

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Chair Ted Buehner. The previous minutes were approved. There were no adjustments to the previous minutes nor additions to the agenda.

Announcements

Rebecca Dance is the new administrator for FEMA Region 10. She couldn't be here today because she had another meeting. We also have a new cable representative, Trevor Nelson. He is with Comcast. He could not be here today, either. Carrie Gordon, our Washington State Patrol AMBER representative is retiring in May. She has someone lined up to replace her.

Old Business

The next meeting will be in-person in Ellensburg on May 13th, the second Tuesday of the month. The meeting will be at the fairgrounds instead of the 911 Center. Details will be on the remailer. There will be a virtual option as well.

TAB B2, the SECC Membership Roster, was updated recently. It should be posted to the [WA PAWS](#) website soon.

The National Weather Service will no longer activate EAS for Tsunami Watches. This aligns us with the rest of the West Coast.

Simone Ramel-McKay, Monte Simpson and George Long have been working on the new Amateur Radio TAB. The goal is to better educate emergency managers about all the options available to them in terms of emergency communications. Emergency Management, broadcasters and amateur radio operators can work together to support emergency management in getting information to the public when the normal channels are congested or not working.

Amateur radio operates under FCC rules and therefore has some restrictions on its use. The draft is almost ready to be posted on the remailer for comment. It should be ready to be approved at the May meeting. Hardly any other states are doing this. The detail in this document shows the potential for what is possible. Emergency managers do not have to do everything that is listed in the plan. It should be adapted to local conditions and capabilities.

New Business

Originators for the Required Monthly Tests please note that the duration needs to be set for 3 hours. It is a FCC requirement and the purpose is to allow stations receiving the test downstream enough time to air it before it expires.

Also, stations should be checking to make sure their EAS box is actually in the air chain and putting alerts and tests on the air. If you do not receive a scheduled test you are supposed to contact your originator and log the reason. All sub-channels on digital radio and TV need to run the EAS alerts and tests.

AMBER Alerts have a link to social media, specifically X (formerly Twitter). The purpose of this is to provide graphics and further information to the public. X is used because it can best handle the volume of clicks and views that could potentially be generated. If placed on a state website, the concern is that this volume of traffic would crash the website. Otherwise, the message would be text only.

Adam Wasserman is going to be invited to join us at the May meeting to talk about preparations for the World Cup, and public alerts and warnings.

Committee Reports

Technical: Charlie reports that the Burch Mountain NOAA Weather Radio has been rock solid and 100% reliable over the last 4 months.

Training: Nothing new.

RMT: Roland sends out reminders for the RMT originators towards the end of the month.

Local Area Reports

In the Central Puget Sound local area, the King County EM staff were at the KIRO transmitter on Vashon Island site for training by FEMA. They were learning how to operate the station. They are planning to have a LECC meeting soon.

The RMT issues in Clallam County reaching local broadcasters have apparently been resolved.

The Coastal area made it through a recent windstorm. There was some broadcaster and cellular tower damage. They had a LECC meeting in January and plan to have another one in April. They are working on some plan updates.

In the Columbia Basin, Sean reported that they did a successful RMT.

The Inland Northwest is having a meeting of their various partners (including Idaho EM) towards the end of May. In September there will be an in-person LECC meeting at KSPS, the Spokane PBS station.

In Kittitas County, AUXCOMM is leading a test of hospital communications between their local hospital and others across the state. In March, Kittitas County Emergency Management launched their first successful RMT. EM has been holding training sessions on how to send EAS and WEA tests and alerts. They will be doing a tabletop exercise in April to walk through the new process for trigger alerts in the county. Central Washington University has started engaging with AUXCOMM regarding alerts and warnings.

In Lewis County, emergency manager Ross McDowell just retired and a new emergency manager is in place. Ted has been having conversations with them over the last month on how they can better engage with the SECC and local LECC.

In Mason/Thurston, they are getting ready for a LECC meeting in April.

In the North Central area, Brady Aldrich has moved to Montana. Charlie has been communicating with Maurice Goodall and they are planning on looking at his LRN equipment installation. There is no near-term prospect for getting a North Central LRN operational. In the Okanagan, Maurice would like to see more training, like possibly have broadcasters observe how alerts are originated in the 911 centers. It would be useful if everybody knew how other parts of the system works. He also suggests that originators listen to the end product and verify that the message is clear and intelligible to the people you are trying to reach.

Stakeholder Reports

WSEM: They are still working on repairing the SRN. They have reached out to Lowell.

