

Emergency Management Advisory Group

Mission – Work together to insure all Washingtonians are served by an interoperable EM process and serve as an advisory body to the Washington State EMD Director and emergency Management Council (EMC) on local/statewide emergency management matters.

Short term strategic vision: Develop the essential components of a statewide emergency management framework by the end of 2016.

Long term strategic vision: Build a sustainable, operational, and adaptable statewide framework for emergency management by 2021.

Objectives:

1. Develop a set of statewide EM processes/protocols that stresses interoperability, efficiency, and shared resources.

DEFINITION: To insure interoperability and efficiency, we will promote common statewide information and resource management processes by developing requirements, choosing and socializing processes across the state. (Priority 1)

INITIATIVE 1: Accept the King County Resource Management process as the Washington State standard.

Planning Assumptions:

- Adoption takes place in April 2015 through unanimous acceptance of the Emergency Management Advisory Group (EMAG). DONE
- There will be an official announcement of the resource management process through the Washington State Emergency Management Division with backing from the EMAG.
- The testing and revision period will happen between May and August 2015.
- The training and exercise period will happen between September 2015 and January 2016.
- All EMAG members will be involved in the testing, revision, training, and exercise stages.
- All EMAG members will actively support and enhance the adoption of the statewide resource management process.
- All participants in the *Cascadia Rising 2016* exercise will use the Washington State resource management process.
- The resource management process will be reviewed by EMAG every-other-year to remain contemporary and flexible.

2. Establish an effective, efficient statewide framework for disaster preparedness and response.

DEFINITION: To insure the best possible outcomes with the available resources, we will define the framework of a statewide process by engaging the “whole community” including tribes, in the development of the framework.

INITIATIVE 1: Create a common matrix that anyone can glean information from to get a common product.

- i. Identify risks locally
 1. Planning, Mitigation, Response, Recovery
 2. Identify the involvement
 3. Identify the resources used in the past
 4. Common After Action Report
- ii. Community Engagement
 1. Who do we need to bring to table?
 2. What is the value to the folks involved?
 3. Identify best practices
- iii. Community education, training, and exercise
- iv. Value of learning from lessons learned
- v. Look at state of California as an example of website for best practices/exercises/LLIS and recreated standard AAR.

3. Establish a statewide risk-based approach to building all hazard capabilities.

DEFINITION: To achieve optimal alignment of resources during all-hazard events, we will create a data driven method to determine and prioritize capabilities by mapping current capabilities by ownership and location, and by identifying need at a local, tribal and regional level.

INITIATIVE 1: To create and maintain a list of local and Tribal resources and capabilities that can be utilized for disaster response operations in Washington State.

Critical elements in this process:

- Use plain English and common terms
- The database should be simple to understand – keeping the assessment to major categories and functions – not an inventory of all property and human resources.
- The capabilities assessment will be updated yearly

Planning Assumptions

Local and Tribal Emergency Managers who fill in the capabilities assessment sheet will:

- own and/or manage the resources they identify.
- have the authority to deploy/employ the resources they list.
- will update their portion of the list yearly.
- understand the incident will impact the ability to utilize or share any or all of the identified resources.
- have ultimate authority as to whether the resource can be shared.
- will return the resource in the same condition it was received.

4. Enhance the capability of existing statewide EM human capital

DEFINITION: In order to utilize human resources and augment them when local/tribal capabilities are exceeded, we will develop a common methodology by developing consistent standards, credentialing, and training.

INITIATIVE 1: Disaster Assistance Employees (DAE)

A Disaster Assistance Cadre should be developed, formalized and become the centralized, statewide data base of recruited, trained, and fully vetted volunteers *and* subject matter experts (SME) who are available for deployment and, when activated, carry the potential status of temporary state employees with reimbursable costs attached to the specific assignment in the event of a Robert T. Stafford Act Presidential Disaster Declaration.

The primary objective of a state wide DAE cadre is to supplement Emergency Management Organization volunteer needs on an individual basis (from generalists to specialists to subject matter experts) to any affected local or tribal jurisdiction.

INITIATIVE 2: Emergency Management Assistance Teams (EMATs)

EMATs are developed, deployable entities comprised of current emergency management professionals and select support functions/staff in the State of Washington.

The primary objective of an EMAT is to provide structured support to emergency management directors/coordinators and their respective Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) when requested **and/or** work in conjunction (interface) with Incident Management Teams (IMTs) when they are conducting tactical operations for the affected jurisdiction.

INITIATIVE 3: Volunteer Management Assistance Teams (VoIMATs)

Volunteer Management Assistance Teams should be developed and consist of groupings of experienced, respected volunteer leaders

(individuals) who are trained, vetted, and specifically tasked with the strategic management of **spontaneous volunteers** during an incident or disaster.

These teams are deployed, at times in concert with Emergency Management Assistance Teams, in order to effectuate the most consistent management of spontaneous volunteers when large scale incidents or disaster occur in Washington. It is envisioned that VoIMATs will deploy together as a team and be the single focal point for spontaneous volunteer registration(s) and integration of these volunteers into the response phase of incidents or disasters when practicable.

INITIATIVE 4: Strategic Advisory Teams (SATs)

Strategic Advisory Teams will exist to support emergency managers/coordinators in their decision making process, by developing a “forum” for critical or strategic thinking during the incident or disaster. For complex incidents or disasters that have the capability to overwhelm a jurisdiction or region for an extended period, and ideally where an EMAT/VoIMAT has been requested by that jurisdiction, the activated SAT will contain a **Strategic Advisory Team (SAT) Specialist** (formerly described as a Think Tank or Synthesis Group concept).

INITIATIVE 5: Incident Management Teams (IMT): Type 3, Type 4, and NGO

Type 3 Incident Management Teams are a standing team of trained personnel from different departments, organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions within Washington and/or DHS Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region, activated to support incident management at incidents that extend beyond one operational period.

5. Secure ongoing, sustainable funding for all levels of EM within WA State.

DEFINITION: To equip the state emergency management communities (state, local, tribal) to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. We will **advocate for sustainable funding for emergency management statewide by building a whole community coalition and performing a gap analysis.**

INITIATIVE 1: Conduct evidence based gap analysis on funding

Pattijean Hooper from City of Kirkland and a research fellow are working on a survey that will look at the funding gaps throughout the state. They are looking at Florida and other states as models for how they fund their Emergency Management program. A white paper will be sent to WSEMA Legislative Committee once the survey is done.

INITIATIVE 2: Conduct evidence based gap analysis on capability (program elements)

WSEMA Legislative Committee and Pattijean from City of Kirkland are working on a survey as a graduate student project. Will most likely be based on the EMAP standards. This survey will include a send out document or SurveyMonkey, a phone call, and a face to face visit. Pattijean will do a paper once the results and analysis are back.

Both of these initiatives were approved by the EMAG as one initiative. The goal is to get these two done before this year's WSEMA conference.