

(*Canadian County, OK*)  
**NEWS RELEASE**

(18 February 2013)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(*Jerry Smith, (405) 295-6186*)

**February 24 - March 2 is Emergency Management Week in Oklahoma**

In acknowledgment of emergency management efforts in Oklahoma, including in (*Canadian County, OK.*), February 24-March 2 is being recognized as Emergency Management Week 2013.

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 350 emergency managers representing Oklahoma's cities, towns, counties and tribal nations.

Many of today's emergency managers are yesterday's civil defense workers. 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, hazardous materials incidents, ice storms, snow 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 school safe rooms, NOAA all hazards weather radios and the acquisition of properties that repeatedly flood. Additionally, emergency managers hold disaster exercises, storm spotter training and provide preparedness messages for severe storm season.

"As we move toward another severe storm season this is a good time to recognize emergency management efforts that work to keep us safe," said (*Canadian County Emergency Management Director, Jerry Smith*). "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, Mr. Smith.

**Day at the Capitol**

Emergency Managers will meet from across Oklahoma at the State Capitol on Wednesday, February 27. This year, all activities for Emergency Management Day at the Capitol will take

place at the State Capitol 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Rotunda. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a legislative briefing and emergency management updates.

In the afternoon, the event will continue on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Rotunda with a reception from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. As an emergency manager, you are the person your legislators need to hear from and this event makes it easy for you to participate in the legislative process.

Now is a good time to contact your representative and senator. Let them know you'll be at the State Capitol on February 27 and invite them to attend the OEMA Reception that afternoon. We've included a sample letter for your use in inviting your legislators.

Following is a schedule of events for Day at the Capitol on February 27.

- 9:30 a.m. Meet at State Capitol, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Rotunda  
Welcome and Legislative Updates  
Albert Ashwood, OEM Director  
Trent Myers, OEMA President  
Frosty Peak, OEMA Legislative Committee Chair
- 10:00 a.m. Visit State Senators and Representatives
- 10:30 a.m. Emergency Management Updates  
Albert Ashwood, OEM Director  
Trent Myers, OEMA President
- 11:00 a.m. Lunch and Additional Emergency Management Program Updates
- 1 - 3:00 p.m. Legislative Reception - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Rotunda, State Capitol

**-END-**