

Overview – Washington State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC)

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires each state adopt an Emergency Alert System (EAS) plan and tasks the State Emergency Communication Committee (SECC) with maintaining and administering EAS in their respective states. The FCC requires all broadcast stations and Cable Systems to participate in EAS for national alerts while many others participate on a voluntary basis.

The Washington SECC has developed and manages the Washington State Public Alert and Warning System (WA-PAWS) Plan, that includes the state EAS plan posted on the FCC's Alert Reporting System (ARS) web site. The WA-PAWS plan also includes other means and resources for other public alert and warning systems within the state, and provides room for future systems.

The WA-PAWS plan is a collaboration between the FCC, the National Weather Service, the Washington State Association of Broadcasters (WSAB), Wireless Carriers, and other public warning stakeholders.

SECC Meetings and Minutes

The Washington SECC meets every other month. It creates monitoring assignments for each broadcast station and subject cable systems within the state and is involved in overseeing the distribution of local and national alerts.

Recent SECC meeting minutes are posted at <https://mil.wa.gov/state-emergency-communications-committee-secc>. If previous year meeting minutes are desired, contact the SECC Secretary.