

Washington State Emergency Operations Officer Monthly Report

September 2017

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

CATEGORY	September 2017	September 2016	YTD 2017	YTD 2016
Logged incidents:				
DOE (Department of Energy, Hanford Site)	0	0	9	7
FIRE	35	27	232	272
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS (HAZMAT)	209	172	1964	1953
OTHER	83	59	734	615
911 SERVICE OUTAGES	3	2	21	21
SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS (SAR)	85	69	810	725
TERRORIST	0	0	0	0
INITIAL WEATHER INCIDENTS	6	2	46	48
CGS (Columbia Generating Station)	0	0	0	0
Total number of Logged incidents	421	331	3816	3641

Categories not included in the total number of logged incidents above

<i>Evidence Search Mission</i>	8	5	48	50
<i>Additional Weather Alerts (all subsequent alerts that are considered to be part of the initiating weather event)</i>	40	7	679	386

LEGEND

WEATHER	Weather incidents such as Flooding, High Winds, and Snow
FIRE	Wildland 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:

17-3363	<p>On September 1, the following weather events continued from the previous month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excess Heat Watch affecting Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark and Skamania Counties until the evening of September 4.• Fire Weather Watch affecting: Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania Klickitat and Yakima Counties until the evening of September 3.• Heat Advisory affecting Clark Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Pacific and Skamania Counties from 1400 hrs. On September 1 until 2200 hrs. on September 5.• On September 1, A Red Flag Warning was issued from noon on September 2 until 2100 hrs. On September 4 for: Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania and Yakima Counties. Hot, dry and unstable conditions due to relative humidity of 15-25%, mid-level Haines index of 6 and a high level Haines index of 5.• On September 1, a Fire Weather Watch was issued for portions of: Chelan, Okanogan, Kittitas, Yakima and Ferry Counties.• On September 1, A Heat Advisory was issued for portions of: Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla and the East Columbia Gorge in Klickitat Co. from 1200 on September 1 to 2200 on September 4. Highs between 100 to 105 degrees each day with elevated overnight lows between 58 to 68 degrees.• On September 2, The National Weather Service in Seattle issued a Fire Weather Watch in effect from September 4 afternoon through the evening of September 6 for portions of: King, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties. Very hot, dry and unstable conditions. Mid-level Haines 6 conditions developed on Monday and continued into Wednesday. This indicated a dry and unstable air mass. Hot afternoon temperatures were expected, and were much above normal for this time of year. Relative humidity values fell below 25 percent each afternoon from Monday through Wednesday. Very poor nighttime humidity recovery occurred.• On September 2, The National Weather Service in Seattle issued a Fire Weather Watch in effect from September 4 through September 5 for portions of: Clallam, Grays Harbor, and Jefferson Counties. Hot temperatures were forecast on September 4 and 5, and relative humidity values of 20 to 30 percent. Humidity recovery on September 4 was very poor above any nighttime inversion.• On September 2, The National Weather Service extended the Red Flag Warning from noon September 2 until 2200 hours on September 5 for: Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania and Yakima Counties for significantly dry and unstable conditions. Mid-level Haines index of 6 and high level Haines index of 5 through September 4. The high-level Haines index briefly improved to a Haines index of 4 on September 3.• On September 2, The National Weather Service in Spokane issued a Red Flag Warning for a high Haines index, from noon on September 2 to 8 pm on September 3. The Fire Weather Watch was no longer in effect. This Red
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	<p>Flag Warning effected portions of: Chelan, Ferry, Kittitas, Okanagan, and Yakima Counties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 3, The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for: Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Mason, Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce and Lewis Counties. The Fire Weather Watch was no longer in effect for September 4 and 5. • On September 3, the National Weather Service issued a Heat Advisory for: King, Pierce, Lewis and Thurston Counties. Temperatures reached the mid 90's throughout the region. • On September 5, the state EOC activated to Level 1 at 0630 hours staffed to support the 2017 wild land fires for: ESF 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 & 20. • On September 5, the National Weather Service issued a Fire Weather Watch for Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin Counties in effect from 1700, September 8, through 1000, September 9. • On September 5, the National Weather Service issued a Fire Weather Watch for Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Skamania, Klickitat and Yakima Counties in effect from the afternoon of September 6 to the evening of September 7. • On September 6, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for Clark, Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Skamania, Klickitat and Yakima Counties in effect from the afternoon of September 6 to the evening of September 7. • On September 7, the National Weather Service cancelled the Fire Weather Watch for Asotin, Garfield, Columbia and Walla Walla Counties. • On September 8, the National Weather Service cancelled the Red Flag Warning for southwest Washington. There are no current weather events, however this mission stays open for the EOC Activation for Fires. • On September 11, the state EOC assumed Level II Partial Activation at 0900 hours with staffing provided by the EOC Supervisor and off-site support provided by ESF's 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15 & 20. • On September 26, the State EOC resumed Level III - Monitoring Operations.
17-3408	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 1, a Fire Mobe Request was received from Kittitas Valley FD for the Jolly Mountain Fire in Cle Elum. Chief John Batiste authorized state fire mobilization for the Jolly Mountain Fire at 0000 hours (midnight). State Fire Marshal's Office Field personnel were deployed the following morning and EOC personnel worked out of the Olympia office. • At midnight on September 16, the Jolly Mountain Fire demobed without further incident.
17-3419	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 3, The National Guard deployed personnel to support fires in King, Kittitas, Okanogan, Yakima, Chelan and Pierce Counties.

