

SECC Meeting

May 14, 2019

Attendees:

In Person....

Clay Freinwald – Chair

Ted Buehner – Vice-Chair

Bill Peters – T-Mobile

Terry Spring – KWPX TV

Maurice Goodall – Okanagan Co Emergency Management

Sandi Duffey – Grant Co Emergency Management

Jason Clapp – Yakima Co Emergency Management

Kent Sisson – Chelan County EM

Charlie Osgood – Alpha Media Wenatchee

On Phone.....

Chris Utzinger – Wash St Emergency Management

Anthony Clark – Wash St Emergency Management

Jon Kasprick – SBE 16

John Price – Mason/Thurston LECC

Keith Shipman – WSAB

Vicki Thoroughman – Snohomish County EM

Phil Johnson – Central Puget Sound LECC

Gabriel Parmey – Localtel

Robert Thurston – Snohomish County EM

John Mackey – Bicoastal Media

Introductions were made and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved. There were no additions made to the agenda.

There will be no TAB revisions distributed until the state plan revision is completed.

The Washington Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (WECCWG) workshop was held May 9 in Ferndale. See <https://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/washington-emergency-communications-coordination-working-group>. Good connections were made for future EAS training. This is a working group that is moving from presentations to more interactive exercises with the attendees.

Multi-lingual warnings were discussed. In conjunction with the upcoming hurricane season, the

40 FCC is promoting a public workshop on June 28 to present alternatives to EAS to inform the
41 public in languages other than English. Although under pressure from some groups for
42 broadcasters to carry alerts in other languages, the FCC has been reluctant to order them to do
43 so. Some areas have used WEA. Multi-lingual alerts would be difficult to implement due to
44 limits on time and data. In a legal challenge it was ruled by the US Court Of Appeals that the
45 FCC was under no obligation to change the rules for EAS to require alerts in languages other
46 than English.

47
48 Kent Sisson from Chelan County gave a report on alerting during wildfires. He was invited to a
49 regional conference to discuss the use of EAS and WEA. Chelan County uses several methods to
50 warn for redundancy. They are figuring out how to do multi-lingual warnings by linking to social
51 media. They are cooperating with Spanish language radio stations. They are adding safe zones
52 to evacuation orders so that people can assemble in a safe area. WEA targeting is only as good
53 as the infrastructure. The polygons can be quite large in some areas due to the scarcity of cell
54 towers. The infrastructure needs to be protected during an incident. Any safe areas need to be
55 known to rescuers and stocked with food and other supplies. Training is needed to fully take
56 advantage of these warning methods. He feels that Washington is farther along than some
57 other states in the use of EAS and WEA.

58
59 The State Plan revision is still moving along. Recent FCC changes require changes in the state
60 plan. Alert reporting systems are now online. The FCC asked for recommendation and
61 comments which have been submitted. One concern was who will have access to the system.

62
63 FEMA came up with IPAWS and the FCC required all participants to monitor it. Then local access
64 was granted to IPAWS through COGS administered by the state EM. IPAWS also goes to WEA.
65 The two federal agencies need to work together. The ARS is essentially each state's EAS plan.
66 As the state plan is revised, some parts will just be a link to the proper section in ARS.

67
68 The term state plan is owned by the FCC. So we will need to change the name of our plan.
69 Some suggestions are Washington Public Alert and Warning Systems (WA-PAWS). This naming
70 convention could also be used locally i.e. Grant-PAWS. Another suggestion is Washington State
71 Emergency Warnings Communications. Other suggestions are welcome on the remailer.

72
73 The plan revision committee normally meets Mondays at 6:30 PM on the same phone bridge as
74 the SECC meeting. All are welcome.

75
76 In new business, the state EM had trouble sending an AMBER alert due to a character glitch.
77 The alert was sourced from a Word document which included non-ASCII characters, which are
78 not compatible with the system. This is not a problem if the alert is built from scratch. The alert
79 was sent after a delay.

80
81 There was some confusion about the last RMT in Yakima and the Columbia Basin, but it turned
82 out there was no issue. It was resolved on the remailer. Walla Walla did not send an RMT. The
83 explanation was on the remailer for those that need it.

84

85 The SECC needs data about where we have functional (or non-functional) LECC's. How many
86 have a functional analog RF backup. There is a lot of conflicting information. There will be a
87 survey sent to emergency managers statewide.

88

89 SECC Vice- Chair Ted Buehner attended the May 9th Washington Emergency Communications
90 Coordination Working Group (WECCWG) meeting along with a few other SECC members in
91 Ferndale. Presentations included FEMA Region X's Laura Goudreau highlighting more use of
92 backup communications in exercises leading up to the June 2022 Cascadia Rising II exercise. She
93 also had a copy of the new emergency exercise game on hand for people to examine and learn
94 more about its use for any jurisdiction that wants to have the game involved in their disaster
95 preparedness. Yes, you can request it from her.

96

97 A Department of Ecology representative addressed hazmat incident communications while
98 another presentation focused on civil support team (military) communication capabilities,
99 particularly during times of disaster operations. Event sponsors also presented the latest on
100 their mobile communication capabilities in support of disaster operations and recovery, such as
101 hurricane stricken areas like Puerto Rico, Florida, and Texas. The next WECCWG meeting is likely
102 to be held this fall and will involve more audience participation.

103

104 The state urges the counties that have not applied to be a FEMA COG to do so. They will help
105 guide you through the process. Thirteen counties have not started. The rest are done or in-
106 process.

107

108 The First Informer legislation has become law in Washington. The information has been on the
109 remailer. It took three years. It helps assure access to studio and transmitter sites in an
110 emergency. Also, supplies (such as fuel) can't be confiscated. Emergency Managers need to be
111 educated that this exists. It is in effect, sign up now.

112

113 T-Mobile is ready to go with WEA 2.0 when it rolls out June 10. Message size increases to 360
114 characters and it now supports hyperlinks. Alerts in Spanish are supported, the preference can
115 be set on the phone. Not all phones will support it. WEA 3.0 is coming soon. This will include
116 geo-fencing. The phone will determine location. You will be alerted if you travel into the
117 warning zone. This will require a chipset change rather than a software update. It will roll out
118 slowly as phones are replaced. The location feature on the phone must be turned on.
119 Otherwise, you will receive all alerts whether they pertain to your exact location or not.
120 Fortunately, all these different versions of WEA are backward compatible.

121

122 Grant County has produced emergency information cards to use as handouts at different local
123 events. They are in English on one side and Spanish on the other.

124

125

STAY INFORMED!
 KDRM/KBSN is your Grant County
premier
 EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM
 RADIO STATION

Keep your radio tuned to:
1470AM or **99.3FM**
 for quick access to
Emergency Information



KDRM
 99.3 FM
 Premier Broadcasting • Radio • News

KBSN AM 1470
 NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

Grant County SHERIFF
 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

126

MANTENTE INFORMADO!
 Es su Condado de Grant
 ESTACION DE RADIO DEL
 SISTEMA DE ALERTA DE
 EMERGENCIA

Mantenga su radio
 sintonizada para un acceso
 rapido a la information de
emergencias.



92.3 FM 92.9 FM

LA GRAN 95.9 FM

Grant County SHERIFF
 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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128

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130 The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 9 at 9:30 AM at Clover Park. Directions and agenda
 131 will be on the remailer.

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