

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



**SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**



GREENE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER

330 W. Scott Street
Springfield, MO 65802

CONTACT US

417-869-6040

oeminfo@greencountymo.gov
oem.greencountymo.gov

OUR MISSION

We are committed to building our community's disaster resiliency by implementing best practices in emergency management to aggressively reduce loss of life, limit damage to property, and minimize harm to the environment.

OUR VISION

To be the most disaster resilient community in America.

OUR MOTTO

"Resilience in unity."



TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE.....	3
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS.....	4
OUR TEAM.....	4
FUNDING.....	4
OPERATIONS.....	4
ADMINISTRATION.....	10
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.....	11
LOGISTICS.....	15
PLANNING.....	17
CITY/COUNTY PLANNING.....	18
MUNICIPALITY PLANNING.....	18
TRAINING & EXERCISE.....	20
RESERVIST/INTERNSHIP/VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.....	23
2025 YEAR IN REVIEW.....	24



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Partners, Colleagues, and Community Members,

I am proud to share our 2025 Annual Report and reflect on a year defined by steady progress, strong partnerships, and a continued commitment to protecting the people and places we serve. Emergency management is, at its core, a people-focused mission—and in 2025, that mission was strengthened by collaboration, response, and trust.

Throughout the year, our organization remained focused on readiness and resilience. Whether supporting responses to severe weather, coordinating large-scale events, or strengthening day-to-day preparedness efforts, our team worked deliberately and thoughtfully to ensure we were ready to meet both anticipated and unforeseen challenges. The professionalism and adaptability demonstrated by our staff and partners continue to be among our greatest strengths.

Operational Readiness and Coordination

In 2025, we further enhanced our ability to coordinate across agencies and jurisdictions. Real-world incidents and planned operations reinforced the importance of clear communication, shared situational awareness, and practiced coordination. Our relationships with first responders, public safety partners, executives and officials, state agencies, and volunteer organizations allowed us to respond to multiple real-world emergencies efficiently. While maintaining a focus on safety and continuity of operations, our team works

with these community members to enforce our mission.

Strategic Progress and Modernization

This year also marked continued progress toward our long-term strategic priorities. We focused on strengthening internal processes, modernizing tools and workflows, and aligning our programs to address evolving risks and community needs. These efforts are not about change for its own sake, but about building a sustainable emergency management program that is flexible, accountable, and prepared for the future.

Community Preparedness and Engagement

A prepared community is a resilient community. In 2025, we expanded outreach and training opportunities to help residents, businesses, and community organizations better understand their role in preparedness and response. Programs such as HometownREADY and CERT continued to grow, reinforcing the idea that resilience is a shared responsibility and that informed residents are critical partners during emergencies.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, our focus remains clear: reduce risk where possible, respond effectively when incidents occur, and support recovery efforts that strengthen our community for the long term. While funding constraints remain a challenge, we are taking a direct and proactive approach to managing additional and evolving obligations. By learning from experience, investing in partnerships, and remaining grounded in our mission, we are well positioned for what lies ahead.

I am grateful for the dedication of our staff, the commitment of our partners, and the trust of the community we serve. This report reflects not just what we accomplished in 2025, but the foundation we continue to build together.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and support.

Sincerely,

Larry Woods, CEM
Director



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
BY THE NUMBERS

6 Interns & Volunteers

7 Reservists

18 CERT Graduates

30 Tours of the Public Safety Center

54 Tour Hours

86 CERT Members

372 Meetings held at the Public Safety Center

573 Tour Participants

599 Hours of trainings/meetings held at the Public Safety Center

2,579 Participants of trainings/meetings held at the Public Safety Center

4,948 Total visitors to the Public Safety Center

OUR STAFF



LARRY WOODS
Director



JOSH BAKEHOUSE
Training & Exercise Specialist



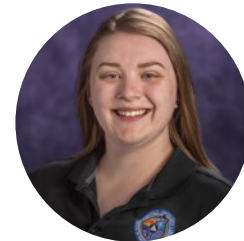
DARREN WHITE
Deputy Director



KATIE KOVACH
Area Municipalities Planning Specialist



SHEILA DRIEMEYER
Administrative Services Manager



GRETCHEN RUFFA
City/County Planning Specialist



SARAH HANSELL
Administrative Coordinator



VERONICA (RONNIE) BELL
Community Engagement Specialist



KENNETH NORRIS
Logistics Specialist



NICOLETTE ZANGARA
Public Information Officer

FUNDING

Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) operates under a shared budget supported by both the City of Springfield and Greene County. This joint funding enables OEM to effectively coordinate emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts throughout the region. In addition to local funding, OEM actively pursues state and federal grant opportunities to support its mission. Notably, it submits annual applications for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) which focuses on preparedness.



OPERATIONS

Serving as a core component of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Operations Section oversees incident-driven activities across emergency response, special event support, and day-to-day operational functions. This multifaceted role is essential to maintaining effective coordination and timely execution of critical responsibilities.

When emergencies arise, the Operations Section activates quickly to manage and coordinate response efforts. From severe weather and hazardous materials incidents to other community-impacting events, the section functions as the operational backbone – guiding the deployment of personnel, equipment, and resources to ensure an organized and effective response.

The Operations Section also provides extensive support for planned special events throughout the year, including festivals, large public gatherings, and even a marathon. By coordinating logistics, maintaining clear communication channels, and integrating emergency preparedness measures, the section helps ensure these events are conducted safely and successfully.

Outside of incident response, the Operations Section focuses on strengthening preparedness through ongoing training, resource coordination, and collaboration with partner agencies. These efforts enhance operational readiness and reinforce the community's ability to respond

efficiently to incidents of any size or complexity. Through professionalism, experience, and a steadfast commitment to public safety, the Operations Section continues to advance the mission of OEM. Its work plays a vital role in safeguarding lives and property while ensuring the City of Springfield and Greene County remain prepared, responsive, and resilient throughout the year.

WATCH OFFICER PROGRAM

The OEM Watch Officer Program remains a vital component of emergency readiness for the City of Springfield and unincorporated Greene County, providing continuous situational awareness and timely dissemination of critical information. Operating around the clock, the program ensures that emerging threats, incidents, and significant events are identified and communicated without delay.

During regular business hours, the program is managed by the Operations Section Chief, with trained operations personnel maintaining 24/7 coverage through a structured on-call rotation. This model ensures uninterrupted monitoring, rapid notification, and consistent support for both the community and partner agencies.

