

Washington State Emergency Operations Officer Monthly Report

December 2015

Past monthly reports are available via the web at <http://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/alert-warning-center-monthly-report>

CATEGORY	December 2015	December 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2014
Logged incidents:				
DOE (Department of Energy, Hanford Site)	1	1	3	5
FIRE	13	14	483	384
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS (HAZMAT)	247	217	2691	2692
OTHER	92	84	1053	1051
911 SERVICE OUTAGES	3	10	57	70
SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS (SAR)	72	33	802	789
TERRORIST	0	0	0	0
INITIAL WEATHER INCIDENTS	2	5	51	60
CGS (Columbia Generating Station)	0	0	0	0
TSUNAMI DEBRIS	0	0	0	24
Total number of Logged incidents	430	364	5140	5075

Categories not included in the total number of logged incidents above

<i>Evidence Search Mission</i>	5	3	60	48
<i>Additional Weather Alerts (all subsequent alerts that are considered to be part of the initiating weather event)</i>	260	5	723	102

LEGEND

WEATHER	Weather incidents such as Flooding, High Winds, and Snow
FIRE	Wildland Fire incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, including but not limited to Tsunami events, Earthquakes, and Critical Incident Stress Debriefings.

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 15-4411
- On December 1, the State Emergency Operations Center continued Phase II Operations in support of recovery efforts relating to the previous months flooding and weather related events. The A&WC remained at Phase II at the close of this reporting period.
- 15-4696
- On December 1, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued an Ice Storm Warning for the West and Central Columbia River Gorge.
 - On December 1, the NWS issued a High Wind Watch for the Washington Coast, Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties for December 3.
 - On December 1, The NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Cascades of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Lewis counties and later expanded to include Okanogan, Chelan, Ferry, and Douglas Counties. The Watches were in effect from December 2-3.
 - On December 2, the NWS upgraded the Winter Storm Watch to a Winter Storm Warning for Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant and Ferry counties.
 - On December 2, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for: Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom, Pacific, Wahkiakum & King counties.
 - On December 2, the NWS issued an Ice Storm Warning for Clark and Skamania Counties.
 - On December 2, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Straights of Juan De Fuca, Puget Sound and Hood Canal.
 - On December 3, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for Pacific, Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties and a High Wind Watch for Clark, Skamania and a portion of Cowlitz County.
 - On December 4, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the East Slopes of the North Cascades and Okanogan Highlands and a Winter Storm Watch for the West Slopes North and Central Cascades. The Winter Storm Watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning later in the evening.
 - On December 5, the NWS issued Storm Warnings for the coast, the Northern Inland Waters and San Juan's.
 - On December 5, the NWS issued a High Wind Watch for the Yakima Valley and the Simcoe Highlands.
 - On December 6, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for the Willapa Hills in Cowlitz County, the north and central coast, San Juan County, western Whatcom and Skagit Counties, and the Northwest Blue Mountains.
 - On December 6, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for Puget Sound and the Hood Canal.
 - On December 6, the NWS issued a Flood Watch for Skamania, Clark, Pacific, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.
 - On December 7, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for the south Washington coast.

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- On December 7, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Grays River near Rosburg in Wahkiakum County in effect until December 9.
- On December 7, the NWS issued a Flood Watch in effect December 8-9 for portions of Northwest and West Central Washington affecting Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Skagit, Whatcom, King, Lewis, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston counties.
- On December 7, the NWS issued a High Wind Watch from the morning through afternoon of December 8 for the Central and North Washington Coast affecting Clallam, Jefferson and Grays Harbor counties. The High Wind Watch was later upgraded to a High Wind Warning.
- On December 7, the NWS issued an additional Flood Warning for the Satsop River at Satsop in Grays Harbor County.
- On December 7, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for small streams and urban areas in Clark and Cowlitz Counties.
- On December 7, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for the South Washington Cascades and Willapa Hills, affecting Skamania, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum. The Warning was later downgraded to a High Wind Watch.
- On December 7, the NWS issued a Coastal Flood Watch for Pacific County.
- On December 7, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for Cowlitz, Pacific, and Wahkiakum counties in effect December 8-9.
- On December 8, the NWS issued a High Wind Watch for Spokane, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Grant, Douglas, Garfield, Asotin, Lincoln, Adams and Whitman counties in effect on December 9.
- On December 8, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for Cowlitz and Skamania counties in effect on December 9.
- On December 8, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for San Juan and Whatcom counties.
- On December 8, the NWS issued Flood Warnings for the Tolt near Carnation, the Elwha at McDonald Bridge, S. Fork of Nooksack at Saxon Bridge, N. Fork of Stillaguamish near Arlington, the Stillaguamish near Arlington, the Chehalis near Grand Mound, the Skykomish near Gold Bar, the Snoqualmie near The Falls, the Snoqualmie near Carnation and the Cowlitz near Randle, the Willapa River near Willapa, the Skagit River near Concrete, the Snohomish River near Monroe and Snohomish, the Cowlitz River at Kelso, Castle Rock and Packwood, the Nisqually River at National, the Newaukum River at Chehalis, the Puyallup River at Orting and Puyallup, the Skagit River near Mount Vernon, the Naches River at Naches and the Yakima River at Parker.
- On December 9, the NWS issued Flood Warnings for Urban Flooding in Clark and Cowlitz Counties, small streams in Pend Oreille County, Issaquah Creek near Issaquah, Yakima River at Kiona and Umtanum, and Nisqually River at McKenna.
- On December 9, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warnings for the Naselle River near Naselle, the South Fork of the Nooksack River at Saxon Bridge and the Elwha River at McDonald Bridge.

