Background Brief on…

Emergency Management

Prepared by: Ray Kelly

Background

Public Law (PL) 93-288, the “Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act”, 42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq., passed on May 22, 1974 (amended by PL 100-707 to be cited as ‘The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act’), authorizes the President of the United States to establish a program of disaster preparedness; provide technical assistance to the States; make grants to States within specified limits; and insure that all appropriate federal agencies prepare to issue warnings of disasters to State and local officials.

Executive Order 12148, signed July 20, 1979, merged many of the federal government’s separate disaster-related responsibilities into a new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Oregon Laws 1981, Chapter 615 (Senate Bill 5548) established the state’s Emergency Management Division within the Executive Department. The Division was charged with carrying out and coordinating the civil defense of the state; maintaining liaison and cooperating with civil defense agencies and organizations of other states and the Federal Government; and carrying out other duties as prescribed by the Governor.

Oregon Laws 1993, Chapter 187 (Senate Bill 157) transferred the Emergency Management Division to the Department of State Police, designating it the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). This law also incorporated the Interstate Emergency and Disaster Assistance Compact into statute and authorized the Oregon Emergency Response System.

Current Law

Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 401 sets out the policy and purpose of emergency management within the state and details the Interstate Emergency and Disaster Assistance Compact. The chapter also provides the framework for emergency management in Oregon:

- It designates powers of the Governor during emergencies (ORS 401.055 to .115)
- Defines the Governor’s authority concerning federal financial assistance to political subdivisions and to individuals (ORS 401.125 to .135)
- Sets forth the responsibilities of the Office of Emergency Management (ORS 401.260 to .280)
• Describes powers of local governments during emergencies (ORS 401.305 to .335)
• Authorizes the Seismic Safety Policy Commission (ORS 401.337 to .353)
• Defines and sets out policy for emergency service workers (ORS 401.355 to .515)
• Establishes a search and rescue program (ORS 401.550 to .635), and
• Sets forth policy for emergency health care services (ORS 401.651 to 670) and emergency communications systems (ORS 401.706 to .857)

Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR), Chapter 104 details rules for local government participation in FEMA’s Emergency Management Assistance Program, earthquake preparedness drill requirements, the Oregon Emergency Response System, 9-1-1 Standards and Training, and the 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Systems Program.

Executive Order No. 01-26 administratively elevated the Office of Emergency Management to the level of Department and its director to a member of the Governor’s Cabinet.

Oregon Figures and Statistics (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HGMP)):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disaster Declaration</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>HMGP Eligible Counties</th>
<th>Federal HMGP Funds</th>
<th>Status as of May 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DR-985</td>
<td>Mar 93</td>
<td>Scotts Mills Earthquake</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$877,466</td>
<td>School Seismic Retrofit Complete in October 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR-1004</td>
<td>Oct 93</td>
<td>Klamath Earthquakes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$451,358</td>
<td>Baldwin Hotel-Museum Retrofit Complete April 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR-1036</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>El Nino - Salmon (OEDD)*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$343,685</td>
<td>All Projects Complete - Disaster Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR-1061</td>
<td>Jul 95</td>
<td>Wasco Co. Flash Flood</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$202,047</td>
<td>Fifteen Mile Creek Project Complete Spring 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR-1099</td>
<td>Feb 96</td>
<td>Flood/Landslide</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>$10,155,690</td>
<td>All Projects Complete - Disaster Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR-1107</td>
<td>Dec 95</td>
<td>Windstorm</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$401,479</td>
<td>All Projects Complete – Disaster Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR-1149</td>
<td>Nov/Dec96</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$497,849</td>
<td>All Projects Complete – Disaster Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR-1160</td>
<td>Dec 96/Jan 97</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$1,286,415</td>
<td>All Projects Complete – Disaster Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR-1221</td>
<td>Feb/Nov 98</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>All Projects Complete – Disaster Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR-1510</td>
<td>Dec ’03/Jan ’04</td>
<td>Severe Winter Storm</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Applications in Process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The images below show the counties effected by Oregon's most recent disaster declarations. Each county is color coded to indicate which federal disaster programs are applicable. There are three major federal disaster assistance programs, Individual Assistance (IA), Public Assistance (PA) and Hazard Mitigation (HM). The federal disaster designation, noted by DR, is a unique number assigned by FEMA.

**What is the Hazard Mitigation program?**

Authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

**Staff and Agency Contacts:**

Ken Murphy  
Department of State Police Office of Emergency Management  
503 378-2911, ext. 251  
http://www.osp.state.or.us/oem/index.html

Scott Porter  
Oregon Emergency Management Association  
503 642-0371

John Pennington or Tammy Doherty  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X  
425 487-4600

Ray Kelly  
Legislative Committee Services  
503-986-1675