The Watch Officer Program also plays a key role in connecting OEM with local, state, and federal partners, as well as non-governmental organizations. By collecting, validating, and sharing reliable information, the program enables agencies to make informed decisions and act within their respective authorities. This coordinated information-sharing framework strengthens interagency collaboration and supports a unified, efficient response to incidents of all types.

On April 29, 2025, Watch Officers closely monitored a line of severe storms as it moved east out of Oklahoma and into Southwest Missouri. As the storm system entered Greene County, it produced a total of two confirmed tornadoes, creating a significant and rapidly evolving threat to the community. Throughout the event, Watch Officers maintained continuous communication with the National Weather Service, and based on real-time weather intelligence, activated the outdoor warning sirens for approximately 45 minutes. The timely coordination between Watch Officers and the National Weather Service, combined with the early activation of the sirens, provided residents with critical advance warning. As a result of these proactive measures, there were no reported injuries or fatalities despite the severity of the storm.

On June 29, 2025, Greene County once again faced a significant severe weather event marked by straight-line winds exceeding 60 mph. Watch Officers closely monitored the developing conditions and maintained situational awareness as the storm moved through the area. During the event, Watch Officers provided early warning to organizers and attendees of a large outdoor gathering in Ash Grove, allowing protective actions to be taken before the strongest winds arrived. As a result of these timely notifications, no injuries or fatalities were reported at the outdoor event. Tragically, despite these preventive efforts, one weather-related fatality did occur elsewhere in the county.

In response to both storms, our Watch Officers activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the central hub for coordinating strategic decisions and managing crisis operations. This activation engaged key partners across multiple branches of the Incident Command System (ICS), including Public Safety, Human Services, and Infrastructure, ensuring a unified and comprehensive response.

Through constant vigilance, members of the OEM Watch Officer Program contribute significantly to community resilience and public safety. Their commitment to preparedness helps ensure Springfield and Greene County are equipped to respond effectively to incidents at any time.

WATCH CENTER

Located within the Public Safety Center (PSC), the Watch Center operates as a centralized operations and situational

awareness center supporting emergency management and public safety activities across Springfield and Greene County. The center is staffed by trained Operations personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Watch Center leverages advanced monitoring platforms, interoperable communication systems, and data integration tools to maintain real-time awareness of incidents, emerging threats, and significant events. Information is continuously collected, analyzed, and validated from multiple sources, including law enforcement agencies, fire and EMS partners, emergency notification systems, public reporting channels, and the National Weather Service.

Through this integrated approach, the Watch Center supports operational decision-making by providing timely intelligence, coordinating notifications, and facilitating information sharing among local, state, and federal partners. The

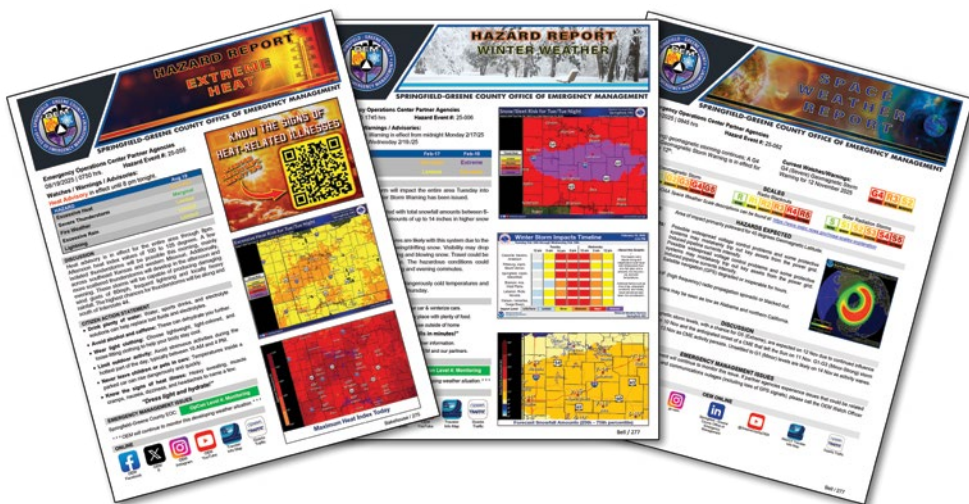


center plays a critical role in early threat detection, incident assessment, and resource coordination, enabling OEM to scale response activities appropriately and efficiently.

By maintaining a constant operational posture and leveraging technology-driven situational awareness, the Watch Center enhances OEM’s ability to anticipate, manage, and respond to incidents of varying scope and complexity. This capability directly supports the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure while strengthening overall community resilience.

YEAR-ROUND WEATHER MONITORING

The year 2025 was an especially busy year for Greene County in the weather department. Several events tested staff and stakeholders throughout the winter, spring, and summer months. More importantly, these disasters highlighted the necessity for OEM to follow our goal to prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover our community from any emergency.



A winter storm kicked off the year with several inches of snow, resulting in poor travel conditions and numerous accidents. Not long after the snow melted and the ground thawed, April brought the ultimate challenge to Greene County. Storms were expected in the overnight hours of April 29, but they took longer than anticipated to eject out of Arkansas and Oklahoma. This allowed heat and instability to build ahead of the storms, resulting in a volatile atmosphere capable of severe weather. At 8 a.m., Watch Officers were called in to monitor the potential use of sirens for the area in the coming hours. The first tornado warning in Greene County came at 9:14 a.m. as the leading edge of the storms showed rotation on radar. Outdoor warning sirens blared on and off as additional tornado warnings were issued for the county. The National Weather Service reported a

GREENE COUNTY WEATHER IN 2025

- 13** SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS
- 11** SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCHES
- 9** DENSE FOG ADVISORIES
- 8** FLOOD ADVISORIES
- 8** WIND ADVISORIES
- 8** RED FLAG WARNINGS
- 7** FLASH FLOOD WARNINGS
- 7** WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES
- 7** FLOOD WATCHES
- 5** TORNADO WATCHES
- 5** FLOOD WARNINGS
- 4** HEAT ADVISORIES
- 3** FREEZE WARNINGS
- 3** GOLD WEATHER ADVISORIES
- 2** TORNADO WARNINGS
- 1** FROST ADVISORY
- 1** EXTREME COLD WARNING

**Information provided by the Springfield National Weather Service office.*



▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

wind gust over 90 mph at their office, widespread 60-80 mph wind gusts, and two tornadoes in Greene County alone.

