

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 AM by Chair Ted Buehner with the roll call. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. There were no additions to the agenda.

Announcements

The FCC has announced that there will not be a national EAS test this year. They might be doing some localized testing. They have asked for WEA testing volunteers.

The National Weather Service is implementing Non-Weather Emergency Messages. They have been testing with Grays Harbor County. This testing is not live over the air, but, rather closed circuit to see if the weather service can actually receive the messages. They have been testing with Spokane, also. Any other originators who are interested are welcome to participate. Contact Reid at the weather service.

Ted is giving a presentation on EAS at the monthly SBE (Society of Broadcast Engineers) on May 11.

Old Business

Work continues to complete the new WA-PAWS plan. On the WA-PAWS webpage (click [here](#)), a few more tabs are in draft and/or in review.

- A2 Letter Of Promulgation-Waiting for review by EMD
- A4 Guide To State Plan-Waiting for input from EMD
- B4 SECC Governance- To be uploaded to ARS, due In early July
- C6 Wireless Emergency Alerts-Charlie and Simone are reviewing it
- D2 LECC Chairs/County EMD Officials-Has been sent to state webmaster, there are different versions for different uses in order to protect confidential information
- D4 Multilingual Info By County – Awaiting review by EMD

- F4 Technical FAQ's – Who is this for? There seem to be more questions from the Emergency Management side. This is possibly due to their constant turnover. Maybe a new TAB is needed. Soliciting questions from different emergency managers with different experience levels would be valuable. Duty Officers (who actually send alerts) need to be included in this. This document should be revised periodically to reflect questions that come up on the remailer.

The old State EAS Plan webpage has been deactivated.

Alerting for West and East Jefferson County FIPS Codes is still under discussion. It is complicated. It should be carefully thought out. Different EAS boxes handle fractional counties very differently in their filters. We don't want emergency messages to be blocked by incorrectly programmed equipment.

Comments have been submitted for FCC NPRM 15-94, clarity in EAS messaging. We are now waiting on the FCC.

Active Shooter Alert Act-WSAB and NAB are working to educate legislators at the national level.

The deadline for loading our information into the FCC ARS (Automatic Reporting System) is early July. Selected SECC members will input the data.

New Business

The Clallam County LECC is being reactivated. Their plan is a work in progress. The Mason/Thurston plan needs some housekeeping. Just needs some tinkering to bring it up to date. The LECC Guidelines needs some minor updating. It is being used by LECC's that are updating their local plans.

The FCC has made changes to Part 11.

There needs to be a copy of the FCC EAS Handbook at a station's control point. There is no requirement to have a copy of the state plan in the FCC rules. It is a good idea to have access to the state plan though.

Committee Reports

Ted still has not had a response from FEMA for his national training program. He has shared our training plan with them and has tried contacting them several more times with no response. There should be some standardization across the country. Training should cover the whole system one end to the other. WEA alerts are becoming more prevalent, and actually reach some groups better than broadcast alerts. We need to work together to reach as many different people as possible that are in harm's way. Some vendors are better than others for training. Code Red is good. People out in the field need to be trained in alerting, also. Some training needs to be tailored for local situations. Simulation is not enough. Actual testing will insure that an originator actually knows how to do the action. If they have never used the system they may be reluctant to use it in an actual emergency. There are testing event codes that will not be distributed to the world but are activated the same as a real event.

Some of the smaller counties do not have full-time emergency managers. Because they are probably also doing other jobs it is difficult to have the time to be trained on things like emergency messaging. High turnover in these positions doesn't help, either. Help is available though from the state or larger nearby jurisdictions. Active LECC's can be a big help.

Hans brought up "hip pocket" training. This involves finding a time when things are slow and presenting his duty offices with a scenario and having them show him how they would react. This type of training needs minimal planning and helps people keep their skills from getting rusty.

When a RMT is missed or otherwise doesn't go as planned the originator needs to find out what went wrong and verify the problem has been fixed. This needs to be shared on the remailer because stations are required to log these tests and provide an explanation if they are missed. This could also help someone else not make the same mistake. More importantly, if we cannot do a test, we cannot do a real alert.

Please keep your email addresses current on the remailer so Phil doesn't have to. When posting a message make sure you are using the same email account that you used to subscribe so it doesn't bounce back to Phil.

Local Area Reports

In North Puget, there have been several successful tests from emergency management agencies. Skagit County did not identify themselves as the originator in one. That has been resolved.

The Coastal LECC will be meeting on May 18.

In the Columbia Basin, Walla Walla ran a perfect RMT. The three jurisdictions there (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties) do weekly tests, both EAS and WEA. They monitor each other so they can make sure the tests go OK.