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- On December 9, the NWS issued a High Wind Watch for the Central and North Coast from late evening December 9 through the afternoon of December 10 and a Coastal Flood Warning for the Washington coast for December 10-11. The Flood Watch for portions of SW Washington was cancelled.
- **On December 9 at 0830 hours, the State EOC activated to Phase 3 to provide support to local jurisdictions affected by storms and flooding.**
- On December 10, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for the south Washington Coast in Pacific, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.
- On December 10, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Northern Inland Waters and San Juan Islands.
- On December 10, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for the Central Coast of Washington. The warning was later cancelled.
- On December 10, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Puget Sound and Hood Canal.
- On December 10, The NWS issued a flood warning for the Cowlitz River at Kelso.
- On December 10, the NWS cancelled the flood warning for the Naches River near Naches.
- On December 10, the NWS cancelled the flood warning for the Snohomish River near Monroe and the Snoqualmie River near Carnation.
- On December 10, the NWS extended the flood warning for NW Kittitas County.
- On December 10, the NWS issued a winter storm watch for the South Washington Cascades. This watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning on December 12.
- On December 11, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the east slopes of the Northern Cascades. This was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning on December 12th
- On December 11, the NWS cancelled the flood watch for the Yakima River near Parker.
- On December 11, NWS Seattle extended the following flood warnings: the Chehalis River at Porter; the Snohomish River at Snohomish; the Green River near Auburn; and the Chehalis River near Grand Mound.
- On December 11, the NWS issued a High Wind Watch for the South Washington Coast. This was upgraded to a High Wind Warning effective for December 12.
- On December 11, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the North and Central Cascade Mountains.
- On December 11, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for the San Juan Islands, Whatcom County, Admiralty Inlet, and the North and Central Coast.
- On December 11, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the NW Blue Mountains and East Slopes of the Washington Cascades in effect December 12-13.

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- On December 11, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the NE Blue Mountains in effect December 12-13.
 - **On December 11, the State EOC returned to Phase II operations. ESFs 1, 6, 14, and 15 remained activated and Command & General Staff were on standby December 12 to monitor incoming system.**
 - On December 11, the NWS cancelled the flood watch for the Cowlitz River at Kelso.
 - On December 11, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the east slopes of the southern Cascades and Simcoe Highlands in effect December 12-14.
 - On December 11, the NWS advised that the flood warning for the Green River near Auburn expired.
 - On December 12, a Marine Storm Warning and High Surf Advisory was issued for the South Washington Coast. The High Surf Advisory was upgraded to a Warning on December 12.
 - On December 12, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warning for the Yakima River at Kiona affecting Benton County.
 - On December 12, the NWS advised that the Flood Warning for the Chehalis River near Grand Mound expired.
 - On December 12, the NWS issued a Storm Warning for the northern and central coast and a Gale Warning for the Puget Sound and Hood Canal.
 - On December 13, the NWS issued a High Surf Warning for the north and central coast.
 - On December 13, the NWS downgraded the Winter Storm Warning to a Winter Weather Advisory for Klickitat, Yakima, Kittitas and Columbia counties.
 - On December 14, the Flood Warnings for the last 2 rivers ended which terminated this weather event.
- 15-4924
- On December 17, the NWS issued a flood watch for Mason County.
 - On December 18, the NWS cancelled the flood watch and issued a flood warning for the Skokomish River near Potlatch in Mason County.
- 15-4772
- On December 6, Mount Rainier National Park requested assistance from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) for cell phone forensics on a potentially suicidal individual in the park. The AFRCC later reported the subject's cell phone was found at his home and closed their part of the mission. The mission is still open at County level at the time of this report.
- 15-4792
- On December 7, Tacoma Power conducted a deliberate water release at the Cushman Dam on the North Fork of the Skokomish River in Mason County.
- 15-4793
- On December 7, a rockslide occurred between Mile Post 151 and Mile Post 183 along US HWY-12 in Yakima County.

