It happens when we least expect it

Labor Day weekend.
With 162 hikers on the trail.

Barbara Ayers
Emergency Manager
Hood River County
Eagle Creek Fire

Became #1 fire in the country

Both sides of the Columbia River
OR: Hood River County / USFS / Multnomah

[Map showing locations of Eagle Creek Fire and Archer Fire]
Yes, we have plans. But... are we ready?

### Hood River County COOP Plan 2016

#### (Continuity of Operations)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Essential Service</th>
<th>Restore Time</th>
<th>Operating Hours</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
<th>Essential Equipment</th>
<th>Critical Networks</th>
<th>Server Systems</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Vital Records</th>
<th>Documents</th>
<th>Databases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sheriff's Office</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
<td>24-hour opns</td>
<td>Sheriff/Chief Deputy</td>
<td>Patroll/Parole officers</td>
<td>3 Admin Assistants SAR officers &amp; Volunteers Water rescue officers</td>
<td>vehicles computer radio boats MDT's in cars SAR equipment</td>
<td>GPS 9-1-1 (CAD) connectivity</td>
<td>Mobile CP Comm trailer</td>
<td>9-1-1 CAD Records management (HORCDR has backup files)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Initial response in the event of...

- Initial Notification
- Emergency Declarations
- Activate
- Life Safety Missions
- Search and Rescue
- Medical Care
- Establish Contact with Affected Area
- Establish Lifeline Routes
- Establish Shelters
- Initiate Resource Requests
- Transport Displaced People
- Establish State Staging Areas
- Identify Critical Service Outages
- Prioritize Emergency
- Mobilize Heavy Equipment and Personnel
- Receive Federal Resources
- Expedite Out-of-Area Utilities Repair
- Community Planning Needs
- Identify Recovery Priorities

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**Hood River County Emergency Operations Plan**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLAY</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(0–30 min)</td>
<td>Notification, Life Safety, Activation and Authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>(0–72 hrs)</td>
<td>Damage Assessment, Initial Notification, Life Safety Missions, Establishing Missions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>(1–72 hrs)</td>
<td>Damage Assessment, Establishing Affected Area, Establishing Contact with Affected Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(6 hrs–30+ days)</td>
<td>Mass Care and Shelters, Feeding, Animal Care, Animal Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>(12 hrs–30+ days)</td>
<td>Logistics and Resource Management, Prioritization, Emergency Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>(18 hrs–30+ days)</td>
<td>Planning and Prioritization, Development, Repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>(20 hrs–7 days)</td>
<td>Emergency Repairs, Clear Debris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>(1–30+ days)</td>
<td>Outside Assistance, Beginning Recovery, Track Federal Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>(8–180+ days)</td>
<td>Beginning Recovery, Planning, Community Recovery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Initial response in the event of...**
Agencies, businesses were just recovering from winter impacts (3 months worth...)

Then Eagle Creek Fire came along

- 3 week emergency response + months of recovery
- Tiny communities – high impact
HOOD RIVER COUNTY 2015 – 2017
Emergency Declarations / 5 EOC activations

◦ Drought  July 2015
◦ Winter storm  Jan 16–20 2017 (Presidential)
◦ Solar Eclipse  Aug 2017 (statewide)
◦ Eagle Creek SAR  Sept. 2, 2017
◦ Eagle Creek Fire  Sept. 2–20, 2017

◦ Prior: Winter storm  Jan 2012

5 miles away
June 2016
Mosier Train derailment
Transportation issues
Cut off annually – snow/ice, rock fall, other hazards

- **2 million+ / year**
  - Gorge visitors
  - USFS

- **5 million /year**
  - Mt Hood Natl Forest
  - USFS

- **Year = 11.6 million**
  - I–84 daily traffic
  - 31,800/day
  - 2016 ODOT
  - (only east/west access)

- **Year = 1.1 million**
  - OR 35 – Mt Hood
  - 3,000/day
  - 2016 ODOT
  - (only south access)
  - Winter storms hamper travel
  - – 500,000 skiers/ year
Narrow, aging Interstate Bridges

**ONLY NORTH ACCESS**

2 bridges = 5.6 million/yr

Workers– travelers – semi traffic could be stranded

- 1.6 million/year Bridge of the Gods  
  Port of Cascade Locks
- 4 million / year Hood River Bridge  
  Port of Hood River

Residents / commuters cross Columbia River bridges or travel 20–60 minutes on I–84 daily

- 50% of Hood River County staff  
  HRC payroll
What Eagle Creek Fire – derailment – winter storm – eclipse have in common