The storm complex resulted in widespread tree and structural damage and immense impacts to the electrical grid both within and outside the Springfield city limits. More than 50,000 power outages were reported in Springfield at its peak. The force from these storms was impactful, but in more ways than one. Shortly after the storm cleared out of Springfield, 28 departments from the city, county, and state trickled into the Public Safety Center ready to serve their community. This consisted of government, private sector, and non-government organizations working together to assess damage, coordinate resources, and identify the most urgent needs. This event illustrated the invisible strength Greene County holds deep within its foundation: community resilience.

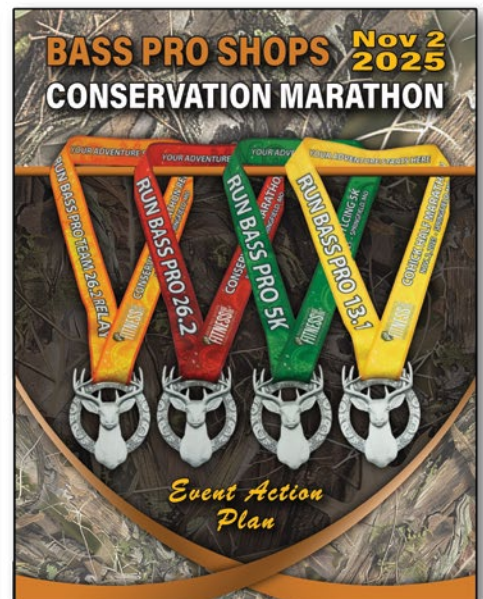
Another damaging wind storm impacted the area two months to the date after April's storm. While not as widespread, similar recovery efforts went into place immediately following. Additional severe storms and flooding events kept Watch Officers busy through the rest of the year. Partnerships with the National Weather Service, 911, and various public safety agencies make our initiative an approachable collaborative effort to keep Greene County prepared

and notified in the face of any emergency.

Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management advanced community preparedness by consistently issuing Hazard Reports that translated emerging threats into actionable information. OEM Operations staff issued 63 Hazard Reports to notify partners of potential weather impacts, fire risks, and even space weather. These reports detail what, where, when, and the why of each potential event. This allows the community to be informed in a timely manner with essential guidance on anticipated impacts. These communications helped individuals, organizations, and partner agencies anticipate impacts and take timely steps to minimize risk to people and property. By emphasizing early awareness and practical guidance, OEM reaffirmed its role as a trusted source of information and a driving force behind a safer, more resilient community in an increasingly complex hazard environment.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Signature events such as the Ozark Empire Fair, the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival, and the Bass Pro Shops Conservation Marathon bring thousands of people together each year, requiring extensive coordination to ensure public safety. Months in advance of these events, City/County and Municipal Planners work closely with community partners to develop comprehensive Event Action





Plans (EAPs) that address operational logistics, safety measures, and resource deployment.

Logistics support is tailored to each event, with the Logistics Specialist securing and staging critical assets. This includes Skylab, radios, and CERT first aid supplies to meet specific operational needs. Once events are underway, OEM Operations Section utilize Skylab as the on-site communications center, strengthening coordination among responders and event personnel. To further streamline emergency response, the Springfield-Greene County 911 Emergency Communications Department establishes geo-fenced call routing around event footprints, directing relevant emergency calls

straight to Skylab. This approach reduces strain on 911 systems and allows for faster, more focused incident response. A new development in 2025 included personnel from Springfield-Greene County 911 and Jasper County 911 joining our Skylab communications team for various events. This allowed our team to learn about best practices for relaying and documenting emergency information and developed a stronger bond to these teams that practice this essential function.

Through deliberate planning, strong partnerships, and integrated technology, OEM helps ensure that large-scale community events are conducted safely, efficiently, and with minimal disruption, supporting their continued success year after year.

ADMINISTRATION

The administrative team at the Office of Emergency Management is vital to our operations. Our Administrative Services Manager and Administrative Coordinator ensure the office runs smoothly, handling a wide range of responsibilities.

The Administrative Coordinator manages room and meeting schedules at the PSC, ensures the facility's security, and performs various administrative tasks like filing, assisting with projects, maintaining office supplies, and running errands.

The Administrative Services Manager works with the director to manage the OEM's annual budget and oversees several grants. In 2025, the office managed three grants that funded key projects, including:

1. CEPF/LEPC Grant: This funding supports the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), which manages hazardous materials issues and oversees the Community-Right-to-Know Hazmat Materials program.

2. EMPG (Emergency Management Preparedness Grant): This grant helps cover partial salaries for several OEM staff members.

3. Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC) Grant: This grant funds the region's mobile command unit, Skylab.

The Administrative Services Manager and Administrative Coordinator work in tandem to provide the organizational backbone of the Office of Emergency Management. Their efforts ensure daily operations run efficiently, enabling OEM to remain responsive to the evolving needs of Greene County. Through diligent oversight of grants, resources, and administrative functions, they support the agency's mission and contribute directly to strengthened preparedness and community safety. Their behind-the-scenes work is essential to OEM's ability to operate effectively and remain resilient during times of heightened demand.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our public-facing campaigns expanded this year to help the citizens of Greene County prepare for emergencies. Our Community Engagement Specialist (CES) not only strengthened existing partnerships but was able to increase community interaction and build new relationships in all facets of the community. The CES continues to focus on meeting people where they are, helping individuals and organizations strengthen preparedness, and support a safer, more resilient community.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public Outreach significantly increased with the addition of a new Public Information Officer (PIO) in 2025. Together, the PIO and CES were able to increase the scope and audience the office can reach through events, presentations, and media interaction.

In June, our PIO and CES set out to Boone County to assist as counselors for Girls in Emergency Management (GEM) Camp.



Boone County Emergency Management hosted GEM Camp to encourage young women to consider emergency management as a profession someday. Counselors organized various activities simulating real life scenarios to give them a little

taste of what emergency management does day to day. This initiative earned Boone County a Missouri Association of Counties Achievement Award in 2025. Partnerships like this solidifies our office as a team player, not just in the county, but in the state of Missouri.

