

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

Approved by the

Federal Communications Commission, March 3, 1997

Minutes of the State Emergency Communication Committee Meeting

January 8, 2015

Present: Terry Spring-KWPX; Lowell Kiesow-KPLU; Roy Benevente-WEMD; Clay Freinwald-WSU; Jim Dalke-Dalke Broadcast Services; Marty Hatfield-Iheart Media; Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle

Phone: Dale Kloes-Skagit County; Phil Johnson-CPS Chair; Ross McDowell-Mason County; Dennis Hull-NWS Pendleton; Arthur Willets-KWDK; Marlin Jackson-KXLY; Mark Allen-WSAB; Penny Linterman-Clallam County; Sonya Kroese-Thurston County; Don White-Tribune; Tom Sharp-Pierce County; Casey Mcilenburg-Sprint

Clay Freinwald called the meeting to order. Introductions were made and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Tab updates are on-going. Look for updates on the remailer. They will also be posted on the EAS plan web site (<http://mil.wa.gov/other-links/emergency-alert-system-eas-state-plan>) soon thereafter. There will be a number of future updates related to the change of local areas for Grant County.

The LP station has changed in Portland. It is moving from KGON to KOPB. KOPB is also the new PEP for Oregon.

TAB 10 is being split to correspond with each local area, instead of covering the whole state. Each of the new tabs will only be added to the EAS web site after consultation with each LACC. Clay used to do it, but it has become too complicated for him to do the whole state by himself. Clay will still give any assistance needed.

Don White is now taking care of TAB 2, the local area contact list. He will be keeping the contacts up to date. He will also be adding the local contacts for the TAB 10 monitoring assignments.

We still need non-technical types involved with EAS. Broadcast programming and management people were specifically mentioned.

The long overdue cable TAB 19 is being addressed. Jim Dalke is working with the local Society of Cable TV Engineers (SCTE) chapter. The SCTE national organization has an active EAS committee. See <http://www.scte.org/default.aspx>.

Lowell sent out the latest version of TAB 8, EAS Codes on the remailer. He is looking for feedback. He is working on priorities. Different boxes handle priorities differently. SAGE units will delete an event if it receives an event with a higher priority before the first one is sent. Priorities are set by the user as part of the programming of the unit. It is recommended that you don't sit on alerts during major events because they can be blown out by later events.

As a reminder, be mindful of misuse of the remailer. Because there are governmental agencies on the remailer it is a matter of public record.

In new business, Clay announced he will be stepping down as Chair by the end of the year. The transition should take place over time. He has been trying to spread the load by transferring some tasks to the local LACC's. Some aspects of the job are undefined. Clay will be working on a job description.

The technical committee reported that the security holes in the SAGE are being worked on.

In news from emergency management, the Cascadia Rising Exercise will be happening in June 2016. See <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/emergency-blogs/disaster-zone/cszexercise2016cascadiarising.html> and <https://www.fema.gov/information-employees/news-and-announcements-june-23-2104>. It is now in the planning stage. It will be a good opportunity to publicize EAS. A "one sheet" will be prepared for the planners.

At the WSAB, the SECC meeting minutes are current on their web site. Also there is the RMT schedule and a link to the state plan. Mark Allen is retiring at the end of the year. He will be looking for his replacement starting in February. The pending Silver Alert bill was discussed. It is already covered by the Missing Persons Act. Mark is working to have the bill sidelined. The AMBER review committee has been disbanded. The AMBER Committee is doing outreach to the local agencies to make them aware of the AMBER requirements.

Most EAS alerts are weather related. That is why NOAA Weather Radio from the National Weather Service is one of the two mandatory monitoring assignments so the weather alerts come from the source. Broadcast stations, even LP's, are not required to relay weather alerts. The National Weather Service activated an EAS alert for major flood category flooding on the Tolt River (King County) on the Seattle NOAA Weather Radio station. The duration was for 15 minutes which is correct according to the state plan. KRKO/KXAA Radio in Everett got the EAS message relayed by another station being monitored resulting in the EAS message arriving after it had expired. The weather service only sends alerts to the particular transmitter that covers the targeted area the alert is located. The question is: Is 15 minutes too short? In the past at the beginning of EAS in the late 1990s, the duration was 6 hours which caused its own set of problems. Should the alert duration be changed to 30 minutes? Please discuss this on the remailer per the question raised shortly after this SECC meeting. The weather service has identified some security issues with their SAGE boxes. There have been discussions between the SECC Technical Committee and SAGE regarding fixes for this problem. It is not an easy fix because it involves modifications to the SAGE OS. Issues with the testing schedule go to Roland Robinson. He can be reached on the remailer.

In the Inland Empire local area, the next meeting is on January 22. They are working on updating their plan. They are moving their EAS originator back-up from Kootenai County to the Idaho State Patrol.

In the Central Puget Sound area, Phil Johnson is planning a meeting for the middle of the year. There were no problems with the RMT originated by King County.

DNR is going through a budget crunch and wants to eliminate the free use of their sites for amateur radio repeaters, of which there are quite a few. Various people are working on a solution to the problem.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 12, at Washington State Emergency Management at Camp Murray at 9:30 AM.

Terry Spring
Chief Engineer
KW PX TV