



# OKEM



Oklahoma Emergency Management Association

June, 2007

Quarterly Newsletter

## OEMA FALL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED!

Former FEMA Dir. Michael Brown will be the Keynote Speaker for the Fall Conference. The Conference is September 18, 19 & 20 in Tulsa Oklahoma. Registration forms will be available on-line on the OEMA's web site. [www.oema.us](http://www.oema.us) .

Besides being the former director of FEMA, Mr. Brown was at one time an attorney in the state of Oklahoma and worked closely with first responders.



## Flood Disaster relief Available

Federal disaster assistance is now available for those living in Ottawa and Washington counties who sustained damage due to severe storms and flooding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) toll-free application telephone number is now operational for those who suffered property damage or other losses. Call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) to apply for assistance. Those with speech or hearing impairment may call TTY 1-800-462-7585. Individuals may also register at the FEMA web site, [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

In response to a request from Gov. Brad Henry, on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007, President Bush signed a major disaster declaration designating Ottawa and Washington counties eligible for federal aid to help meet the recovery needs of residents and business owners. The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM) urges Oklahomans statewide who are in need of assistance due to storm and flood damage to call the toll-free number and report their damages. OEM will monitor these calls and request additional counties be added to the declaration. (*see Disaster Relief page 4*)

## “When it rains...It Floods!!”

Once many parts of the state were rejoicing as the drought looked to be behind us, Then came the rains.....and they kept coming....

The latest report and summary at press time from the Oklahoma Dept. of Emergency Management stated the following:

On June 10, 2007, widespread showers and severe thunderstorms developed across Oklahoma during the afternoon. This activity moved slowly north and produced excessive rainfall across Nowata and Washington Counties where 4-8 inches (*see Flood Summary on page 6*)

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## OEMA Vice President Area Reports

### Central Area...

Central area EM's are busy as always. Ongoing operations by many in reference to flooding, including Pottawatomie, Oklahoma, and Logan counties as seen on television; all have had at least some operations. Canadian County also has had operations ongoing from a tornado that struck the El Reno area in May.

The planning committee putting together the regional evacuation plan continues to meet. It is anticipated to put the first "public" draft out within the next month.

We are now also in the process of organizing a committee to develop a region-wide emergency operations plan. This will be a requirement for the UASI funds.

The committee revising the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (another UASI requirement) is also still working. There is now a requirement for a statewide TIC-P; it appears that the Oklahoma City area plan may be used as the guideline.

Shawnee has converted their radio system to the State's 800mhz system. Norman anticipates converting within the next few weeks (which will also bring Noble on-line), followed shortly thereafter by Edmond. Midwest City will be migrating by the end of the year.

It has been determined that a hard-patch will be established between Oklahoma City's Ma/Com radio system and the State's Motorola system. These patches will be established on each of the primary police talk groups, and will allow for instant interoperability between OCPD and other area law enforcement agencies.

On Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and again on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, there was a day-long event at all metro Wal-Mart stores focused on severe weather/family preparedness. On these days, NOAA All-Hazards Radios ("weather radios") were offered for sale at a reduced cost and Emergency Management/Wal-Mart personnel programmed weather radios as well as handing out preparedness information. Both the Moore Wal-Mart Supercenter and Neighborhood Market participated in this event.

Oklahoma City's new EOC is coming along quickly. This will be a "regional" EOC, and will include Oklahoma City EM, Oklahoma County EM, and the MMRS. Our next COEMA meeting will be held in the new facility.

### Northeast Area...

The Northeast Region has just completed their 2<sup>nd</sup> class of our APS series and will be taking a break during the month of July. We are pleased to report very good attendance. Attendance has been about 30 participants per class.

Our workshop will be August the 1<sup>st</sup> thru the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Ponca City. Another training class will be conducted during the workshop.

Our present plans include going to a regional exercise after classes have been completed.

### Southeast Area...

Pittsburg County hosted a Cameo class in the latter part of June. There were representatives present from Pittsburg, Choctaw, Latimer, Marshall, and McCurtain counties and the city of Pocola.

Latimer County had a HAZMAT incident last week on HWY 270 that kept the highway closed for approximately 10 hours. The truck was placarded with 3 different chemicals.

Don Smith, City of Calera Emergency Manager passed away on Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. His services were held on Wed. June 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, Bryan County Emergency Management volunteer Monte Bridwell passed away. His services were also held on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Southwest Region...

As with most of the state Kiowa County had a little flooding in the mid to latter part of June. A shelter was opened and eight or ten residents were housed over night.

