept. 21. MSU used this presidential visit as an opportunity to practice their emergency operations; OEM personnel were on MSU's campus to provide expertise and support. OEM's EOC was the secondary support location for MSU. The President came to Springfield to help campaign for then-U.S. Senate candidate for Missouri Josh Hawley.

## ROCKIN' ROGERSVILLE CONCERT

OEM assisted in public safety communications coordination for the 2018 Rockin' Rogersville concert on September 30 in Rogersville, Missouri. Hosted by the Community Foundation of Rogersville, about 2,000 attendees were treated to a live outdoor concert with performances by local music artists.



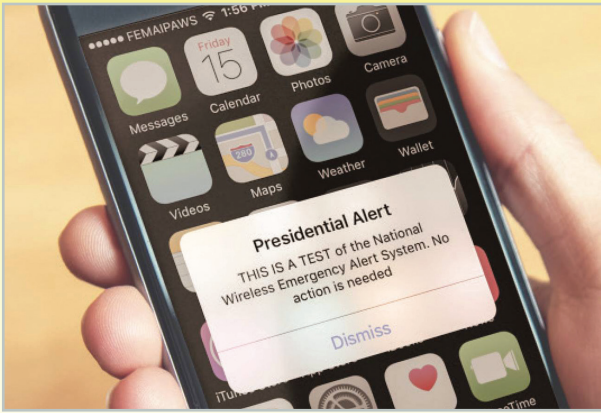
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## NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY ALLIANCE

Since 2014, the National Cyber Security Alliance and the United States Department of Homeland Security have worked collaboratively to create a campaign between government and industry to promote and make aware the resources every American needs to stay safer and more secure online. This year, OEM assisted in the promotion of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month by sharing insightful and valuable information about cyber safety. Themes for this year included basic online safety tips, rewarding job opportunities in cybersecurity, online safety at work and highlighting the importance of the nation's critical infrastructure.



# Homeland Security



## FEMA CONDUCTS NATIONWIDE TEST OF THE WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

On Wednesday, Oct. 3, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted a nationwide test of the Wireless Emergency Alert system, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Oct. 3 test was for a Presidential Alert, a type of Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) only used for major emergencies that affect the entire country. OEM helped to promote the rationale and educate the public about the use of this type of alert. OEM's efforts led to a news story with local media.

## 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BASS PRO SHOPS MARATHON

In collaboration with Bass Pro Shops, OEM staff coordinated public safety efforts, working with race organizers, law enforcement, fire personnel and medical teams, to ensure the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Bass Pro Shops marathon and half marathon and News-Leader 5K races held on Nov. 4 were safe and enjoyable for both participants and spectators. More than 3,000 runners participated in this year's races.



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## UNITED STATES MEDICAL CENTER FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS' EMPLOYEE WELLNESS DAY

On Nov. 16, OEM staff members attended the United States Medical Center for Federal Prisoners' Employee Wellness Day. OEM had the opportunity to speak with federal prison employees about disaster preparedness, emergency kits and how to get involved in the community.

## OEM STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

At the end of each year, OEM staff meet for an off campus strategic planning retreat. This retreat provides staff the opportunity to discuss projects completed for each position, to assess the effectiveness of OEM's emergency support operations for the community and to discuss strategic goals for the next year. This year, OEM focused on emphasizing the enhancement of community engagement, continuing the awareness around disaster preparedness and educating the public more about who OEM is, why OEM exists and how OEM works to benefit Greene County. 2019 is going to be a great year!

DEC.



2019

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