



For Immediate Release

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March 24-30 is Emergency Management Week in Oklahoma

In acknowledgment of emergency management efforts in Oklahoma, including Kiowa County, March 24-30 is being recognized as Emergency Management Week 2019.

All across Oklahoma emergency managers are reminding citizens of the work they do. Although most are aware of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), there are emergency managers at the state and local level as well. In fact, the state boasts more than 300 emergency managers representing Oklahoma's cities, towns, counties and tribal nations.

Emergency managers support response and recovery efforts in times of disaster. They coordinate the identification, deployment and use of needed resources by police, fire and other emergency responders.

In recent years alone, emergency managers have helped Oklahomans during wildfires, floods, tornadoes, ice storms, and even earthquakes. The emergency management disaster response network helped get drinking water and food to those who had none, generators where electric service was disrupted, and additional law enforcement and fire suppression where the flames threatened homes and lives.

Emergency managers also work to prevent and decrease the effects of disasters through mitigation and preparedness efforts. This work includes delivering funding for residential and school safe rooms, NOAA all hazards weather radios and the acquisition of properties that repeatedly flood. Additionally, emergency managers conduct disaster exercises, training and provide preparedness messages for the variety of hazards that impact Oklahoma.

"As we enter another spring severe storm season, this is a good time to recognize Kiowa County's emergency management efforts that work to keep us safe," said Kiowa County Sheriff Jeff Smith and current Local Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair. "Whether it's flooding, severe storms or tornadoes, we all need to be more aware of the threats we face in our community and take responsibility to make sure we are properly prepared when disaster strikes," added Smith.

Please join us in recognizing Kiowa County Emergency Manager (EM) Daniel Fantinel, Snyder EM Jeff Goerke, Mountain View EM Eddie Williams and Mountain Park EM Denton Irwin.

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