

Washington State Emergency Operations Officer Monthly Report

December 2017

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

CATEGORY	December 2017	December 2016	YTD 2017	YTD 2016
Logged incidents:				
DOE (Department of Energy, Hanford Site)	1	1	11	7
FIRE	22	13	353	340
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS (HAZMAT)	206	247	2582	2631
OTHER	62	92	948	820
911 SERVICE OUTAGES	2	3	27	31
SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS (SAR)	44	72	999	905
TERRORIST	0	0	0	0
INITIAL WEATHER INCIDENTS	4	2	62	70
CGS (Columbia Generating Station)	0	0	0	0
Total number of Logged incidents	341	430	4982	4804

Categories not included in the total number of logged incidents above

<i>Evidence Search Mission</i>	3	5		58
<i>Additional Weather Alerts (all subsequent alerts that are considered to be part of the initiating weather event)</i>	77	260		621

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

17-4703	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On December 5, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a High Wind Watch for the Western Columbia Gorge affecting Clark and Skamania Counties through 1800 hrs on December 7.• On December 5, the NWS issued a High Wind Warning for the Western Columbia River Gorge from midnight December 5 through 1800 hrs on December 7.• On December 7, the NWS cancelled the High Wind Warning for the Western Columbia River Gorge.
17-4820	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On December 17, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the evening of December 18 until late in the evening on the 19th for portions of Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Chelan Counties. Three to 6 inches of snow was expected in the Okanogan highlands with 25 up to 15 inches of snow possible in the mountains, and 6-12 inches of snow was expected on the east slopes of the Cascades with 25 inches of snow possible in the mountains. The watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning on December 18.• On December 17, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Cascade Mountains of Whatcom and Skagit counties from the afternoon of December 18 until late on December 19. One to two feet of snow was expected at the time. The watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning on December 18.• On December 17, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Olympic Mountains affecting Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor and Mason counties. One to two feet of snow was expected. The watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning on December 18.• On December 17, the NWS issued a Gale warning for the Puget Sound and Hood Canal until midnight on December 17. Winds at 25 to 35 knots were expected.• On December 18, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the south Cascades of Skamania and Cowlitz Counties. 12 to 18 inches of snow was expected at the time. The warning was in effect from midnight on December 18 until the evening of December 19.• On December 18, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the west slopes of the Cascades in Snohomish, King, Pierce and Lewis Counties• On December 18, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Foothills of the South Washington Cascades. In effect from 1600 hrs on December 19 until 0700 hrs on December 20. Four to eight inches of new snow was expected at the time.• On December 18, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Puget Sound and Hood Canal from 0400 hrs until 1600 hrs on the December 19.• On December 19, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning in effect for the Strait of Juan De Fuca affecting Clallam County until noon today. Three to twelve inches of snow fell.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 19, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Skokomish River in Mason County until the evening of December 19. Flood stage is 16.5 ft. Minor flooding was experienced at the time. • On December 19, the Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Lewis, Pierce and King was cancelled. • On December 19, The Flood Warning for the Skokomish River in Mason County expired. • On December 19, Winter Storm Warning for Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Chelan Counties expired. • On December 20, Winter Storm Warning for Skamania, Cowlitz and Clark expired.
17-4824	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 18, an AMTRAK passenger train derailed and fell onto Interstate 5 (I-5) while traveling over the Mounts Road overpass, south of Dupont in Pierce County. Multiple injuries and casualties were reported. The Washington State Emergency Operations Center assumed Level II Partial Activation effective at 0800 hrs. • On December 20, the final Sitrep was sent for the AMTRAK passenger train derail incident. Effective on December 20 at 1700 hours, the State EOC deactivated all ESFs and lowered its activation level to Level 3 – Monitoring.
17-4835	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 18, an Abnormal Event was declared by Hanford DOE-RL due to low level contamination found at the Plutonium Finishing Plant outside the demolition zone. Access control was established. The event was terminated at 1725 hrs on December 18.
17-4877	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 21, Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management, notified the A&WC of land movement on Rattlesnake Ridge. A crack developed on the ridge, and is believed the hillside will fully release sometime in mid-January 2018. As a precaution, Yakima County has closed Thorp Rd, between Birchfield Land and Gangle Road. There was also a concern some debris may impact I-82. Yakima OEM will continue to monitor the situation. This event will continue to be monitored as Incident Number 18-0001, starting January 1st.
17-4880	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 22, NWS Seattle issued a Gale Warning for the Northern Inland Waters including the San Juan Islands in effect from 1500 hrs On December 22 to 0600 hrs PST on December 23. • On December 23, NWS Seattle extended the Gale Warning for the Northern Inland Waters including the San Juan Islands from 0600hrs PST to 0900 hrs on December 23. • On December 23, The NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for: Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania Counties from 0800 on December 24 through midday December 25. • On December 23, The National Weather Service issued Winter Storm Warnings for: the Western Columbia River Gorge from 1000 hrs on December 24 thru 1000 hrs on December 25 for snow and freezing rain. Accumulations of 4-10 inches of snow and up to .2 inches of ice was

