2010 Annual Report

Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management

OEM
Oklahoma Emergency Management

From the Director

During this past year, Oklahoma weathered ice storms, flooding, tornadoes, hail, wildfires, even earthquakes and the aftermath of a blizzard. With four federally declared disasters throughout the course of the year, the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management stayed busy with each aspect of emergency management: preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

This year brought many memorable incidents, from recovery after a near statewide blizzard that brought many cities and towns to a standstill for days in the winter, to a dangerous hail storm and tornadoes in the spring, causing damage to thousands of homes and businesses.

We will all remember watching live on television as rescuers came to the aid of stranded motorists, navigating airboats between trees and submerged cars during the June floods. And for many who were left without electricity for over a week after the January ice storm, the winter was especially unkind as well.

It is incidents such as these that give Oklahoma a standing as one of the most disaster-ridden states in the country, but also as a state that comes together in times of emergency, including those from this office, who work closely with local counterparts in cities, towns and counties all across the state. Oklahoma has one of the strongest emergency management systems in the country, in no small part due to the high frequency of incidents that we respond to each year.

During non-disaster times, our staff moved forward with a number of projects aimed at the advancement of emergency management in the state of Oklahoma and the increased safety of local communities, to include a variety of grant programs to provide funding to the state and to local emergency managers as well as a strong training program.

We are also very excited about a new Oklahoma resource system, which was developed in 2010. The system will serve to streamline the way local jurisdictions request aid from other local jurisdictions during emergencies and disasters.

This annual report captures emergency management response and recovery efforts along with the vast preparedness and mitigation work completed in 2010. It also recognizes the many partners which emergency management depends on to protect lives and property.

Albert Ashwood
OEM Director

2010 in Review

In 2010, the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM) responded to and worked recovery for five disaster declarations, four of which were also federally declared. The year started with recovery from the 2009 Christmas Eve Blizzard. An additional ice storm, winter storm and two rounds of spring storms kept the state on its toes through July, when things finally began to quiet down for the remainder of the year.

OEM worked with local emergency managers along with many partnering agencies and organizations. The State Emergency Operations Center was activated as communities requested personnel, equipment and supplies. For days and weeks, emergency managers supported the work of first responders.

The weeks of response activity soon gave way to months of recovery efforts. Emergency managers were instrumental in delivering more than $96 million in disaster assistance to individuals, business owners, cities, towns, counties and electric cooperatives impacted during the course of the year.

2010 also brought a year of exciting new programs for OEM including the development of the Oklahoma Shelter Program, which will allow Oklahoma emergency managers and others to travel to Louisiana to operate a full shelter and help those affected by hurricanes return to their lives more quickly and with less stress. Additionally, the state's new State Debris Removal Plan will streamline the debris removal process after an emergency or disaster. More information on both of these programs can be found within this report.

About OEM

OEM prepares for, responds to, recovers from and mitigates against disasters and emergencies. The department maintains the State Emergency Operations Center, which serves as a command center for reporting emergencies and coordinating state response activities.

On a day-to-day basis, the department works with local emergency managers, other state and federal partnering agencies as well as private sector organizations to bolster preparedness and mitigation efforts and improve response and recovery work before and after a disaster.

OEM was created as the Department of Civil Defense by legislative action in 1951. Soon after, the Civil Defense agency and the Department of Emergency Resources Management were combined into one unified disaster aid organization. Today the department serves as the state's liaison with federal and local agencies on emergencies of all kinds.

The OEM Director is appointed by and reports directly to the Governor.

Our Mission:

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

Our Vision:

Partnerships for a safer future through a process of coordination between the private sector, volunteer organizations, individuals and families, and all levels of government.

The Disaster Declaration Process

OEM and local emergency managers work to help local governments and individuals receive assistance after a disaster when possible.

