SECC Meeting

January 8, 2019

Attendees:
In Person....
Clay Freinwald – Chair
Ted Buehner – Vice-Chair
Chris Utzinger – Wash St Emerg Mgmt
Anthony Clark – Wash St Emerg Mgmt
Bill Peters – T-Mobile
Corey Solines – T-Mobile
Alex Brewster – Entercom Communications
Joshua Atkins – Pierce Co Emerg Mgmt
Jon Kasprick – SBE 16
Monte Simpson - RACES

On Phone.....
Elysa Jones – Kitsap Co Emerg Mgmt
Phil Johnson – Central Puget Sound LECC
Dave Halloran – San Juan Co Emerg Mgmt
Sandi Duffey – Grant Co Emerg Mgmt
Jason Clapp – Yakima Co Emerg Mgmt
Maurice Goodall – Okanagan Co Emerg Mgmt
Charlie Osgood – Alpha Media
Jamye Wisecup – Clallam Co Emerg Mgmt
Anne Chastain – Clallam Co Emerg Mgmt

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted and approved.
The call for any new agenda items resulted in none.
Announcements
Clay used Outlook to send the meeting agenda and previous meeting minutes via the EAS-WA remailer. A few on the remailer reported they got the email, but the attachment(s) were missing. In addition, calendar reminder file was missing in some cases. Phil reported the remailer was recently hacked and may have played a role in these issues. Phil has since solved the hack problems. Clay will use Outlook again for the March meeting announcement distribution via the remailer.

Tab Updates – Distribution of revised tabs are on hold while the State Plan Revision Committee does their work through the first half of this year. The new state plan will have a revised tab list. However, work on tab revisions can and should go on, just no distribution at this point. The revised or even new tabs can be in a queue, ready to be posted once the State Plan has been revised.

Clay wanted to remind everyone that if you have an EAS question, please use the remailer so others can respond. Clay is not the special point of contact for EAS information alone.

Old Business
State EAS Plan Revision Progress Report – the sub-committee continues to review the current plan. The latest efforts have involved a revised tab list that places current tabs in a more logical, easier to find format and meet the new on-line FCC state plan web site – ARS – Alert Reporting System. The SECC has offered ARS-related questions to the FCC and the FCC in turn has asked the SECC to provide input to those questions – recently accomplished. The state plan revision is targeted to complete its work by the middle of this year, though it may be delayed since the ARS is currently off-line thanks to the government shutdown.

Uniform Screen Crawl Colors – At the previous SECC meeting, Jim House
Disability Integration Manager for the Coalition on Inclusive
Emergency Preparedness at the Washington State Independent Living Council highlighted that some TV stations and cable TV services were providing emergency message crawls with colors that were hard to read. Jim provided an article to the WSAB that was posted in the December 2018 newsletter that addressed easier to read use of TV crawls color schemes – dark background and light colored wording.

Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference – The conference is coming up in mid-April at the Lynnwood Convention Center. Plans are to take the Fred and Wilma story and turn it into a play that will help set the stage for a Tue afternoon 4-hour workshop on public information outreach efforts during a disaster.

New Business
IPAWS – Chris reported that his team is addressing some Alert Sense synch discrepancies between the initial MyStateUSA version that is EAS message only thru IPAWS and also can send notifications to local jurisdictions, and their newer IPAWS version that does both EAS and WEA but does not have a local jurisdiction notification process. The Alert Sense contract with the state is up for renewal in April and the state hopes to resolve these discrepancies and the contract details by then. The recent 911 outage highlighted these alert origination software discrepancies, particularly for larger EAS operational areas.

He reported that 18 counties have completed their COG application and 6 or 7 other counties are in progress. About 5 counties currently have open issues. He noted that credit should be given to the IPAWS office for being more responsive of late. The application process includes 1) having a MOU between the county and IPAWS, and 2) determining how the county wants to use IPAWS including use of EAS and WEA. Since the state has been paying for Alert Sense for all 39 counties, IPAWS applications go thru the Military Dept.
911 Outage – During the day on Dec 27th, first long distance and toll free numbers began having failures. Later in the day, 911 began to fail – not just in Washington, but across the country. EMD had conference calls with PSAPs statewide and Century Link. Near 11 PM, EMD sent a statewide EAS TOE message and about a half hour later, activated WEA statewide. Selected counties sent their own 911 outage related messages, some using the TOE event codes while others used CEM or LAE.

Moving forward, EMD is gathering stakeholder feedback for an AAR to be completed by the end of March. They are looking for recommendations from local jurisdictions. This was the first time WEA had been used statewide. Of interest, there were differences in how carriers transmitted the WEA message and smart phone device model behavior. Discussion about creating a 911 outage template was addressed since various jurisdictions offered message wording differences.

RMT schedule – Some broadcasters and local jurisdictions are still not clear on how to find the schedule. It was distributed on the remailer during the fall and is posted as Tab 11 in the state EAS Plan hosted on EMD’s web site. EMD also created a direct link to the schedule to help users.

There are still some jurisdictions that fail to reliably transmit RMTs on time. Any such failures need to post the reason why the RMT was missed on the remailer as highlighted in the current State EAS Plan. Roland sends reminders near the first of each month to help remind local jurisdictions about the upcoming RMT.

Communication is the key in effectively transmitting the RMTs in a timely manner. Some LECC chairs contact the respective jurisdiction
directly to ensure they are ready. What else can be done? Should SECC
and LECC members attend HLS meetings to help the counties?

Tab 2 update – Simone is working on it. Chris U. to send Simone the
latest Tel-1 list to assist her.

Training – A training outline has been established and reviewed. Next
up is to find subject matter experts and begin organizing and creating
the training materials for those who send emergency messaging, those
who relay them and those who receive them – the public.

Monitoring Assignments – Nothing new to report.

LECC reports –
– Central Puget Sound – Phil reported preliminary work going on
behind the scenes regarding post-disaster communications with
broadcasters, PSAPs and emergency managers....
– Yakima – Jason reported they held their first LECC meeting in
several years in mid-November. The next meeting is scheduled for next
week. It is a learning curve.
– Clallam – Still working to resolve why they are unable to send
RMTs or other test event codes. They have a LECC meeting being
planned soon.
– North Sound – Dave (San Juan County DEM) asked about 911
outage notifications. He did not get any EAS message, but on WEA,
some people in San Juan County did get the 911 outage notification
– Okanogan – Maurice reported increasing work with local radio
stations. They use Everbridge to activate EAS. The state EAS TOE was
quite garbled - need to find out why.

Stakeholder Reports
WSEM – Chris reports EMD is undergoing a reorganization moving from
3 units to 2 - 911 and operations units.
WEA – Bill reported - 1) Regarding the Presidential Alert in Oct – they do a RMT internally, a hidden internal alert triggered by IPAWS to test the system. This was the first time some parts of the country received a WEA and resulted in a surge of customers calls. It was an opportunity to see the performance of the system - some lessons identified and now working to correct them. 2) During the 911 outage, some customers did not get the WEA message – overall, the system worked well. Cell towers performance is easily measured, but, at the user level, perhaps incorrect smart phone settings, older models, different chips in smart phones could keep the message from being delivered? They rely on customer complaints.

Amateur Radio – nothing significant to report.

Remember to use the remailer. See http://sea.sbe16.org/mailman/listinfo/eas-wa to subscribe.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12 at 9:30 AM at Clover Park. Directions will be on the remailer.