At the time of this report. The City of Altus has not filled the position of Emergency Manager. They interviewed three applicants to date. They have given the Fire Chief the EM truck so it appears that he may be temporarily filling that position until an individual is selected.

Jackie Dickerson attended a MIPS exercise in Ardmore recently. The

health department held a multi jurisdiction exercise. Bob Stewart relocated his office and tested the MERC backup.

We are experiencing a growing problem with African Bees. The City of Altus has destroyed eight hives as of this date. A professional Bee Keeper has captured sixty-four swarms this year. So far, the swarms that have been tested, 98% have reportedly have been Africanized.

### Northwest Area...

NOAA radio is now on line in Texas County. Some of Beaver and Cimarron County can receive NOAA Weather Radio information.

Agro Terrorism Table top exercise was done in Texas County. People from all over the state were present to participate in the exercise

We are also pleased that a Agro Decon Trailer is now in Texas County and training has been done on the operation of the trailer in addition, we are preparing for a county wide exercise with a full blown scenario on August 4, 2007.

The NW Oklahoma Regional Communications Network (ReCoN), has been assigned the frequencies of 42.06 and 47.66 MHz. These frequencies will be the pair for the repeater to be located in Woodward. Additional linked repeaters are planned for the future in Custer County, and a booster in Harper County to link with a repeater in Texas County. This system will allow for EM agencies to communicate with each other in an emergency, and is planned to cover the OK panhandle, and all of NW and W Central Oklahoma. The system can be turned on or off with a keypad microphone on a base station, mobile or handheld radio. The system will be completely interoperable, allowing repeater access with the VHF Low band, VHF, UHF or 800 radio systems. Woodward's repeater is expected to be turned on as soon as the FCC gives final approval for the system, which may be this fall.

Harper County has recently approved the hiring of a part-time EM director. The position will be partially funded by the towns of Laverne and Buffalo. \*

**...Disaster Relief** *(cont'd from page 1)*

The declaration delivers a wide range of programs such as funding for temporary disaster housing assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loans for renters, homeowners and business owners to repair or replace damaged property, replacement grants for serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs.

When calling to apply, operators will need the following information from the applicant:

- Current phone number;
- Address at the time of the disaster and the address where the applicant is now staying;
- Social Security number, if available;
- A general list of damages and losses applicant suffered;
- If insured, the name of the company or agent and the policy number;
- General financial information; and,  
Bank account coding information if the applicant wishes to speed up their assistance with direct deposit

Individuals should not prejudice their eligibility, even if they don't have all the information necessary or if it was lost in the floods. Individuals who already registered with the American Red Cross, Salvation Army or another voluntary agency or who have reported damage to county or local officials, still need to call FEMA's toll-free number or register at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) and apply for the federal and state assistance programs.

**“How much you want for those radios...”**

You may find radios, lights, sirens, and whistles on the New “Swap Shop” on the OEMA’s web site!

[http://www.oema.us/equipment\\_swap.html](http://www.oema.us/equipment_swap.html)

It’s a brand new concept but it may just save you a lot of \$\$\$\$. You really need to check into the “TOOLS” section of the site! SOFTWARE AND REFERENCE MATERIALS ARE GROUPED BY CATEGORY:

General Computer Software; Automated Advisories/Alerts; Severe Weather Monitoring & Plotting; NIMS/ICS Software and Reference Materials; Reference Maps Mitigation, Planning and Response Software Emergency Operations Plans and Reference Materials; Communications Software/Links Miscellaneous (License Plate Application)

There are also more enhancements to the web site. It continues to improve as it grows!

\*\*\*\*

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## Government Training Institute adds *MORE* D.H.S. Approved Classes

The preparedness of State and Local SWAT teams is one of the major initiatives of the United States Department of Homeland Security. Under the Department of Homeland Security typing system, there are three typing classifications ranging from a Type III team to a Type I team, the most equipped and capable. The typing system has been created to flow with the overall Incident Command System (ICS) structure. In response to the Department of Homeland Security's creation of the SWAT Team Typing system, the Government Training Institute (GTI), in conjunction with Idaho State University, created three advanced courses for SWAT teams. The curriculums address such topics as: Improvised Explosive Devices, responding to a terrorist event in a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives environment, and use and selection of the latest personal protective equipment.

