

THE OKLAHOMA OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Oklahoma Homeland Security
Regional Advisory Council Newsletter

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KIM CARTER TO SERVE AS OKOHS DIRECTOR

Kim Carter, a veteran of law enforcement with more than 32 years of experience, has been appointed by Governor Mary Fallin to replace Kerry Pettingill as the Director of the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security. Carter has served as the Fusion Center Coordinator and Program Manager for information sharing at OKOHS since 2007.



Kim Edd Carter

Before joining OKOHS, Carter spent 26 years with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI). During his tenure at OSBI, he achieved the rank of Assistant Director of the Investigative Division where he managed more than 100 employees, including law enforcement officers and civilian employees. Prior to joining OSBI, Carter was a patrol officer with the Oklahoma City Police Department.

“I am honored Governor Fallin has selected me to serve in her administration,” Carter said. “I look forward to working with the governor to ensure our state and our citizens are protected from any and all homeland security threats.”

Carter is a graduate of Maysville High School and has a Bachelor’s Degree in News and Public Affairs and a Master’s Degree in Natural and Applied Sciences, both from Oklahoma State University.

Pettingill named Chief of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol

Kerry Pettingill, who was appointed OKOHS Director in 2004, was appointed by Public Safety Commissioner Michael Thompson as the Chief of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol effective Feb. 1.

Pettingill said, “We [OKOHS] could not have done been so successful without the assistance of first responders, safety personal and interested citizens from around the state.

“I want to thank all of the members of the Homeland Security Regional Advisory Councils and encourage you to maintain participation. We continue to have a need to stay prepared for disaster, because in Oklahoma we know better than most that it only takes one tragedy to ruin the lives of many.”



Oklahoma Office of
Homeland Security

Prevent, Protect, Prepare

Chief of Staff goes to Attorney General's Office

Melissa McLawhorn Houston, Chief of Staff at OKOHS since 2004, accepted a position in the office of Attorney General Scott Pruitt as the Policy Director.

"It has been an honor to work at OKOHS for so long," said Houston. "I have been able to work on all of OKOHS's projects, projects that provide safety and security to all Oklahomans.

"I am truly proud of the accomplishments that I was able to be a part of and to oversee."

Hosting a CERT class

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may affect their area. To become a CERT trained, volunteers must first enroll in a CERT class. If your group would like to have a CERT class, simply complete a Course Request Form, which can be found at www.cert.ok.gov. For each CERT class, OKOHS will provide the instructor (if necessary), student manuals, backpacks, training props and other materials. The CERT class instructor must be approved by OKOHS.

The ideal class size is 20 people (with a minimum of 15 required and a maximum of 30 allowed).

Groups can be made up of any group of people such as community organizations, communities of

faith, school staff, workplace employees or other groups of people that regularly come together for a common purpose.

Contact Brook Arbeitman at barbeitm@dps.state.ok.us for more information.

Upcoming MYN Events

OKOHS will be hosting several Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) Leaders Training Sessions throughout the year. MYN, an OKOHS program designed to help neighborhoods prepare for disaster, requires participating neighborhood representatives to attend a training session hosted by OKOHS.

At the MYN Leaders Training Session, neighborhood representatives will learn how to organize a neighborhood meeting to work through the MYN program. After completing the training, neighborhood representatives should schedule their Neighborhood Meeting within 90 days.

A typical neighborhood meeting should consist of 15 to 20 household in urban areas or 5 to 6 households in rural areas.

Upcoming MYN Leaders Training Sessions are listed in the "Upcoming Events" section of the newsletter. Go to www.RedDirtReady.com and click on "Your Neighborhood" for more detailed information.

If you have any questions, contact Brook Arbeitman at barbeitm@dps.state.ok.us.

Announcements

March 19, Tulsa: Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) Training Session (visit the "Your Neighborhood" section of RedDirtReady.com for more info.)

March 5, Tulsa: Baby Fest and Family Expo (Expo Square – Central Park Hall 9 am - 5 pm)

March 5: Lawton Safety Awareness and Prevention Program (Lawton, Lawton Public Library, Contact Tina Criger with the Lawton Police Department for more information)

April: MYN Training Session (Lawton, time and location TBD)

April 1-3: OKC Home and Garden Show (OKC, 9-5, Oklahoma City Fairgrounds)

May 1: OKC Memorial Marathon

(Check out www.okcmarathon.com for more information)

June: MYN Training Session (Midwest City, time and location TBD)

To request a speaker from the OKOHS at your local event or community meeting contact Lacey Callahan at 405-425-7296.

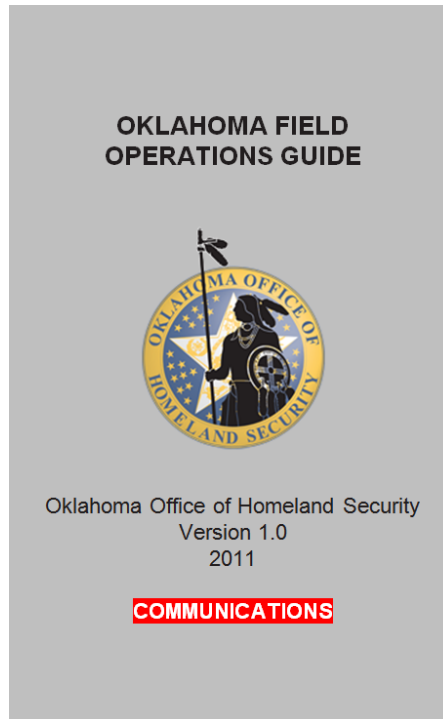
Oklahoma Field Operations Guide to be released

The Oklahoma Field Operations Guide (OKFOG) has been finalized and will be available in the next few months. A pocket-sized reference guide for responders in the field, the OKFOG includes Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by Oklahoma Homeland Security Region and by county, frequency information for responders during public safety events and other important reference materials.

OKOHS will begin distributing the OKFOG at information sessions across the state. First responders can request copies of the guide from OKOHS or pick them up at the OKOHS main building.

For more information, go to

www.homelandsecurity.ok.gov and click on "Interoperable Communications."



DHS at the Superbowl

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and DHS joined the National Football League (NFL) to bring the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) "If You See Something, Say Something" public awareness campaign to Super Bowl XLV to help ensure the security of fans, players and employees by identifying and reporting suspicious activity.

The "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign at Super Bowl XLV included both print and video advertisements, as well as a training video for NFL employees to ensure that both employees and fans had the tools they needed to identify and report suspicious activities and threats.

New registration for Citizen Corps Councils, CERT programs now available

FEMA is asking all new and existing local Citizen Corps Councils and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs to register on the national Citizen Corps and CERT websites. FEMA has two improved online registries that will demonstrate community readiness efforts of local Citizen Corps Councils and CERT programs.

The Citizen Corps Council registry will collect information for each registered Council to highlight:

- community partnerships and activities among government and civic leaders,

- integration of non-governmental resources into government plans and protocols,
- local efforts to improve personal and organizational preparedness (such as training and education),
- volunteer programs and disaster response activities and
- identified needs and resources required to support local initiatives.

This effort will recognize the tremendous work accomplished to date and serve as a baseline for future individual and community preparedness and resiliency projects.

ects.

Every Citizen Corps Council and CERT program is required to register if they wish to have a listing in the Citizen Corps and CERT directory on the national Citizen Corps and CERT Program websites. Please note that only Citizen Corps Councils and CERT Programs may register. The registry is not for individual CERT teams that are organized within a CERT program.

More information and guidance documents for registration are available at www.homelandsecurity.ok.gov and click on "Citizen Corps."