

Comprehensive, Progressive, Risk-Driven, Integrated, Collaborative, Flexible, Professional

2016 Annual Report



Seattle
Office of Emergency
Management



Photo Credit: Tim Durkan Photography

**We partner with the community to prepare for, respond to,
mitigate the impacts of, and recover from disasters.**



Photo Credit: Tim Durkan Photography

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COMMON ACRONYMS:

OEM = Office of Emergency Management

EOC = Emergency Operations Center



Photo Credit: Tim Durkan Photography

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR



Seattle Office of Emergency Management



In keeping with Seattle Mayor Murray's commitment to performance based outcomes, 2016 was the year that the city-wide emergency management program achieved accreditation from the national Emergency Management Accreditation Program. Six subject matter expert assessors reviewed hundreds of checklists, protocols, and plans and interviewed dozens of staff and partners to determine that Seattle was compliant with the set of 64 nationally recognized standards. Compliance means that as a City we have adequately addressed planning, continuity of operations, public education, training, and exercises and that our program is codified with appropriate fiscal and administrative procedures. All these plans and procedures will be continually improved – but having documented everything means we can eventually leave a much healthier emergency management program to our successors.

In April, a Program Review Committee recommended and the Commission of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program granted five-year accreditation to Seattle. Two jurisdictions in the 4-state FEMA region already received accreditation – Pierce County and the Seattle District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. But, Seattle is the first City in this region to achieve this milestone.

In June, the largest regional exercise of its kind tested a lot of those plans and procedures. Seattle participated with the States of Washington and Oregon, the Province of British Columbia, dozens of cities, counties, and tribal nations, the National Guard, and most branches of the Department of Defense in Cascadia Rising – a scenario modeling a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and accompanying tsunami. More than 300 Seattle employees and partner agencies worked through what felt like surrealistic problems in the Emergency Operations Center, and the Mayor's Conference Room, and the City Council Chambers. Our obligation in 2017 following this sober experience will be to revisit our local plans to make improvements and, perhaps more importantly, contribute to the state-wide and regional plans that still need to be developed.

These were two highlights from a year in which we activated the Emergency Operations Center 8 times for major events and storms and provided Staff Duty Officer coverage to monitor or play a coordinating role in an additional 19 events.

As I write this, we are beginning to experience the transition from several El Nino winters to a La Nina forecast which tends to present wetter colder weather and higher potential for snow, ice, flooding and landslides. Thank goodness we have an accredited program filled with extraordinarily talented staff from all City Departments and partner agencies to ... "Take Winter by Storm."

Sincerely,

Director Barb Graff
Seattle Office of Emergency Management



Photo Credit: Tim Durkan Photography

MILESTONES FOR 2016

Seattle OEM reached several milestones in 2016. Below are a few highlights:

Emergency Management Accreditation

In April of 2016, Seattle OEM was accredited by the national Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) Commission at their spring meeting in Lexington, Kentucky. Seattle becomes the first city in the four-state FEMA region to achieve accreditation. This achievement highlights the Office's commitment to the City improving emergency preparedness, responsiveness and recovery.

FEMA Presidential Disaster Declarations

Three open FEMA disaster declarations were closed out in 2016: January 2009 flooding (DR 1817), the January 2012 winter storm (DR 4056), and the 2014 Oso Mudslide (DR 4186). Seattle OEM serves as the Applicant Agent for state and federal funding available through FEMA following Presidential Disaster Declarations. City departments recouped a total of \$3.2 million to offset emergency response and repair costs resulting from these three disasters.

Disaster Recovery Framework Adoption

City Council adopted the Seattle Disaster Recovery Framework in November of 2016. This is the culmination of several years of study and planning that began with a Phase 1 scoping effort in 2013 and now completed in 2016 with the adoption of the Framework.

The completion of the Disaster Recovery Framework fills a key gap in OEM's suite of plans, which now covers the entire emergency management cycle. The Framework was developed to address how the City would partner with the community and coordinate with County, State and Federal agencies in recovering from the effects of disaster using a massive earthquake as the premise. Consultants and staff researched lessons and best practices from communities' recovery from Hurricanes Sandy, Irene, and Katrina as well as earthquakes in New Zealand, Chile, and Japan. The heart of the Framework is the Disaster Recovery Organization, which establishes a post-disaster governance and oversight structure, seeking to leverage and coordinate the resources, intelligence, and energy of our community and public, private, and not-for-profit organizations.



