



Fall Conference Salutes 40 Years!



State Director, Albert Ashwood (left) presents Ann Patton with the Ben Fizzel Award. OEMA President, Kary Cox (right) looks on.

According to some, a record membership attendance, a record amount of participating vendors, very informational speakers and great support from the state level came together to create one of the best fall conferences yet! Newly reelected OEMA President, Kary Cox, credits the fall conference committee on a great job!

The conference, beginning on October 7th thru the 9th, in Tulsa, treated attendees to hear presentations covering subjects as: Homeland Security & FEMA updates, Cyber Terrorism & Cyber Crime awareness & prevention, the latest on planning grants, OK-First, benefits of the CERT program. The conference ended with an extremely informative case study and panel discussion on the Tulsa Airgas Explosion and the Moore Tanker Explosion.

Wednesday evening was the OEMA 40th Anniversary Banquet, where several awards were presented. Presidential awards (cont'd on page 4)

Membership Elects New Executive Board

This years election results of the O.E.M.A. executive board are as follows:

- Kary Cox, President*
- Jake Castor, Vice President*
- Jennifer Powell, Secretary*
- Glynadee Edwards, Treasurer*
- Gayland Kitch, Parliamentarian*
- David Van Nostrand, Central VP*
- Paula Cain, NE VP*
- Tim Cooke, SE VP*
- Billy Bankston, SW VP*
- Mike Galloway, NW VP*

Congratulations to all the new Board members.

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Emergency Manager Week & "Day at the Capital" update

Emergency Management Week 2004 along with the Emergency Managers "Day at the Capital" is still in the planning stages. ODEM Public Information Manager, Michelann Ooten stated that as soon as information is available it will be posted on the states web site: www.odcem.state.ok.us.

You can also contact Michelann Ooten's office by calling: 405-521-2481.

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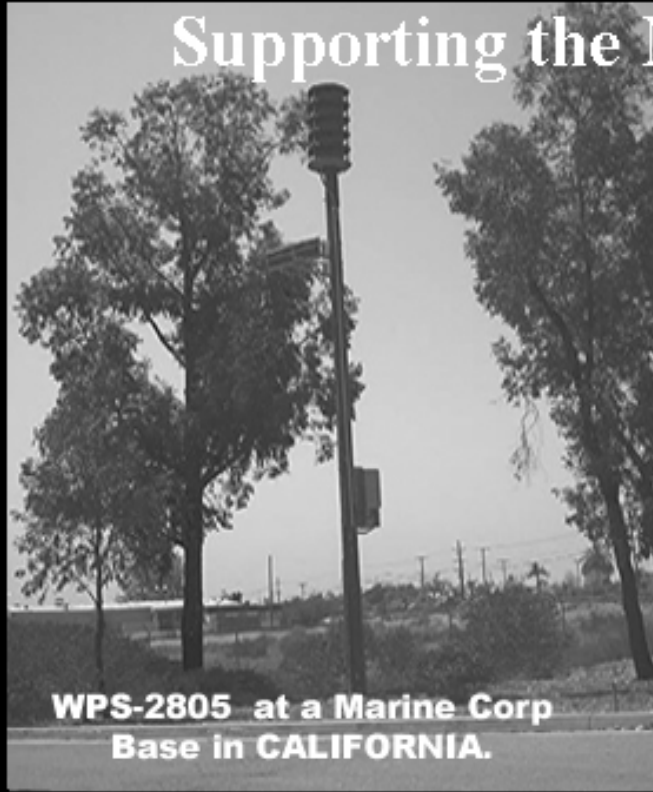
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NEW STORMREADY COMMUNITIES

The NWS Norman **Storm Ready** Advisory Board is please to announce the following new members of the **Storm Ready** family. These communities have been officially recognized as new **Storm Ready** communities during the past couple of months: Clinton, Weatherford, Custer City, Ada, Newkirk, Kay County, Enid and Garfield County, Comanche County, Norman, Jones, and Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls

* * * * *

OKLAHOMA SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

The State of Oklahoma and the National Weather Service will conduct the annual Severe Weather Awareness Week March 28 through April 3, 2004.