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17-3420	On September 3, Pierce County requested a helicopter with hoist to rescue a 61 year-old male hiker on the Pacific Crest Trail near Cougar Lake immobilized with vertigo. Neither King County nor Snohomish County were able to provide a helicopter so the Armed Forces Rescue Coordination Center was contacted to secure a helicopter from the Yakima Firing Center. The hiker was rescued and taken to the Yakima County Memorial Hospital.
17-3422	On September 3, Grays Harbor County requested mountain rescue staff to assist with carrying a male hiker with a blown out knee off the Colonel Bob Trail near Lake Quinault. Coordination was accomplished with Pierce and Kitsap County, resulting in Olympic Mountain Rescue providing assistance. On September 4, Grays Harbor County requested a Helicopter with hoist. Neither King County nor Snohomish County were able to provide a helicopter. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center was contacted to secure a helicopter. The hiker was rescued by the United States Coast Guard and taken to the hospital.
17-3430	On September 4, Pierce County requested search dogs, mountain rescue volunteers and a helicopter to search for a missing 24 year-old hiker near Ashford. Resources were coordinated from: King, Kitsap, Lewis and Grays Harbor Counties, however before any of these resources deployed the missing hiker was located in good condition.
17-3443	On September 4, the Yakima County Sheriff's Office requested a helicopter with a hoist for the medical extraction of the two hikers. Airlift Northwest was initially enroute to the scene, but was forced to divert due to the smoke from the wildfires in the Cascades. A helicopter with hoist was coordinated with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center after it was determined that Snohomish and King County could not fly the mission. On September 5, the Yakima Training Center flew the mission and transported a male and female hiker to the Yakima Regional Medical Center.
17-3482	On September 6, Kirkland Police Department conducted a search for a missing 13 year-old female. Search dogs were coordinated from Pierce County to assist. A K9 team tracked to the home's back yard and found the child hiding in the bushes. The child was transported to a hospital for a mental evaluation.
17-3487	On September 6, Washington State EOC received a phone call from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center regarding a Personal Locator Beacon activation on the Pacific Crest Trail near Summit Chief Mountain. On September 8, the subject was contacted by rescue personnel, helped down the mountain and transported to a local hospital for treatment.
17-3538	On September 9, Snohomish County initiated a search for missing hikers. They requested mountain rescue qualified personnel. King, Kitsap & Pierce Counties were contacted to support this mission. Snohomish County called to advise that one hiker had walked out and now was only looking for 1 hiker. Snohomish County called to advise that they had made contact with the missing hiker. They were warming him up before heading down the mountain. Out of county resources were cancelled.