There are two main types of Disaster Assistance:

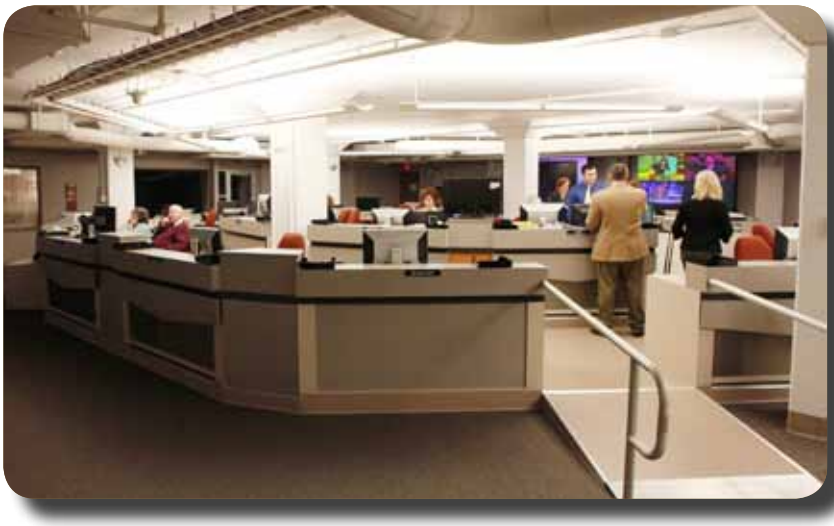
Individual Assistance can help impacted homeowners, renters and business owners.

Public Assistance is the most common form of disaster assistance and is used to help state, local and tribal governments recover their elegible disaster related costs.

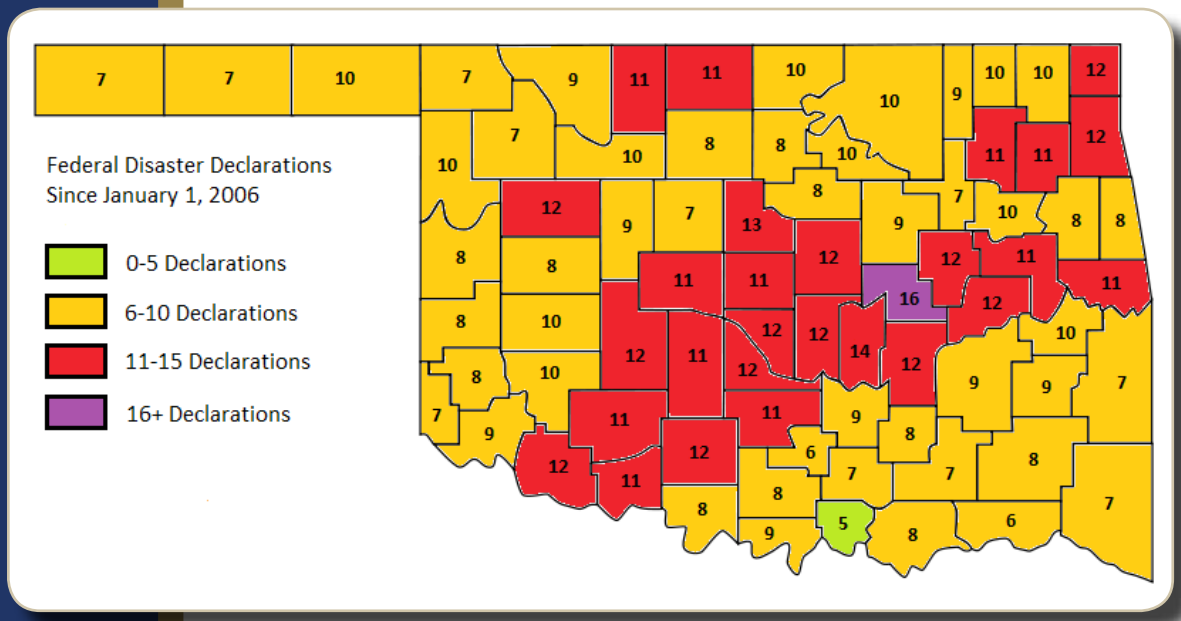
Both forms of assistance require a Presidential Disaster Declaration. A Public Assistance Program is also available at the state level for incidents that don't meet the federal criteria.

Emergency Operations Center

The Oklahoma State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) serves as the communications and command center for reporting emergencies and coordinating state response activities during disaster times. Representatives from disaster relief organizations, federal, local and other state agencies join OEM at the state EOC to provide assistance to cities, towns and counties impacted by natural and man-made disasters.



Five Years of Disasters in Oklahoma



Partnering for Preparedness

State Delivers Local Emergency Management Funding

OEM provides funding assistance to local emergency management efforts through the State-Local Assistance (SLA) program. In 2010, the SLA program delivered nearly $1.2 million in grant funds to 91 city, town and county emergency management departments.