This is much later than in past years, but we hope the date change will result in more interest from the media and the public, and will more closely coincide with the beginning of our peak severe weather season in the state (73% of Oklahoma tornadoes occur in April, May and June).

Check the NWS web site for more details concerning awareness activities planned for the week.

Ponca City Adds TV's

Recently Ponca City ECC (Emergency Communications Center at the Ponca City EOC) added 5 LCD TV screens "We can keep an eye on 5 TV stations at once" states David Land, Ponca City Emergency Management Member. Also new Dell PCs are now installed "WAY FASTER than those old PCs that were in there. Should help alot next storm season!", according to Paula Cain, the city's E.M.

Introducing Family McReady-OK!

In an effort to continue to raise awareness of severe spring weather, Emergency management is teaming up with McDonalds, National Weather Service and others in a new program called Family McReady-OK. The program combines severe weather preparedness strategies as well as floodplain and weather radio tips and delivers them in family environment where visitors are likely to take notice and get involved. The program features preparedness themed tray liners and bag inserts as well as display racks that will be set up in each participating McDonalds

and will hold neighborhood floodplain maps, tornado path maps, and three brochures, all of which will be provided at no cost to you. Of course, the McReady program cannot be successful without the help of local emergency management. We are counting on local emergency managers or their volunteers to restock the brochures as needed. You also have the opportunity to add any additional brochures that you have available.

You will be receiving more information on this program in the coming weeks.



Above is the new Maple School Safe Room DR-1355 project. Maple School is just west of El Reno, right off of I40. They are going to use the safe room as a library (multi-purpose room) State Officials believe that this is the first built with HMGP funds in Oklahoma.

National Severe Weather Workshop Dates Set!!

The National Severe Weather Workshop will be held on March 4, 5 & 6, 2004 in Norman, Oklahoma.

"Partners Keeping the Public Warned and Informed" is this year's workshop theme. The design of the Workshop is to enhance

Partnerships between forecasters, researchers, emergency management, broadcasters & storm spotters as well as weather enthusiasts. On Saturday afternoon storm spotter training will be held.

For more info go to:

www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2004.



Canton Emergency Management Dir. Steve Driskell (center) was honored with the Mickey Clarkson Award.

* * * * *



Okmulgee County Volunteer Jared Barbee (right) received the Outstanding Contributor to Emergency Management Award.

* * * * *



Oklahoma Deputy Chief Medial Examiner Dr. Ronald Distefano (center) was recognized for his efforts and support of Emergency Management with the presentation of the **Public Officials Award**. Also pictured, OEMA President, Kary Cox &



(left to right) Mike McCool, Dist. Chief Don Whitley, Tulsa FD & Moore Fire Dept. Assistant Chief Terry Schat, respond to questions from membership attending the case study and panel discussion of the Tulsa Airgas explosion and the Moore tanker explosion. Capt. Mike Lowman, (shown below) Glenpool FD and the Incident Commander at the Glenpool/CONOCO tank fire, presented a very informative overview of that event which demonstrated difficulties that can be encountered at such an incident.



40 Years (cont'd from page 1)

were presented to Herb Gunter, Davis Van Nostrand & Steve Palladino.

The award of Paid Director of the Year was presented to Creek County E.M.D., B.J. Pope. The award is presented to the director who contributes, not only to local but statewide efforts involving emergency management.

B.J. has been instrumental in establishing the first county-wide

“City Watch”, and built an outstanding communications system in Creek County. Pope also serves as a board member of the Red Cross, United Way and the Indian Nations Council of Government.

He acts as an incident commander, has managed fires as well as flooding and ice storms. Pope is also a certified instructor and provides extensive training to responders in his area.

Congratulations B.J.!!

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From the President...



OEMA President Kary Cox

The executive board has met several times since conference to work on upcoming events such as Weather Workshop, Spring and Fall Conferences, Legislative Reception, Statewide Preparedness projects, and many other items. More on that later, I want to take the opportunity to talk to you about a subject that is a pet peeve of mine.

I had the opportunity to hear a representative from FEMA Region VI speak at the annual HotZone Conference in Houston back in October and his presentation sparked something that I think we all need to consider.