This is the Franklin County best practices as shared on the remailer:

Incorporate all your communications tests into a set day/time every week (we use the established CEMNET test day/time) and conduct:

1. CEMNET Radio check with WA EMD
2. Send a RWT to your operational area
3. Enter the IPAWS Test portal and send a practice test
4. Public address system (we have a siren system) and can silent test it
5. Conduct an Amateur Radio test call out
6. Sat Phone test
7. Fax test

This is what we do in Franklin every Thursday at 0900. We log each of the tests in a log.

In the North Central LECC, RIVERCOM has promoted Jerimiah Johnson to manager. RIVERCOM originated an emergency message that had some clarity problems. Charlie has met with them. They originated an RMT in May that went flawlessly.

The LRN (Local Relay Network) is being reactivated in the Cowlitz/Wahkiakum LECC. A meeting is in the works.

In the North Puget Sound LECC, their local LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) is moving to all hazards approach rather than hazmat. They are using pre-scripted messaging. The duty officers just have to add the specifics. They are working with their LECC.

Yakima reports that they are still trying to sort out what happened with the latest RMT. Apparently, the problem was with Everbridge. They are hoping to get things straightened out in time for the June RMT.

SECC members will attend regional meetings for training, etc.

Stakeholder Reports

At the National Weather Service, all offices will be testing NWEM (Non-Weather Emergency Messages). Any local entities are welcome to participate. The official start of the fire season has been postponed due to the unusually wet spring. But there is still drought in Eastern Washington.

Please share future agenda items with SECC Administration Assistant Scott Sipe at scott.sipe@alphamediausa.com. Scott compiles the agenda.

The meeting ended at 11:21 AM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 9:30 AM. Most likely the meeting will be a in-person/Zoom hybrid.

WA-PAWS – Tab B5	SECC 2022 Schedule	9.14.21
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2022 SECC MEETING DATES	LOCATION
Tuesday Jan 11	Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic - Most SECC Meetings will be virtual via Zoom until further notice.
Tuesday Mar 8	
Tuesday May 10	
Tuesday July 12	
Tuesday Sept 13	
Tuesday Nov 8	

Notes –

- The above schedule can be altered by the SECC as needed.
- The SECC may hold special meetings as required.

SECC MEETING ROLL CALL

SECC

POSITION	NAME	PRESENT
Chair	Ted Buehner	X
Vice Chair	Lowell Kiesow	X
Chair Emeritus	Clay Freinwald	
WEMD Chair	Kevin Wickersham	
WEMD A&W	Chris Phillips	X
WEMD Multilingual	Lewis Lujan	
NWS	Reid Wolcott	X
WEA	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffy	X
	Charlie Osgood	X
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
FEMA Reg 10	Laura Goodreau	
	Lloyd Kimball	X
Technical Committee	Lowell Kiesow	
Comm Systems Chair	Phil Johnson	X
Cable TV - Comcast	James Casson	
Administrative Assistant	Scott Sipe	X
Recording Secretary	Terry Spring	X
Amateur Radio	Monte Simpson	
Test Coordinator	Roland Robinson	
WSAB	Keith Shipman	

LECC Chairs

OPERATIONAL AREA	NAME	PRESENT
Central Puget	Phil Johnson	X
Clallam	Anne Chastain	
Coastal	Pat Anderson	
Columbia Basin	Sean Davis	X
Cowlitz/Wahkiakum	John Mackey Beau Renfro	X
Inland N.W.	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
Kittitas	Brad Tacher	
Lewis	Larry Minor Scott Mattoon Andy Caldwell	
Mason/Thurston	Tammy Wright	
North Central	Charlie Osgood	X
No. Puget Sound	Dave Halloran	X
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	
Yakima	Mike McMullen	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Doug Blangsted	Kitsap Co. DEM	
Jerry Olson	KBPX Spokane	
Arthur Willetts	KWDK	
Jarrold Dibble	Snohomish Co. EM	
Jim House	Coalition On Inclusive Emergency Planning	
Brady Aldrich	Northwest Public Broadcasting	
Jesse Spurgeon	Cherry Creek Wenatchee	
Joshua Adkins	Pierce County DEM	
Francis Burkhart	Whatcom Co. EM	
Jason Shirron	King County OEM	
Hannah Cleverly	Grays Harbor EM	
Sharon Point	E. Whatcom	
Zac	Pierce County EM	
Dave Turnmire	Idaho Office of Emergency Management	
Barry Mishkind	BDR	X
Tim	Seattle ACS	X
Ed Taylor	City Of Lacey	X
Becky Rasmusson		X
Steve Douglass	Kittiitas County Amateur Radio Coordinator	X
Brian Park	Kittcom	X
Hans B. Karl	Skagit County EM	X
John Price	Mason/Thurston	X