Mayor Ed Murray and City staff at EMAP Accreditation Celebration

EOC Technology Upgrade Project

The City's EOC serves as the central point of citywide coordination for emergency and disaster response and recovery. Within the EOC, representatives from responding departments and organizations coordinate information, resources and develop plans of action as well as enact emergency policies to manage the consequences of disasters. Built in 2007, the EOC was equipped, at that time, with the most current technologies. As time passed and technologies exponentially improved, the EOC experienced the need to grow with the evolving systems and over the last two years the EOC's aging and failing systems have been replaced and upgraded. With City and homeland security grant funding, the situational awareness display systems throughout the EOC have been upgraded to high-definition standards and over one hundred workstation computers were replaced. The entire project was carefully managed through the active summer into winter seasons to maintain the operational readiness if situations necessitated the need to open and staff the EOC.

Cascadia Earthquake Exercise

More than 40 counties, major cities, tribal nations, state and federal governments, private sector businesses, and non-governmental organizations across Washington, Oregon and Idaho participated in the region's largest ever earthquake exercise the week of June 7th, 2016. Called Cascadia Rising for the subduction zone upon which the scenario was based, the exercise

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



was designed to test the ability of EOCs at all levels of government to coordinate joint interagency disaster operations in response to a magnitude 9.0 catastrophic earthquake and coastal tsunami. It also incorporated practice of military support to civilian operations with National Guard and Department of Defense assets.

Seattle OEM facilitated the design of the Seattle portion of the exercise with the help of an interdepartmental committee. The design began in April of 2015. A series of exercise specific topics were presented and practiced at monthly city-wide Disaster Management Committee meetings. A series of three “All Hands-on Deck” workshops were conducted for exercise participants in May 2016 – a total of 127 City employees participated in the workshop. The Mayor’s Emergency Executive Board conducted exercise preparation at its quarterly meeting in May of 2016 and briefings for individual Council members were conducted in the months preceding the exercise.

Over 300 City department representatives, agency partners and nongovernmental stakeholders were in the Seattle EOC over the two-days of exercise play. Seattle and King County conducted a four-hour pilot for how government and business partners could collaborate together in a real disaster. Participants logged into an on-line website and received government updates, tracked posts, exchanged comments and inquiries about resources and shared links with each other in real time.

The exercise players focused on: operational coordination, operational communications, situational awareness and mass care services. Several problem-solving scenarios allowed the EOC to address fuel prioritization, sheltering of over 30,000 people, conducting holistic damage assessment and dealing with multiple location needs for incoming resources.

From the exercise, several findings were identified and are being addressed through an improvement plan. Lessons learned included: refine and practice more frequently the resource requesting process and develop pre-packaged requests; conduct more regional planning and incorporate the expertise and planning from the National Guard levels; further develop the processes and plans on damage assessment; and conduct further regional planning and surge capability for mass sheltering and care.

CASCADIA RISING EARTHQUAKE EXERCISE





Public Information Officers hard at work in the Joint Information Center during the Cascadia Rising Exercise

ACTIVATIONS & COORDINATED EVENTS

ACTIVATIONS

The Seattle EOC activated eight times in 2016.

May Day

(May 1) May Day events typically consist of a peaceful March for Workers and Immigrant Rights, and an Anti-Capitalist March that has historically generated vandalism and violent acts. Both marches take place in downtown Seattle.

Downtown Power Outage

(May 25) An unscheduled power outage occurred in downtown Seattle, leaving thousands of businesses and residents without power. The EOC activated until power was restored within approximately 1 hour.

Cascadia Rising Earthquake Exercise

(June 8 & 9) Over 300 people participated in Seattle's activation for the Cascadia Earthquake Exercise - the region's largest ever earthquake exercise.

Seattle Pride Parade

(June 26) The City of Seattle's annual Pride Parade is the third-largest in the Country, bringing people together from all over the region.