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17-3588	<p>On September 13, Kitsap County initiated a search for a missing 10 year-old male juvenile missing for 1.5 hours. They requested 1 or 2 German Shephard Search Dogs and 1 or 2 tracking or trailing dogs. Pierce, Mason and King Counties were contacted to support this mission. The child was found 3 miles from home in downtown Bremerton by a citizen who took him to their residence and called 911. The child was in good condition and Child Protective Services was involved.</p>
17-3590	<p>On September 14, the National Weather Service in Spokane issued a Red Flag Warning for wind and low relative humidity from 1000 hours on September 14 to 2000 hours that night. The affected areas were: Fire Weather Zone 684 East Washington Okanogan Valley (Zone 684). There were no other current weather events.</p>
17-3604	<p>On September 15, the National Weather Service issued a Freeze Warning in from midnight on September 15 to 0900 on September 16 affecting Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, and parts of Spokane and Okanogan Counties. No further watches or warnings were issued and this one expired without incident.</p>
17-3608	<p>On September 15, King County initiated a search for a missing Russian National near Gold Meyer Hot Springs near North Bend. They requested 20 ground searchers. Pierce, Snohomish, Whatcom, Kitsap & Skagit Counties were contacted to support this mission. Pierce County was able to provide 5 searchers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 16, King County requested 30 search volunteers to assist in this search. Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Kitsap, Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, Cowlitz, Clark, Mason, and Jefferson Counties responded. • On September 19, King County SAR called to close the mission. The missing subject was not located. • On September 26, King County reopened the mission for a search on October 1. They requested search dogs from Kitsap and Island Counties to assist and 4x4s from Kittitas, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties.
17-3610	<p>On September 15, Kitsap County initiated a search for a missing subject with dementia. They requested 20 ground searchers, 2 German Shephard Search Dog's and a 4x4. Grays Harbor, Mason, Jefferson and Clallam Counties were contacted to support this mission. Thurston and Jefferson Counties provided the requested assets. The subject was subsequently located and admitted to Harrison Medical Center.</p>
17-3631	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 17, The National Weather Service issued a Flash Flood Watch from late afternoon through late that evening for Clark and Skamania Counties. Heavy rain was possible at the time, which could cause flash floods and landslides. • On September 17, The National Weather Service in Seattle issued a Winter Storm Watch for the Cascades of Pierce and Lewis Counties, which is in effect from late Monday afternoon through Tuesday morning. • On September 18, The National Weather Service in Seattle cancelled the Winter Storm Watch for the Cascades of Pierce and Lewis Counties.

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	<p>Temperatures were expected to be a little too warm at that time for heavy snow at Paradise.</p>
<p>17-3649</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 18, The National Weather Service in Portland issued a Special Marine Warning for coastal waters from Cape Shoalwater to Cascade Head out to 10 Nautical Miles until 1515 hours. At 1436 hours, a severe thunderstorm capable of producing waterspouts was located near the Columbia River weather buoy #29 moving east at 15 knots. • On September 18, The National Weather Service in Portland issued a Special Marine Warning for coastal waters from Cape Shoalwater to Cascade Head waters and from Cape Shoalwater until 1545 hours. At 1515 hours, a severe thunderstorm capable of producing waterspouts was located 7 Nautical Miles Southwest of Cape Disappointment moving east at 15 knots. • On September 18, The National Weather Service in Portland issued a Tornado Warning for Southwestern Pacific County until 1615 hours. At 1540 hours, a severe thunderstorm capable of producing a tornado was located 9 miles southwest of Ilwaco moving northeast at 20 miles per hour . This dangerous storm was near Warrenton and Hammond Town around 1605 hours and Ilwaco around 1610 hours. • On September 18, The National Weather Service in Portland issued a Special Marine Warning for coastal waters from Cape Shoalwater to Cascade Head out 10 nautical miles until 1615 hours. At 1547 hours, a strong thunderstorm was located over the Clatsop Spit near Warrenton moving east at 15 knots. • On September 18, The National Weather Service in Portland issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties until 1645 hours. At 1614 hours, a severe thunderstorm was located near Hammond Town moving northeast at 20 mph. Hazards were 60 mile per hour wind gusts and quarter sized hail. • On September 18, The National Weather Service in Portland cancelled the Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Wahkiakum County. The severe thunderstorm that prompted the warning moved out of the warned area which cancelled the warning. • On September 18, The National Weather Service in Portland issued a Tornado Warning for Southeast Pacific County and Northwest Wahkiakum County in effect until 1715 hours. At 1645 hours, a severe thunderstorm capable of producing a tornado was located near Nacelle moving northeast at 25 miles per hour. • The National Weather Service in Portland issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Southeast Pacific County and Wahkiakum County until 1745 hours. At 1713 hours, a severe thunderstorm was located over Rosburg, or over the Grays River, moving east at 20 miles per hour. Hazards were 60 mile per hour wind gusts and quarter sized hail. • The National Weather Service in Seattle issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Western Lewis County and Southwestern Thurston County