There were 80 public engagement events in 2025 – a significant increase from 2024. The team remained involved in weather shows, neighborhood block parties, career days, presentations to schools, civic organizations, and service organizations. The team also presented new training opportunities for our citizens, including a public storm spotter class; the Until Help Arrives program, which teaches people what to do when they are truly the first person at an emergency; a Winter Weather Preparedness class for our fellow county teammates; and more classes with youth featuring the Prepare with Pedro program, which is popular with young children and their parents. To celebrate the inaugural National Emergency Management Awareness Month, the PSC welcomed the community to tour the building and learn about our operations.

Our PIO was invited to the 2025 Missouri Public Safety Communications Conference to highlight the many hats her job entails each day. This fostered a conversation for 911 dispatchers to learn about anticipating media questions, producing accurate information for the public, and displaying positive moments from their organization on social media.

MEDIA & PUBLIC INFORMATION

Local Media

Various voices and faces of OEM were seen and heard across the Ozarks region in 2025 through consistent television, radio, and social media outreach. More than 20 TV interviews featured staff members in a

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

variety of roles, including urging preparedness ahead of potential hazards, providing timely updates during incidents, sharing progress on recovery efforts, and promoting community events and educational opportunities. These news interviews were featured locally, regionally, and nationally, extending OEM's reach well beyond the Ozarks and reinforcing its role as a trusted source of emergency information.



KTTS, a local country radio station, featured our PIO throughout the year to discuss a wide range of safety topics, from seasonal preparedness to everyday risk reduction, to helping translate emergency management concepts into practical guidance for the public. Additionally, a new partnership took shape with Mid-West Family Broadcasting to further increase the outreach and consistency of OEM messaging across multiple platforms. This partnership reinforces OEM's commitment to building a safer, more prepared community, and will continue to grow over time, highlighting the essential role emergency management plays across all phases of an incident.

Social Media

OEM social media platforms continued to grow in 2025 and remain a vessel for emergency preparedness, public information, and real-time communication within the community. These outlets allow OEM to quickly share accurate information, reinforce safety messaging, and maintain direct engagement with residents before, during, and after emergencies. Our Facebook following now exceeds 20,000, with more than 3.5 million total views on the page, demonstrating strong reach and community trust. Instagram followers increased to 1,164, with more

than 3,000 views in the final quarter of 2025 alone, reflecting steady growth and increased engagement on visual platforms.

Custom graphics and dynamic videos played a key role in higher engagement. These visual tools highlight how OEM supports local events through planning, coordination, and on-site safety efforts, helping the public better understand the scope of emergency management beyond response. Together, these efforts strengthened OEM's digital presence and reinforced social media as a critical component of community preparedness and outreach.

EXPOS AND PRESENTATIONS

To achieve the literal and figurative goal of meeting people where they are, our CES coordinated multiple community events.



Popular events such as Greene County

Sheriff's Office Trunk or Treat, the Severe Weather Expo, Big Rig Night, the Cox Kids Health and Safety Fair, and neighborhood block parties remained on the calendar. New events such as Mercy's Fall into Safety Celebration, the Bleed Greene: A First Responder's Blood Drive, and presentations for new schools joined the line-up. The team stayed busy all year long and new events are already on the calendar for 2026.

In October, OEM Director Larry Woods participated in a panel for the inaugural Crisis Leadership Summit for Preparedness.



This event gathered hundreds of public safety professionals to discuss best practices for managing ongoing crises. Harvard professors gave a presentation on leadership qualities to strive for, followed by a panel of local leaders to share their experiences and ideas.

TOURS

Throughout the year, tours of the PSC served as an important outreach tool, providing visitors with an inside look at how public safety and emergency response functions are coordinated. The Office of Emergency Management hosted 30 tours over the course of the year, welcoming community members to observe OEM operations firsthand.



Rather than simply describing emergency management in theory, these visits highlighted the full scope of OEM's work—from active incident response to day-to-day planning, training, and preparedness efforts during "blue-sky operations." Staff members personalized the walls of the PSC to reflect on the journey our predecessors have worked through over the years. The gallery walls are a time capsule of the Springfield-Greene County OEM and aid our tour groups in visualizing our mission to serve the community in various ways.



Beyond hosting the facility tours, OEM expanded its engagement through site visits to partner locations such as Emergency Operation Centers at Walmart Headquarters in Bentonville and the



Kansas City Office of Emergency Management. These visits offered staff direct exposure to real-world operations, allowing for a deeper understanding of partner infrastructure, processes, and potential risk areas. This hands-on knowledge supports more informed and customized response planning, while face-to-face collaboration with community partners continues to strengthen coordination and overall readiness.

TOUR GROUPS HOSTED IN 2025

Battlefield Fire
Department

Medical Examiner's Office

LeadSGF

Leadership Springfield

Prosecuting Attorney
Interns

CoxHealth

Missouri State University

City Utilities
of Springfield

Springfield Public Schools

NWS Springfield

Evangel University

Ozarks Technical
Community College

Greene County Leadership
Academy

Home School Groups

Students from
Immaculate Conception



HOMETOWNREADY

Hometown Ready is a community-focused preparedness initiative that equips the Springfield–Greene County community with the knowledge and tools needed to reduce risk and respond confidently to emergencies. The program continued to gain momentum in 2025 with several new businesses and houses of worship beginning the process for becoming certified. These organizations are working to develop emergency response plans, having safety walk-throughs of their buildings, getting their employees/team members trained in basic disaster response, and preparing their disaster response kits. Through the three core ideals of the program, Community Engagement, Community Response, and Business Resilience, we can provide tools, preparedness information, and education tailored to the diverse needs of our citizens, ensuring they are set up for success with disaster response in their professional and personal lives.

Our all-hazards preparedness podcast, referred to as HometownREADY, grew immensely in 2025, further establishing itself as a creative and accessible platform for emergency management outreach. The show is designed to inform, educate, and entertain a diverse audience that includes emergency response personnel, partner agencies, and members of the public.

Through engaging conversations,



Q&As, and relatable storytelling, the podcast helps translate complex emergency management concepts into practical, real-world understanding.

Topics covered this season included mental health in disasters, a multi-episode series focused on dogs in emergency management, and interviews with new employees that highlighted their backgrounds, expertise, and roles within OEM. In 2025, the podcast totaled more than 800 downloads and reached listeners across the globe in 13 countries spanning Europe, Asia, and Oceania, demonstrating its growing impact beyond the local community. To support this growth, new microphones were installed to significantly improve audio quality and the overall listener experience. Building on this momentum, new episodes are scheduled to be released in early 2026, continuing to expand the podcast's reach and value as a preparedness and education tool.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The heartbeat of our HometownREADY Community Response initiative continues

to be the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program, and what a strong heart it is. The 86 volunteers of the Greene County CERT team, including our first three Teen CERT team members, contributed 1,455 hours of service to our community. They were activated and deployed seven times, including the April and June storms and made appearances at 18 different public events. In total, members completed roughly 282 hours of continuing education ranging from radio operations to wide area searches, demonstrating their commitment to their community.