The classes have been reviewed and approved by D.H.S.'s Office of Grants & Training, allowing states the opportunity to apply their DHS training grant funding (SHSP, LETPP, and UASI) toward tuition, overtime, meals, lodging, and associated backfill costs for their first responders to attend. The three swat curriculums are currently listed in the DHS State Sponsored Course Catalog. Any of GTI's classes can be conducted at their facility in Boise or anywhere in the world in a mobile training format.

The Government Training Institute (GTI) was founded in 2003 to address needs of state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States with research based training. GTI's 30+ courses contain a cooperative curriculum base and ongoing research from the staff with 400 years of operational military and law enforcement experience. Headquartered and encompassing 12 square miles in the Boise foothills, The Government Training Institute is committed to those responsible for our national security, the safety of our citizens. For more information, contact Alec Sarrazolla (Training Coordinator) at 866 938-5510 or at [alec@gtitraining.org](mailto:alec@gtitraining.org)

### Added Times for Weather Radio Tests

Beginning Wednesday April 18th, the NWSFO in Norman began conducting weekly tests of the NOAA Weather Radio warning alarm feature at two different times every Wednesday. Tests of the warning alarm are conducted each Wednesday around noon, **and again on Wednesday evenings around 7PM.**

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## Pandemic! More costly than you think!

As Emergency Managers we are all concerned about State and Local economies. Large-scale layoffs in communities can lead to an increase in criminal activity as well as short falls in tax bases impacting our infrastructure as the political arena tightens or adjusts budgets to meet the shortfall.

A health crisis can have the same impact on economies. An epidemic and or pandemic can have a major impact on local or tourist dollars. Several estimates from Harvard and Yale medical schools estimate that 50% of the working population could be impacted (directly or indirectly) by a mutated strain of H5N1 and employees put out of work ranging from 6 weeks to 8 weeks. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could drop between 4 and 6 percent putting thousands if not hundred of thousands out of work. During the 1918 pandemic 30% of the population became ill. Apply that 30% to your area infrastructure....and ask yourself "can my community function with almost 1/3 of my work force out ill?"

A recent state-by-state analysis by Trust for America's Health (TFAH) organization reveals Oklahoma would lose \$5,163,000,000 low-end estimate or \$7,289,000,000 on the high-end of our GDP. Mortality rates would be estimated at 28,000 with the Morbidity rate around 1,046,000. Projected impact on the workforce would be \$3.1 billion dollars in losses.

We must work together on an all-hazards approach ensuring our communities are prepared to confront any obstacle. Mass immunizations exercises take up a considerable amount of time and resources for your community, but with the potential of what "could occur" they are well worth the investment.

*(thanks to Ed Kostiuk, EMT-W, OCEM, Emergency Management Coordinator, State & Region VI Liaison Officer, Terrorism Preparedness & Response Service, Oklahoma State. Dept of Health)*

*“When it Rains...cont’d from page 1*

where 4-8 inches of rain fell through early Monday morning. Early Tuesday excessive rainfall fell in Logan County.

Late Wednesday additional activity developed across western Oklahoma with a few tornadoes reported. Due to repeated storms in specific areas, flash flooding became a problem. Kiowa and Major Counties were hardest hit as 3-6 inches of rain fell in a few hours. This story was repeated in eastern Oklahoma early Friday with Creek County receiving excessive rainfall. Excessive rainfall has continued across parts of Oklahoma.

As of June 26, 2007, the general atmospheric pattern remains the same with areas of showers and thunderstorms mainly across the southeastern 2/3rds of the state.

### **Injuries and Fatalities**

On June 18, three people sustained minor injuries when their pickup washed down a creek in Pontotoc County. All three were rescued: two were treated at the scene; one was transported to a nearby hospital. No additional injuries reported.

### **Shelters/Mass Feeding**

The American Red Cross operated shelters for those displaced by flooding at the following locations:

Bartlesville – East Cross United Methodist Church on Madison Boulevard (12 stayed overnight). Shelters in Dewey and Nowata are closed. Residents from those communities in need of shelter are directed to stay at the Bartlesville shelter.

Miami – First Christian Church at 2424 N. Main (23 stayed overnight) and First Baptist Church at First and A streets (18 stayed overnight).

The American Red Cross has served 655 meals in northeast Oklahoma communities by press time.

Officials with Southern Baptist Men’s Disaster Relief have their large feeding unit in Miami to assist at the shelter opened at the First Christian Church.

The Salvation Army continues to provide feeding services for shelters in Bartlesville and Miami. In Bartlesville they also have a canteen roaming the neighborhoods and are serving meals at the Salvation Army office, 101 N. Bucy from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.daily. More than 700 meals, 800 drinks and 528 snacks have been delivered along with emotional and spiritual care.



