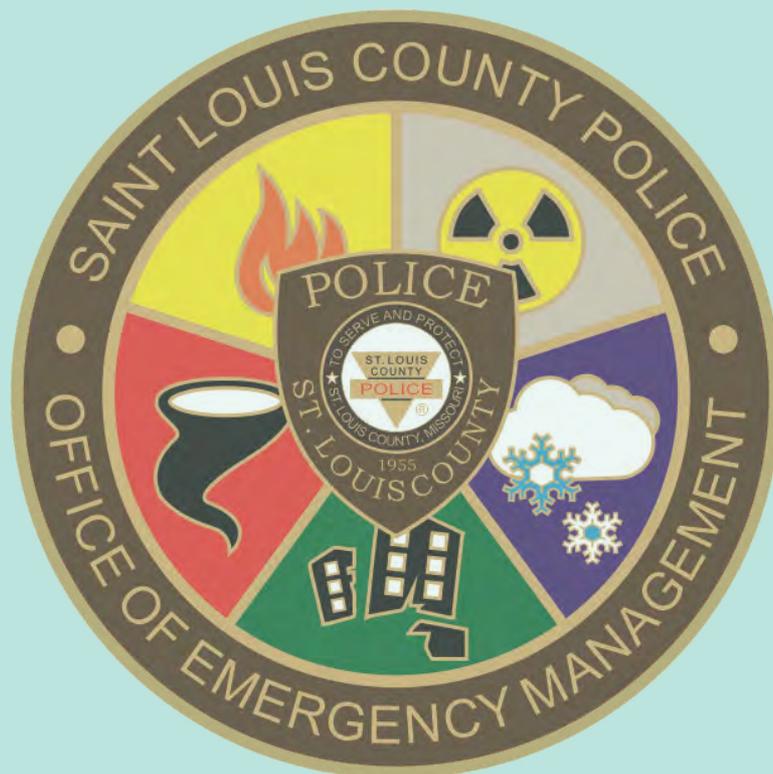


# 2020

# Annual Report

**St. Louis County  
Police Department**

**Office of Emergency Management**





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# Letter from the Director,

This annual report ends a year that was both tragic and trying for St. Louis County, and in fact the world. While every one of us has been significantly impacted by the global pandemic in our daily lives, we should aim to reflect on those day-to-day events that projected the hope and caring nature of our community.

Our community partners, from first responders to our community organizations that are active in disasters, continue to stand with the Office of Emergency Management and other County departments in the COVID-19 response to ensure the safest possible environment for all our citizens. This has resulted in stronger relationships developed among these entities, translating to very effective collaboration during disasters. While the pandemic resulted in an EOC activation that has lasted almost a full year, the OEM staff has also continued to provide the “every day” professional emergency management functions that our community has come to expect from us. I am so proud of our OEM staff and the tremendous amount of high-quality work they produced during this eventful year.

We welcomed a new staff member and both celebrated and mourned the retirement of our Director, Mark Diedrich. Amid the pandemic, I was honored to be named Director of what I believe is the finest emergency management agency in the State of Missouri. Director Diedrich has left a standard of professionalism that I, and every staff member, strives daily to achieve and surpass.

As we begin to see the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel, I would encourage each of you to become a more prepared member of your community. Get involved in your neighborhood groups, Community Emergency Response Training, Citizens Police Academy or any of the other wonderful programs we have in St. Louis County. A more prepared community will ultimately be a safer and more resilient community.

*Michele L. Ryan*





# About Us



The Office of Emergency Management is a unit within the St. Louis County Police Department and falls under the Division of Operational Support. Our office was formerly called the Office of Civil Preparedness and was established within the department in 1975.

