

White Paper – Concept for the 2017 OEMA Annual Conference to take place Sept 18-21 2017

Purpose: To propose a concept for the conference in order to generate feedback and ultimately, consensus.

The theme of the conference is resilience. Elected leaders at the state and local level have set goals to create a more resilient Oregon. We have an Oregon Resilience Plan. The legislature has established a State Resilience Officer in the Governor's Office. The Association of Oregon Counties has established a Resilience sub-committee. There is a clear demand signal to the emergency management community to deliver goods and services that contribute to this goal, but do we as practitioners really understand what our leaders want? What is resilience? How do you measure it? How do you create it? What can we do to develop emergency management organizations (public and private) capable of producing those goods and services? To explore those questions, we will organize the discussion into three parts (outcomes, methods and resources).

On day one, Monday September 18 we will begin our conference with a general membership meeting. At the meeting, we will review expectations for the conference, conduct normal business, and hold the annual election.

On day two, Tuesday September 19 we will define resilience outcomes. We will begin by asking leaders from both the public and private sector to begin our discussion by outlining their vision for a resilient Oregon. With their intent clearly established, we will then ask scholars and practitioners to help us understand the various concepts of resilience. Given that the problems we face in Oregon are highly complex with many values in conflict, we will hear from a speaker with expertise in addressing "wicked problems". Other speakers will touch aspects of economic resilience and also explore how economic resilience can be measured. With good working definitions of economic resilience established, we will break down into groups by region and conduct a short activity to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to economic resilience in Oregon by region (coast, valley, and central / east). Groups will select spokespersons and report out on their findings.

On day three, Wednesday September 20, conference participants will explore methods to develop resilience through a variety of breakout sessions. Recognizing that emergency managers work closely with other professions to develop resilience, presentations that describe whole community efforts and the contributions of non-emergency management professionals will be highly valued. Case studies from outside the region, particularly from international work will add to our learning. Recognizing that government can't solve these problems alone, how do we bring the private sector to the table? Wednesday evening we will gather to dine together and celebrate our profession.

On day four, Thursday September 21, our focus will turn to implementation and resources. Our profession continues to evolve, so should emergency management organizations. Speakers will address the following questions: What can we do to develop the professional and organizational competencies necessary to deliver resilience? Where are our capability gaps? What resources exist that can assist us? How can we as a state better fund emergency management programs and projects? We will conclude the conference by developing an action plan to move forward. Participants will conduct a second short group activity to reconsider strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Groups will select spokespersons and report out on their findings. These reports will be captured and produced as a final conference report and will inform OEMA efforts moving forward.

Schedule

Sunday, September 17

1200-1700 Conference committee setup

1700 Conference Committee dinner

Monday, September 18

0700-1100 Exhibits Setup

0800-1100 Registration

1300-1700 Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 19

0800 Conference Opening

0800-1200 General Session: Leader's calls to action – establishing intent

1300-1700 General Session: Defining resilience, measuring outcomes

Wednesday, 20 September

0800–1700 Breakout Sessions - Delivering resilience, emerging practices

Thursday, September 21

0800-1200 General Session: Resourcing - building our capacity to deliver

1200-1400 Conference Committee Debrief