

Washington State Emergency Operations Officer Monthly Report

March 2023

Past monthly reports are available via the web at <https://mil.wa.gov/alert-warning-center-monthly-report>

CATEGORY	March 2023	March 2022	2023	2022
Logged incidents:				
DOE (Department of Energy, Hanford Site)	0	1	0	2
FIRE	26	25	54	48
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS (HAZMAT)	234	237	678	727
OTHER	108	67	249	220
911 SERVICE OUTAGES	0	0	0	2
SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS (SAR)	52	43	168	149
TERRORISM	0	0	0	0
INITIAL WEATHER INCIDENTS	5	1	12	6
Other Fixed Nuclear Facility Incidents	0	0	0	0
Total number of logged Incidents:	425	374	1161	1154

Categories not included in the total number of logged incidents above				
Additional Weather Alerts	55	49	240	366
Evidence Search Mission	5	7	15	11

LEGEND	
WEATHER	Weather incidents such as Flooding, High Winds, and Snow
FIRE	Includes all DNR fire line calls as well as State Fire Mobilization requests and non-DNR fire incidents.
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, including but not limited to Tsunami events, Earthquakes, and Critical Incident Stress Debriefings.

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 23-0544
- This mission, initiated on February 12, involved a Snohomish County search for an elderly male hiker in the Rat Trap Pass area near Darrington.
 - Although additional resources were not requested, **this mission remained open as of the end of March 2023.**
- 23-0637
- This mission, initiated on February 20, involved a Chelan County rescue of multiple climbers injured during an avalanche on Colchuck Peak.
 - All but two of the climbers were located and recovered in February. The mission is now suspended pending improved conditions for locating and recovering the final two subjects.
- 23-0737
- On March 1, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Winter Storm Warning for Western Chelan County from 0400 on March 2 to 1000 on March 3. The Warning expired as scheduled.
 - On March 1, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades of Whatcom and Skagit Counties from 0400 March 2 to 1000 on March 3. The Warning expired as scheduled.
 - On March 1, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades of Snohomish and King Counties from 0400 March 2 to 1000 on March 3. The Warning expired as scheduled.
 - On March 1, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the South Washington Cascade Foothills affecting Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties from midnight that night to 1000 on March 2. The Warning was later extended to be in effect from midnight that night to 1900 on March 2. The Warning expired as scheduled.
 - On March 1, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Willapa Hills affecting Cowlitz, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties in effect from 2000 that evening to 0800 on March 2. The Warning was later extended to be in effect from 1600 hours that evening to 1000 hours on March 2. The Warning expired as scheduled.
 - On March 1, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Admiralty Inlet and the Northern Inland Waters including the San Juan Islands in effect from 2300 that night until 1000 on March 2. The Warning expired as scheduled.
 - On March 2, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Puget Sound and Hood Canal in effect until 1000 that morning. The Warning expired as scheduled.
 - On March 2, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Willapa Hills affecting Cowlitz, Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties in effect from 1600 on March 3 until 1600 on March 4. The Watch expired as scheduled.
 - On March 3, the National Service has issued a Winter Storm Watch for the south Washington Cascade Foothills for Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties in effect from 1800 that night until 1600 on March 4. The Warning was later downgraded to a Winter Weather advisory.
 - On March 3, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Olympics affecting Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, and Grays Harbor Counties in effect from 1600 that

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afternoon through 1600 on March 4. The Watch was later upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning in effect for the same timeframe. The Warning expired as scheduled, ending this Weather Incident.

23-0807

- On March 7, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) reported a missing/overdue aircraft out of Tacoma. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation Emergency Services (AES) duty officer began a search in Clallam, Jefferson, and Grays Harbor Counties.
- On March 11, the WSDOT AES duty officer requested the State SAR Planning Unit, which was coordinated with King County.
- On March 20, the WSDOT AES closed the mission without finding the aircraft.

23-0828

- On March 8, The NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Northwest Blue Mountains affecting Columbia and Walla Walla Counties from the evening of March 9 through the evening of March 10. The Watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning on March 9, in effect from 2200 that evening to 2200 on March 10.
- On March 9, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for Douglas and Grant Counties in effect from 2400 that night to 1200 on March 11. The Warning expired as scheduled.
- On March 10, the Winter Storm Warning for the Northwest Blue Mountains affecting Columbia and Walla Walla Counties expired, ending this Weather Incident.

