

9-1-1 EMD Implemented in Central Oklahoma

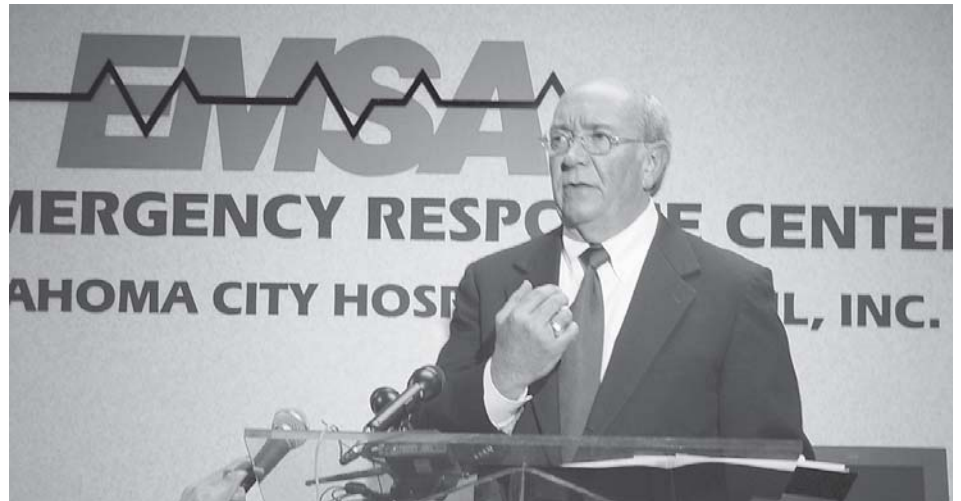
The 9-1-1 Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (9-1-1 ACOG) recently announced the implementation in Central Oklahoma of enhanced 9-1-1 programming, known as Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), that will help save lives in emergency situations.

Two years ago, concerned health advocates and community leaders approached the Association to explore the feasibility of developing EMD. EMD is a process that handles medically oriented 9-1-1 calls by using approved guidelines and instructions. The system is designed to provide medical assistance and patient care while an ambulance is en route to the scene.

EMD provides an immediate response by enabling the caller to take appropriate steps to help the victim. In some cases, the dispatcher becomes the "first responder" if they are trained on EMD.

"Pre-arrival instructions have been proven in other regions to reduce response times and save lives," said Zach Taylor, ACOG Executive Director. "The new EMD service will provide a higher standard of care for anyone who dials 9-1-1 in the region."

Johnny Vaughn, fire chief for the



Zach Taylor, executive director of ACOG, announces the implementation of Emergency Medical Dispatch at a media briefing held at EMSA last month. The new 9-1-1 program will benefit the Central Oklahoma region by providing immediate responses to calls involving medical emergencies.

city of Norman, reaffirmed Taylor's comments. Vaughn said that dispatchers trained in EMD would serve as the vital link for citizens of Norman.

An ACOG committee comprised of state and regional administrators began to research the opportunities a few years ago to improve dispatch capabilities and

the ability of call-takers to give pre-arrival instructions to people who call 9-1-1 during a medical emergency. Costs to communities, training of dispatchers and quality service were all components that were studied before implementation. The Central Oklahoma EMD ...See "9-1-1 Service" on page three.

COTPA Board Approves Transit Study

A comprehensive transit study that will explore metro travel routes and possible solutions to future transportation growth will go out to bid after the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA) approved a scope of services last month.

The study is estimated to cost approximately \$1 million, with the majority of the project funded by Federal Transit Administration Urbanized Area formula funds. The FY 2004 Unified Planning Work Program was amended in December to accommodate the proposal.

Officially known as a Fixed Guideway Study, the project will evaluate light rail and other transportation options, and identify congested and busy travel patterns in the Central Oklahoma region, including Edmond and Norman.

COTPA officials believe that the study, which is projected to begin this summer, will provide valuable data on the region's future transit needs, as well as the feasibility of light rail or other transit solutions. Business and community leaders have also been actively promoting the study ...See "COTPA Study" on page three.

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Association Releases Transportation Funding Report

A year-end report reflecting federally funded projects approved in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area during federal fiscal year 2003 was recently released by ACOG. Highway and transit projects were funded and implemented in the region through federal funds made available to the state and metropolitan area through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century [TEA-21].