Torchlight Parade

(July 30) Each year thousands of spectators gather along the streets of downtown Seattle to watch more than 100 parade units march in celebration of our city. The Torchlight Parade kicks off the annual SeaFair events.

High Wind Events

(Oct. 14 & 15) High winds hit the Seattle area in mid-October, leaving thousands without power for a short period of time, and many trees down throughout the City.

Winter Weather

(Dec. 5, 8, 9) Snow passed through the Seattle area in early-December resulting in icy roads and power outages.

Seattle Sounders Victory Parade

(Dec. 13) Fans of the Seattle Sounders Soccer Team celebrated their championship by participating in a Victory Parade in downtown Seattle.

COORDINATED EVENTS

Seattle OEM frequently assists other City departments in coordinating responses to emergency events that require collaboration among multiple departments, but don't reach the level of an EOC activation. In 2016, Seattle OEM helped coordinate 19 events, including the Greenwood Gas Explosion.





Photo Credit: Tim Durkan Photography

PARTNERSHIPS

Planning Workshop for Seattle Consular Association

On October 19, consulate representatives from nearly 30 different countries gathered at City Hall as Seattle OEM facilitated a planning discussion to talk about their roles and coordination of information when foreign nationals and their families are involved in emergencies or disaster. Guest speakers included: the King County Medical Examiner, Harborview Medical Center, the Northwest Healthcare Response Network, Public Health Seattle-King County, the U.S. Department of State, Office of Foreign Missions, Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations, Seattle Fire Department and Seattle OEM. Other guests included: FEMA's Business/Language Access Liaison, the U.S. State Department Special Agent in Charge of Diplomatic Security and King County Office of Emergency Management. Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim made the opening statements and welcomed the group.

Architects without Borders

OEM's public outreach coordinator spoke to members and guests of Architects Without Borders at the launch of their 'Ready to Rumble' design competition in summer of 2016. Architects and design professionals from throughout the region and around the world, submitted design projects for tools and systems that could aid individuals, neighborhoods, and governments in

being more prepared for earthquakes. Contest entries were showcased at the 2016 Seattle Design Festival in Occidental Park in late 2016 where OEM's public outreach coordinator served on a panel of judges that selected the top entries based on creativity and practical application.

Washington State National Guard

Seattle OEM continued to strengthen ties with the Washington State National Guard in 2016. The Guard has unique capabilities that can support City response operations in times of disaster. A Guard member was placed in the Seattle EOC during the Cascadia Rising Exercise which enabled them to quickly respond to requests for assistance. The efforts are the first step toward integrating National Guard capabilities into Seattle disaster plans.

Amazon

Seattle OEM met with Amazon executives on a few occasions in 2016, to enhance the mutual understanding of each other's organizations, discuss how the City could assist with employee training, and how information could be shared before, during and after emergencies and disasters. Amazon actively participated in the Cascadia Rising exercise in June, and has supported the concept of a Seattle- King County Business Emergency Operations Center for private sector partners to exchange real-time information with government agencies.



Members of the Consulate Workshop Planning Team

Earthquake Early Warning System Beta Testers Workshop

OEM’s hazard specialist attended the United States Geologic Survey and the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network’s Earthquake Early Warning System Beta Testers workshop in 2016. USGS, PNSN and others have prototyped a technology to provide people with seconds to minutes of warning before earthquake waves reach them. Currently, the project is in a proof-of-concept phase with terminals at the Seattle EOC. This workshop introduced the next phase in which limited pilots will be conducted to deliver warnings to specifically picked and trained people.

Unreinforced Masonry Building (URM) Policy Committee Activity

Over the last few years, Seattle OEM has been a partner with the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection to explore policy options to address the hazards posed by URMs. URMs are the building type most vulnerable to structural damage and collapse from earthquakes. In 2016, the City refined the list of over 1,100 URMs thought to be in the City limits and completed some additional data analysis. The Policy Committee has been brought back together for a series of meetings to finalize recommendations to the City in 2017.

