

NEWS RELEASE: April 16, 2012

Springfield-Greene County receives national accreditation

The Office of Emergency Management has received notification that Springfield-Greene County's emergency management program has been certified as fully compliant with the standards of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) by the National EMAP commission. This program is a voluntary standard-based assessment and peer review accreditation process for state and local emergency management programs. While there are numerous EMAP accredited emergency management programs in the nation, most of these are state-level programs. With this recognition, Springfield-Greene County becomes one of the first 13 local-level jurisdictions in the nation to meet EMAP accreditation standards. The Springfield-Greene County program was found fully compliant on its first EMAP review, with no conditions placed upon its accreditation. Such an accomplishment was noted to be rare.

Tim Smith, County Administrator for Greene County, says, "A strong working relationship between Greene County and Springfield has allowed us to achieve something few other localities have. A lot of hard work was put into this, and our mutual disaster management program has grown stronger as a result."

In addition to EMAP accreditation, all operational staff members of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) are certified Emergency Managers in the state of Missouri. All of the OEM's operational staff members are also either certified as Emergency Managers on the national level or working toward attaining that certification.

"We have always suspected that we have had one of the best emergency management teams in the country, we now have proof that we do," says Springfield City Manager Greg Burris, "Unfortunately we currently have them housed in one of the worst emergency management facilities in the country." The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management is currently located in a 104-year-old building that in 2003 was found to be "no longer structurally sound," by an independent architectural review team. The OEM will relocate to the Greene County Public Safety Center in June.

"Accreditation is a hallmark of accountability to the community, stakeholders and elected officials – the seal of approval from professional peers," says Barb Graff, Vice Chair of the EMAP Commission.

For more information about EMAP, visit www.emaponline.org. For more information about the compliance with these standards, contact Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, at 417-869-6040, or Warren Robinson, Public Information Office for the Springfield-Greene County office of Emergency Management, at 417-869-6040 or 417-861-2478.