A suballocation of funds, known as Surface Transportation Program Urbanized Area (STP-UZA) funds, helped provide for a number of street and intersection improvements that have been or will soon be constructed in communities within the ACOG region.

Along with the STP-UZA funds, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation

provided federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to the region to promote and enhance air quality in Central Oklahoma, helping the region maintain its air quality attainment status with the Environmental Protection Agency. The Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA) used a portion of these funds for Clean Air Alert Day operations, rideshare promotions and marketing. The remaining funds were utilized by ACOG for a public

education program that provided information on how citizens can help minimize summer ozone pollution.

The Oklahoma City urbanized area obligated nearly all of its suballocated federal funds, which totaled over \$15 million. Major street improvements that will be implemented using federal funds include resurfacing of SE 15th from Bryant to Vickie in Del City, widening of SW 19th from Santa Fe to Telephone Road in Moore, ...See "Funding Report" on page four.

ACOG Staff Talk with Visiting International Environmental Team

A group of international leaders and environmental administrators from all over the world visited ACOG and the Central Oklahoma region in January to learn more about government programming and management here in the United States.

This is the third time in the past year that ACOG has helped sponsor such a visit. The group was comprised of public administrators from across the globe who specialize in managing programs that focus on sustainable development and environmental protection.

The six-member group was accompanied by Suzanne Van Der Weide, a U.S. State Department liaison, and hosted locally by Kay Bickham, Visitors Council programmer. The visitors included Dr.

Aisha Mahmood, an environmental director from Abuja, Nigeria; Herrie Ali, a program director from Afar Region, Ethiopia; Vincente Ossa Busta, Coordinator for United Nations Development Program in Chile; Sandra Vucinic, an analyst from Serbia and Montenegro; Christina Armeanu, a regional development director from Romania; and Dr. Salim Al Rawahy, professor of biology from Oman.

The U.S. Department of State and the Oklahoma City International Visitors Council sponsored the visit. Reaction from both ACOG staff and the team was positive. One of the visitors wrote that "ACOG provided one of the best appointments and that the team was impressed and touched by the effort."

Central Oklahoma *Perspective*

Offering Regional Leaders News and Information

21 East Main, Suite 100
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104-2405
(405) 234-2264/FAX: (405) 234-2200
TDD: (405) 234-2217/www.acogok.org
E-mail address: acog@acogok.org

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

*"Providing Regional Leadership in
Central Oklahoma Since 1966"*

Established in 1966, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) is a voluntary association of cities, towns and counties. ACOG helps member governments plan for common needs, cooperate for mutual benefit and coordinate for sound regional development.

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Zach Taylor

Editor: Jerry Church

Layout: Ken Brown

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An international environmental team recently visited ACOG and Central Oklahoma to learn more about government administration. From left are, Dr. Aisha Mahmood, Nigeria; Yvonne Anderson, Central Oklahoma Clean Cities; Herrie Ali, Ethiopia; Vincente Ossa Busta, Chile; Sandra Vucinic, Serbia and Montenegro; Christina Armeanu, Romania; Zach Taylor, ACOG Executive Director, and Dr. Salim Al Rawahy, Oman.

“9-1-1 Service”

...Continued from page one.
system is accompanied by a built-in quality assurance system that provides consistent and valid service delivery. The system also includes medical oversight and a quality review component that evaluates randomly selected calls.

Prior to training, which started in summer 2003, the only trained and certified EMD public safety answering points in Central Oklahoma were those serviced by the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA). Now, EMD is available throughout the region to 31 communities, four counties, 77 public safety agencies, through EMSA and by call centers at the city of Midwest City, city of Norman and Parkview Emergency Medical Service in El Reno. These answering points will manage EMD calls for large sections of the region, making Emergency Medical Dispatch fully operational and available throughout Central Oklahoma. It is also expected to be available soon in Cleveland County, Guthrie, Newcastle, Tuttle and Noble.

“If you consider the reach of this service, it will soon be available to over 990,000 people in the Central Oklahoma region,” said Taylor. “Its impact is enormous, and it will continue to improve the outcomes of emergency service in the region.”

“COTPA Study”

...Continued from page one.
for the past few months. A major component of the research will also explore the costs projected to accompany the proposed alternatives that the study may reveal.

Findings from the study could then lead to further research, but the Authority feels that the initial phase is a great starting point because it will unveil information specific to the Central Oklahoma region. A previous Fixed Guideway Study was conducted for the metro area nearly 15 years ago, so it no longer accurately reflects the region’s transportation characteristics

After a consultant is selected, the project could take up to two years to complete. *Central Oklahoma Perspective* will keep you updated on this project.