- Crippling transportation loss
- Resource, fuel, food shortages
- Small communities = high impact
- Few back up generators
- Not enough shelters
- Boil water / other secondary issues
- Need supply independence for weeks, during, after a disaster
- Lack disaster equipment caches
- Long term economic recovery

June 2016
Mosier Train derailment
Eagle Creek Fire County EOC
(Emergency Ops Ctr) activation - 18 days

EOC: by the community – for the community
County Staff/volunteers – 30.25 people/day

Partnership in action
- One EOC countywide – County– Cities– Ports– NGO’s, volunteers, Intertribal, School District, fire, law enforcement, health care, etc.
- 5 counties OR / WA
- State: ODOT, OHA, OEM, OSFM
- Compliments IMT (field) response USFS/OSFM
Eagle Creek Fire County EOC

- Joint Information Center
  - Evacuation notices daily – changing
  - Shared evacuation website with Multnomah

- Call center – thousands of daily calls
  - English/Spanish
  - Recorded info line
  - As soon as new evacuations notices went out, staffed up

- Created one of OR’s 1st co. evacuation plans
  - Included ESF–8 vulnerable populations

- Shelter open – 15 days
After the Fire collaboration – recovery phase

County with Governor’s Office, OEM, MCEDD, Travel OR, recovery council and partners

- Cascade Locks community relief
- Business outreach
- SBA Loan program requested / activated

Hood River led counties in businesses interested
“Columbia Gorge already earned the distinction of the state highest landslide risk...

Eagle Creek fire heightened that threat in some of the most popular Gorge areas... firmly in the landslide zone” - Dogami
2 County Landslide Response planning underway
After heavy rain + snow melt
Using limited county budgets – Hood River / Multnomah

Lack = mitigation PROJECT FUNDING higher risk assessment and response

- Routine Mitigation plan update is funded – FEMA/DLCD
DRAFT  LANDSLIDE RESPONSE  
Operating Guidelines

1. Obtain as much information as possible and document reporting party.  
a. Key data includes:
   i. Description of situation
   ii. Magnitude of the incident
   iii. Extent of damage  
   iv. Potential for loss of lives or further property damage  
   v. Location (area affected)

2. Notify and obtain appropriate resources and assistance from public safety agencies  
a. Law enforcement  
b. Fire Services  
c. EMS and hospitals  
d. Engineering and public works  
e. Utilities  
f. Emergency management  
g. Red Cross

3. If necessary, activate the warning dissemination plan, the Emergency Alert System (EAS) network and alert the news media.

4. Obtain a state mission number (OERS) if necessary. (800-452-0311 - 24 hr. number).

5. Determine if evacuation may be necessary (refer to evacuation SOP)

6. If there is a need for sheltering and/or evacuation, contact shelter response managers and Red Cross and notify them of the situation. 
   If possible, give an approximate number of people that they may be sheltering.

7. If outside resources (state/federal) are needed, Emergency Management will contact the State OEM for those additional resources.

8. Obtain subsequent information concerning the situation and if necessary provide updates to State OEM via OERS (1st 800-452-0311 - 24 hr. number).

Severe Weather Warning/Possible Flash Flooding Notification Checklist

1. If you receive a call from Communications or the National Weather Service advising a weather WATCH or WARNING or a citizen’s report of potential severe weather conditions, then:
   a. Ascertain where the information came from (i.e. Weather Service, weather spotter, etc.)
   b. Obtain the reporting party’s name and call back number, this includes any calls received from the National Weather Service.
   c. If necessary, contact the National Weather Service for additional information.

2. If you receive information passed on from a citizen, spotter, or any other eyes from the out-of-doors, then:
   a. If actual flooding, go to C.
   b. Ascertain the condition, then to A.

3. Report of actual flooding, or a real belief flooding is just about to occur, then:
   a. Obtain information on the conditions
   b. Have Communications tone out affected area(s) fire district.
   c. Ascertain appropriate law enforcement agencies have been notified
   d. Notify USFS/CWICG
   e. Notify appropriate Public Works/Street Dept.
   f. Contact National Weather Service for conditions and forecast. Continue to get periodic updates from the Weather Service. MAKE SURE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS COMMUNICATED TO ALL CONCERNED!
Seeking grants to build resilience

- Response – mitigation – recovery projects:
  - Flooding – landslide mitigation – community impacts, prevention
  - Search and Rescue
  - Mobile EOC – emergency response
  - Community emergency equipment caches
  - Shelter planning – shelter in place
  - Contingency funds for local planning, mitigation and response PROJECTS – 2 counties
Oregon’s greatest strength: people
Partnerships – community – working together
FEMA’s “whole community” approach – Integrated Emergency Management

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