Lake flooding at Blackwell Lake in Kay County, and the water continued to rise (photo by Shawn S. EM Braman OK)

Additionally, 1,140 Salvation Army meals have been served to National Guard personnel and first responders assisting in the flood-damaged region.

### **Environmental Issues**

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reported that EPA officials will sampling the Verdigris River and Lake Oologah to test for oil. The testing is needed due to an oil spill at a refinery in Coffeerville, Kansas. EPA and DEQ officials continue to monitor the oil spill and any possible effects on Oklahoma’s water systems from an EPA mobile command post located at the Nowata Airport.

DEQ officials responded to Miami after reports that the National Guard Armory has flooded. The armory contains batteries, solvents and other chemicals. DEQ officials are also responding to Alberta Creek in Bryan County due to threatened contamination from nearby storage tanks containing 20,000 gallons of gasoline. Alberta Creek feeds into Lake Texoma. Officials with DEQ, county emergency management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are worked to place sandbags in the affected area.

### **Animal Issues**

Officials with Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps report their Animal Response Team is assisting at the Miami Animal Shelter. The team arrived in Miami with supplies, including 30 cages, leashes, liter, cleaning

materials and maintenance items. They assisted with expansion of the shelter to handle an influx of animals displaced by the flooding. Currently, the shelter’s capacity is almost doubled allowing care for 45 dogs and cats – some rescued by local firefighters. The shelter will keep the animals until owners can take them back.

All 77 Oklahoma counties remain under a State of Emergency. The executive order issued by Gov. Brad Henry in May serves as a formal mechanism for local governments to seek reimbursement for recovery costs through the state’s public assistance program as conditions warrant.

OEM and OHP continue to assist with response, recovery efforts at the Bartlesville/Washington County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Bartlesville and at the City of Miami EOC.

A federal disaster declaration remains in effect for 17 Oklahoma counties to provide public assistance related to the severe storms, flooding and tornadoes that occurred in the state May 4-11. The 17 counties that qualified for public assistance are: Atoka, Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Comanche, Dewey, Ellis, Greer, Kay, Kiowa, Lincoln, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Pottawatomie, Roger Mills and Seminole. \* \* \*

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**FROM CLEAN-UP TO RECONSTRUCTION**

## Wewoka gets new Weather Radio Transmitter!

In a continuing effort to enhance weather services to the people of central and east central Oklahoma, the NOAA National Weather Service announced a new Weather Radio transmitter in Wewoka, Okla.

This new NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitter will provide around the clock broadcasts of local weather information and broadcast critical warnings of dangerous weather to residents in six Oklahoma counties: Coal, Hughes, Lincoln, Okfuskee, Pontotoc, and Seminole. Wewoka Weather Radio will broadcast on the frequency of 162.550 MHz.

"Weather Radio in Wewoka is an important and potentially life-saving source of weather information for the people of central and east-central Oklahoma," said Mike Foster, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service Norman Forecast Office. *(Story courtesy of Keli Pirtle Tarp Public Affairs Specialist NOAA Weather Partners)*

## Pioneer Telephone Cooperative Provides Facilities for New Weather Radio Transmitter in Chickasha

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative has provided facilities for the new weather radio transmitter and antenna system in Grady County. This new NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitter will provide a clearer, more reliable signal to broadcast critical warnings of dangerous weather and other weather information 24 hours a day to residents in seven Oklahoma counties: Caddo, Canadian, Comanche, Garvin, Grady, McClain and Stephens. Chickasha Weather Radio will broadcast on the frequency of 162.450 MHz.

Pioneer Telephone, who is on the leading edge of technology, is now in its 54th year in business, serving over 58,000 subscribers in 30 counties in the state. Pioneer Telephone was the first organization in Oklahoma to be named Storm-Ready supporter by the National Weather Service.

"Weather Radio in Chickasha is an important and potentially life-saving source of weather information for the people of southwest and central Oklahoma," said Mike Foster, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service Norman Forecast Office. "We deeply appreciate the generosity of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative in helping us enhance our Weather Radio network"

Loyd Benson, President and Principal Executive Officer of Pioneer Telephone, added, "The National Weather Service in Norman is known nationally for providing Oklahomans state of the art weather coverage. They are to be commended for all they do to ensure the safety of Oklahomans. Pioneer is proud to provide the National Weather Service the capability to provide radio coverage to these seven counties in southwest and central Oklahoma" *(Story courtesy of Keli Pirtle Tarp Public Affairs Specialist NOAA Weather Partners)*

## From the Editors Desk...

*(Editorial from John Utech, Editor of the OKEM Newsletter)*

As many of you know, I very rarely place my opinion on the pages of the Newsletter but this time I must.

