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### **Emergency Management one step closer to national accreditation**

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management hosted a national assessment team from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) this week. The six-person team spent the week examining the office's policies and operations as part of its accreditation process. The team's out-going summary, presented this morning, showed the Office of Emergency Management to be on its way to achieving full accreditation — an office goal since 2007.

The EMAP is a standard-based voluntary assessment and peer review accreditation process for state and local emergency management programs. The EMAP reviews 104 emergency management standards, approved by the American National Standards Institute. The Office of Emergency Management has been working toward meeting all 104 standards and achieving EMAP accreditation for the past four years.

During the EMAP team's final briefing this morning, they said preliminary findings show compliance in all program areas, with no request for additional proof of compliance for any of the 104 standards. The team's findings will be forwarded to the national review committee, which makes recommendations to the EMAP Commission for full accreditation. Nationwide, there are 34 accredited emergency management programs, only seven of which are local programs.

“We are very excited about this successful step towards accreditation,” said Ryan Nicholls, Director for the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management. “This was a community-wide process that our stakeholders should be proud of achieving. Several recent disaster response activations, along with all mitigation and preparedness efforts, have contributed to the development of a strong, community-wide emergency management program.”

For more information about EMAP, visit [www.emaponline.org](http://www.emaponline.org). For more information about the local assessment, contact Ryan Nicholls at 417-869-6040, or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

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