23-0867

- On March 10, Thurston County initiated a search for a 54-year-old male walkaway in Olympia and requested search dogs, which were coordinated with Pierce, Lewis, and Grays Harbor Counties.
- On March 11, Thurston County closed this search. Subject was not located.
- On March 30, Thurston County reopened this mission for search activities during the upcoming weekend.
- **This mission remained open as of the end of March 2023.**

23-0874

- On March 17, Whatcom County initiated a search for a missing 66-year-old-male from Kendall and requested Human Remains Dogs (HRD) which were coordinated from Snohomish County.
- On March 19, Whatcom County requested HRD for this search, which were coordinated with King County.
- **This mission remained open as of the end of March 2023.**

23-0878

- On March 12, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the South Washington Cascades above 3,000 feet affecting Cowlitz and Skamania Counties in effect from the morning through evening of March 13. The Watch was later downgraded to a Winter Weather Advisory.
- On March 12, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades of Whatcom and Skagit Counties in effect from 1700 that afternoon to 2300 on March 13. The Warning was extended on March 13 to be in effect until 0200 on March 14. The Warning expired as scheduled, ending this Weather Incident.

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- 23-0906
- On March 14, the Colville Tribal Police Department initiated a rescue of an individual who fell over a cliff outside of Omak and requested a high angle rescue team which was coordinated with Okanogan County. The request was later cancelled, and the mission closed when the Tribal Police were able to successfully rescue the subject without the additional resources.
- 23-0915
- On March 15, Whatcom County initiated a rescue for a injured hiker and requested a helicopter with hoist which was coordinated with the AFRCC. The mission was closed later that day when the subject was successfully airlifted out to the hospital in Bellingham.
- 23-0951
- On March 17, King County initiated a rescue of a hiker stuck on a cliff and requested a helicopter with hoist which was coordinated with Snohomish County. The mission was closed the next day when it was confirmed the subject was successfully airlifted out.
- 23-1023
- On March 21, The NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the South Washington Cascades affecting Cowlitz and Skamania Counties in effect from the morning of March 23 through the afternoon of March 24. The Watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning on March 22, in effect from 1100 on March 23 through 1700 on March 25. The Warning was cancelled early on March 25.
 - On March 21, The NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the South Washington Cascade Foothills affecting Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties in effect from the morning of March 23 through the afternoon of March 24. The Watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning on March 22, in effect from 1100 on March 23 through 1700 on March 25. The Warning was cancelled early on March 25.
 - On March 21, The NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Willapa Hills affecting Cowlitz, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties in effect from the morning of March 23 through the afternoon of March 24. The Watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning on March 22, in effect from 1100 on March 23 through 1100 on March 25. The Warning was cancelled early on March 25.
 - On March 21, The NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Cascades of Pierce and Lewis Counties in effect from the morning of March 23 through the afternoon of March 24. The Watch was downgraded to a Winter Weather Advisory on March 22.
 - On March 24, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Northwest Blue Mountains affecting Columbia and Walla Walla Counties in effect until 0500 on March 25. The Warning was extended on March 25 to be in effect until 1100 that day. The Warning expired as scheduled, ending this Weather Incident.
- 23-1060
- On March 24, the Washington State Patrol issued an AMBER Alert on behalf of the Des Moines Police Department for a 10-month-old female taken from their city. The Alert was later cancelled when the child was located safely.
- 23-1063
- On March 24, Clallam County Sheriff's Office opened a search for a missing elderly male in the Sequim area. A helicopter with Forward Looking InfraRed (FLIR) was requested and coordinated with the AFRCC. The mission was closed early on March 25 without locating the subject.

