

Denver OEM Mission Statement: “Leading Denver’s emergency management efforts to cultivate safe, prepared, and resilient communities.”

Denver OEM Vision Statement: “To become a National model in shaping and sustaining the culture of preparedness throughout the whole community.”

- In two years, the OEM staff has more than doubled (from 7 staff to 17) and increased the operating budget from \$622,500 to \$1.5 million. OEM has also expanded to include seven different grant funding sources in addition to the general fund such Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), the Denver Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP), Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and two Public Assistance (PA) Grants (for the 2013 and 2015 floods).
- As a result of an audit conducted in late 2017 indicating that most City agencies did not have Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan(s) in place during emergencies, Denver OEM led the improvement effort. By December 2018, all City agencies reporting to the Mayor, as well as the Auditor’s Office, Clerk and Recorder, City Council, and the County Courts, had a continuity plan(s) that met the minimum requirements of identifying Essential Functions, Vital Records and Resources, Orders of Succession, Alternate Facilities, and Alert and Notification procedures.
- Denver Emergency Management supported 14 real-world emergencies and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activations in 2018 for a Derecho (High Straight-Line Winds), Emerson Street Fire, Ebola Public Health Emergency, Colorado Salt Products Chlorine Leak, Capitol Hill Power Outage, East Denver Power Outage, Downtown Power Outage, Denver Zoo Evacuation, Western Motor Inn Relocation, Northeast Apartment Building Power Outage, 420 Rally Activation, Elections Day Activation, Rockies Division Championship Game, and Santa Fe Drive Apartment Building natural gas explosion.
- Denver Emergency Management led a regional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) process across 10 counties and 160 jurisdictions while updating Denver-specific capability assessment across 32 federal and 2 local emergency management capability areas.
- Denver Emergency Management established a new Denver Emergency Planning Committee, completed a complete revision to the Denver Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), reviewed and released a new Regional Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP), and established Continuity, Mitigation, Mass Care, and Emergency Logistics Working Groups to support capability development in key areas.
- Denver Emergency Management conducted interagency coordination with our City/County departments and agencies along with 46 partner agencies in 2018, including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Denver-area Consulates, National Weather Service, Space Weather Prediction Center, U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Postal Service, Regional Transportation District, Denver Public Schools, University of Denver, Regis University, Johnson & Wales University, Auraria Higher Education Campus, Denver Broncos, Colorado Rockies (Major League Baseball), Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado National Guard, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

- Denver Emergency Management also conducted a new series of outreach workshops for special events and for hospital and healthcare organizations to increase engagement with these distinct communities of interest while actively participating in four of the Mayor's Cabinet in the Community events in 2018.
- Denver Emergency Management conducted community resilience and preparedness outreach to over 44,000 residents and visitors in 2018 (a 10-fold increase from 2017), participated as a host city for the National Self-Reliance Experience event, and continued to support and expand our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteer programs.
- Denver Emergency Management staff participated in 82 total local, regional, state and federal training and exercise events with 3,959 participants in 2018. Within that 2018 total, Denver Emergency Management hosted 1,720 participants for 32 training and exercise events using 1,666 OEM staff hours (89%, 78%, and 194% increase respectively from 2017).
- Denver Emergency Management conducted 3 Exercise PIONEER SHIELD (Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Joint Information Center (JIC) Combined Functional Exercises) with full engagement of elected and appointed officials and an EOC staff of 72 positions and JIC staff of 18 positions per shift. Volunteer exercise staff came from 11 states (CO, WY, ND, AZ, CA, WA, NY, DC, TX, TN, LA) representing 42 unique agencies to ensure quality and diversity of exercise evaluation and share best practices and lessons learned with professional community.
- Denver Emergency Management continued to execute Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation grant programs for recovery from the Presidential Disaster Declarations for the 2013 and 2015 Colorado floods while we led the Denver Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Working Group and associated grant program, participated in the State's North Central All-Hazards Region (NCR) Board of Directors and associated State Homeland Security Grant Program, participated in the State Homeland Security and All-Hazards Senior Advisory Committee (HSAC), participated in the FEMA Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC), participated in the Mile High Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma Services Advisory Council (RETAC), and supported the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant program through our Denver Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) activities and second annual Chemical Safety Workshop.
- Denver Emergency Management also continued to support and participate with our key professional organizations and conferences, including the Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA), the National Homeland Security Association (NHSA), the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and the Big City Emergency Managers (BCEM).