In order to take advantage of the SLA program, local jurisdictions must meet certain performance goals within their programs.

The program is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). The SLA program has a minimum 50 percent local cost-share requirement. Today the program continues to help build better prepared communities through strong local emergency management programs.

Since 2000 alone, OEM has delivered more than $9.2 million in SLA funds to local emergency management programs across the state.

Real-Time Information Sharing with WebEOC

WebEOC is a web-enabled crisis information management system and provides secure real-time information sharing to help managers make sound decisions quickly.

WebEOC was adapted as a statewide system in January 2009 and allows for the instant exchange of digital data during both large scale incidents and day-to-day operations.

Emergency managers are able to use WebEOC to share information with the state EOC and other emergency managers and to track resources such as generators, personnel or other assets. Over the next year, local emergency managers will begin to use WebEOC for more daily activities like quarterly reports and SLA grant reporting.

Emergency Management Day at the Capitol

In March, OEM and the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association hosted the annual Emergency Management Day at the Capitol.

Emergency managers from across the state traveled to the state capitol to meet with their legislators and discuss issues facing emergency management in 2010.

Photos: Ribbon cutting for the Texas County Emergency Management EOC; KOCO Chief Meteorologist Rick Mitchell speaks to elementary school students during a McReady school show; WebEOC; Elementary students enjoy a McReady Show*; Day at the Capitol*

**Read more about the McReady program on page 13.*

Snow and Ice Return to Oklahoma

December 24-25, 2009 Winter Storm

The year began with much of the state still covered with snow from the 2009 Christmas Eve blizzard. Snow and high winds had hampered holiday travel for many Oklahomans.

Throughout the blizzard and lingering heavy snow accumulation, Oklahoma saw the following statistics:

- 47,350 Power Outages
- 81 Injury crashes
- 362 Non-injury crashes
- 9 Fatalities
- 9 Shelters and warming stations opened
- 1,040 Motorist calls for assistance

In January, not long after the snow had melted, the state was hit yet again, this time with a severe ice storm.

January 28-29, 2010 Winter Storm

Early morning on January 28, freezing rain moved into southwest Oklahoma and spread northeast into Oklahoma City. This area of precipitation continued to spread east and northeast across the Tulsa area. Significant ice accumulations of 1.5 inches occurred in southwest Oklahoma.

Widespread power outages occurred with significant damage to power systems, including high voltage lines.

Throughout the storm, Oklahoma saw the following statistics:

- 179,134 Power outages
- 120 Injury crashes
- 568 Non-injury crashes
- 7 Fatalities
- 18 Carbon Monoxide poisoning incidents
- 46 Shelters and warming stations opened

In northwest Oklahoma, 6-8 inches of snow was reported. Central Oklahoma received 0.5 inches of freezing rain, followed by sleet and ending with 4-6 inches of snow. Northeast sections also saw about .5 inches of freezing rain along with 6-8 inches of snow. East-central and southeast sections received a mixed bag of freezing rain, sleet, and snow.

South-central Oklahoma also experienced widespread freezing rain around one inch, which led to power system damage and

ultimately power outages. At the height of this storm, approximately 180,000 homes were without service. Numerous shelters were setup across the state with a focus on south-central and southwest sections. OEM dispatched generators to the impacted regions and also used FEMA supplied generators. Many towns were without power for days, some for more than a week.

March 20-21, 2010 Winter Storm

Oklahoma experienced a third winter storm March 20-21 as an Arctic cold front moved through the state overnight resulting in temperatures near or below freezing statewide. Strong north winds followed the front, bringing a quick end to the spring time weather experienced just one day before. Snow fell across much of the state and the State Emergency Operations Center was activated in support of local jurisdictions needing state resources.

Throughout the storm, Oklahoma saw the following statistics:

- 75 Injury vehicle crashes on Oklahoma highways
- 244 Collisions
- 500 Slide-off incidents
- 2 Fatalities

The March winter storm received a state disaster declaration, but was not awarded a federal declaration.