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- 15-4796
- On December 7, Tacoma Power conducted a deliberate water release at the LeGrande Dam on the Nisqually River, between Pierce and Thurston Counties.
- 15-4824
- On December 9, Tacoma Power conducted a deliberate water release on the La Grande Dam on the Nisqually River, between Pierce and Thurston Counties.
- 15-4898
- On December 13, San Juan County requested airlift assistance in evacuating two patients from Lopez and Orcas Island to St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham. Helicopter support from US Navy Whidbey Island was coordinated. The patients were successfully transported to St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham for treatment.
- 15-4696
- On December 14, the Flood Warning for the Skokomish River near Potlatch ended. This was the last river to end flooding for this event.
- 15-4924
- On December 15, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Columbia River Gorge, South Cascades, Kittitas and Yakima Valley areas.
 - On December 15, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Lower Columbia Basin and the NW Blue Mountains affecting Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla and Columbia counties.
 - On December 15, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch in effect December 16-18 for the Central Columbia River Gorge in Skamania County and the Cascades of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce and Lewis Counties.
 - On December 15, the NWS issued a Flood Watch for Skamania, Pacific, Cowlitz and Clark County in effect December 16-17.
 - On December 16, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for areas of Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties and a Winter Storm Warning for the East Columbia River Gorge, Kittitas and Yakima Valley areas in effect December 17-18.
 - On December 16, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Skamania, Cowlitz and Ferry Counties and a Winter Storm Watch for Spokane, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties.
 - On December 17, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Central Columbia River Gorge.
 - On December 17, the NWS cancelled the Winter Storm Warning for the Eastern Columbia River Gorge.
 - On December 17, the NWS upgraded a Winter Weather Advisory to a Winter Storm Warning for Adams, Grant, Lincoln and Spokane counties.
 - On December 19, the NWS cancelled the flood warning for the Skokomish River near Potlatch in Mason County.

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- 15-4972
- On December 18, DOE-Hanford declared an abnormal event for 11 pieces of potentially contaminated vortex coolers, part of the breathing air suits used by workers, which were transported off the Hanford site. Three were recovered near the Hanford site, 8 were shipped to Ohio and Pennsylvania. Testing results show no signs of detectable contamination above background levels on the equipment. All equipment is being returned to Hanford and they are reviewing whether proper shipping procedures were followed. No release, no safety or health risks to workers, the public or environment from this event.
- 15-4973
- On December 19, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Northern Inland Waters in effect through December 20.
 - On December 19, the NWS issued a High Wind Watch for the south Washington coast through the morning of December 20. The watch was upgraded to a warning later that day.
 - On December 19, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the west slopes of the north and central Cascades through December 20.
 - On December 19, the NWS issued a Flood Watch for Mason County through December 20.
 - On December 20, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Cascades of Pierce and Lewis Counties.
 - On December 20, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for the south Washington coast and the Cascades.
 - On December 20, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for Kittitas, Columbia, Yakima, Klickitat, Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas and Ferry Counties.
 - On December 20, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for: Klickitat, Yakima, Walla Walla and Columbia Counties in effect on December 21.
 - On December 20, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for heavy snow in effect December 21-22 for Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman counties.
 - On December 20, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the East slopes of the Cascades and the Yakima Valley in effect through December 21.
 - On December 20, the NWS issued a High Wind Watch for the south Washington Coast and southwest interior in effect through December 21.
 - On December 20, the NWS upgraded the Flood Watch for the Skokomish River near Potlatch to a Flood Warning.
 - On December 20, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for the Willapa Hills and South Washington Coast in effect December 21.
 - On December 20, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the South Washington Cascades in effect December 21.
 - On December 20, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades of Pierce and Lewis counties in effect December 21-22.
 - On December 21, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for the Lower Columbia Basin and the Northwest Blue Mountains.

