

# Washington State Emergency Management Council Subcommittee Reports

## Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee

Submitted by Mark Douglas, Washington Emergency Management Division

### Committee Members:

Chair: Robert Ezelle, Washington Emergency Management Division  
Bill Gillespie, Washington State Search and Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council  
Quyen Thai, City of Tacoma  
Kirk Holmes, Perteet Engineering  
John Unfred, City of Lakewood

### Summary of Recent Meeting

**Date:** May 5, 2023

#### Discussion Topics:

Welcome two new members, John and Quyen.  
Brief review of WAMAS history and current issues.  
Identify the path forward for the subcommittee.  
Establish meeting schedule.

#### Decisions/Recommendations:

- Discussed previous meeting events and current issues with using WAMAS.
  - Since the last meeting, Mark Douglas (subcommittee staff) has updated the Deployment and Operations Guide and the EMC and subcommittee chair have signed.
  - Small counties and emergency management agencies do not have staff to dedicate to executing mutual aid contracts and will always need help.
  - An overall lack of understanding of what WAMAS can be used for and what resources can or cannot be asked for.
  - Some WAMAS members are confused as to who are members and that special purpose districts are excluded.
  - Many organizations are reluctant to release staff to help support others within the same region (west of the Cascades versus east of the mountain range).
  - Develop exercises for WAMAS between the east and west.
  - WAMAS does not have any funding or direct reimbursement mechanisms.
  - The reporting of resources deployed using WAMAS, as defined on page 15 of the operations and deployment guide are rarely if ever reported to the Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee.
    - Mark Douglas reported the use of WAMAS to the committee from the City of Tacoma to King County.

**Next Steps:**

- Mark Douglas will develop a two-page overview as a quick reference guide for WAMAS. Robert will review and edit.
- Mark Douglas to develop a presentation for WSEMA in September 2023. Subcommittee to help select presenters so local users can share their perspective.
- Develop training opportunities to present at multiple venues to cover all counties within a year.

**Next Meeting Date:** June 12, 2023, at 0900 hrs.

**Topics or Issues for the EMC:** None

## State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Submitted by Susan Forsythe (EMD) on behalf of Chief Patrick Reid, SERC Chair

### Committee Members:

Chief Patrick Reid, SERC Chair  
Chief Mike Harris, SERC Vice-Chair  
Erin Coyle, Department of Agriculture, Primary  
Randy Treadwell, Department of Agriculture, Primary  
Laura Hayes, Department of Ecology, Primary  
Eli Levitt, Department of Ecology, Alternate  
Andrew Rose, Department of Health, Primary  
Brad Burnham, Department of Health, Alternate  
John Geppert, Department of Labor and Industries, Primary  
Darren James Department of Labor and Industries, Alternate  
John Himmel, Department of Transportation, Primary  
Catherine (CJ) Pearce, Department of Transportation, Alternate  
Cindy Dickinson, Local Emergency Manager, Primary  
Joann Boggs, Local Emergency Manager, Alternate  
Sean Davis, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)-Eastside, Primary  
Sandi Duffy, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)-Eastside, Secondary  
J Havner, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)-Westside, Primary  
Troy Newman, Military Department, Primary  
Kevin Wickersham, Military Department, Primary  
Gary White, Private Industry Representative, Primary  
Sheri Call, Transportation Industry, Primary  
Melissa Gannie, Washington State Patrol, Primary  
Bill Slosson, Washington State Patrol, Alternate

### Summary of Recent Meeting

**Date:** April 23, 2023

#### **Discussion Topics:**

##### Training

The Washington State LEPC/Tribal Conference took place after the SERC Meeting. The main topic of discussion during this year's conference was energy storage system preparedness. Other topics included rail preparedness, the North Central Hazmat Team, and Department of Ecology Equipment Cache Grant. The tentative date for next year's conference is April 16-18, 2024.

The Eastside Hazmat Workshop will take place on May 5-7, 2023, in Spokane. Chief Les Stevens, with the San Marcos Fire Department, will present on the West Texas Incident. Other presenters will include the 10<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team, Mike Callan on hazmat safety, Lithium-ion battery risk and safety, and Justin Piper (BNSF) will discuss railroad derailments and safety. Next year's event is scheduled for May 17-19, 2024.

There will be an Energy and Lithium Battery Symposium in Pasco on May 11 and 12 hosted at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory campus. The symposium will feature several speakers including Captain Chris Greene (Seattle FD), Matthew Paiss (PNNL), Todd Smith (ATF), Sean Thompson (ECY), and more. Topics covered include whole community response to alternative energy events, day to day LI battery safety, and ecological impacts of emergency responses.

#### EPCRA Compliance and Outreach

The number of Tier Two reports are above 5,000 but have since dropped down due to closing businesses or turnover in businesses regarding who oversaw turning reports in. There has been an upswing in 2023 in the number of Tier Twos. The EPCRA app has an update soon and is password protected. Contact Diane Fowler for password and to provide feedback.

#### HMEP Grant Update

Year 1 is in progress now and Year 2 allocation has been received and matches projection. The Year 2 timeline application was submitted. The EMD Hazardous Material Planning Team was able to fund both Workshops and the LEPC/Tribal conference allowing for a reallocation of \$50,758.00.

It was clarified that the remaining balance during the last grant cycle was unspent and returned. The EMD Grants Team is currently working proactively to avoid underspending.

#### Capability Assessment

Chief Harris's group provided an assessment survey to all local fire departments. The survey's purpose was meant to be a capability assessment for the average fire department. The survey examined financial capabilities and personnel/training capabilities. After the survey data was evaluated, several gaps were discovered within rural and eastside counties. Issues were also identified with how to recoup the cost/ongoing maintenance of both emergency events and day to day operations.

#### NASTTPO Annual Workshop

The National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials Annual Workshop took place on April 17-19, 2023, in Salt Lake City, UT. Scott Lancaster (WSP), Pete Hartmann (EMD) and Susan Forsythe (EMD) were able to attend as SERC support staff members. Scott Lancaster gave a presentation entitled "Lessons Learned from a Lithium-Ion Battery Fire: A Home Depot Incident" on behalf of the Washington State SERC. The theme for this year's conference was "Measuring Success for Community-Based, All-Hazards LEPCs" The team that attended brought back three presentation ideals for future Washington state conferences, examples of commodity flow study practices from other states and other best practices.

#### **Decisions/Recommendations:**

The SERC voted to reallocate \$50,758 from Year 1 of the HMEP grant to Year 2. \$40,000 will support WSP Training for First Responders and \$10,758 will support region LEPC training.

**Next Steps:** The EMD Hazardous Material Planning Team will work with LEPCs and the EMD Grants Team to define the training for LEPCs.

**Next Meeting Date:** September 18, 2023

**Topics or Issues for the EMC:** None

## **Seismic Safety Subcommittee**

Submitted by Casey Hanell, Washington State Department of Natural Resources

### **Summary of Recent Meeting**

**Date:**

**Discussion Topics:**

**Decisions/Recommendations:**

**Next Steps:** Subcommittee members are working to schedule the next meeting.