CERT teaches basic emergency response, enabling people to take care of themselves and their families in the event of an emergency, freeing





up other emergency response organizations to care for more critical cases. This year, the Basic Academy classes graduated 18 people, adding them to the hundreds of others in our community with these skills. It is a high priority of our CES to place this training in the minds of as many citizens as possible.

The team also strengthened their Animal Response capabilities by completing its first exercise for Animal Response, learning the processes for setting up a temporary animal shelter, caring for animals in the shelter, and reunifying lost pets with their owners.

LOGISTICS

The year was filled with several activations, deployments, and training while adding new capabilities to the department. Logistics brought these ideas to fruition and remained a vital piece of the 2025 puzzle.

SUPPORT FOR EXERCISES, ACTIVATIONS, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

In addition to providing support for recurring community events such as the Ozark Empire Fair, the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival, and the Bass Pro Shops Marathon, the Logistics Section was a key contributor in new events like Pops in the Park and EOC activations. To support these efforts, Skylab, the regional communications vehicle, was activated as an on-site communications center, enabling real-time resource management and effective information sharing among participating partners.

In the first quarter of the year, the Public Safety

BUSINESS RESILIENCE

A community's ability to recover after a disaster is closely tied to how quickly its businesses can reopen and stabilize. Through the Business Resilience Initiative, OEM works alongside local businesses to strengthen continuity planning and improve post-incident recovery capabilities. This partnership focuses on developing practical emergency operations plans that help businesses return to service safely and efficiently following a disruptive event.

Supporting this effort is the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), a key element of the initiative. The LEPC maintains awareness of hazardous materials present within the community and provides training and educational resources that promote safe handling practices, regulatory compliance, and informed emergency planning.



Center (PSC) was running full steam as we brought in various partners for a partial activation for a winter storm. The team was able to test new technology for the first time during an activation. It served as a lesson to see what needed to be adjusted and what other agencies want displayed for situational awareness. With both April and June storm activations, Logistics was pushed even further. During the April activation, Logistics supplied two to three meals for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff, handling Information Technology (IT) requests, and supplied resources in the county.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

In June, Skylab was deployed in Ash Grove for a local event when severe storms rolled

in. Skylab was able to relay real time observations from the town to the National Weather Service (NWS) and the EOC Watch Center regarding the storm. NWS relayed this crucial information to local town officials of the high winds approaching. This coordination allowed officials to make the decision to set the sirens off and evacuate the park in a timely manner before dangerous conditions set in. After the activations, Logistics and Geographic Information System (GIS) upgraded the siren map to reflect changes of recent sirens that were added and adjusted the siren numbers.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PARTNER SUPPORT

To help with recovery efforts during the April storm damage, EOC staff set up the Volunteer Coordination Center (VCC) following the storm. A local church provided their building for use, and Logistics brought in supplies and technology to support the team and help the county recover after the extensive damage. Logistics also supplied generators to the Brookline Fire Protection District, who lost power during the storm, and a state-run housing facility.



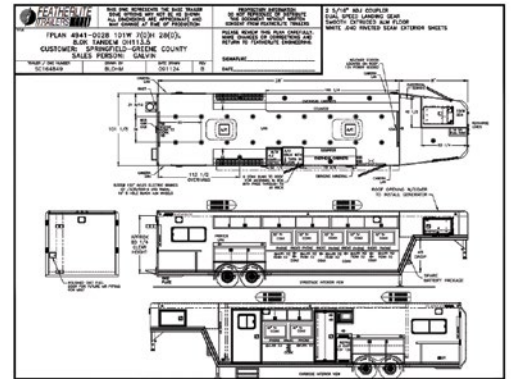
The Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief (MODR) group also provided vital support during the April and June severe weather response periods. Since many homes had lost power and the ability to preserve food, the volunteer group coordinated with our office to establish meal distribution sites. Families were welcome to pick up as many meals as

needed for lunch and dinner for several days after the loss of power.

VISIBILITY

Outside of activations, new equipment was added to the growing fleet of technology and vehicles that make our missions possible.

Apollo, a 32-foot gooseneck trailer with multiple workstations inside, was picked up in Iowa and branded with



OEM graphics. It will be a stand-alone asset to work alongside Skylab to expand operations. The technology upfit is still in progress but is scheduled to be completed in 2026. A mesh camera system was also added in Skylab which will add to the region's capabilities in monitoring and managing incidents in the field.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

With a busy schedule, Logistics attended several core training courses to better the section and streamline processes. The first included several of the FEMA Basic Academy courses. These are fundamental courses for emergency management. Logistics was also able to attend a position specific course in Oklahoma, titled Communications Unit Lead (COM-L), which teaches how to lead radio communications during an activation. The purpose is to make sure all radio communication needs are met, either supplying cache radios to responders or setting up communications, including Skylab deployments. The course served a glance into the future of the Incident Command System (ICS) with Information Technology (IT) becoming a huge part of operational needs.

PLANNING

Planning functions within the Springfield–Greene County OEM are carried out by two emergency management planners who support multiple jurisdictions, including the City of Springfield, unincorporated Greene County, six municipalities, and two public school systems, through the development and maintenance of Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). Beyond core planning responsibilities, the planners contribute to the Springfield–Greene County Exercise Planning Program Working Group (EPPWG), where they assist in coordinating and designing multi-jurisdictional exercises across the county. They also participate in EOC activations and engage with community partners and external stakeholders to develop Event Action Plans (EAPs) for large-scale and high-visibility events.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PLANNED OPERATIONS

Planning and coordination for special events remained a major focus throughout the year, including the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival, the Ozark Empire Fair, the Bass Pro Shops Conservation Marathon, Pops in the Park, and ongoing Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup planning efforts. These events required extensive interagency coordination with public safety partners, emergency communications, public health, event organizers, and volunteer organizations. Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) were developed for each event to support safe operations. Multiple planning meetings, site walkthroughs, and after-action meetings were conducted to ensure preparedness and that any incidents or issues are mitigated for the next year. These efforts supported safe, well-coordinated events while strengthening relationships among partner agencies and stakeholders.