WSAB: Keith is working with the state legislature on a number of bills relating to journalism and taxation. Nationally he is working on getting the AM radio in every vehicle act passed. Support is building for this.

Other Business

None.

The meeting ended at 10:40 AM.

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

For information on joining the SECC remailer, go to [this link](#).

The next meeting will be in-person and remote with Zoom on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 9:30 AM PST in Ellensburg.

CHATBOX

00:29:51 Sandi Duffey, Adams Co. WA, Adams Co Emergency Management: read stop

00:32:19 M Goodall OCEM: Maurice Goodall, Okanogan

00:33:10 Meredith McClurkan / Washington EMD / Alert and Warning: For WAEMD Alert and Warning you can replace Chris Phillips name with mine. I am the acting Alert and Warning Center Supervisor.

00:50:13 John Mackey KSOF: perhaps we need a separate meeting for Amateur Radio where they can take as much group time as they want.

00:55:50 Jon Lee | WA EMD | SWIC: Sorry, audio is not working

01:03:09 Jerry Olson: This is from Lowell's email....Happily, the FCC made this pretty plain. In Part 11.61:

Required Weekly Tests:

(i) EAS Header Codes and EOM Codes:

(A) Analog and digital AM, FM, and TV broadcast stations must conduct tests of the EAS header and EOM codes at least once a week at random days and times. Effective December 31, 2006, DAB stations must conduct these tests on all audio streams. Effective December 31, 2006, DTV stations must conduct these tests on all program streams.

The same is true for RMTs and alert messages. How to fix the problem is a good question for the equipment manufacturer.

01:12:43 Jonathan Brock:FCC Makes WEAs More Responsive to Public Safety and Consumer Needs | Federal Communications Commission

01:17:08 Barry Mishkind: Sorry must go ... got an appointment. Have a great day

01:24:27 Jon Lee | WA EMD | SWIC: American Tower Contact for Pacific County Tower Collapse access coordination:

Jenn Castro

Project Manager, Construction & Development

American Tower Corporation

19100 Von Karman, Suite 450

Irvine, CA 92612

949-447-2302 office

949-375-2779 mobile

jenn.castro@americantower.com

01:24:48 Jon Lee | WA EMD | SWIC: G251 Course from the state of Arkansas Workshop in Emergency Management: AMATEUR RADIO RESOURCES

<https://www.dps.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/G-251-Workshop-in-Emergency-Management-Amateur-Radio-Resources-Student-Manual.pdf>

2025 SECC MEETING DATES	LOCATION
Tuesday Jan 7	Anticipate SECC Meetings will remain virtual via Zoom until further notice, apart from perhaps a few well-advertised exceptions.
Tuesday Mar 11	
Tuesday May 13	
Tuesday July 8	
Tuesday Sept 18	
Tuesday Nov 9	

Note –

- The above schedule can be altered by the SECC as needed, particularly if that second Tuesday of the month conflicts with a holiday or other special day.
- The SECC may hold special meetings as required.

To subscribe to the Washington State EAS remailer, follow this [link](#).

SECC Members

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

LECC Chairs

OPERATIONAL AREA	NAME	PRESENT
Central Puget	Jason Shirron	X
Clallam	Justine Chorley	X
Coastal	Pat Anderson	
Columbia Basin	Sean Davis	
Cowlitz/Wahkiakum	John Mackey Austin Smith	X
Inland N.W.	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
Kittitas	George Long	
Lewis	Ross McDowell	
Mason/Thurston	Sonya Kroese	X
North Central	Charlie Osgood Brady Aldrich	X
No. Puget Sound	Dan McDermott Dave Halloran	X
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	X
Yakima	Angela Brown (SunComm) Mike McMullen	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Jerry Olson	KBPX Spokane	x
Barry Mishkind		X
Tammi Wright	Mason County EM	X
Vickie Fontaine		X
Arthur RD Grunbaum	KGHI-KGHE	X
Chris Arnesen	KATU	X
Jon Lee	Washington SWIC	X
Jonathan Brock	WA EMD 911	X
Conner Crookshank	KBTC-TV	X
Mireya Garcia	GCSO EM	X
Char Dewey	NWS Spokane	X
Patiel Bedrosian	KSPS Spokane	X
Red Grasso	North Carolina	X
Greg Hutchison	Grant County EM	X
Meredith McClurkan	Washington EMD	X
Kevin Jackman		X
Jonathan Brock		X
Joe Kline	KCTS-Cascade PBS	X
Holly Walsheld	Whatcom County Sherriff DEM	X