URM Infographics

The City was awarded a FEMA mitigation grant for the URM Public Education and Outreach Pilot Project, which closed out in 2016. A portion of the grant funding was used to develop infographics to communicate URM risks and the benefit of retrofit for three audiences: Building Owners, Business Owners, and Tenants. The infographics are living documents, and have since been translated and modified for use by OEM Public Educators.



Signing of Airbnb Memorandum of Understanding

Airbnb Memorandum of Understanding

Seattle OEM facilitated the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Airbnb with the goal of encouraging offers of free accommodation during emergencies and creating a new avenue of outreach for preparedness education.

This MOU represents a new partnership with the private sector to help the community prepare for and recover from disasters. It allows the City to:

- Leverage generous offers of free temporary housing made by Airbnb hosts after disasters. This could be used to house local and incoming responding emergency workers or displaced survivors, for example.
- Reach travelers and visitors to Seattle using Airbnb accommodations to increase awareness of local hazards and connect them to sources of emergency information such as Alert Seattle.
- Educate hosts in the community on emergency preparedness to help them protect their homes and prepare their families.

A press conference was held at the Emergency Operations Center in November of 2016 announcing signing of the MOU.



OEM's Community Safety Ambassador Dagneu teaching hands-only CPR at the Ethiopian Community Center

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Seattle OEM's public outreach team uses a variety of methods to do outreach in the community on emergency preparedness and other safety topics.

TRAINING

Seattle OEM continues to fulfill the hundreds of requests received each year for emergency preparedness presentations, home retrofit classes, and attendance at safety fairs. In 2016, the Office implemented several new training methods to more effectively reach Seattle communities.

Training for Community Members

The Office shifted to offering **Disaster Skills** classes in 2016 to make learning disaster skills more accessible by teaching abbreviated courses out in the community. Disaster Skills classes are offered at community centers and public library locations throughout the City of Seattle. Participants who attend these 2-3 hour classes get hands-on practice and learn about disaster basic aid, search and rescue, utility control, fire extinguisher use, water purification, and how to build an emergency kit.



OEM staff member teaching a Disaster Skills Class

Training for Neighborhoods

Seattle is fortunate to have proactive community members who are engaged in preparing their neighborhoods and communities for disasters. Seattle OEM continues to promote the Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare (SNAP) and Community Emergency Hubs programs to the public. Both programs aim to enhance the organizational capacity and skills of Seattle Neighborhoods and ensure an effective response during a disaster.

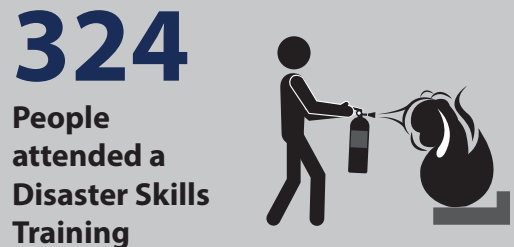
OUTREACH SUMMARY



People reached through face-to-face interactions at programs



Programs taught to the public



People attended a Home Retrofit Class



Training for City employees

In 2016 Seattle OEM increased the number of City employees who receive emergency preparedness/City response training by over 400%. OEM began participating in bi-weekly New Employee Orientations, and providing all new employees with an overview of how the city plans for and responds to disasters, their roles as employees, and guidance on personal preparedness. With the new model, the Office reached a total of 459 employees in 2016.

Training for Schools

Seattle OEM partners with Seattle Public Schools to offer two training modules to school staff members. In 2016, the Office began integrating a segment on personal preparedness into the school's Critical Incident Management System training. Seattle OEM also helps teach Family Reunification Training to school staff, which walks participants through the process of reuniting students with family members following a major disaster.

Training for Childcare Providers

To accurately assess how prepared childcare providers are for emergencies, in 2016 Seattle OEM began the process of researching childcare provider's compliance with WA State Laws on preparedness and mitigation. The office updated the curriculum and training for childcare providers and has begun the process of developing a 'handbook' for distribution to child care centers. Training held 2-4 times annually is set to begin in early 2017.