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	<p>expected at the time. The South Cascade Foothills from 1000 hrs on December 24 thru 0400 hrs on December 25 was forecast for heavy snow with accumulations of 4-12 inches. Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania Counties were affected at the time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 24, The National Weather Service issued Winter Storm Warnings for: Whitman, Garfield and Asotin Counties from 1900 hrs on December 24 thru 1600 hrs on December 25 for 4-6 inches of snow. Walla Walla and Columbia Counties from 1400 hrs on December 24 thru 1000 hrs on December 25 was forecast for 4-6 inches of snow. • On December 24, The National Weather Service issued a Snow Advisory for the metro areas of Snohomish, King and Pierce Counties from 1900 hrs on December 24 thru noon on December 25. Trace amounts of snow up to 3 inches was expected at the time. • On December 25, NWS Pendleton allowed the Winter Storm Warning in effect for the Northern Blue Mountains and Blue Mountains of Washington to expire without further incident. • On December 25, NWS Spokane cancelled the Winter Storm Warning for Asotin, Garfield, and Whitman Counties. Weather incident closed.
17-4915	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 25, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office commenced a search for a missing 70-year-old male in Port Townsend. Search dogs were coordinated to assist in the search from Island and Kitsap Counties. • On December 25, the missing Alzheimer's patient was located before assets could deploy. Mission closed without further incident.
17-4928	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 27, the NWS in Spokane issued a Winter Storm Watch for Chelan, Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties from late evening on December 27 through late evening on December 28. • On December 27, the NWS in Seattle issued a Winter Storm Warning for West Whatcom County from 1800 hrs, December 27, until 1200 hrs, December 28. • On December 27, NWS Spokane issued a Winter Storm Warning in effect from 0400 hrs, December 28, to 1000 hrs, December 30, for Chelan, Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens Counties. • On December 27, NWS Seattle issued a Winter Storm Watch for the West Slopes of the Cascades in effect from late Thursday night through Friday evening. • On December 28, NWS Seattle upgraded the Winter Storm Watch to a Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades of Pierce and Lewis Counties. The Warning was cancelled later that day. • On December 28, NWS Seattle issued a Flood Watch in effect from the afternoon of December 29 through the afternoon of December 30, for portions of NW and west central Washington including Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King, Lewis, Mason, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties. The Watch was cancelled for all counties except Thurston and Lewis early morning of December 30.

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- On December 28, NWS Seattle issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, and King Counties from 0600 hrs until 2200 hrs on December 29.
- On December 28, NWS Pendleton issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Kittitas and Yakima Valleys as well as the Lower Columbia Basin of Washington in effect until noon, December 29. The Warning expired without significant incident.
- On December 28, NWS Pendleton issued a Winter Storm Warning for the East Slopes of the Washington Cascades in effect until 1000 hrs, December 30. The Warning was cancelled on December 29.
- On December 28, NWS Portland National Weather Service Portland issued a Flood Watch in effect from 2200 hours that day through the evening of December 29 for Clark, Cowlitz, Pacific, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties. The Watch was cancelled for all counties except Cowlitz on December 29. The Flood Watch for Cowlitz County was extended until 0400, December 30, and was cancelled just before expiration.
- On December 29, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Puget Sound and Hood Canal in effect from 1600 that day to 0400 on December 30. The Warning expired without incident.
- On December 29, the NWS issued the following Flood Warnings:
 - Newaukum River near Chehalis affecting Lewis County until the afternoon of December 30. Moderate flooding was forecast.
 - Grays River near Rosburg affecting Wahkiakum County from 0800 hours that day until the morning of December 30. Minor flooding was forecast. The Warning was cancelled the morning of December 30.
 - Paradise Creek at Moscow affecting Whitman County until noon December 30. The Warning was cancelled early in the morning of December 30.
 - Snoqualmie River near the Falls affecting King County from that evening to the morning of December 30. The warning was cancelled the evening of December 29.
 - Snoqualmie River near Carnation affecting King County from that evening to the evening of December 30. The warning was cancelled the evening of December 29.
 - White River at R Street affecting King County until the afternoon of January 1.
 - Skokomish River near Potlatch affecting Mason County until the evening of December 30.
 - Flood Warning for the Skokomish River in Mason County ended at 2243 hours.
- On December 29, the NWS issued a Flood Watch for the Walla Walla River near Touchet affecting Walla Walla County from the afternoon to late evening of December 30. The Watch was upgraded to a Flood Warning later that day, in effect from the morning of December 30 to the morning of December 31.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 29, Walla Walla County DEM reported they activated their EOC to Level 3 enhanced due to ongoing weather. The EOC was returned to normal operations later that evening. • On December 29, NWS issued an Ice Storm Warning for Whatcom County in effect until midnight that date. • On December 29 at 1600 hours, the State EOC elevated to Level 2, Partial, in support of multiple weather events and local EOC activations. The State EOC resumed Level 3, Monitoring, as of 2200 hours that same day. • On December 30, The Flood Warning for the Newaukum River near Chehails in Lewis County ended. • On December 30, The Flood Watch for Lewis and Thurston Counties in west central Washington has been cancelled. • On December 31, the NWS cancelled the Flood Warning for the Walla Walla River near Touchet. • On December 31, NWS Seattle ended the Flood Warning for the White River at R Street affecting King and Pierce Counties, effectively closing this weather event.
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SEOO Activity for the current month:

136	Warnings issued to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies.
104	Warnings issued to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies.
1061	Notifications conducted to state and local agencies for imminent or occurring emergencies.
3	Resources coordinated for search, rescue, recovery and response operations.

- Participated in 11 exercises of which 10 were vessel spill drills.

Conducted the following tests:

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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>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	123	1952	1847	95%
STAEN	At least twice per month	2	26	7	27%
CEMNET	At least 3 per week	12	280	95	34%

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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	4	OPSCAN test	1 per day	31
AHAB Daily Function status	1 per day	31	King County 800 MHz Radio System tests	At least 1 per week	4

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 four tests a day, two state and two federal, testing 66 drops on two circuits. The number above reflects the four 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.