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Name, Authority, and Purpose

State Emergency Communications Committees, or SECCs, are volunteer non-governmental organizations that develop plans for administering the Emergency Alert System in each state. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) encourages the chief executive of each State to establish a State Emergency Communications Committees (SECC) to review the composition and governance of the SECC. Though defined in federal statute, the Code of Federal Regulations does not give SECCs any explicit authority.

Roles and Responsibilities

47 CFR 11.21 describes SECCs' roles and responsibilities. EAS plans contain guidelines which must be followed by EAS Participants' personnel, emergency officials, and National Weather Service (NWS) personnel to activate the EAS. The plans are administered by the SECC. The plans must be reviewed and approved by the Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau , prior to implementation to ensure that they are consistent with national plans, FCC regulations, and EAS operation. The Bureau will review and approve plans, including annual updated plans, within 60 days of receipt, provided that no defects are found requiring the plan to be returned to the SECC for correction and resubmission.

Organizational Alignment

As a volunteer non-governmental organization, the Washington SECC is an independent body, that reports to the Director of the Washington Military Department's Emergency Management Division (EMD).

Reporting Obligations

In addition to its reporting obligations to the FCC, the SECC will notify the EMD Director on a bi-monthly basis on accomplishments, interoperability gaps, and future priorities to enhance public safety communications.

Subcommittees

The SECC may establish ad-hoc or permanent subcommittees and workgroups that enable it to meet its defined roles and responsibilities. Current subcommittees include the Technical Committee, Training Committee, and Test Coordination Committee.

Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

The SECC members elect the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson.

Membership

Membership is composed of representatives of state and local emergency management, broadcast media, cable companies, wireless carriers, amateur radio, and other public alert and warning stakeholders. The Emergency Management Division's Alert & Warning Center Supervisor, the Washington State Patrol's Washington State AMBER Alert Coordinator, and the National Weather Service Seattle's Warning Coordination Meteorologist are ex-officio members of the SECC.

Term Limits

There are no explicit term limits for SECC members. However, their participation in the SECC is tied to their active professional role in the stakeholder group they represent. This includes ex-officio members.

Funding

The SECC has no designated fund source. All SECC members volunteer their time for committee activities.