



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Larry Woods Named Director of the Office of Emergency Management

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri- Larry Woods has been named director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), effective immediately.

"I am honored and humbled to serve the citizens of Greene County in this capacity and look forward to advancing the vision of the Office of Emergency Management to make our community the most disaster resilient community in the nation," Woods said.

Woods joined OEM in 2000 as a planning officer. He was promoted to the title of deputy director (then assistant director) in 2003. While in this role, Woods was instrumental in developing and maintaining the county's emergency operations center and solidifying its role as an example of best practice in community disaster response.

"Over the last 17 years, Larry has consistently demonstrated the qualities which are vital to this position: dedication, dependability, passion and leadership," said Presiding Commissioner Bob Cirtin. "We are pleased he has accepted the position, and we look forward to the direction he will provide the Office of Emergency Management."

Before joining the OEM, Woods served as the 911 and emergency management director for Laclede County and as an emergency medical technician for American Medical Response in Kansas City, MO. He has also worked in both the fire service and law enforcement.

"Larry has extensive experience and has proven himself time and time again. For a community that intends to be the best prepared in the country, I have every confidence in Larry's ability to lead the Office of Emergency Management and our entire community to achieve that goal," said City Manager Greg Burriss.

Woods is the Region D director for the Missouri Emergency Managers Association and is the planning section chief for both the Southwest Missouri Incident Support Team as well as the Missouri Disaster Response System. He is professionally certified by the International Emergency Managers Association and is a licensed emergency medical technician.

Woods is also a planning section chief for one of two Incident Response Coordination Teams for the Office of Emergency Management under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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For more information, contact Erin Hedlun, OEM Public Information Officer at 417-869-6040 (office), 417-860-0903 (cell) or ehedlun@greencountymo.gov.