

## The Bretsch (rhymes with stretch) Award for Excellence in Emergency Management Community Engagement

Fred Bretsch liked to refer to himself as *FEMA employee #1* because he was a member of the initial group of federal employees gathered from other agencies to form the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 1979. In Fred's case, he began as a summer intern with the Corps of Engineers leading an assessment team examining structural integrity of private partner locations for shelter in place operations. In plain English, the team measured bank vaults up and down the Oregon and Washington coast for use in case of a nuclear attack! Not long after he became a full-time employee of the COE, he received the call to join FEMA and in 2018 he retired as a 40-year employee all served in that one agency.

His passion in FEMA came through his involvement in Community Preparedness. Engaging community members, voluntary agencies, and encouraging private-public partnerships is where he saw the greatest potential for impact regarding emergency management. The Bretsch (rhymes with stretch) Award reflects Fred's passion. **It seeks to honor an individual or group excelling in community engagement in the field of emergency management. Its goal is to assist in sustaining or growing the effort.**

- The award is \$1,000 toward the maintenance or growth of the effort that excels in community engagement in the field of emergency management.
- The obligation of the winner is to return to the Washington State Citizen Corps Expo the following year and provide a short update on the progression of their efforts.

To apply or nominate an individual or organization for this award please answer the following three questions:

1. Describe the gap that was identified regarding emergency management and a specific community.
2. Write a short narrative about the activities implemented to fill that gap and highlight where it is in producing stronger community engagement.
3. Tell us about the individual or group that was the heart of the effort to fill that gap. Emphasize why these people or person made an impact on the results!

Keep it to one-page total please!

Send your nominations to Bretsch Award at [EMCommunityEngagement@gmail.com](mailto:EMCommunityEngagement@gmail.com)

Deadline is Sunday, July 21, 2019

Award will be presented at the Citizen Corps Expo