A very good friend of the Oklahoma Emergency Management community and my close friend will be leaving his post at the Storm Prediction Center. Dan McCarthy, WCM at the SPC will be leaving his duties around the Labor Day time frame for a wonderful position in Indianapolis, Indiana as the MIC (meteorologist in charge).

Dan has been with SPC since 1987 when it was the National Severe Storms Forecast Center, serving as a meteorologist for the National Public Service Unit, an Outlook Meteorologist and Mesoscale Meteorologist, as well as

an Aviation Meteorologist for the National Aviation Weather Advisory Unit.

Most of us know him as "the guy in charge" of the National Severe Weather Workshop. But Dan did so much more. He did his best to be available for EM's around the state, to talk to students and address many, many.. many civic groups. He constantly promoted the Storm Prediction Center and gave much credit to his working associates. He also would promote the importance of emergency management across the country whenever he spoke. I was very fortunate to see one of his presentations in Denver, Co. His passion for promoting weather safety and education was exciting to witness.

Dan is a winner in every endeavor that he pursues. There is no doubt that his positive and winning attitude will make him a winner in "Indy" too.



So, what has been and will continue to be his secret to success? It's the never-ending support from his family. Dan, you're a lucky man

From all of us in the OEMA...  
Dan,

Thank you....for everything.

## Blackwell, Oklahoma favors well with Homeland Security Grants



Recently, the Blackwell Fire department has been the lucky recipient of new equipment from homeland security grants valued at over \$440,000! These include one thirty-eight foot long, complete Technical Rescue Trailer that contains a large variety of saws, rescue equipment, bracing supplies, emergency lighting along with a separate com center complete with satellite data and communication links along with an array of two-way and satellite communication devices & remote control light tree.

In addition to all of that, there is a track driven equipment carrier that can be tucked away inside the trailer itself. The second Technical rescue trailer contains a powerful air tank charging system, hydraulic power for spreaders and “jaws of life” along with compressed air and a powerful electrical generator and another powerful light tree. Shortly before this equipment arrived, the Blackwell fire dept also took possession of a brand new “D-Con” trailer!

The Equipment will serve Region 2 well, especially since Blackwell is located adjacent to I-35 allowing quick access to many directions from The City of Blackwell. Blackwell Fire Chief Tom Beliel is excited about the addition of the new equipment and He’s very proud of the Blackwell fire dept. Blackwell’s Fire Dept. has the equipment & the trained personnel to serve FEMA’s Region 2.



## *Tulsa Forecast office wins Bronze Medal Award*

The U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded its prestigious Bronze Medal to NOAA’s National Weather Service forecast office in Tulsa, Okla. The staff is being recognized for providing critical forecasts and specialized support during a severe fire weather episode in eastern Oklahoma.

Unprecedented fire weather conditions developed in eastern Oklahoma on November 27, 2005, with winds gusting to 70 miles per hour and relative humidity values in the single digits. The Tulsa team quickly developed a set of computer programs and web pages to provide decision support information for

emergency officials. Hourly text products were issued for each county in the office’s service area. As a result, emergency officials had access to both forecasts and observed graphics depicting the peak winds, relative humidity and fire spread potential during this event.

The office also dispatched a meteorologist to the Oklahoma Unified Fire Command Post where requests for additional services were communicated quickly to the forecast office – resulting in new graphics within the hour. Federal, state and local officials complimented Tulsa for having these services in place before the event and for being able to augment them so rapidly.

Tulsa’s forecast office’s support of emergency responders during this event demonstrated a unique partnership-based technique.



# OKEM

June, 2007

Oklahoma Emergency  
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## Useful web sites:

Oklahoma Emergency Management  
Association:  
[www.oema.us](http://www.oema.us)

Oklahoma Dept. of Emergency  
Management:  
<http://www.ok.gov/OEM/>

National Weather Service Office,  
Norman:  
[www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/)

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers  
Association:  
[www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org)

Association of State Floodplain  
Managers:  
[www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)

FEMA:  
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Norman's Enhanced Weather Page  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/enhanced.php>

Tulsa Forecast Office  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/>

Watch and Warning map  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/monitor/warningdisplay.php>