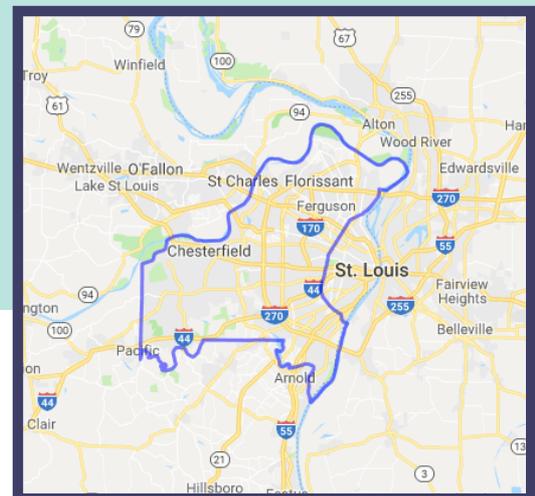
Since then, staff assigned to our office has worked on promoting emergency preparedness and fulfilling our mission statement of working with the entire community to build, sustain and improve our capacity to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from all hazards.

We proudly serve both the unincorporated areas and municipalities of St. Louis County. The County encompasses 524 square miles and with a population of just under a million people is the most populous county in the state of Missouri.

The Missouri River forms the northern border with St. Charles County.

The southern border is formed largely by the Meramec River which connects us to Jefferson County.

The City of St. Louis and the Mississippi River lay to the east of St. Louis County whereas Franklin County lays to the west.





# Staff Additions and Departures

2020 saw us welcome one new staff member and say goodbye to another.



Kirsten Tilley joined the OEM family in January as the new Police Communications Coordinator. Her duties include the coordination of communications functions and ensuring the delivery of two-way radio, land-line and cellular communication services necessary to support our mission.

She has been with the St. Louis County Police Department since 2016 when she was hired on as a Public Safety Dispatcher in the Bureau of Communications.

Mark Diedrich retired as Director after a long and successful career with the St. Louis County Police Department that spanned 27 years. As a thank you for his dedication and contributions, Dr. Sam Page proclaimed February 1st as 'Mr. Mark Diedrich Day' in St. Louis County.





# Staff Promotions

The retirement of Mark Diedrich left our office without a Director. Michele Ryan, who had been promoted to Deputy Director in 2019, was appointed in March.

She is the first female to hold the position of Director for our office. This is not the first time that Michele has accomplished this feat. While assigned to the Vehicle and Supply Unit, she became the first female Police Fleet Supervisor, making her one of only fifteen female police fleet supervisors nationwide at that time.

She has been with the St. Louis County Police Department since 2000, working in both the Sex Offender/Private Security Unit and Vehicle and Supply Unit. In 2015, she joined our office as the Logistics Specialist.





# Emergency Operations Center Activations

2020 has been an exceptionally busy year for our office with four activations, one of which remains active into 2021.

We have three levels of activation:

- **Level 3** - EOC staff only: The OEM staff actively monitors and analyzes the situation for decision-making purposes.
- **Level 2** - Partial Activation: OEM staff and select St. Louis County Departments and Emergency Support Functions (ESFs).
- **Level 1** - Full Activation: requires the involvement of each St. Louis County disaster preparedness group, all ESFs and possibly assets provided by mutual aid, State and Federal assistance and volunteer resources.

The appropriate level of activation is determined by the extent of the disaster/event.

## COVID-19 Worldwide Pandemic

We officially activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on March 4th. Prior to activation, we monitored the situation closely. The EOC remains activated at a Level 2.

This activation has been the most involved one yet in the history of our office. We fulfilled and continue to fulfill a supportive role to the St. Louis County Department of Public Health in the form of resource deployment, logistical support, and planning assistance.





# Emergency Operations Center Activations

We collaborated with over 15 different St. Louis County departments, local fire/ems and law enforcement agencies and various non-governmental organizations. To assist us in the COVID-19 response, personnel from 13 different units within the Police Department, including retirees, were temporarily assigned to our office.

## Civil Unrest May 2020

Civil unrest erupted nationwide following the death of George Floyd. The St. Louis area was no exception with protests turning violent the first week of June.