Photos: Marlow, OK (Chris Hall, January 30, 2010); Vehicles buried in the snow (OKC Public Works Department Solid Waste Division, December 25, 2009) FEMA trailers brought disaster relief supplies (Lester Wheeler, January 30, 2010); Ice covered branches (Jackie Wright, January 30, 2009); Holdenville, OK (Michael Dockrey, January 30, 2010)

Oklahoma Winter Weather Safety

Cold temperatures are more dangerous, and potentially deadly, when combined with strong winds. The lower the temperature and stronger the wind, the more at risk you are. Dress in layers and be sure to stay covered with a heavy coat, scarf, hat, gloves and other cold weather clothing. Keep blankets on hand as well.

The January 2010 ice storm reminds us it's also important to protect your home. Adding weather stripping and insulation, keeping furnaces clean and ready to use, and being aware of cold temperatures and vulnerable pipes that might freeze.

Make a Winter Weather Preparedness Kit:

When winter approaches, it is helpful to make sure you have a winter weather preparedness kit, especially for travel. Below is a list of items that all travelers should have on hand during winter months.

- A cell phone with charger and a battery powered radio.
- Windshield scraper, de-icer, snow shovel and small broom for ice and snow removal.
- Several blankets or a sleeping bag.
- Rain gear, warm coats and extra sets of dry clothing, mittens, socks and a cap.
- Non-perishable snacks like dried fruit, nuts and other high energy "munchies."
- Several bottles of water. Eating snow will lower your body temperature. If necessary, melt it first.
- Sand or cat litter for creating traction under wheels and a set of tire chains or traction mats.
- Jumper cables, flashlight with extra batteries, first aid kit and brightly colored cloth to tie to antenna if you get stranded.

Tornadoes, Hail and Floods Hit the State

May 10, 2010 Severe Storms

May and June brought two major severe storms to the state. The first, a series of tornadoes, thunderstorms, and straight line winds, hit the state on May 10, 2010 and resulted in a federal disaster declaration and individual assistance for many residents.

The tornadoes and severe storms resulted in more than $7.4 million in infrastructure damage, debris removal and response costs, awarded through the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program. Additionally, the storm caused the following:

- 65,387 Power outages
- 9 Shelters opened
- 2 Storm related fatalities
- 438 Injuries treated at hospitals
- 2,302 Applications for assistance by individuals or businesses
- 1,485 Homes destroyed or damaged

Assistance totalling more than $9.3 million in state and federal funds was paid out to help individuals and businesses repair and rebuild.

This amount included low interest disaster loans provided by the U.S. Small Business Administration and funds for temporary housing and emergency repairs for individuals and businesses. Also covered was assistance to help with other disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance to include personal property replacement, moving and storage, transportation, and medical and burial expenses.

June 13-14, 2010 Severe Storms

The following month, on June 13 and 14, Oklahoma was hit with record rainfall, which led to flash flooding in areas that had not experienced flooding previously.

Overall, the June storms resulted in:

- 4,175 Power outages
- 136 Injuries
- 1 Storm related fatality
- 221 Homes damaged

On June 14, the National Weather Service reported a record rainfall of 7.62 inches at Oklahoma City's Will Rogers World Airport, breaking the all-time record for any calendar day at that location with the previous record of 7.53 inches set on Sept. 22, 1970.

The storms resulted in more than $5 million in infrastructure damage, debris removal and response costs, which garnered a major disaster declaration for public assistance.

The U.S. Small Business Administration approved more than $823,000 in low-interest loans to Oklahoma homeowners, renters, businesses and private nonprofit organizations.

While more than 220 homes and businesses were damaged in the flooding, less than 2 percent of the properties were covered by flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. The primary reason for the low insurance coverage is most homes were not located in an identified flood zone.

Electric Cooperatives Grateful for Help Received from OEM Public Assistance in 2010

Oklahoma's diverse weather can and does have an effect on electric power deliveries across the state and frequently leads to power outages, especially in rural areas that are predominantly served by Oklahoma's rural electric cooperatives.

The January ice and snow storm impacted at least 13 electric co-ops, primarily in southwestern parts of the state. Radial ice measuring more than 2.5 inches (5 inches in total) rapidly accumulated on overhead powerlines, causing thousands of poles to break under the heavy weight, which damaged hundreds of miles of powerlines. With the help and assistance of OEM's Public Assistance teams, electric cooperative officials and FEMA worked hand-in-hand during the emergency response and disaster recovery effort that followed. In total, the ice and snow storm caused more than $58 million in damages to electric cooperative infrastructure in more than 25 counties.

