



# OMAN

## U.S. Forest Service International Programs

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

While the U.S. Forest Service does not have an active program in Oman, since May 2013, more than 300 Omani officials have completed introductory Incident Command System (ICS) curriculum, developed by a local cadre of experts and instructors.

In January 2015, 22 Omani officials completed a five day advanced Incident Commander training.

Oman's position in the Gulf Cooperation Council has enabled the Sultanate to advocate for comprehensive disaster management strategies, using ICS, amongst all member states.

In January 2016, U.S. Forest Service and NCCD certified Oman's first Incident Management Team through a series of tasks, simulation exercises, and a rigorous evaluation process.

#### NATASHA MARWAH

Africa and Middle East Deputy Coordinator  
U.S. Forest Service  
International Programs  
1 Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005  
1 202 644 4581  
[natashamarwah@fs.fed.us](mailto:natashamarwah@fs.fed.us)

#### KATHLEEN SHERIDAN

Africa and Middle East Coordinator  
U.S. Forest Service  
International Programs  
1 Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 400 Washington,  
DC 20005  
1 202 644 4580  
[kathleenasheridan@fs.fed.us](mailto:kathleenasheridan@fs.fed.us)

### OVERVIEW

Since 2011, the U.S. Forest Service has conducted a technical assistance program on disaster management with the Sultanate of Oman. This work has been supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (DOS-OES). Currently, the U.S. Forest Service collaborates with Oman's National Committee for Civil Defense (NCCD), the governmental coordinating organization managing all national disaster response activities in Oman. This collaboration supports NCCD efforts to update the Sultanate's disaster management planning and response systems and develop improved training programs on these new systems.

U.S. Forest Service program activities have introduced U.S. systems and best practices to stakeholders across Oman's disaster management and response sector. The NCCD is currently adapting and integrating the Incident Command System (ICS) into Oman's National Emergency Management System. Adopting ICS will help improve the delivery of emergency services and promote the efficient use of resources during disasters. It will also improve coordination between actors throughout the sector.

With U.S. Forest Service support, NCCD is developing a comprehensive training program introducing ICS to key stakeholders throughout the Omani government. Current program activities are focused on developing a core group of disaster management professionals fluent in ICS and its role within Oman's National Emergency Management System. At the conclusion of these activities, program participants will serve on Incident Management Teams (IMTs) and as lead trainers for the program.

In early 2016, a U.S. Forest Service team conducted a capstone training and simulation exercise, which will enable NCCD professionals to serve on Oman's first IMT, design and develop emergency simulation exercises, and participate in hands-on, applied teaching and mentorship opportunities. This activity will be the culmination of four years of USFS/DOS funded assistance to Oman.

Program partners include: National Committee for Civil Defense (NCCD), Royal Oman Police, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, and Public Authority for Civil Defense and Ambulance Service.



*Incident Command System Training Activity. Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service/Oman National Committee for Civil Defense.*