He was speaking about the Shuttle recovery mission earlier this year and at the beginning of his speech he stated that he had heard about the shuttle going down and a few minutes later got a call from Washington activating FEMA and was told to be ready to be picked up by a chopper to be transported to the main crash site command post and he did not understand why FEMA was being activated and why he was being asked to go to the command post. He did not know what he or FEMA could offer, because it was a response activity and would most likely be nothing more than a recovery mission. Now, that may not be his exact words, but I believe it is a pretty accurate summary. In the end he did admit that FEMA became very active in the effort and made several significant contributions.

Now, what set me off is, first of all it was obvious that this gentleman did not

have a very firm grasp of the Incident Command System (ICS) and secondly, I believe his original doubt or question about the FEMA contribution is one of the main obstacles in our ability for Emergency Management to grow, survive, and “make a place” for ourselves in this world as many times we are considered “nice” but “unnecessary”.

I think we are all-aware and agree, that in Emergency Management we must all be flexible and each jurisdiction requires a slightly different approach or application of emergency management. However, it does not matter if it is a weather event, terrorism, train wreck, plane crash, manhunt, or any other type of emergency and even non-emergency event, the point is our job is, and must be, more than pushing paper. We are planners, coordinators, resource managers, communicators, liaisons, and we **ARE** first responders as well as a host of other things depending on the situation and the need.

The dictionary defines Emergency as; an unforeseen event or condition requiring prompt action. Management: the act or art of managing, judicious use of means to accomplish an end.

Even Washington has realized and acknowledged our existence in the first response field with the recent Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-8; “The term “first responder” refers to those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations.”

We have a place, a job, a duty and we must stand up and take that responsibility head on and provide for our community the emergency management services it requires to the best of our ability and keep in mind the duties may change with each event and may even stray from our traditional views of emergency management. Hence the term, flexible. I am not promoting that EM’s should be in the middle of

every car wreck or house fire, but I do believe that we must be ready and willing to move away from whatever our traditional view may be and adapt to each situation, however different it may be in each jurisdiction, and apply what we do for the benefit of the community regardless of the event.

Until next time,
Kary D. Cox, President

Behind the Scenes...

Here is a general overview of your executive board meetings from “minutes” provided from October 22.

A. Glynadee Edwards gave the treasurer’s report. \$7,032.77 was spent on conference not including the Pipe & Drape invoice. \$5,874.50 was deposited and more vendor checks will be deposited. David Van Nostrand made a motion seconded by Jake Castor to approve the report as submitted. Motion carried.

B. David Van Nostrand reported that the Central Area has met in Sept. & Oct. with 26 & 36 in attendance. In October there was a presentation on radio interoperability progression that covered 800 MHz as well as VHF & UHF users.

Mike Galloway reported that the Northwest Area has several training items scheduled to include a Regional Conference in Woodward during January. The area has Tier II Submit class, storm spotter training, HazMat training & the Spring Weather Conference on the calendar as well.

Billy Bankston said that the Southwest Area has been working on grants but would like better notification from ODEM &/or the Area Coordinator when grants are available. The area missed out on some grants because they were not notified anything was available.

Tim Cooke said the Southeast Area was scheduled to have their first area meeting November 20th.

Paula Cain reported that the Northeast Area would be taking a survey to see what needs &/or wants the area had.

Current Membership is 252 members. Kary Cox gave a description of the McReady Program that was done with the Tulsa Area McDonald’s. There was also discussion of a “Volunteer of the Year” award. Meeting adjournment.

A Word of “Thanks” *from B.J. Pope*

I think each of us in this vocation have spoken to civic groups from time to time. After explaining in twenty minutes or less, what we have taken years to build, we are told “well done”. Nice words from well meaning people. However, these are the same people that decide they need a new wool sweater for the next whatever and charge off to the local sweater store, Standing in front of the rack their only thought is finding the right shade of color in a flattering size. They expect the sweater store to have both. No thought is ever given to what it took to put that pale blue, XL wool sweater on the rack. Never do they think of the year it was on the back of some ewe making her way around a meadow somewhere high in the Rocky Mountains. No consideration is given to the journey the wool takes from that far away shearing shed to the rack of the local sweater store. “Well done”. Nice words from well meaning but uninformed people.