## Ferguson Anniversary

Due to the civil unrest from the previous months, OEM activated at a Level 3 from August 7-10 to monitor events surrounding the Ferguson Anniversary.

## Election Day

Due to the elections this year being some of the most contested in the history, OEM activated at a Level 3 on November 3rd.





# Professional Development

## Training

Training looked a lot different this year and was conducted mainly on a virtual platform. Despite these new challenges, our staff participated in the following courses and exercises:

- Pipeline Association of Missouri Tabletop Exercise,
- Multi Assault Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities (MACTAC) Supervisor Tabletop Exercises,
- Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks (CCTA) Fusion Center Tabletop Exercise,
- EOC Activations During Social Distancing Course,
- Emergency Planning Course,
- AWR 331 - Winter Weather Hazards, Foundations of Emergency Management,
- MGT 403 - Access and Functional Needs Preparedness Planning for Rural Communities,
- AWR 148 - Crisis Management for Schools Course,
- Advanced Supervision and Leadership,
- EOC Operations During Social Distancing,
- Cultural Competency: Racial Profiling, Implicit Bias,
- FEMA ICS: 100, 200, 700, 800, 300 and 400,
- FEMA Independent Study (IS): 5, 20.19, 29, 035.20, 037.20, 42, 120, 201, 230, 235, 240, 241, 242, 244, 247.b 317, 360, 909, 1300, 2200,
- Interpersonal Communications,
- Personnel Issues,
- Professionalism and Ethics,
- Team Building for Command Staff,
- Workplace Harassment,
- The Bulletproof Mind for Law Enforcement,
- Cultural Diversity,
- Ethical Leadership,
- Field Training Programs - Correcting Poor Performance,
- Generational Differences in the Workplace,
- Human Fatigue in 24-7 Operations,
- Leading by Example,
- Mission, Vision and Core Values,
- The Leadership Role in Public Service,
- Applied Leadership Principles,
- Integrity Centered Leadership,
- Communication and Intrinsic Bias,
- Science of Disaster.





# Professional Development

## Multi-Year Training and Exercise Program - MYTEP

OEM's MYTEP focuses on development, improvement and maintenance of the preparedness and response capabilities of the organization and those who provide support to the EOC. It was implemented in 2018 and defines the training and exercise opportunities to increase preparedness knowledge of EOC responders across all phases of government and emergency management.

This year, in support of MYTEP, OEM hosted and/or instructed the following courses and tabletop exercises at EOC:

- 22 MACTAC Supervisor Tabletop Exercises,
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Class and Exercise (Parkway Schools),
- Two Staging Area and Salamander Tracking Courses,
- Two Weapons of Mass Destruction Courses for Dispatchers,
- Hurried Home Tabletop Exercise,
- Volcano Exercise (Oakville High School),
- St. Louis Regional Police Chaplain Severe Weather and Community Care Tabletop Exercise,
- Two Police Recruit Classes (Homeland Security),
- One ICS 300 Course,
- Three ICS 100 Courses for Dispatchers,
- One EOC Relocation Drill,
- One Sandbagging Machine Course,





# Professional Development

## Deployments

Several of our staff serve as part of the Region C Incident Support Team. A response team of trained individuals that can be deployed nationwide to assist local agencies in emergency mitigation.

In this capacity, half of our staff deployed to Jefferson City, MO to assist MO-DMAT (Missouri Disaster Medical Assistance Team) in their COVID-19 pandemic mitigation efforts.

## Achievements

### *St. Louis County Council Resolution*

The EOC was recognized by the St. Louis County Council for bringing together various departments and stakeholders, centralizing communication and coordinating community education efforts in order to maximize resources and promoting effective decision-making.

### *Weather-Ready Nation 2020 Ambassador of the Year*

The OEM was named Weather-Ready Nation 2020 Ambassador of the Year for our continuing efforts in promoting weather safety and awareness both on social media and through hosting storm spotter classes.



