



Oregon Emergency Management Association



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Dear OEMA Members,

This has been a challenging year for the emergency management profession, as it has been for most fields. Adaptability to change has become the norm. With the worst economic downturn in a generation, resources are scarce and our neighbors are struggling. However, when a wildfire ignites, the flood waters rise, or a new flu virus breaks out, the public still expects us to be there. And you, as professionals and members of OEMA, continue to plan, prepare for and respond to the needs of your communities with the highest level of care and commitment.

Like you, OEMA must also be prepared for and adaptable to change. Your leadership has done a superb job over the years building this organization into a well respected, broad based and forward thinking professional association. As your president, my overarching goal during this term is to build upon this foundation by *increasing the value of OEMA membership to you*. This may sound a bit nebulous, but your Executive Board and I will more specifically define what this means in the coming months.

This is not to say that I don't firmly believe, and I hope you will agree, that the OEMA already brings a great deal of value to membership. From networking with colleagues throughout the state and region, providing excellent educational opportunities at the annual conference, offering professional development through the ORCEMS program, sharing valuable information through our relationships with other emergency management organizations, to increasing our presence in Salem at the legislative level, the OEMA is an active and engaged organization.

But we can do more. And we must strive to do more. Our Strategic Planning Committee will distribute a survey to you soon that asks for your input about what OEMA delivers, and what the organization should be delivering. We expect you to be honest. If we are to continue to grow and gain strength, such assessments should be conducted and your leadership should respond to your feedback.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent OEMA. This organization has a bright future because of individuals like you who choose to be a part of it, and who give of their time and talents to make it better. I look forward to a productive year working with you.

With optimism,

Jeff Sargent
President, OEMA