“Well done.” From the people in our own profession, on the other hand, is just about the highest form of recognition a man can receive. Unlike the sweater shopper, the people in our unique profession have walked the walk together. We have all shed the same sweat, the same tears, and the same blood. We have all stood in front of a taskmaster that wanted only the baby, and none of the labor pains. We have all fought to build million dollar programs on pocket change budgets. We have all spent too many late nights gauging streams, watching the skies, or eyes glued to a radar screen. We have all beat ourselves up because we allowed a mistake to be made under our watch. Each of you knows exactly of what I speak.

“Well done” from the people in this group means everything. They alone know what it takes and what has transpired. I can think of no higher recognition than this award from the people who know what it really means.

I humbly and gratefully accept guardianship of this honor on behalf of all the members of the Creek County Emergency Management team.

I humbly offer my thanks to each of the people that supported my selection for this honor.

Signed: B.J. Pope, Director

Creek County Emergency Management

Northeast District Activities:

Kay County conducted a meeting with the local health department officials to plan mass immunizations, while Kaw City sponsored CERT training and currently working with the area LEPC on public information via brochures, websites & ect. In **Mayes County**, activities include CERT training, continuing work on a number of grants, a landing zone in Spavinaw and local weather training via email & phone. Owasso is working on approval of an emergency operation plan and accepted bidding for new emergency warning system along with appointments of Citizens Corp Council. **Tulsa** is completing their EOP update and planning an IEMC for EMI in February with 60+ from the Tulsa area planning to attend. In addition, CERT training continues and Kelly Deal is the new Medical Reserve Corp Director. Washington Co. sent light towers to the Bristow manhunt, held emergency response exercise with ConocoPhillips and conducted a successful “Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day”

Turn Around, Don't Drown!

This national campaign is another attempt to inform the public of the deadly consequences of “Flash Flooding”! This campaign has been receiving wide support through the nation. You may have even seen the road sign (to the left) on the Weather Channel and if you've really paid close attention you'll see it on many NWS Sites along with Emergency Management site across the state. Flash

flooding can occur in winter months too.

With all the highly publicized promotion & sales of “SUV's” many new SUV owners sometimes have the misgiving that their vehicle can take them anywhere at anytime in any kind of weather.... sadly, many include flash flooding events.

Yes, you as a first responder or Emergency Manager have heard all the statistic of how many inches of moving water it takes to move a truck or car or human for that matter but let's keep in mind that Mr. & Mrs. John Q. Public are constantly bombarded thru the many advertising forms, that XXXXXX brand of tires have tread designs that “grip the road in all weather conditions” followed by a demonstration of a pickup or SUV parting the water, like Noah himself was behind the wheel. Or the reply, “I thought my SUV was heavy enough that the rushing water wouldn't budge it”.....well...I guess they've never seen a Navy aircraft carrierit floats too! This is a great campaign! It's aimed at preventing the loss of life of the citizen and the rescuer. Want to learn more about this campaign? Contact you NWSFO. *John Utech, OKEM Editor.*

New NOAA Weather Transmitters

(Tulsa Tornado Tribune) Two new weather radio transmitters are now on line to provide more coverage for eastern Oklahoma. The Bartlesville, OK is on 162.425MHz and the Oktaha OK transmitter is on 162.525 MHz.

Spotter Training

Sign-ups for SKYWARN spotter Training are being accepted. County Emergency Managers need to arrange training dates. NWSFO Tulsa WCM George Mathews stated “We can only offer one class per county, so talk it up to everyone and let's get a large turnout.”

You can check on dates on the training calendar on the web site at: www.srh.noaa.gov/tulsa/wcm/spotter.html

Amateur Radio Wants Your Help!

(the following letter contributed by Eddie Manley & was condensed for content and space)

Many Emergency Managers have utilized Amateur Radio during emergencies, the FCC has before them a proposal to allow electric companies to transmit 'high speed' internet on their highline and even existing wiring within buildings. The term being utilized for this undertaking is Broadband on Power Lines, or simply BPL. If you have the time to learn more about the BPL issue, please see the pages that the Amateur Radio Relay League [ARRL] has put together on the subject: www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/

Tests are currently being conducted and according to some, even the tests create so much noise that all radio transmission in the immediate area is apparently hindered.