In May, violent tornadoes ripped through parts of central and east-central Oklahoma. At least 12 electric cooperatives had significant damages to both distribution powerlines and high-voltage electric transmission lines. More than $4.37 million in damage was incurred by these electric co-ops, including the loss of a multi-station communications tower belonging to Western Farmers Electric Cooperative in Pottawatomie County. Once again, OEM assisted local electric cooperatives in the damage assessment effort immediately following the tornadic storms.

"Our electric cooperative personnel across the state greatly appreciate the work that is done and the assistance offered by everyone at Oklahoma Emergency Management, especially those who work in Public Assistance," stated Sid Sperry of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, who serves as a liaison between the state's electric co-ops and OEM.

Photos: OEM and FEMA representatives on a preliminary damage assessment tour after the May 10 tornadoes; A flooded road in Southeast Oklahoma (Linda Pryor); Governor Brad Henry addresses the media during his tour of the areas damaged by the May 10 tornadoes; Damaged boats at Lake Thunderbird near Norman, OK (David Grizzle, May 10, 2010); A hail damaged car in Oklahoma City

Oklahoma Spring Weather Safety

Oklahoma is well known for severe weather in the spring and summer. Tornadoes, lightning, flooding and hail can all be very dangerous.

Before an emergency strikes, take time to identify your safest place at home, at work and at school. Many people have survived strong tornadoes in a closet or small interior room without windows. Usually the safest place will be on the lowest floor. If you live in a mobile home, identify the nearest sturdy building – it may not be safe to remain in a mobile home during a storm.

If possible, one of the best ways to prepare for survival in Tornado Alley states like Oklahoma is to build or install a SafeRoom in your home or workplace. Your local emergency manager or homebuilders association will have information about SafeRooms. Plan how to get to your safest place, and share the information with your family.

Oklahoma Emergency Managers Deliver

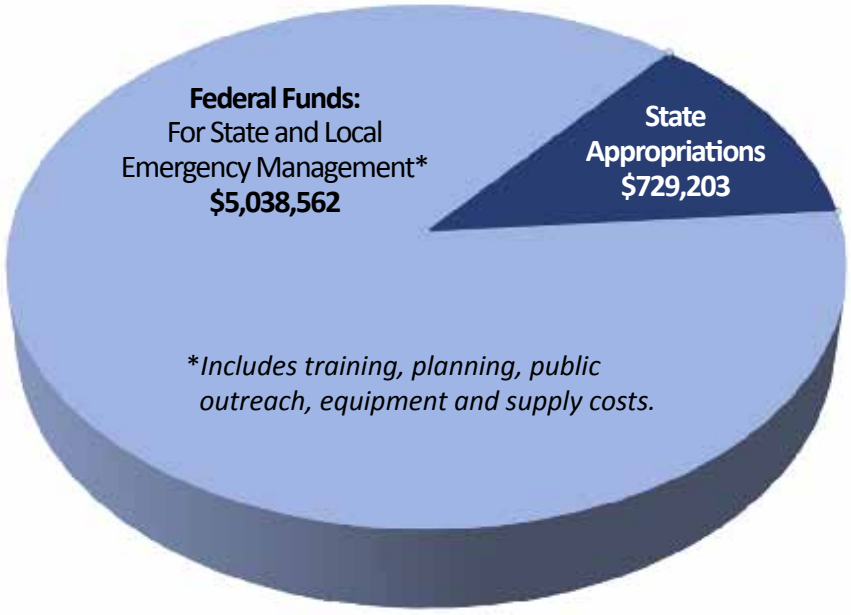
In 2010, Oklahoma's emergency managers were responsible for the administration of more than $96 million in disaster aid through Public Assistance Disaster Funds. These funds were used to help cities, towns, counties, rural electric cooperatives, school districts, tribal nations and the State of Oklahoma pay for hefty emergency response costs and repairs to roads, bridges, buildings and other public facilities.

Following a man-made or natural large scale incident, emergency managers work to complete damage assessments. On major disaster declarations for public assistance, FEMA reimburses 75 percent of eligible response, recovery costs. The state pays 12.5 percent, leaving the remaining 12.5 percent for the local government applicant. The state share is paid through the State Emergency Fund. The following page is a county by county breakdown of the state and federal disaster assistance made possible due to the efforts of Oklahoma's emergency managers.

