

# SECC Meeting

October 6, 2016

## Present:

Terry Spring-KWPX

John Price-Mason/Thurston LECC Chairman

Roy Benavente-WA MIL Dept

Scott Miller-Yakima County LECC Chair

Jim Dalke-Dalke Broadcast Services

Jeanie Gilbert-North Puget Sound LECC

Phil Johnson-CPS LECC Chair

Chris Utzinger-WA Emergency Management Division

Mark Tobert-iFiberOne Newsradio & Thurston-Mason LECC

Sandi Duffey-Grant County DEM

Ed Wood-JBLM EM

Lowell Kiesow-KNKX

## Phone:

Carri Gordon-WSP

John Kasprick-SBE

Dale Kloes-Skagit County

Dave Holloran-San Juan County

Mark Murphy-Snohomish County

Arthur Willetts-KWDK

Michael Graves-KIRO TV

Arlene Hand-TAB 2

Tyree Wilde-NWS Portland

Penny Linterman-Clallam County

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

There is a new cover for the state EAS Handbook. It is now the Washington State EAS Plan. This will help prevent confusion with the FCC handbook, better align with Part 11, and more accurately describe what it has become.

Some changes from the EAS NPRM are already happening. A new EAS Handbook is out. The government made some changes to the document submitted by CSRIC and there are some errors. Watch for a revision at some point in the future.

October 20 at 10:20 AM is the Great Shakeout. The October RMT is part of it. See <http://www.shakeout.org/washington>.

Tab 10-G has been updated and distributed on the remailer. This is the Inland area monitoring assignments. Still needing to be done are the Okanagan and Columbia Basin areas.

The ESF-2 meeting was held September 29. The idea was to get all the stakeholders together to form contacts and to get to know each other. It included FEMA, cell phone providers, broadcasters, state agencies, etc.

The government has created Firstnet, an emergency data to cover the US. It would be used during a national emergency activation. It would use existing communications sites if possible and build new sites if necessary. See <http://www.firstnet.gov>.

Thanks to Barry Mishkind for putting out news items on the remailer.

EAS has pretty much fizzled in Montana as people have moved on to other areas.

The SECC has received a thank you letter from FEMA for the participation in the regional test in June.

Bryan Daly from AT&T gave an update on WEA. The FCC NPRM proposed an increase in the number of characters allowed in an alert. The limit would go from 90 to 360 characters. It would increase the amount of information that could be disseminated. It was originally just for national and AMBER alerts. Warnings for imminent threats would be added. Picture capability for suspects and missing children would also be possible. Originally, the phone companies had concerns about congestion. So there would be a one year trial for these changes. They are also looking at WEA alerts in Spanish and including URL's. The changes in WEA have been summarized on the remailer. These changes would encourage more use of Wireless Emergency Alerts.

Ed Wood from JBLM Emergency Management talked about military access to EAS. This is a mandate from the Defense Department to connect to IPAWS. This would be for imminent danger events only. They are interested in WEA. They want to avoid EAS to prevent local alerts from bleeding over into surrounding areas or regions. WEA is more targeted, although not all companies target alerts the same way. Is direct or local activation better? Who would activate, civilians or military? And exactly what alerts? The base EM wants to be effective and do it right. They would want to operate under a Memorandum of Understanding. This is in the early stages. They are trying to figure out how to make it work. They are committed to having the proper training to make it work. The state emergency management can be a backup, just like any other jurisdiction.

Tab 2 has been revised and reformatted by Arlene Hand. There will be regular revisions. There are still some gaps. Arlene will be requesting information on the remailer.

For TAB 10, more revisions are coming. This has to be done by the local areas. If you are having trouble with this, ask for help on the remailer.

In cable TV, TAB 19 has been split up by the different companies. It is still a work in progress.

The 2017 RMT schedule was approved. The latest version is 160922. There was lots of local input.

The Spokane LECC meeting is October 20 during the afternoon. Details will be on the remailer. The interim chair is Simone Ramel-McKay.

Monitoring assignment waivers were discussed. In Washington, instead of giving waivers, we adjust the monitoring assignments to reflect reality.

Blue Alerts are issued when there is a search for suspects that have killed or seriously assaulted a police officer. The Plan calls for notification of the media, other law enforcement agencies and activation of the DOT message signs if there is a vehicle associated with the search. There is NO use of EAS or WEA with a Blue Alert. AMBER alerts are the only alerts to use EAS.

The first national NPT, for the most part, worked. Audio quality was good. Not everyone got it from IPAWS. EAS boxes forward from whatever source they happen to receive the alert from first. It has been proposed that the boxes be designed so that, if they receive a legacy alert, they then poll IPAWS to see if the alert is there. IPAWS has better audio quality. There is no standard for polling. Thirty seconds is

recommended. FEMA wants the President to be able to speak live. Define live. There is always some delay in the digital world. The State Relay Network did not relay the NPT by design. You can expect the feds to test more regularly.

NWS Seattle will not be able to relay alerts until the room is rewired. They have given up trying to trace the legacy wiring.

HazCollect is slowly moving toward implementation.

The National Weather Service will originate the RMT on October 20.

TAB 26 (AMBER Alerts) needs revision.

In the Mason-Thurston local area, they are working on updating their EAS plan. Their old plan was so outdated that they decided to start over. They want a comprehensive emergency communications plan. They are looking for guidance. Broadcast and cable is required by regulation. But, we can (and do) go way beyond that. Policy and practices has to match the available tools.

The next meeting will be on November 17 at 0930 at Camp Murray.