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	until 1745 hours. At 1713 hours, a severe thunderstorm was located 8 miles south of Frances, moving northeast at 25 miles per hour. Hazards were quarter sized hail.
17-3655	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 19, The National Weather Service in Seattle issued a Winter Storm Warning for heavy snow of 6 to 11 inches at elevations above 5000 feet for the Cascade Mountains of Pierce and Lewis Counties. • On September 19, The National Weather Service in Seattle cancelled the Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades of Pierce and Lewis Counties. Snow showers continued above 5000 feet, but accumulations were expected to be light. Paradise Recreation Center on Mount Rainier picked up a few inches, but the roads were mostly bare and wet.
17-3667	On September 20, The National Weather Service issued a Flash Flood Warning for Southern Skamania County from 0430 hours until 0530 hours for burn areas near the Columbia River.
17-3670	On September 20, Clallam County conducted a search for a missing 79 year-old male. Grays Harbor provided 3 cadaver dogs, the United States Coast Guard provided a boat, and the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center approved a United States Coast Guard helicopter to assist with the search. The individual was not located.
17-3743	On September 25, Thurston County 911 reported a suspicious envelope was sent to Congressman Denny Heck. When the envelope was opened, a gray powder came out of it. Department of Ecology responders were notified and coordination was made with the FBI in Seattle. The Alert & Warning Center also notified the Joint Operations Center to contact the 10th CST. A voicemail message was left with Fusion Center.
17-3746	On September 26, Grays Harbor County conducted a search for two missing mushroom pickers near Copalis Beach. Additional resources were coordinated from Mason County to assist. The subjects were later located in good condition.
17-3800	On September 29, Jefferson County conducted a rescue of 2 injured personnel from an airplane crash in the mountains Northwest of Brinnon. A helicopter with hoist was coordinated out of Whidbey Island Naval Air Station through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and Olympic Mountain Rescue personnel responded from Kitsap County. One person was rescued and the other was found deceased.
17-3811	On September 30, the Washington State Patrol approved a State Fire Mobilization for the Whitehall Road Fire near Coulee City in Douglas County. The State Emergency Operation Center activated to Level 2 to support the mobilization activities.

SEOO Activity for the current month:

66	Warnings issued to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies.
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42	Warnings issued to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies.
878	Notifications conducted to state and local agencies for imminent or occurring emergencies.
34	Resources coordinated for search, rescue, recovery and response operations.

➤ Participated in 19 exercises of which 0 were vessel spill drills.

Conducted the following tests:

<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test)</i>	<i>Frequency of tests</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>	<i>Total number of stations tested this month</i>	<i>Number of stations responding during tests initiated by the Alert and Warning Center</i>	<i>Contact Success rate for those tests initiated by the Alert and Warning Center</i>
NAWAS	Twice daily Numbers reflect state only	60	1910	1725	90%
STAEN	At least twice per month	2	26	7	27%
CEMNET	At least 1 per week	4	280	140	50%

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<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test)</i>	<i>Frequency of tests</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>	<i>Test Conducted (see below for descriptions of each test)</i>	<i>Frequency of tests</i>	<i>Number of tests completed this month</i>
Dedicated phone line test for DOE	At least 1 per week	5	AHAB Siren test	At least 1 per month	1
Dedicated phone line test for CGS	At least 1 per week	5	OPSCAN test	1 per day	29
AHAB Daily Function status	1 per day	30	King County 800 MHz Radio System tests	At least 1 per week	3

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 62 drops on two circuits. The number above reflects only the two state tests a day. The tally previously included the total summation of all stations, both national and state, 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.
- **OPSCAN:** Olympic Peninsula Public Safety Alliance Network (OPSCAN) connects public safety organizations throughout the Olympic Peninsula.
- **STAEN:** The State Agency Emergency Network (STAEN) connects state agency via an 800 MHz radio system.
- **CEMNET:** Comprehensive Emergency Management Network radio connecting all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console. There are three tests a week broken down by Western, Central and Eastern Region Stations. The numbers above reflect the collective summation of all region tests.

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- King County 800 MHz System connects the Alert and Warning Center with King County key emergency management and response organizations.