AFTER ACTION REVIEWS

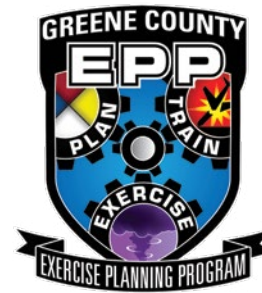
The Planning Section was responsible for updating and coordinating information into Incident Action Plans (IAPs) for each operational period, writing regular Situation Reports, gathering, collating, mapping damage reports, and coordinating volunteer efforts during the recovery period.

After-action reviews were conducted following these major incidents to capture lessons learned and identify opportunities for improvement. After-Action Reports were developed to document the response and recovery processes and ensure continued improvement in public safety actions during such events. The After-Action Report for the April storm which produced tornadoes and 90+ mph straight-line winds, was a 100+ page report when completed. It included a timeline of events leading up to the severe weather, identified challenges and improvement plans in the recovery process, individual agency contributions, damage costs and reports, community efforts to address debris clean up, and long-term recovery challenges after the storm.

These activations underscored the importance of preparedness, having up-to-date plans in place, and strong interagency coordination in supporting the community during emergencies.

EXERCISE PLANNING PROGRAM WORKING GROUP (EPPWG)

Both of OEM's planners participate in the Exercise Planning Program Working Group (EPPWG), led by our Training and Exercise Specialist, to develop inter-agency trainings and exercises throughout the county in conjunction with other public safety and critical infrastructure partners. The planners also spearheaded the annual review of the Integrated Planning Program (IPP) through the EPPWG, adding updates to the plan and preparing it for review with regional partners through the IPP Workshop.



CITY/COUNTY PLANNING

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP) AND CORE PLANNING EFFORTS

Throughout the year, significant progress was made in strengthening and updating the Springfield-Greene County EOP and its supporting annexes. Multiple Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) were reviewed and updated, with several annexes rewritten and created. A major focus was placed on ensuring plans reflect current operational realities, stakeholder capabilities, and best practices. Lessons learned from exercises, training, and real-life incidents were also integrated. This work involved close coordination with internal staff, subject matter experts, state partners, and external agencies. These efforts reinforced the EOP as a living document that supports effective coordination during emergencies and large-scale incidents.

MITIGATION AND RECOVERY PLANNING

A substantial portion of 2025 was dedicated to the rewrite, completion and submission of the 2025-2030 Springfield-Greene County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. This process involved extensive collaboration with a mitigation planning contractor, state partners, and a wide range of local stakeholders to assess risks, refine mitigation strategies, and complete required community engagement components. The plan underwent multiple revisions to meet state and federal requirements, ultimately positioning the county for future mitigation funding opportunities. In parallel, recovery-focused efforts included after-action and

recovery discussions following severe weather events, reinforcing the importance of coordinated long-term recovery planning and continuous improvement of recovery frameworks.

MUNICIPALITY PLANNING

The Municipality (Muni) Planning Specialist is responsible for developing and maintaining comprehensive all-hazards Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) for six municipalities in Greene County, including Ash Grove, Battlefield, Fair Grove, Strafford, Walnut Grove, and Willard. These plans are to be updated regularly and undergo an extensive re-writing process every five years. The rewrite for Fair Grove's EOP was completed at the end of 2025 and included major updates or rewrites of 8 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), as well as updated charts, and a complete

overhaul of primary and support agencies for all 20 ESFs, ensuring listed partners and their agreed upon responsibilities are consistent throughout all sections of the plan and in the Master Activation List, which was also updated. Smaller updates to wording, formatting, appendices, and charts were also included throughout all ESFs. The Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) Review of this rewrite was conducted by the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) regional representative who approved the plan and its contents. Walnut Grove's EOP also received a full update, including changes to several ESFs and an update of the



Master Activation List. This list serves as a one-stop communication document in the event of an emergency. EOPs for Ash Grove, Battlefield, Strafford, and Willard have been undergoing the extensive re-write process throughout 2025 and are projected to be complete by the end of 2026.

SCHOOLS

The Muni Planning Specialist is also responsible for the creation and maintenance of EOPs for the Strafford Public School District and the Springfield Public School District. The creation of the EOP for Strafford Public Schools was completed in early 2025 and presented to the school board. The plan was unanimously adopted and put into effect, and a continuing contract was signed for future collaboration and plan maintenance through the Springfield–Greene County OEM. The Municipality Planning Specialist is working with our Training and Exercise Specialist to devise a training and exercise program for Strafford Public Schools to help teach the contents and functions of the plan, test its effectiveness, and increase the knowledge base of teachers, faculty, and staff. The goal is to increase the safety of students, personnel, and facilities during large-scale incidents.

Springfield Public Schools (SPS) has been running through a similar training and exercise program through OEM the last three years which culminated in a full-scale exercise at the end of 2025. This exercise was designed by OEM’s Municipality Planning Specialist and Training and Exercise Specialist, in conjunction with the Chief of Police and Emergency Management Director for Springfield Schools. The exercise tested the EOC and Mass Reunification functions during a simulated event involving a medical emergency that caused a vehicle to crash into a large crowd attending a football game between Glendale and Kickapoo High School. Over 100 players were involved in this exercise, including Springfield School’s Executive Leadership Team and principals from various schools throughout the district. OEM reservists and subject matter experts from the EPPWG helped direct the exercise and provide live



injects. The exercise was overall a success, with several strengths being identified as well as several areas for improvement.

An update of the EOP for Springfield Schools was completed at the end of 2025 and included feedback and lessons learned from the exercise, as well as content updates to several ESFs and the Master Activation List. Planning has already begun for the next exercise for SPS that will be conducted at the end of 2026.

TRAINING & EXERCISE

ACCOUNTABILITY & ADAPTABILITY

Recognizing the need to adapt in a constantly shifting environment, the Office of Emergency Management concentrated in 2025 on strengthening the systems and skills that support effective operations. Efforts were made to expand specialized training that equips staff to respond with confidence and precision. These forward-focused investments enhanced organizational preparedness and contributed directly to a more resilient community, positioning OEM to navigate emerging challenges with clarity and leadership.

In September 2025, our planning specialists graduated from the National Disaster and Emergency Management University Basic Emergency Management Academy, followed by our community engagement specialist in November 2025.



