

Emergency Management Council Minutes

February 13, 2025

Attendees

Please see pages 4 and 5.

Call to Order

The Emergency Management Council meeting was held via Teams on February 13, 2025. It began at 09:01 and was presided over by Kirk Holmes, EMC Chair. Amanda Webster, EMD, recorded the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the December 12, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Fred Brink. The motion was seconded by Mike Harris and carried.

Opening Comments

Opening comments were presented by General Gent Welsh, Washington State Military Department, and Robert Ezelle, Director, EMD.

- Recent conversations indicate potential structural changes to FEMA and DHS. These changes may involve a review of FEMA's long-standing role, which could impact grant distribution and emergency management funding.
- The state budget is under pressure with proposed 6 percent cuts for most state agencies.
- We continue to monitor federal directives and the status of federal grants.
- Efforts to mitigate the impact of fiscal restraints in the emergency management community will be made to the extent possible. Information regarding the status of federal grants will be shared as we learn of them.
- The governor's focus is on customer service, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Regional Issues Impacting Washington

FEMA Region 10 staff were unavailable for this meeting.

Reports

Legislative Update

Jim Baumgart, MIL Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy Director, provided an update on bills that he is currently tracking related to emergency management. House Bills 1201, 1271 and 1610 are currently with the Policy Committees awaiting movement, which must be completed by February 21, 2025. The agency will send a letter outlining federal priorities in late March to inform Congress of the concerns, risks, and issues that the emergency management community is facing.

Health and Wellness

Kirk Holmes created a Health and Wellness Task Force to develop a comprehensive framework to support mental health and wellness initiatives by conducting gap analysis and learn from law enforcement and other first responders. We are aiming to move towards a formal policy and serve as a reminder to take care of ourselves.

2024 EMC Annual Report

A motion to approve the proposed topics for the 2024 EMC Annual Report was made by Mike Harris. The motion was seconded by Nathan Weed and carried.

Work Session

2025 Strategic Work Plan

Sharon Wallace, Deputy Director, EMD, presented the 2025 EMC Strategic Work Plan for approval. EMD is finalizing the facilitator contract for the review of the SHSP grant allocation process. The entire EMAG will participate, with Deanna Davis in a leadership role. Outreach will be conducted to Homeland Security Regional Coordinators, and other relevant parties as well. A motion to approve the 2025 EMC Strategic Work Plan was made by Fred Brink and seconded by Arel Solie.

Work Session

State Alert and Warning Systems Overview

Kevin Wickersham, Response Section Manager, EMD, presented an overview of State Alert and Warning Systems. It was noted that a lack of consistency across counties and cities in alerting practices should be evaluated to identify challenges and opportunities for improvements and investments.

Work Session

Public Safety Power Shut-Offs

Eli King, Energy Resilience & Emergency Management Director, state Department of Commerce, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Public Safety Power Shut-Offs. The goal is to improve communication and coordination between utilities and the emergency management community by standardizing the notification process to ensure public safety in Washington.

EMC Adjournment

Kirk Holmes adjourned the EMC meeting at 10:00.

Senior Advisory Committee (SAC)

Kirk Holmes, EMC Chair, called the SAC to order at 10:00.

2025 SPR Results

David Broussard, Preparedness Assessment Program Manager, EMD, gave a presentation of the 2024 Stakeholder Preparedness Review.

FY24 Preparedness Grants Funding

Sierra Wardell, Financial Operations Section Manager, EMD, presented a detailed breakdown HSGP allocations and preparedness grants funding for the most recent fiscal year. The Sac is responsible for managing all preparedness funding to ensure its effective use and to minimize duplication efforts. The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program assists governments in managing and reducing systemic cyber risks.

Open Public Forum

There were no comments.

SAC Adjournment

Kirk Holmes adjourned the meeting at 10:35.

EMC Member Attendance

Position	Name	Feb 13
Pos 1 Pri	Fred Brink	P
Pos 1 Alt	Chuck Torelli	A
Pos 2 Pri	Gene Strong	P
Pos 2 Alt	Mark Ozias	P
Pos 3 Pri	Chief Scott Engle	P
Pos 3 Alt	Chief Peter Fisher	A
Pos 4 Pri	Chief John Batiste	P
Pos 4 Alt	Arel Solie	P
Pos 5 Pri	Robert Ezelle	P
Pos 5 Alt	Sharon Wallace	P
Pos 6 Pri	Jim Pendowski	A
Pos 6 Alt	Jacob Rain	P
Pos 7 Pri	Chief Chad Cross	A
Pos 7 Alt	Melissa Gannie	P
Pos 8 Pri	Chief Michael Harris	P
Pos 8 Alt	VACANT	
Pos 9 Pri	Hillary Franz	A
Pos 9 Alt	Casey Hanell	P
Pos 10 Pri	Alysha Kaplan	P
Pos 10 Alt	VACANT	
Pos 11 Pri	John Unfred	A
Pos 11 Alt	Deanna Davis	P
Pos 12 Pri	Amy Allbritton	P
Pos 12 Alt	Lt. Trent Stephens	P
Pos 13 Pri	Nathan Weed	P
Pos 13 Alt	Ron Weaver	A
Pos 14 Pri	Quyen Thai	P
Pos 14 Alt	Mizael Acevedo	P
Pos 15 Pri	Greg Welch	A
Pos 15 Alt	Dru Garson	P
Pos 16 Pri	John Himmel	P
Pos 16 Alt	VACANT	
Pos 17 Pri	Kirk Holmes	P
Pos 17 Alt	Kristi Oosterveen	P
Pos 18 Pri	Anna Marie Dufault	A
Pos 18 Alt	Amber Wynn	A
Pos 19 Pri	Annie Pillers	A
Pos 19 Alt	Christie Masters	A
Pos 20 Pri	VACANT	
Pos 20 Alt	Elizabeth Sanchey	A
Pos 21 Pri	Cherrie May	A
Pos 21 Alt	Jeff Choke	A

Guest Attendance

Nick Bacon
Gabe Baez
Jason Biermann
JoAnne Boggs
Kyle Bustad
Wesley Chandler
Hannah Cleverly
Sandi Duffey
Steven Friederich
Nicholas Gibbons
William Hannah
Leonard Johnson
Eli King
Paul McKnight
Adenea Sellars

EMD

Casey Broom
Gail Cram
Victoria Fontana
Anne-marie Marshall-Dody
Stacey McClain
Sierra Wardell
Amanda Webster
Kevin Wickersham

SAC

Brendan McCluskey
Timothy Rajcevich