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- On March 25, Clallam County reopened this incident and requested ground searchers (GSAR), dogs, and drones, which were coordinated with Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Jefferson and King Counties. The County later requested GSAR and dogs for March 26, which were coordinated with Kitsap, Jefferson, Mason, Pierce and King Counties. An additional helicopter with FLIR was requested along with potential Civil Air Patrol assistance, which were coordinated with the AFRCC and WSDOT AES.
 - **This mission remained open as of the end of March 2023.**
- 23-1077
- On March 26, Chelan County initiated a search for a group of back-county skiers along the Napeque River and requested a Helicopter for a fly-over of the area, which was coordinated with King, Snohomish, and Spokane Counties. The mission was closed later that day when the subjects cancelled the emergency beacon as an accidental activation.
- 23-1102
- On March 27, Kittitas County initiated a search for an individual in Colockum Pass and requested Cell Phone Forensics which was coordinated with the AFRCC. The request was cancelled early the next morning and the mission was closed when the subject was located in good condition, stuck in snow, and assisted out.
- 23-1128
- On March 29, the NWS issued Winter Storm Watches for the Upper Slopes of the Eastern Washington Cascades Crest affecting Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties; the South Washington Cascades above 3,000 feet affecting Cowlitz and Skamania Counties; the Cascades above 2,500 feet of King, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties in effect from the afternoon of March 29 through the afternoon of April 2. The Watches were upgraded to Winter Storm Warnings on March 30, in effect from March 31 through April 1.
 - On March 29, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Watch for Stevens Pass and Holden Village affecting Chelan County in effect from late night on March 31 until the afternoon of April 2. The Watch was upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning on March 30, in effect from March 31 through April 1.
 - On March 30, the NWS issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Northwest Blue Mountains in effect from 2300 on March 31 to 1700 on April 2.
 - On March 30, the NWS issued a Gale Warning for the Admiralty Inlet affecting Jefferson and Island Counties in effect from 0800 to 2100 on March 31. The Warning expired as scheduled.
 - On March 31, the NWS extended the Winter Storm Warning for the Cascade Mountains affecting Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Lewis Counties to be in effect from 1700 that afternoon to 0500 on April 2.
 - On March 31, the NWS extended the Winter Storm Warning for the South Washington Cascades affecting Cowlitz and Skamania Counties to be in effect from 1400 that afternoon to 2300 on April 2.
 - On March 31, the NWS extended the Winter Storm Warning for the Willapa Hills affecting Cowlitz, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties to be in effect from 2000 that evening to 1700 on April 2.

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- On March 31, the NWS extended the Winter Storm Warning for the South Washington Cascade Foothills affecting Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties to be in effect from 2100 that evening to 2300 on April 2.
- **This Weather Incident remained open as of the end of March 2023.**

SEOO Activity for the current month

125	Warnings issued to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies.
69	Warnings issued to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies.
809	Notifications conducted to state and local agencies for imminent or occurring emergencies.
18	Resources coordinated for search, rescue, recovery and response operations.

Participated in 6 drills/exercises of which 5 were spill drills.

Conducted the following tests:

Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test)	Frequency of test	Number of tests completed this month	Total number of stations tested this month	Number of stations responding during tests initiated by the Alert Warning Center	Contact Success rate for those tests initiated by the Alert Warning Center
NAWAS - FEDERAL	Twice daily	61	0	0	0%
NAWAS - STATE	Twice daily	61	1890	1376	73%
STAEN	At least twice per month	2	26	0	0%
CEMNET	At least 3 per week	14	275	106	39%

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<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test</i>	<i>Frequency of test</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>	<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test</i>	<i>Frequency of test</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>
Dedicated phone line test for DOE	At least 1 per week	3	AHAB Siren test	At least 1 per month	1
Dedicated phone line test for CGS	At least 1 per week	4	King County 800 MHz Radio System tests	At least 1 per week	3
AHAB Daily Function status	1 per day	31			

Test information/definitions:

- NAWAS: National Warning System Tests (NAWAS) over the State and Federal circuits. NAWAS connects over 1,800 State and Federal jurisdictions and agencies on the Federal circuit and all counties, some agencies and some tribes on the State circuit. There are four tests a day, two state and two federal, testing 66 drops on two circuits. The number above reflects the four tests a day. Previously the number included the total number of stations contacted during those tests.
- DOE tests: Department of Energy Hanford Site has a dedicated phone and fax line into the EOC and they are tested at least weekly. Only the voice phone line numbers are reported here.
- CGS tests: Columbia Generating Station has a dedicated phone and fax line into the EOC and they are tested at least weekly. Only the voice phone line numbers are reported here.
- AHAB: All Hazards Alert Broadcast System is tested daily through the daily function tests, which tests the functional capability of all coastal and Puget Sound siren systems. The voice and tone sirens are tested monthly. The AHAB Siren activates the coastal and Puget Sound voice and tone sirens during tsunami and other hazardous incidents.
- STAEN: The State Agency Emergency Network (STAEN) connects state agencies via an 800 MHz radio system.
- CEMNET: Comprehensive Emergency Management Network radio connecting all counties and many cities.
- King County 800 MHz System connects the Alert and Warning Center with King County key emergency management and response organizations.