

OEM 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Overview

In 2025, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) continued to strengthen the resilience of the Grand Rapids community by enhancing external collaboration, coordinating disaster preparedness and response efforts and providing preparedness resources and guidance to residents and visitors.

Text **GrandRapids** to **888777** or scan below to sign up and receive notifications on weather warnings, water boil alerts and more!



grandrapidsmi.gov/emergencyalerts

Major Accomplishments



Emergency Operations Center

Maintained readiness and activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) multiple times for:

- Severe Weather
- Civil Unrest
- Large Special Events



New Emergency Manager Administrator

OEM welcomed Benjamin Rance as the new Emergency Manager in August 2025 . Ben facilitated over 70 meetings to enhance coordination, build partnerships, and support emergency management operations.



Emergency Operations Plan Update

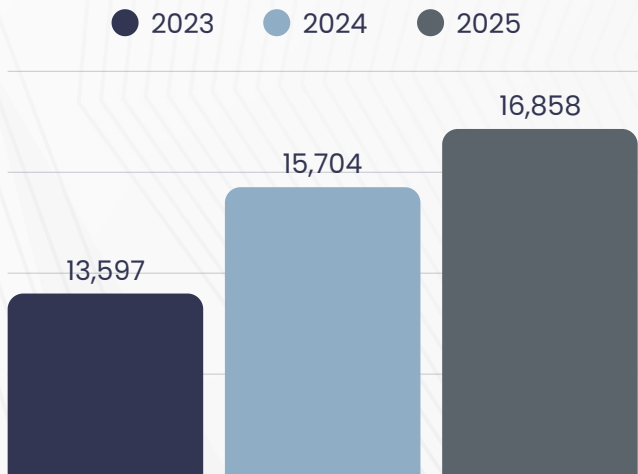
Completed a comprehensive update to the City of Grand Rapids Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), enhancing the 2021 edition to reflect current policies, procedures, and operational protocols.

Planning, Exercises & Training

Initiative	Outcome
Finalized the Community Preparedness Report (CPR), Threat & Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) & Stakeholder Preparedness Report (SPR)	Used to inform planning and strengthen local readiness..
Conducted a functional active shooter assistance center exercise in collaboration with Calvin University and regional partners.	Strengthened multi-agency coordination and response readiness.
Facilitated Incident Mgmt. training for stakeholders, including Incident Command System (ICS) courses for school leaders with Kent ISD.	Strengthened stakeholder knowledge and application of ICS.

Grand Rapids Emergency Alerts

Total individuals who have opted in for free alerts:



groem@grcity.us



616-456-3212

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Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

OEM continued to invest in and grow our CERT Program in 2025. The GR CERT Program prepares volunteers to support their community during emergencies, strengthening readiness and response capabilities across Grand Rapids.

Trainings	Details
CERT Level 1	3 sessions offered 3-hour training - Sessions offered throughout city 59 total attendees
CERT Level 2 – Basic Academy	3 cohorts offered - Each 6 weeks long (21-hour training) 42 new graduates, bringing the total trained volunteers to 79.
Additional Trainings for CERT Volunteers	Over 9 trainings offered including Stop the Bleed, First Aid/CPR/AED, USACE Flood Fight, Point of Distribution (POD) and 3 skills assessments to refresh disaster medical operations skills.

CERT Volunteer Support	
19	Community Events Supported
230+	Volunteer Hours
39	Volunteers Contributed



Facebook



Instagram



X

Social Media Outreach

Maintained an average of five posts per week across various platforms to support consistent community engagement and information sharing. Grew following to over 3,850 individuals across various platforms.

- Facebook/Instagram @readygrandrapids
- X (previously Twitter) @readyCityGR

Public Outreach Accomplishments

In 2025, OEM continued to meet residents where they are: their homes and communities. We focused on supporting our vulnerable populations both before and after disasters, and provided resources, guidance and preparedness information to residents and visitors.



Hosted four THIRA Community Preparedness Workshops across the city, engaging approximately 50 residents to share insights and strengthen community resilience and emergency readiness.



Partnered with The Grand Rapids Club of the NANBPWC to deliver personal preparedness training to ~50 community members, distributing 50 NOAA weather radios and starter kit resources to support household readiness.



Collaborated with three local farmers' markets to provide preparedness education and Spanish-language resources during the summer and participated in more than 20 additional community outreach events citywide.

