



Marion County OREGON

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Two Marion County Employees Honored For Emergency Management Work

Marion County Emergency Manager John Vanderzanden and Emergency Coordinator Krista Rowland received two top honors recently from the Oregon Emergency Management Association (OEMA). Vanderzanden received the OEMA President's Award and Rowland received the Member Award for Coordination.

This morning at board session, the Marion County Board of Commissioners recognized both individuals for their accomplishments. "What a great honor to be recognized by your peers from throughout the state for your accomplishments in the emergency management field," explained Board Chair Sam Brentano. "We are very proud of you and the excellent work you do in coordinating emergency response throughout the county and beyond."

Vanderzanden was recognized for his extensive contributions in the emergency management field. Following a 30-year military career, he became Marion County's emergency manager in 2002. Some of his accomplishments include overseeing the development of the county's emergency disaster and Homeland Security Plans, re-organizing the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to become more effective and overseeing emergency drills and exercises. Most recently, Marion County opened the EOC to coordinate snow removal in Idanha and Detroit during the weather emergency.

In presenting Vanderzanden's award, OEMA president Mike Mumaw said, "With these activities and his on-going work, he has set the bar with his fellow Oregon emergency managers of what an agency expects from its emergency management program."

Rowland was recognized for coordinating mandated emergency response training in a six county region. Her efforts helped six counties comply with federal training requirements and resulted in over 450 emergency response personnel receiving their required training.

"Emergency Preparedness is a collaborative effort, so when you have as many key city and public safety players actively participating in a countywide effort to be as prepared as possible, it is difficult not to be successful. Krista and I can only do what we do with their support and the support of the Marion County leadership," Vanderzanden said.

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