



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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DAVID R. CAREY  
BOROUGH MAYOR

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Pete Sprague, Assembly President  
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**THRU:** David R. Carey, Mayor *Craig Chapman for*

**FROM:** Eric Mohrmann, Emergency Management Director *em*

**DATE:** August 5, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance 2010-34, amending the code reference to the emergency management department

Following enactment of ordinance 2010-20, which changed the name of the office of emergency management to the Emergency Management Department, it became apparent that the change would cause significant time and effort to implement, and would also create confusion. Following are some more detailed concerns:

- OEM is the most common designation for the emergency management function across the nation. "EMD" could lead to confusion when dealing with state and federal agencies.
- The emergency management infrastructure, including contracts, grants, vehicle logos, business cards, computer contact lists, web sites, phone book listings, etc. all refer to the OEM not the EMD. Considerable effort will be necessary to make the numerous changes required.
- The Borough Emergency Operations Plan among others will need to be modified to change the name of the department.
- MOU's with other agencies utilize OEM instead of EMD. Modifications would be needed.
- EMD is a common acronym for Emergency Medical Dispatch a term frequently used by Dispatch. Confusion could result by having the same acronym for two different functions.
- Emergency Management Department could be confusing to the public who may mistake the department for a fire/EMS service.

The administration respectfully requests that the department name be changed to the Office of Emergency Management.