Feel free to email me at the address below, if you need more information. Thanks

Eddie Manley KD5JGB, ARRL Assistant Section Manager,
ARRL FCC/Congressional Issues for Oklahoma;
jema1@sbcglobal.net

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JETSTREAM.. NWS Weather School on-line!

This site was designed for Educators, Emergency Managers and anyone interested in "how weather works". This is "very close" to college "Basic Meteorology". It's FREE and you learn on your own time!

Steven Cooper told the OKEM that the idea was originally designed for the local school and then it grew into its present form in which any educator, student or E.M. can access over the internet! As of late December a member affiliated with the Coast Guard wants to use this as an educational source. Dennis Cain and Michael Vescio are very important contributors to the ongoing project.

The Jet Stream explains the "hows and whys" of weather development. JetStream uses great text explanations along side incredible graphics. The subjects and lessons cover the following: layers of the atmosphere, air pressure, transfer of heat energy, global circulations, jet streams, air masses,



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FLASH:

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes

If you have not heard of this non-profit group you will be interested into what they have to offer. FLASH deals with organizations from the public and private sector, thru education of citizens by encouraging them to build, buy and use buildings that are constructed or retrofitted with disaster safety in mind. The web site is www.flash.org.

In this site you can find important safety information for the homeowner such as areas of "how to" weather proof a home from garage doors to windows. Safety notes on the latest designs for mobile home tie downs, construction wind straps to wildfire safety landscaping.

One of the most useful items is the "My Home Notes" section. It's a great tool for the homeowner as it allows them to make notes and statistics about their home where those records can be updated at anytime and if the home is damaged or destroyed all the notes have been kept safely "off-site" which can be retrieved at anytime, by the homeowner.

(JetStream cont'd)

cyclone models, winds, synoptic maps, clouds and cloud charts, precipitation, El Nino, tropical weather, soundings, satellites, ASOS acronyms, glossary, downloads. This site also includes NWS "cut and pastes" for your web site or your own emergency management site.

Steve informed the OKEM that the site is a "work in progress" site with new items and topic to be added in the future." Steve wanted readers to know that he welcomes any feedback.

Steve Cooper, Dennis Cain and Michael Vescio are employed by NOAA.

The site is:

www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/

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Jennifer Powell
OEMA Secretary
PO Box 1448
Shawnee, OK 74802

Dues are billed every July and are due by the end of the 1st day of Fall Conference.

ABOUT OEMA

Because emergencies transcend jurisdiction boundaries, intergovernmental coordination and cooperation are essential. The objective of OEMA is to assist local, state and Federal agencies in the establishment and maintenance of effective emergency management organizations.

We strive to advance the professional standards of persons engaged in emergency management through professional certification programs, legislative review, information exchange and educational programs.

SERVICES

The OKEM is a newsletter published by the OEMA that focuses on activities of the Association, emergency response news, legislative issues, jurisdictional activities and professional resources.

OEMA conference, workshops and committees provide direct access to current issues and trends in emergency management, helping participants enhance their roles in emergency management.

Coordination and communication are maintained with a network of allied associations and organizations that deal with all aspects of comprehensive emergency management.

MEMBERSHIP

Delegate membership is available to all persons who are professionally engaged in an emergency management agency of The State of Oklahoma or its political subdivisions.

Affiliate membership is available to all persons interested in fostering emergency management programs with Oklahoma.



OKEM

December, 2003

Oklahoma Emergency
Management Association
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Blackwell, OK 74631-4226
580-716-2194

Useful web sites:

Oklahoma Emergency Management Association:
www.okem.us

Oklahoma Dept. of Civil Emergency Management:
www.odcem.state.ok.us/

National Weather Service Office, Norman:
www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/

Oklahoma Flood Management Association:
www.okflood.org

Association of State Floodplain Managers:
www.floods.org

FEMA:
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