Event	Disaster Date	Federal Declaration Date
Severe Winter Storm	December 24, 2009	January 30, 2010
Severe Winter Storm	January 28-29, 2010	February 25, 2010
Severe Storms	May 10, 2010	May 24, 2010
Severe Storms and Flooding	June 13, 2010	July 26, 2010

Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Sources

OEM and the programs the department facilitates are primarily funded through federal sources. State appropriated funds equal only 13% of OEM's total budget, a large portion of which is distributed directly to local emergency management jurisdictions or used for programs benefitting those jurisidictions.



County	Public Assistance Paid to County*
ADAIR COUNTY	$312,361
ALFALFA COUNTY	$586,082
BEAVER COUNTY	$263,597
BECKHAM COUNTY	$224,306
BLAINE COUNTY	$188,529
BRYAN COUNTY	$452,150
CADDO COUNTY	$3,161,706
CANADIAN COUNTY	$492,513
CARTER COUNTY	$289,071
CHEROKEE COUNTY	$339,133
CIMARRON COUNTY	$7,025
CLEVELAND COUNTY	$2,060,098
COAL COUNTY	$14,242
COMANCHE COUNTY	$5,802,243
COTTON COUNTY	$319,643
CRAIG COUNTY	$265,095
CREEK COUNTY	$569,469
CUSTER COUNTY	$70,381
DELAWARE COUNTY	$335,230
DEWEY COUNTY	$141,955
ELLIS COUNTY	$110,383
GARFIELD COUNTY	$123,675
GARVIN COUNTY	$1,587,800
GRADY COUNTY	$1,064,674
GRANT COUNTY	$903,861
GREER COUNTY	$593,679
HARMON COUNTY	$106,389
HASKELL COUNTY	$882,573
HUGHES COUNTY	$591,843
JACKSON COUNTY	$2,942,535
JEFFERSON COUNTY	$91,761
JOHNSTON COUNTY	$118,587
KAY COUNTY	$200,143
KINGFISHER COUNTY	$30,408
KIOWA COUNTY	$765,968
LATIMER COUNTY	$12,374
LEFLORE COUNTY	$398,425
LINCOLN COUNTY	$970,606
LOGAN COUNTY	$484,100
LOVE COUNTY	$313,995

County	Public Assistance Paid to County*
(CONTINUED)	
MCCLAIN COUNTY	$514,687
MCCURTAIN COUNTY	$608,226
MCINTOSH COUNTY	$1,395,443
MAJOR COUNTY	$92,025
MAYES COUNTY	$995,836
MUSKOGEE COUNTY	$1,766,019
NOBLE COUNTY	$50,614
NOWATA COUNTY	$587,730
OKFUSKEE COUNTY	$1,465,976
OKLAHOMA COUNTY	$1,815,556
OKMULGEE COUNTY	$1,547,977
OSAGE COUNTY	$175,960
OTTAWA COUNTY	$875,540
PAWNEE COUNTY	$167,706
PAYNE COUNTY	$370,775
PITTSBURG COUNTY	$180,032
PONTOTOC COUNTY	$400,315
POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY	$489,032
PUSHMATAHA COUNTY	$41,888
ROGERS COUNTY	$585,064
ROGER MILLS COUNTY	$17,567
SEMINOLE COUNTY	$524,078
SEQUOYAH COUNTY	$358,437
STEPHENS COUNTY	$2,236,732
TEXAS COUNTY	$127,763
TILLMAN COUNTY	$435,514
TULSA COUNTY	$2,426,977
WAGONER COUNTY	$489,465
WASHINGTON COUNTY	$222,756
WASHITA COUNTY	$398,785
WOODS COUNTY	$562
WOODWARD COUNTY	$2,158
TOTAL	**$49,555,802**
AGENCIES	$5,032,221
TRIBAL	$1,748,184
UTILITIES	$40,109,458
TOTAL	**$46,889,863**
GRAND TOTAL	**$96,445,665**

Additional Grants Delivered to Oklahoma Counties in 2010

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANTS FACILITATED THROUGH OEM AND DELIVERED TO LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS (see page 12)	$3,720,802
EMPG GRANT PAYMENT FOR STATE-LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (see page 5)	$1,300,000

**Payments also made to municipalities and school districts within the counties.*

Hazard Mitigation Saves Lives

In the past decade, OEM's Hazard Mitigation Program has delivered $136 million in special projects that save lives and property by lessening the impacts of disasters. Nothing can stop disasters from occuring, but mitigation is a way for communities to lessen the effects of disasters by reinforcing existing structures or building new ones stronger and better than before.