FEMA

This foundational training program is designed to prepare aspiring emergency managers for service. The curriculum requires 120 hours of instruction through five courses over several months. The goal is to provide a comprehensive introduction to the principles, practices, and role of emergency management in the United States. The program covers the history of emergency management, legal authorities, intergovernmental coordination, planning, mitigation, response, recovery, and professional ethics. By the end of the course, graduates understand the integration of federal, state, local, and private-sector partners in disaster preparedness and response.

IMPLEMENTATION

OEM's planning efforts in 2025 were developed and aligned to facilitate interagency communication and coordination to build a prepared and resilient Greene County. Through the partnerships developed within the community and focus on whole community preparedness allowed for the identification of training and knowledge needed to fortify the mitigation, response, and recovery efforts of the county.

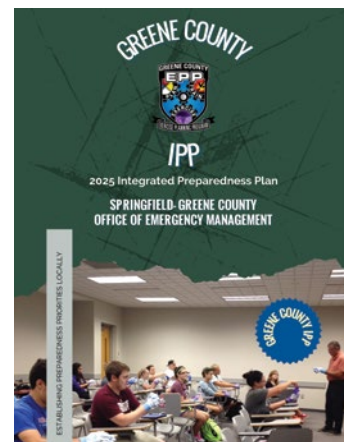
Key to this success was securing funding through competitive grant opportunities, such as the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and the Hazard Mitigation Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant. These essential resources sustain critical programs that support our preparedness initiatives. However, financial support is only one component of our broader strategy.

The revision of the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) for 2025 was essential in the continuation of setting clear priorities for Greene County training and exercise programs. The plan aligns seamlessly with the Missouri Region D IPP, fostering cohesion between local and regional preparedness goals.

The 2025 IPP solidifies a strategic framework that not only guides current initiatives but also enables us to anticipate and respond to future emergencies with confidence and coordination.

EXERCISES

In 2025, OEM conducted or participated in eight formal exercises, along with several regional and interagency preparedness events. These exercises were designed to test plans, evaluate response capabilities, and strengthen operational coordination.



2025 Springfield-Greene County Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop

Feb. 26, 2025: The Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop brought senior leaders together to align priorities and plan activities within the Integrated Preparedness cycle, supporting coordinated readiness efforts across Springfield–Greene County.

Springfield-Branson National Airport Tabletop Exercise

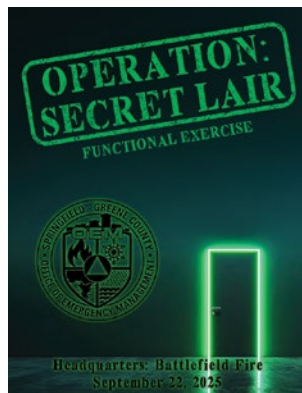
May 14, 2025: Both Planners and the Training & Exercise specialist from OEM took part in this exercise. The event started with a briefing of the Airport Emergency Plan and then moved into a simulated activation that called for assistance from surrounding emergency agencies. Each agency briefed the role they would perform during an activation for a plane crash in winter weather and discussed how interagency communication and coordination would take place.

Active Aggressor Drill at U.S. Navy Reserve Center

Aug. 20, 2025: OEM Director and Training & Exercise Specialist were designated safety personnel for an active shooter and armed-barricaded subject with hostage scenario for U.S. Navy Reserve Center. OEM helped to ensure that the exercise was conducted safely to allow members to gain quality training without risk of injury. The After-Action Review (AAR) at the end of the exercise helped both the Navy Reserve and Springfield Police address strengths and weaknesses of their respective plans.

Operation: Secret Lair

Sept. 22, 2025: Operation: Secret Lair was a functional exercise designed to test the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) alert notification process, movement to the alternate EOC location at



the Battlefield Fire Protection District, and setup of OEM’s ability to coordinate a disaster from a remote location. This allowed OEM to identify deficiencies and strengths of the location, while solidifying the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for revision.

2025 Region D Central City Winter Weather Tabletop Exercise

Oct. 1, 2025: Developed and conducted by the Southwest Missouri Emergency Support Organization (SMESO), this winter weather Tabletop Exercise (TTX) included participation of several members from the Springfield-Greene County OEM. Discussions were centered around jurisdictions plans, policies and procedures for declaring a State of Emergency or disaster, communications, understanding of resource management, infrastructure impacts, and operational support. Agencies throughout the region were able to compare and learn from each other to further enhance the region’s ability to mitigate, respond, and recover from a disaster. OEM staff also played a key role in designing, supporting, and participating in the Region D winter weather TTX to fulfill EMPG grant requirements. These efforts collectively strengthen regional capacity and ensure consistent readiness across partner agencies.

Operation: Polar Bear

Nov. 9-15, 2025: This communication exercise incorporated organizations from both hospitals (Mercy & Cox), emergency management and other agencies. Members of OEM participated in a communications test over multiple platforms to ensure connection points could be maintained when primary platforms were disabled.



▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Operation: Audible

Nov. 13, 2025: The functional exercise was developed and conducted for Springfield Public Schools (SPS) leadership from the principal level up. Over 120 people participated in this exercise at the PSC. The basis was a medical emergency and mass casualty situation that required SPS personnel to activate an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), assigning all needed rolls to respond to the situation and facilitate resources as need to include the reunification process. The exercise resulted in a better understanding of EOC operations and the roles within, determining strengths to maintain and weaknesses to improve upon. OEM members were pivotal in the success of this exercise as exercise controllers.

Drury Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise Series

March 28 & Dec. 16, 2025: OEM members attended Drury University's active shooter tabletops twice this year to offer insight into resources available in this type of event and offer advice to the school leaders on techniques and methods that could be implemented. OEM is helping facilitate discussions with integrating other members of the community into a full-scale exercise put on by Drury in 2026.

OEM's commitment to training, planning, and community collaboration was evident throughout 2025. These efforts ensured that Greene County remains equipped to face the full spectrum of hazards – proactively, effectively, and with a unified strategy that brings partners and the public together.

EQUIPMENT

In 2025, OEM enhanced organizational readiness and operational capability by advancing both training and exercises.

To support regional collaboration, our Training Times Newsletter continued to deliver valuable updates and training opportunities. Monthly articles were provided in the Community Corner and Water Cooler sections that provided guidance and knowledge to build their agencies and community.