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- On December 21, the NWS cancelled the Winter Storm Warning for the Eastern Columbia River Gorge.
 - On December 21, NWS Seattle issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Cascades of Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Lewis Counties in effect December 22-23.
 - On December 21, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the South Washington Cascades and Willapa Hills in effect December 22-23.
 - On December 21, NWS Seattle issued a Coastal Flood Watch in effect December 22 for the Central Coast of Washington. The watch was upgraded to a Coastal Flood Warning on December 22 for the same timeframe.
 - On December 23 the NWS cancelled the High Surf Advisory for the South Washington coast.
 - On December 23, WSDOT closed I-90 at Snoqualmie Pass, between North Bend (King CO) to Ellensburg (Kittitas CO). I-90 eastbound was re-opened on the evening of December 24, while I-90 westbound remain closed until 0110 hours, December 25.
- 15-4980
- On December 19, the A&WC received a call from King County regarding a missing back country skier. The subject was to be in the area of the Pacific Crest Trail near the Commonwealth Basin off of Snoqualmie Pass. The weather conditions are windy with blowing snow and limited visibility (blizzard like). Coordination was made with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) for cell phone forensics and they accepted the mission. The skier's truck with the cell phone was subsequently located which then closed the AFRCC mission.
 - On December 20, King County requested Level II Avalanche Qualified mountain rescue personnel for a search & rescue attempt to begin at 0600 a.m. on December 21. Everett Mountain Rescue in Snohomish, Olympic Mountain Rescue in Snohomish and Pierce County responded. Operations were suspended after an extensive search pending further information.
- 15-5108
- On December 29, the National Tsunami Warning Center initiated a Tsunami Information Statement for a magnitude 4.9 earthquake, 12 miles North of Victoria B.C. There were reports of the earthquake being felt but no reports of damages.
- 15-5107
- On December 29, Whitman County Sheriff's Office initiated a search for a missing hunter near St. John. A helicopter with Forward Looking Infrared Radar was coordinated from Fairchild Air Force Base through the Air Force Coordination Center to assist. The individual was located deceased.
- 15-5137
- On December 31, King County requested 20 mountain rescue personnel to assist in the search for a "high profile" 65 year-old man believed to be in the Granite Mountain area near Snoqualmie Pass. The subject was located deceased.

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SEOO Activity for the current month:

304	Warnings issued to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies.
230	Warnings issued to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies.
2134	Notifications conducted to state and local agencies for imminent or occurring emergencies.
12	Resources coordinated for search, rescue, recovery and response operations.

- Participated in 7 exercises of which 1 were vessel spill drills.

Conducted the following tests:

<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test)</i>	<i>Frequency of tests</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>	<i>Total number of stations tested this month</i>	<i>Number of stations responding during tests initiated by the Alert and Warning Center</i>	<i>Contact Success rate for those tests initiated by the Alert and Warning Center</i>
NAWAS	Twice daily	63	2058	1902	92%
STAEN	At least twice per month	2	30	6	20%
CEMNET	At least 3 per week	14	371	186	50%

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<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test)</i>	<i>Frequency of tests</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>	<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test)</i>	<i>Frequency of tests</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>
Dedicated phone line test for DOE	At least 1 per week	4	AHAB Siren test	At least 1 per month	1
Dedicated phone line test for CGS	At least 1 per week	7	OPSCAN test	1 per day	31
AHAB Daily Function status	1 per day	30	King County 800 MHz Radio System tests	At least 1 per week	3

Test information/definitions:

- **NAWAS:** National Warning System Tests (NAWAS) over the State and Federal circuits. NAWAS connects over 1,800 State and Federal jurisdictions and agencies on the Federal circuit and all counties, some agencies and some tribes on the State circuit. there are 4 tests a day, testing 66 drops on 2 circuits. The number above reflects the 4 tests a day. Previously the number included the total number of stations contacted during those tests.
- **DOE tests:** Department of Energy Hanford Site has a dedicated phone and fax line into the EOC and they are tested at least weekly. Only the voice phone line numbers are reported here
- **CGS tests:** Columbia Generating Station has a dedicated phone and fax line into the EOC and they are tested at least weekly. Only the voice phone line numbers are reported here.
- **AHAB:** All Hazards Alert Broadcast System is tested daily through the daily function tests, which tests the functional capability of all coastal and Puget Sound siren systems. The voice and tone sirens are tested monthly. The AHAB Siren activates the coastal and Puget Sound voice and tone sirens during tsunami and other hazardous incidents.
- **OPSCAN:** Olympic Peninsula Public Safety Alliance Network (OPSCAN) connects public safety organizations throughout the Olympic Peninsula.
- **STAEN:** The State Agency Emergency Network (STAEN) connects state agency via an 800 MHz radio system.
- **CEMNET:** Comprehensive Emergency Management Network radio connecting all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console.
- **King County 800 MHz System** connects the Alert and Warning Center with King County key emergency management and response organizations.