Around the Region

- The city of **Norman** has been designated an official **StormReady** community. Norman joins the city of **Moore** and **Jones City** as the only three communities in Central Oklahoma to attain the standards set by the StormReady program. The **National Weather Service** sponsors the program that encourages communities to prepare proactive strategic plans for severe weather.
- **Oklahoma City** is one of 19 communities in the state that recently was awarded computer software that will assist their hazardous material teams. The equipment comes from the **State Fire Marshal’s Office** and the **Environmental Protection Agency**. The programs assist first responders by identifying hazardous materials quickly, and can recommend fire fighting and spill response alternatives.
- Two Central Oklahoma communities, **Slaughterville** and **Union City**, recently reduced their Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings that will help lower insurance rates for their citizens. The fire suppression readings for both towns went down recently, due mainly to proactive efforts by the communities. Slaughterville reduced its ISO fire rating from 9 to 7 (10 is the worst rate possible). The reduction in Slaughterville was due to new equipment for the volunteer fire department and a new building for the fire department nearer the community’s core. In Union City, the ISO went down from 8 to 6, also due to revamped fire equipment and concerted efforts by the city to reduce its rate. The lowering of the risk rates will help citizens pay less for property insurance, with premium reductions projected to be from 14 to 20 percent.
- The city of **Edmond** has introduced green energy, or windpower, as an alternative choice for customers of **Edmond Electric**, which serves over 70,000 electric customers in the city. The council recently approved rates for the **Pure and Simple** program, which provides customers with the option to purchase some or all of their electricity from wind-generation. Edmond Electric is a member of the **Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority**.
- Governor **Brad Henry** has selected **Kevin Ward** as his Cabinet Secretary for Safety and Security, and new Commissioner of the **Department of Public Safety**. Ward’s appointment became official after serving in an interim role since last October.
- **ACOG** has a new receptionist. **Paulette Marshall** officially joined the ACOG team this winter. This is Paulette’s first job in a government organization. She previously worked for the Walker Companies. She is a mother of two boys and lives in Moore with her husband Samuel. They are both active in their church.



Paulette Marshall

“Funding Report”

...Continued from page two.
widening of Douglas from SE 15th to SE 29th in Midwest City, widening of Eastern from SE 44th to SE 59th in Oklahoma City, and several improvements in the City of Norman – Main Street between Porter and University, Robinson from 48th Ave. NW to Brookhaven, Porter from Robinson to Rock Creek, Robinson from Northcliff to 24th Ave. NE and a bridge improvement on 48th Ave. NE between Robinson and Rock Creek Road.

In addition to these developments, other transportation projects in the region were supported with other federal and state funds, and matched with either state or local dollars. An additional \$21 million in funding obligated in the past fiscal year allowed for numerous projects to be completed or initiated.

Some of these state-sponsored projects include construction of a realigned SH-152 between County Line Road and MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City, installation of cable barriers along I-35 from Indian Hills Road to SH-9 in Norman, installation of changeable message signs over I-40 in Midwest City, and numerous resurfacing and bridge repair projects.

Finally, Federal Transit Administration funds assisted with the purchase of buses

ACOG Calendar	
March	
9 th	9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
11 th	Areawide Planning Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m. Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
12 th	Garber-Wellington Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
16 th	Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m. Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1 p.m.
25 th	9-1-1 Board of Directors, 1 p.m. Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee, 1:20 p.m. ACOG Board of Directors, 1:45 p.m. Garber-Wellington Policy Committee, 2:30 p.m.
April	
8 th	Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
29 th	9-1-1 Board of Directors, 1 p.m. Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee, 1:20 p.m. ACOG Board of Directors, 1:45 p.m. Garber-Wellington Policy Committee, 2:30 p.m.

and related capital items, bus stop signs and schedules, design and initial construction activities for the new downtown bus terminal, property maintenance; and provision of Metro Link services, new

service to Mercy Hospital and extended service hours to implement federal Welfare-to-Work initiatives.

For a complete list of projects, contact Holly Massie, ACOG, 234-2264.

Central Oklahoma **Perspective**

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

21 East Main • Suite 100
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-2405
(405) 234-2264 • FAX 234-2200
TDD 234-2217 • www.acogok.org

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