Community Safety Ambassador Program

Seattle OEM launched the Community Safety Ambassador (CSA) pilot program in mid-2015. The CSA program is designed to provide basic emergency preparedness education and skills to Seattle's non-English speaking communities by enlisting bilingual (or trilingual) community members from those cultural groups to provide the outreach and training. Seattle OEM currently has 21 CSAs who can provide outreach in 16 languages, and teach on topics including emergency preparedness, AlertSeattle, hands-only CPR, 911 education and winter weather. Seattle OEM is fully committed to continuing this program as long as funding allows. This program is currently funded by a King County EMS grant and Urban Area Security Initiative grant.



CSA Nuden Bunchomphu giving a presentation to Chinese speaking community members

ONLINE PRESENCE

Social Media

Seattle OEM launched an Office Facebook and Twitter page in late 2016. The two social media accounts are used to push out preparedness and emergency information to the public. The Office is also on Spotify and Youtube.

Website

A project to revamp the OEM public website kicked off in mid-2016 and is currently underway. Initial steps included assessing the most frequently visited webpages and conducting an ease of navigation customer survey.

ALERTSEATTLE

The City of Seattle launched its new emergency alert and notification tool (AlertSeattle) to the public in August of 2015. To increase the number of opt-ins to the AlertSeattle system, Seattle OEM hired a summer intern in 2016 to write and implement a marketing campaign targeted towards businesses and schools. The campaign outreach methods included an email blast to business districts and emergency managers of larger businesses, flyer distribution to K-12 schools, and distribution of emergency supply lists (with AlertSeattle blurb) at Bartell Drug stores (through a partnership with Bartell Drugs).



Materials used to promote AlertSeattle

- Garbage bags
- Feminine hygiene products
- Household chlorine bleach
- Bucket with lid

ONLINE REACH



Facebook.com/OEMSeattle

132
Page Likes



Twitter.com/OEMSeattle

473
Followers



seattle.gov/emergency

174,446
Web Visitors



alert.seattle.gov

24,000
AlertSeattle Opt-ins

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Be Prepared Infographic and Motion Animation

Seattle OEM worked with a graphic design company (Killer Infographics) in early 2016 to produce a 'Be Prepared' infographic and motion animation. Both pieces were produced to encourage the community to prepare.

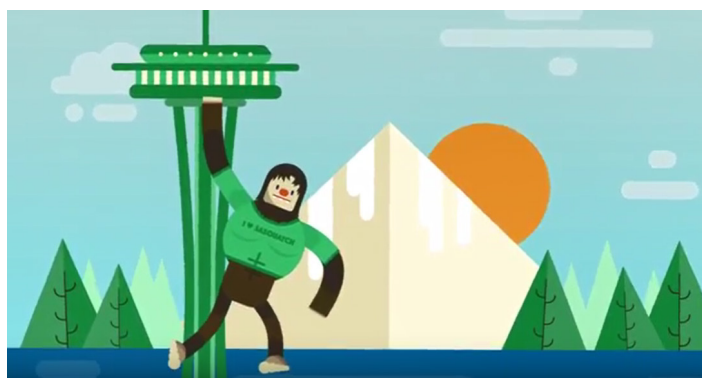
The infographic was translated in Seattle's top 14 languages. The animation featuring a sasquatch is available in English and with English subtitles (2 minutes and 4 seconds in length).

Hands-only CPR Flyer

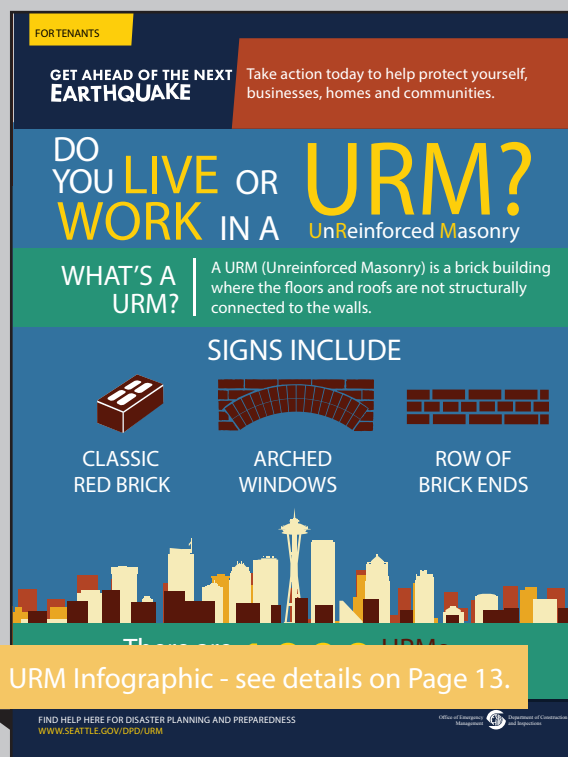
Through a partnership with King County Emergency Medical Services and CPR Seattle, OEM created a flyer with simple steps for performing hands-only CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) flyer. This flyer was translated in Seattle's top 14 languages and will be used by Community Safety Ambassadors at hands-only CPR trainings.



