

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2015-16 Performance Report

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MISSION STATEMENT:

To minimize the effects of all disasters and emergencies upon the people of Oklahoma through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programs.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Albert Ashwood
Director
405-521-2481 (work)
405-590-0110 (cell)
405-258-2831 (home)

GOVERNANCE:

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management is led by the State Director, a Gubernatorial Appointee.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Board and/or Commission meetings are not applicable with regard to the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management has implemented all modernization mandates required by HB 1304. OEM continues to work with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) regarding the consolidation of Information Technology services for the State of Oklahoma. OEM continues to respond to all OMES inquiries regarding Information Technology issues and has eliminated the Information Systems Specialist position from the organizational chart.

OEM remains at 28 FTEs (2 below authorized) to ensure fiscal responsibility within our budget. All OEM FTE employees are now paid via electronic deposit and nearly all reservist or contract employees are also paid via electronic deposit. We are working to accomplish electronic payment for disaster grant recipients as well.

CORE MISSION:

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management is required by law to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate against any natural or manmade disaster which can affect the citizens of Oklahoma. While recovery and mitigation are solely handled by OEM, numerous other state agencies often partner with our department in both preparedness and response, including the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security. However, during times of crisis, these functions are coordinated through OEM as identified in the State Emergency Operations Plan.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management is always looking for ways to be more fiscally responsible in providing our services to the State of Oklahoma. We continue to finalize a debris management plan and monitoring contract, which can be let to the private sector prior to large debris disasters. We feel the monitoring contract will not only expedite the movement of debris at the local level, but ensure consistency, which can be recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for quicker reimbursement.

We are always looking for ways to privatize our training curriculum for our customers at the local level and to provide more services with fewer employees. We are constantly working to create private sector partnerships to leverage resources to effectively respond following disasters.

OEM also works with the private sector in the area of safe rooms and school safety. The SoonerSafe Safe Room Rebate Program provides a 75-percent rebate – up to \$2,000 – to eligible Oklahomans who install above-ground or below-ground safe rooms. More than 40,000 people have registered for the program by going to www.soonersafe.ok.gov since its launch in 2011. More than \$3 million in safe room rebates have been delivered to Oklahoma homeowners since that time. OEM will distribute an additional \$1 million in rebates during FY-15. The Safe Schools 101 Program trains architects, engineers, emergency managers and other local officials to assess school buildings for safe refuge areas already existing in schools as well as options for new safe rooms. Classes feature lecture, hands-on exercises and on-site assessments for local schools.

Additionally, OEM continues to work on and will launch a new public awareness and preparedness mobile application and website designed to prepare Oklahomans for severe weather and provide updates when severe weather or other disasters occur.