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Subject: BC EM Update for CRFPD
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Greetings, CRFPD Board,

Below is the EM report from EM Lee with Benton County for tonight's meeting.

Emergency Management June 2026 Summary

Plans

- **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan (NHMP/CWPP)**- EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka hosted an annual update to the project list for these plans. Overall attendance was relatively low but included state partners, City of Philomath, City of Adair Village, and Corvallis Emergency Management. The project list was updated, and the City of Corvallis will be hosting a separate update meeting to refine their project list.
- **Alert and Warning Annex**- EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka sent a revised annex for review. Specifically updated were the procedures for notification from the field to dispatch and then to Emergency Management for the need/request for alerting. Additional discussions will continue within the City of Corvallis to make a final determination on who will be responsible for sending notifications within the City of Corvallis jurisdiction. EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka hosted a brief alert training for key BCSO staff to ensure additional backup capabilities within the Office. Coordinator Chytka is working on finalizing a step-by-step user guide for back up alert senders which should be completed by July 15.
- **Evacuation Annex**- Reviewed again and confirmed by BCSO.

Grants

- **Community Wildfire Risk Reduction (CWRR)**- This grant was fully completed in May and final paperwork and reporting was submitted in June. No additional

actions are required for this grant.

- **Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)**- Grant reporting for EMPG related requirements were completed in June following final award contracts to local jurisdictions in May.
- **State Homeland Security Grant FY24 (SHSP)**- This grant award covers furniture for the new EOC building, training funds, and portable radios. The furniture portion is being managed by OTAK and is on track for completion by September 30, 2026. The Portable Radios have been purchased and completed. One of the two trainings were completed in June, with the potential need for an extension into the fall to allow for the second offering. Grant reports for EMPG and SHSP have been submitted.
- **Future Federal Grants**- Future Notice of Funding Opportunities were shared regarding grants, however, there is still discussion on Oregon's ability to accept the terms and conditions of those grants.

Training

- **Emergency Operations Center IMT**- EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka hosted a training on the new software to be implemented by the EOC Team. Approximately 25 people were in attendance, and overall feedback regarding the contents of the training were very positive as feedback from previous exercises indicated participants would like to go over the software tools and resources.
- **Oregon State Sheriffs Association IMT**- EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka are offering monthly IMT training to the OSSA IMT. There were 12 people in attendance, and the training focused on initial actions, information sharing, and operations activities. Future trainings will cover additional aspects of the Planning P and ICS forms as requested by participants.
- **Alert and Warning**- EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka hosted a brief training to BCSO staff on Linn-Benton ALERT. EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka met with dispatch to discuss protocol and procedures as well as ensure access to appropriate information was in place. EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka's call signs were changed from C12 and C17 to EM1 and EM2).
- **USFA O305 All Hazard Type 3 IMT**- EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka instructed a USFA O305 course which included 28 participants and covered IMT functions and included three days of functional exercises. Feedback for the course were positive, and this course is the most useful and functional ICS

related course. EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka will continue to offer this course annually to facilitate State credentialing as well as increasing response capacity.

Exercises

- **Benton County Fire Defense Board Table Top Exercise After Action-** EM Lee completed the BCFDB After Action Report and Improvement Plan. These AAR findings and improvement strategies were developed from a brief hotwash following the exercise. All improvement strategies assigned to Emergency Management were completed in June. Additional feedback was shared by one fire district following the exercise and incorporated. One key item was to implement a shared mapping system as well as operational readiness to support field operations. EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka are working to become more proficient with tools such as SAR Topo for shared mapping capabilities.
- **EOC IMT Exercise After Action-** The After Action Report for the EOC Exercise was completed in June and improvement strategies implemented. Additional improvement will continue to be made in the software tools. Overall feedback from the exercise was positive with many finding it valuable to have first responder agencies represented (e.g. ODF, Monroe Fire, Philomath Fire, and BCSO Patrol).

Other

- **Oregon State Sheriffs Association Emergency Management Command Council-** EM Lee hosted the monthly OSSA EMCC meeting with a focus on legislative updates and IMT updates. EM Lee is facilitating key Emergency Management modernization legislation in coordination with the Association of Counties (AOC) and Oregon Emergency Management Association (OEMA). In June, AOC held their priority setting retreat, and the topics of public safety and emergency management were identified as one of their priorities for the long-session.
- **Wildfire Season Readiness-** EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka conducted a full overhaul and update of all supplies, equipment, and tools to be ready for wildfire response from an EOC or out to the field as needed. This includes replacing supplies and organizing all of response supplies and equipment into one location for rapid deployment and use.
- **Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Council (LGEMAC)-**

EM Lee is the Vice Chair for this Governor's council. This meeting was focused on state updates as well as current concerns from the state agencies and LGEMAC agencies.

- **Senator Merkley and Rep. Hoyle meetings-** EM Lee as well as OEMA and OSSA Sheriffs met with Senator Merkley to discuss concerns around wildfire season and potential action items for the Senator. EM Lee represented local Emergency Managers and voiced concerns around the FEMA Review Council Recommendations and capacity related issues across Oregon. Additionally, EM Lee sat on the townhall meeting with Rep. Hoyle and Oregon State Fire Marshall to discuss preparedness and wildfire season outlook.

- **Governors' Plan for Resilient Oregon-** EM Lee participated in an open forum around the Governors' Plan for Resilient Oregon and provided feedback on the goals and strategies and what can be done to increase capacity in Oregon. The intent of this plan will be to drive funding priorities for State agencies and legislative efforts in the future.

- **IT/GIS-** EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka met with IT and GIS to discuss mapping needs. Overall, it was determined that Emergency Management will continue to find simple cost-effective solutions to mapping and GIS needs for Benton County.

- **Genasys-** EM Lee and Coordinator Chytka continue to await final determinations on the use of this software. The contract was funded by the State Legislature, and its use by local responder agencies seemed mixed with most rural response agencies and law enforcement preferring not to utilize the software in the field due to connectivity related issues and some urban response agencies preferring to use the pre-defined "zones" but not the software. These operational differences will impact alert and warning as well as developing common operating pictures among responder agencies. Emergency Management is ready to implement any process as defined by the response agencies based on capacity and preference. As a reminder, the Genasys tool will not allow for true alerting or mass notifications via text, IPAWS/WEA, landline phone call, etc. There are ongoing discussions with City of Corvallis and other response agencies about how to ensure public facing maps are available immediately after alerts are sent. Currently, we have several avenues and Emergency Management will continue to refine skills in SARTopo, ArcGIS, Genasys, Everbridge, Survey123, State RAPTOR, County website, and social media to be ready to share situational awareness with the

community.

Benton County Fire Defense Board- Coordinator Chytka attended the Benton County Fire Defense Board meeting. Mapping software was part of the discussion as well as mutual aid coordination. A big topic that continues to be raised as an issue and previously identified in numerous settings is the need for a basic expanding incident communications plan. Several concepts were proposed by Chief Barnes and ODF. Overall, this has been expressed as a significant need in exercises and real incidents. The BCFDB will continue discussions on how best to implement a usable plan moving forward as well as future plans regarding communications.

I will see you this evening.

Ben

Ben Janes

Fire Chief: "One team, one mission."

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