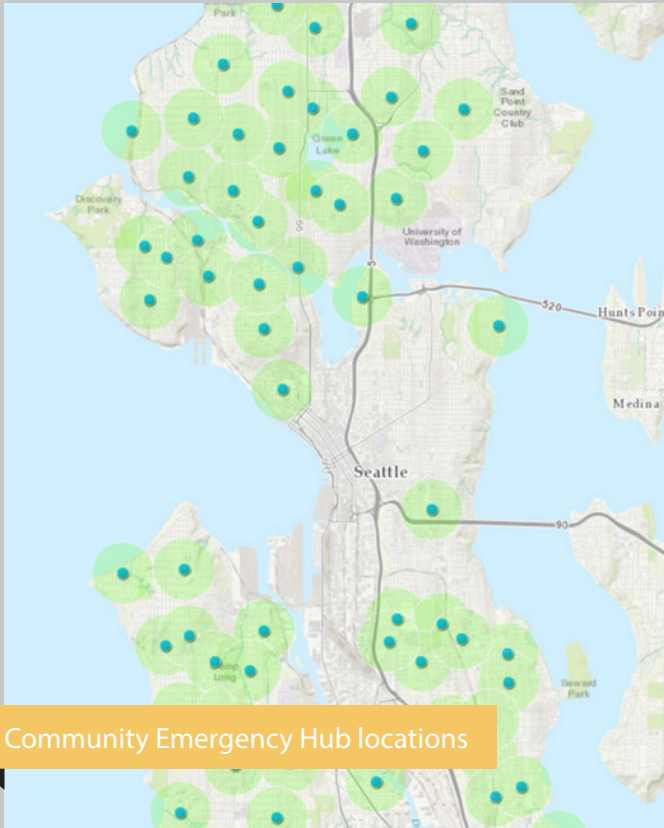
Be Prepared Infographic



Snapshots from OEM's new motion animation



URM Infographic - see details on Page 13.



Community Emergency Hub locations



'Disaster and a Movie' Flyer

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HUBS

Sixteen new community emergency hub sites were designated in 2016, bringing the total to 67. Hubs are places where people meet to exchange information and help each other after a disaster. By 2017, Seattle OEM's goal is to have hub sites located within a half-mile of where Seattle residents live or work. The Department of Neighborhoods provided funding to help several new hubs get started.

NOTABLE EVENTS

Disaster and a Movie

Seattle OEM stepped outside the box in 2016 to present "Disaster and a Movie" in partnership with Central Cinema. These sessions combined Central Cinema's "Hecklevision" (where attendees can add their commentary to the big screen via text message), with disaster themed movies and introductory preparedness talks by OEM and partners. In 2016, 'Disaster and a Movie' featured *Sharknado*, *Twister* and the *San Andreas* films.

Big Day of Play

OEM's Community Safety Ambassadors attended Seattle Parks and Recreation's annual 'Big Day of Play' event in summer of 2016 to deliver preparedness messaging to the community. Over 1,000 people attend this event.

National Night Out

Seattle OEM staff members visit communities all throughout the City of Seattle each year on National Night Out Against Crime to distribute emergency preparedness information. This year the Office reached over 2,000 residents on National Night Out.