We are happy to announce that we have named St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) our Weather-Ready Nation 2020 Ambassador of the year! St. Louis County always finds new ways to help us promote weather safety and preparedness. In fact, St. Louis County holds one of our largest storm spotter classes each year and they constantly amplify our message by posting and sharing preparedness information when dangerous weather is expected. Recently, St. Louis County OEM has joined us in our virtual school outreach talks to discuss weather and safety preparedness with children! Thank you St. Louis County for being such an integral part of keeping our community safe



# Community Outreach

Promoting emergency preparedness is at the core of our mission. Our office strives to attend a variety of community events throughout the year, however, due to COVID-19 many opportunities for community outreach were cancelled or moved to a virtual platform.

Despite these challenges, we were able to host several boy scouts troops, a weather class, and one of our local area middle schools in-person. We attended Purina's Trucks and Tails event, virtually, with our animal trailer and did our first virtual presentation with members of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Our biggest community event, this year, was the emergency kit pick-up event for the citizens of the Terrisan Commons and Spanish Lake neighborhoods. Over the course of several years, our office, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, Pattonville Fire Protection District and JustMomsSTL have been working together to assist these neighborhoods closest to the Westlake Landfill.

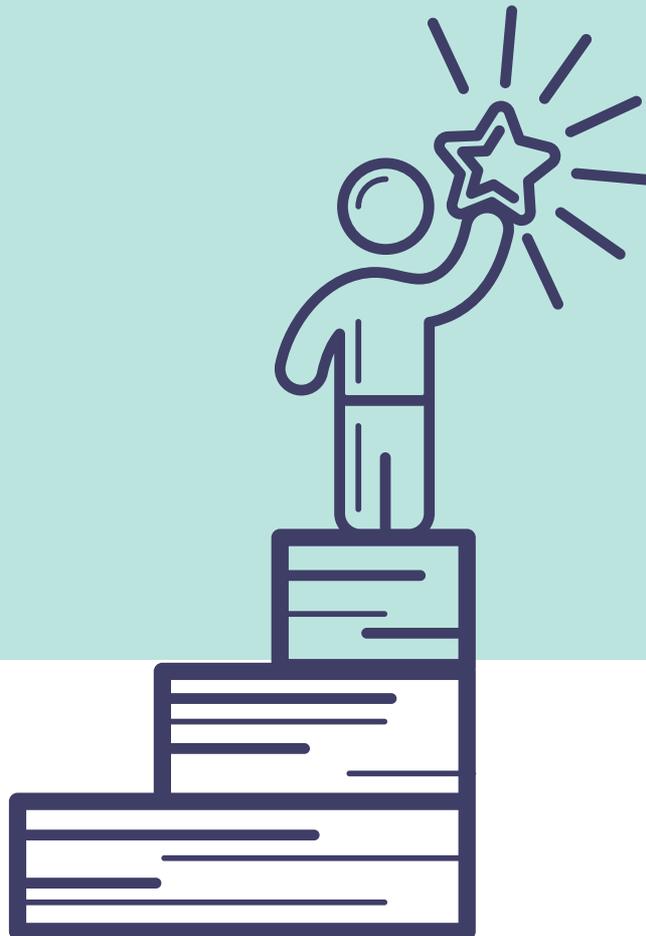
This event was the result of that coordinated effort, outfitting every resident with an emergency kit containing items to assist them during a shelter-in-place emergency.





# Goals for 2021

- Continue to provide the necessary support to the St. Louis County Public Health Department and community as a whole while mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Prepare some of the staff to be eligible for Associate Emergency Manager / Certified Emergency Manager (AEM/CEM) certification from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) by the end of the year.
- Strengthen our Department Disaster Coordinators Committee and reestablish quarterly meetings.
- Continue to strengthen and maintain our community outreach efforts while adapting to a changed environment.





# Contact Information

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Find us on social media - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - @stlcooem  
And in the App Store or on Google Play - St. Louis County, MO, Prepares