Since 2000, the program has been responsible for more than 10,490 residential saferooms, 3 community and 75 school saferooms, 37 industrial-size generators, 84 warning systems and the purchase of 21 properties that flood repetitively. Additionally, the program funded 300 new and 27 updated community hazard mitigation plans.

One example of the Hazard Mitigation Program in action is Altus Emergency Management's weather radio project. Programmable NOAA All Hazards Weather Alert Radios have long been recommended as an important part of any severe weather preparedness plan and this program helps Altus residents purchase the radios at a 75% cost savings.

Ponca City residents take part in the city-wide weather radio program.

"Weather radios have the ability to provide Emergency Alert System notifications including tornado warnings, hazardous materials releases, and AMBER alerts – making them an important first step in the alert process," explained Emergency Manager Lloyd Colston, who initiated the program.

The weather radio program in Altus is one of five similar weather radio Hazard Mitigation projects including the one in Ponca City, pictured above. In all, 50 Hazard Mitigation projects were implemented in 2010.

"Projects made possible through hazard mitigation represent a true federal-state-local partnership. Funding is provided through the federal government. The state works with local emergency managers to see that funds go as far as possible to decrease the impact a disaster threat represents to that community," said OEM Director Albert Ashwood.

Keeping the Public Informed

Are You McReady?

2010 marked the seventh year for McReady Oklahoma, the statewide severe weather preparedness campaign. The McReady Campaign is an internationally recognized, award-winning public safety campaign that is made possible by OEM and a host of partnering organizations.

Through special store displays, tray-liners and bag-stuffers at more than 200 McDonald's restaurants and other locations, McReady worked to mitigate the effects of tornadoes, floods, lightning and severe thunderstorms by reaching out to families and elementary school-age children. In all, severe weather preparedness messages were delivered to more than 5 million individuals across the state of Oklahoma.

In addition to keeping the displays stocked, many county and municipal emergency managers customized the campaign with local events showcasing storm-spotter activities, weather radio programming and other efforts of their volunteers.

"The better individuals and families prepare for disasters and emergency incidents, the better the State of Oklahoma is prepared," said OEM Director Albert Ashwood of the campaign, which delivers a family approach to preparedness.

To learn more about McReady, visit www.mcready.org.

The Severe Weather Notification System

Residents of Oklahoma can receive immediate access to National Weather Service alerts during severe weather season and throughout the year. This service is free to the public, and subscribers can receive weather alerts for up to five counties sent to their email addresses and/or mobile devices.

Subscribers can select from alerts for tornado watches and warnings, severe thunderstorm watches and warnings, flash flood warnings, or winter weather-related occurrences. Subscribe at weatheralerts.ok.gov.

McReady Tips:

Have a plan: Where will you shelter in place in your home, business, school, etc? If you don't have a Safe Room or storm shelter, go to the lowest level, center-most room away from windows. Remember to keep as many walls as possible in between you and the outside.

Make a kit: Gather items for your storm supply kit now and store in your shelter-in-place location. Be sure to include bottled water, nonperishable food, flashlight with extra batteries, first aid kit, heavy blankets and pillows, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

Stay informed: Have a NOAA All Hazards Weahter Alert Radio and monitor local TV and radio stations when conditions are right for severe weather.

Social Media Efforts

In 2010, OEM continued its use of Twitter as a public information tool to reach additional people regarding severe weather in Oklahoma, preparedness tips and other information.

Using statewide hashtags such as #okwx during statewide weather events, OEM has been able to join Twitter conversations and convey important weather-related news to an audience that may not be viewing such news through other channels. Follow OEM on twitter at www.twitter.com/okem

Oklahoma Shelter Program

A national pilot program developed by OEM applies a different approach to the host state shelter program. Now when Gulf Coast hurricanes occur, rather than transporting evacuees to Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Shelter Program will transport personnel and resources necessary to operate a shelter to the evacuee state. The program will keep evacuees closer to home and ultimately allow them to return home sooner.