Emergency Preparedness Month

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray proclaimed October 2016 as Emergency Preparedness Month. In celebration of the month, Seattle OEM and the City's Parks Department invited members of the public and media to attend the City's first ever, 'Big Shaker' Earthquake Event at Westlake Park. Over 300 brave members of the public were able to take a ride in the 'Big Shaker': a 22-foot long, 6,500-pound earthquake simulator owned and operated by Quake Hold that gives participants the opportunity to experience the shaking of a simulated 8.0 earthquake. In addition to the larger preparedness event, Seattle OEM encouraged residents, businesses and organizations to participate in the Great Washington ShakeOut on Oct. 20.



Seattle OEM booth at Big Day of Play event



The 'Big Shaker' earthquake simulator



Deputy Mayor Kate Joncas with the CSAs at the Earthquake Big Shaker Event



Photo Credit: Tim Durkan Photography

PLANNING

Seattle OEM is the central coordinating agency for the development, training and maintenance of a suite of emergency management plans, incident checklists and protocols. OEM works closely with City departments, non-profit agencies, hospitals, schools, the military and many other elements of our overall community when developing emergency plans. Below are a few planning highlights from 2016:

NEW PLANNING GUIDES

Emergency Management Planning Guide

Seattle OEM developed a document to guide the architecture, purpose and relationship between the City of Seattle emergency management program suite of plans. The guidance supports the suite of plans that make up the Seattle Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), as well as other planning documentation throughout the Seattle emergency management program. The document provides guidance in the following planning areas: standards, comprehensive plan architecture, sustainability, and socialization.

Damage Assessment Operations Guide

The Office developed this document to aid in the process used to synthesize damage assessment information in response and recovery for incidents impacting the City. The City has identified multiple categories of

damage and impact information: government property, facilities, infrastructure, and personnel; residential; businesses; Regional Critical Infrastructure; and community-based organizations. This document primarily focuses on the City of Seattle Government property, facilities, infrastructure, and personnel until further damage assessment elements can be developed.

PLAN UPDATES

OEM supported City emergency management partners in annual updates of the CEMP Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes and Department Continuity of Operations Plans. OEM facilitated a series of meetings with ESF coordinators to update their respective annexes and an annual workshop with Department Continuity Coordinators to help identify planning best practices.

2015 – 2021 Seattle All Hazards Mitigation Plan

FEMA approved the 2015 – 2021 Seattle All Hazards Mitigation Plan in February, 2016. This revision features several major changes, such as alignment with Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) standards and expansion to include human-caused hazards. It also incorporated the development of a new Seismic Risk Assessment methodology to be used to assess and prioritize mitigation improvements to City facilities.





Photo taken during Cascadia Rising Earthquake Exercise

TRAINING & EXERCISES

Seattle OEM conducts training and participates in exercises to help prepare the City for EOC activations.

TRAINING

EOC Responder Series

All personnel designated as EOC representatives are required to take the four-part 'EOC Responder Series' prior to working in the EOC during an activation. The EOC Responder Series was offered twice in 2016 (only one WebEOC course).

The EOC Basic course provides participants with a basic understanding of the role of the EOC and how it is organized, an overview of how communication is coordinated, how representatives are notified, and what their responsibility is. The EOC Intermediate course covers the role of strategic planning within the EOC. The EOC Advanced course covers the resource requesting process within the EOC. The WebEOC course is a computer-based training that gives participants hands-on practice with the EOC's electronic management system for activations (WebEOC).

Joint Information Center (JIC) Series

Seattle OEM implemented this training series in 2016 to train department public information officers (PIOs) on how to operate in the City's JIC during activations. The JIC Training Series was offered once in 2016.

The JIC Basic course provides an introductory overview into JIC operations during an EOC activation. The JIC Intermediate course provides hands-on practice of the systems and tools used in the Joint Information Center. The JIC Advanced course focuses on how the AlertSeattle emergency alert and notification system is used by the JIC during city-wide disasters.

Seattle Fire and Police Department public affairs staff also attended a separate training session on the AlertSeattle system.

TRAINING SUMMARY



91

People attended
EOC Responder Training



47

People attended
JIC Training

EXERCISES

JIC Winter Weather Exercise

Before winter storm season hit the Seattle area, the Office put together an exercise for public information officers to test their skills working in the Joint Information Center. The tabletop exercise scenario focused on a winter weather event with many cascading impacts. The Office plans to hold an annual exercise with public information officers to continue practicing key skills of JIC operations.