The continued development of Tiny Town, a hands-on tabletop disaster simulation model to be used in conjunction with discussion-based exercise, now provides multiple terrain and scenario types to be used. The airport model is built to simulate the Springfield-Branson National Airport for use during tabletop training, development of the full-scale exercise, and briefings leading up to the exercise.



RESERVIST, INTERN, AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Reservist, Intern, and Volunteer (RIV) program has become an increasingly important force multiplier for the Office of Emergency Management, expanding operational support while strengthening connections with the community. Through distinct but complementary roles, reservists, interns, and volunteers contribute to daily functions, special initiatives, and outreach efforts that elevate public understanding and participation in local emergency management.

INTERN PROGRAM

In 2025, the Office of Emergency Management partnered with three students from two local universities, giving them real-world emergency management experience while working towards their degrees. Our interns became fully immersed in our day-to-day operations, gaining firsthand knowledge of mitigation and preparedness activities. They were also able to gain invaluable experience with disaster response and recovery, participating in Emergency Operations Center and Watch Center activations during severe storms. Their contributions to key projects and disaster response provided 320 hours of significant support to our staff and continued the path forward for themselves and others as future emergency management professionals.

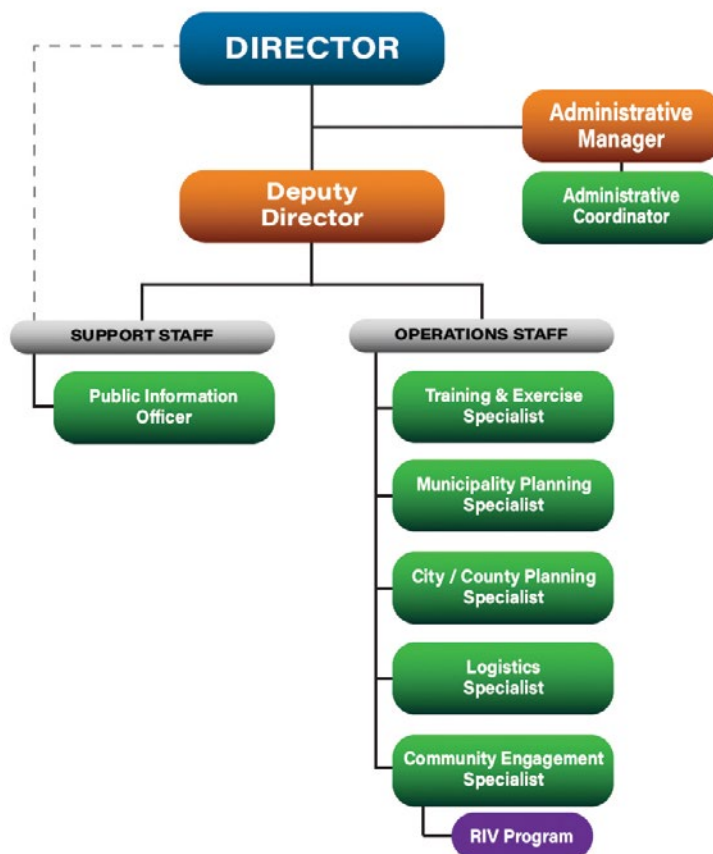
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

OEM continued its successful volunteer program in 2025, with our volunteers contributing almost 200 hours of service in support of our daily operations and disaster response. Performing tasks in support of the entire team, from administrative assistance to equipment maintenance, these individuals were able to augment our staff, increasing our overall preparedness and response capabilities. Our volunteers remain an essential part of the team and OEM's Vision "To Be the Most Disaster Resilient Community in America."

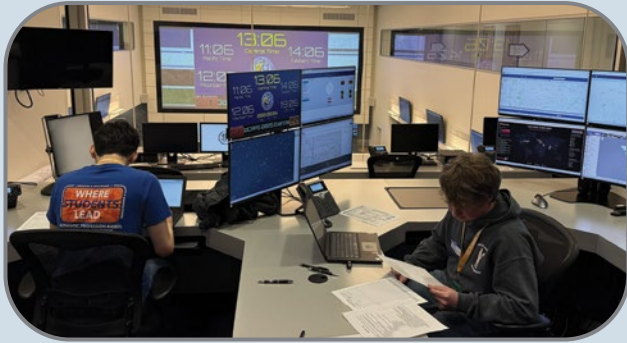
RESERVIST PROGRAM

This year, several community members joined our reservist program to help our team during long term activations. The program is designed to prepare participants to augment staff during EOC activations through position-specific instruction and cross-training across multiple functions. This flexible training approach allows reservists to step into a variety of roles as needed.

As part of the broader RIV program, reservists, interns, and volunteers collectively enhance OEM's response capacity while encouraging community participation and professional development. With continued growth, the RIV program remains integral to advancing preparedness, resilience, and public service within the community.



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY 24: GoCAPS EXERCISE

JAN.



FEB. 8: MOCERT1 CONFERENCE

FEB.

MARCH

MARCH 1: SEVERE WEATHER EXPO



MARCH 29: COXHEALTH MCI SIMULATION

APRIL



APRIL 29: EOC ACTIVATION FOR SEVERE WEATHER

MAY

MAY 3: DOWNTOWN DOG DAY

MAY 31: COXHEALTH KIDS' HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR



JUNE

JUNE 7: GREATER PARKCREST BLOCK PARTY

JUNE 21: POPS IN THE PARK



JUNE 29: SPARKS IN THE PARK & EOC ACTIVATION

JULY



JULY 24: OZARK EMPIRE FAIR

AUG.

AUG. 8: BIRTHPLACE OF ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL



AUG. 16: SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OPEN HOUSE

SEPT. 6: MERCY'S FALL INTO SAFETY CELEBRATION



SEPT.

SEPT. 13: MARK TWAIN NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

OCT.

OCT. 18: PETS AND PUMPKINS (CERT)



OCT. 31: GREENE COUNTY SHERIFF'S TRUNK-OR-TREAT



NOV. 2: BASS PRO SHOPS MARATHON

NOV.

NOV. 9: OPERATION POLAR BEAR



DEC.

DEC. 8: FOUR CORNERS CONFERENCE

2026

CONNECT WITH US

oem.greencountymo.gov



@SpringfieldGreeneOEM



@gcoem



@gc_oem



@GreeneCountyOEM



@gcoem



**SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**330 W. Scott Street
Springfield, MO 65802
(417) 869-6040
greenecountymo.gov/oem**