Louisiana is the first state the program is slated for, but other states requiring mass evacuations are watching Oklahoma's shelter program with interest.

Up to 150 Oklahomans from both state and local emergency management, public health, public safety and other agencies will be rotated in and out of a pre-designated shelter in Shreveport, LA with supplies needed for a shelter, including food, water, cots and blankets.

Participants in the first "Shelter in a Box" exercise in Shreveport

The need for this program was confirmed after evacuees from Louisiana were sheltered in Oklahoma following Hurricane Gustav in 2008. Only minimal portions of Louisiana were affected, yet all were transported to locations far from their homes. OEM worked with Louisiana to determine shelter locations available in Shreveport and once that was established, the Oklahoma Shelter program began taking shape.

The program, often referred to as "Shelter in a Box," relies on a partnership with local emergency management jurisdictions. Nearly 90 percent of the personnel on the Oklahoma Shelter Team come from local emergency management jurisdictions. The Oklahoma Shelter Program is federally funded under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the state-to-state, or interstate mutual aid program.

Launching in 2011:

OK State Debris Removal Plan

In 2011, as emergencies and disasters occur, a new system will be put in place regarding debris removal.

The plan will streamline the debris removal process and help keep vendors in check.

With the approval of this plan, jursidictions will have three options in dealing with debris removal: remove the debris through their own municipal resources, hire a contractor to remove the debris, or a new option of working with the state to have debris removed through preapproved vendors.

The plan also identifies temporary debris disposal sites across the state.

All three options will still require monitoring for FEMA assistance.

Preparedness and Training

OEM's training program is delivered through courses, workshops and the annual state conference. In 2010, the program benefitted more than 1,500 emergency managers, first responders, volunteers and other public officials.

OEM worked with the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association to deliver five regional emergency management workshops and a statewide conference. The regional workshops are a tool for both training and networking among emergency managers, who rely significantly on the relationships they forge by attending such workshops.

Other individual training courses, such as the Basic Public Information Officer course, WebEOC training and the Mass Fatality course, featuring former first responders from the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing, were popular in 2010 as well.

Additionally, OEM worked on behalf of many other Oklahoma first responders to secure their enrollment in training courses at the Emergency Management Institute in Maryland for a variety of planning, advanced study and management courses.

Annual State Conference for Emergency Management

This year's annual conference, titled "The Changing Face of Emergency Management," included many relevant topics such as:

- Functional Needs Populations: Information and Guidance
- Minimum Standards for Wildland Fire Task Forces
- Outdoor Warning System Policy Experiences and Challenges
- All Hazards Incident Management Teams
- Oklahoma Highway Remediation and Cleanup Services Act

The conference also included four pre-conference training courses for both new and seasoned emergency managers.

More than 300 people attended the three-day conference and the additional pre-conference training.

2010 Emergency Management Conference

Earthquakes in Oklahoma

2010 proved to be an unusually active year for earthquakes in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Geological Survey recorded more than 200 earthquakes that occurred in Oklahoma. Nearly 60 earthquakes were felt, which is a much higher number than in past years since earthquake reporting began in Oklahoma in the 1950s.

In 2010, OEM applied for and was granted an Earthquake Preparedness Grant, which is being used to provide training programs, community outreach and school preparedness training and guidance, to include participation in a multi-state exercise to practice what to do in the event that a strong magnitude earthquake occured in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma's Participation in the Central United States Earthquake Consortium

Oklahoma has long served as an Associate State in the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), a coalition of eight Member States that work closely to coordinate activities related to earthquake awareness, mitigation, planning and the application of earthquake research.

As an Associate State, Oklahoma acts as a support and information resource to the CUSEC Member States in the event of a damaging central United States earthquake. While Oklahoma may not be directly impacted by an earthquake, the state can provide valuable resources to other States, if necessary.

Earthquake Safety

"Drop, Cover and Hold On"

DROP to the floor; take COVER under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture. If there isn't a table or desk near you, seek cover against an interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms. HOLD ON until the shaking stops.

Stay away from glass or bookshelves, mirrors or other items that could fall. If outside: stand in an open area away from underpasses and overpasses, buildings, trees, telephone, and electrical lines. If on the road: drive away from underpasses and overpasses; stop in a safe area; stay in your vehicle.

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