Multi-Jurisdiction Improvised Explosive Device Security Planning

OEM's new training and exercise coordinator participated in a Multi-Jurisdiction Improvised Explosive Device Security Planning tabletop exercise in 2016. The exercise was based on a multiple improvised explosive device scenario.

University of Washington Exercise

OEM staff members participated as liaisons in the University of Washington's 'Current Affair' exercise at the UW Emergency Operations Center in early 2016. The exercise tested the ability to coordinate information and resources to effectively respond to an explosion scenario resulting in utility and housing impacts to the University.



Photo taken during Cascadia Rising Earthquake Exercise

VOLUNTEERING & INTERNSHIPS

The Office's volunteer program consisted of public education and outreach and Auxiliary Communication Service volunteers.

Public Outreach

Seattle OEM public education and outreach volunteers help prepare the public for emergencies through giving presentations, providing training for neighborhoods, and teaching home retrofit classes. In 2016, Seattle OEM's five dedicated public education volunteers delivered 67 presentations to 2,277 attendees.

Seattle Auxiliary Communications Service

Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) is a volunteer program within Seattle OEM comprised of approximately 160 trained volunteers providing emergency communications and other support services to the City and its neighborhoods. Team members are licensed amateur radio operators and registered state emergency workers, some of whom have been in service since 1993. During 2016 the ACS team contributed approximately 5,500 hours of service in support of all EOC Activations, public services events, training exercises and projects. public service events supported this year include: The Seattle Marathon, Disaster Relay Trials, Fat Salmon Open-water Swim, Torchlight Parade, Fremont Parade and SeaFair.

National Amateur Field Day

Seattle ACS volunteers, along with members of the Puget Sound Repeater Group (PSRG) participated in the annual National Amateur Field Day in summer of 2016. The event was held at the South Seattle College, where ham radio operators across North America established temporary ham radio stations in public locations to showcase the science and skill of the Amateur Radio operations. During this field exercise, ACS volunteers operated off the electronic grid.

PUBLIC OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS



2,277

People reached through presentations given by volunteers



67

Volunteer programs taught to the public

ACS VOLUNTEERS

160

Total trained ACS Volunteers



5,500

Hours of service completed by ACS Volunteers

Internships

OEM hired two summer interns in 2016 to work with the outreach team and planning team. Ben Lennon focused primarily on marketing the City's emergency alert system – AlertSeattle – to schools and businesses. Leah Greenbaum wrote a comparative analysis of existing Business EOCs around the Country, and assisted with mitigation and recovery projects.



OEM's newest staff members

NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Melanie Cole

Training & Outreach Specialist

Melanie joined the staff as the new Outreach and Training Specialist. Melanie came to Seattle OEM with experience in disaster response and program management. Melanie started her career as the Client Services Coordinator for the American Red Cross of South Puget Sound, focusing on direct client services and disaster casework management. Melanie moved from New Orleans, LA, where she most recently worked as the Disaster Program Manager, overseeing all preparedness, response, and recovery efforts of the American Red Cross of Louisiana. Melanie works on a team of three in Seattle OEM's public outreach section.



Ivan W. Lee

Training & Exercise Coordinator

Ivan joined the staff as the new Training & Exercise Coordinator. Ivan brings a broad wealth of experience from military, federal, state, local, and private entities. His most recent work experience was with the Seattle & King County's Public Health Preparedness Program managing special projects involving public health emergency preparedness and communicable disease response to Ebola. Ivan manages all of the various elements of Seattle OEM's training and exercise program.



Carrie Brazil

Volunteer Coordinator

Carrie joined the staff as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Carrie brings eight years' experience directing small and large volunteer programs, including a charitable youth agency, a community hospital in Los Angeles, and a large academic hospital in Seattle. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington (UW) and Executive Master Public Administration degree from UW's Evans School of Policy and Governance. Carrie manages all of the various elements of Seattle OEM's Volunteer Services program.



Seattle

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