



# WSEMA

Washington State Emergency Management Association

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DATE: November 29, 2005  
TO: WSEMA  
FROM: JoAnn Boggs, EMC Eastside Rep  
Trudy Winterfeld, EMC Westside Rep  
SUBJECT: EMC Meeting – November 3, 2005

The following is a summary of the issues discussed at the November 3, 2005 EMC Meeting:

### **Adjutant General's Remarks**

Major Timothy Lowenberg briefed the Council on Washington State's hurricane response efforts. Recently, 800 Washington National Guard soldiers joined already deployed WA National Guardsmen assisting in the Gulf Coast region. Washington State is also providing aid to approximately 5,000 evacuees who have settled throughout the state. This will have direct impacts on public services such as education, health and housing. Major General Lowenberg emphasized that this has been an important learning moment that will help shape appropriate public policy regarding these types of issues.

There is a continuing dialogue around federal/state/local relationships in responding to emergencies and this will be one of the agenda items at the Western Governor's Conference in Scottsdale, AZ the week of November 7<sup>th</sup>.

The TAG and EMD Director Jim Mullen have participated in 2 Legislative hearings on emergency preparedness and overall Military Department capability in Spokane on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and Tacoma on October 27<sup>th</sup>. A third hearing is scheduled for Vancouver on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Washington State is involved in ongoing planning with British Columbia for the 2010 Winter Olympics to be held in Vancouver B.C. The Olympics are expected to bring an estimated 2.17 million people to the Washington State area.

### **EMD Director's Report**

EMD Director Jim Mullen declared that the theme for next year should be self-reliance. Washington State emergency management should not depend on federal level help, and needs to be as prepared as possible to fully function without federal assistance.

An EMD Exercise & Training Section Manager has been hired and will begin work in mid-November. A new public Education Program Manager has been hired on a temporary basis to replace Barbara Thurman.

In October, staff from EMD Earthquake Program and the Military Department Joint Operations Center held meetings with several coastal communities to discuss and exercise tsunami warning systems and response plans

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EMD has been involved in meetings and planning for the CSEPP program in OR and WA, and the implications of the end of nerve agent operations in early 2009.

### **FEMA Report**

Dennis Hunsinger, the Region X FEMA Division Director for Preparedness attended to represent the Region X FEMA Director . FEMA is losing the majority of their preparedness grants and programs which will be going over to the new Undersecretary of DHS.

During the next year, FEMA will be focusing on lessons learned from the response and recovery to the Hurricanes – to include catastrophic incident planning, commodity distribution and evacuation planning. FEMA will work with all four states in the region on these issues.

### **Law Enforcement Intelligence/Information Sharing**

Lance Ladines of WSP provided information about WAJAC, JTTF, and NW-Warn.

The WAJAC Vision is to provide a central depository and dissemination point for all criminal intelligence in Washington State.

WAJAC Responsibilities include providing intelligence and analytical support to support JTTF, gathering and disseminating terrorism and national alert information; disseminating comprehensive intelligence and threat assessments weekly or as needed, maintaining a network for local/state/federal/military agencies and analyzing and disseminating information relating to organized crime.

JTTF responsibilities include investigating international and domestic terrorism matters. There are JTTF offices in Seattle and Spokane and 18 detectives spread throughout the state.

### **Pandemic Flu: Dr. Maxine Hayes, State Health Officer**

The threat of Avian (Bird) Flu in the U.S. is credible, serious and possibly imminent. The reality of this threat is being addressed globally, but no preparation will be sufficient – but, our technology will help us mitigate the impact. Influenza is the #1 killer of people in the world, and the influenza pandemic is “the mother of all infectious diseases. There are three (3) types of Influenza. Type “A” kills more than any other type and is the only type which has caused a pandemic. This virus starts with wild aquatic birds and goes to domesticated birds, allowing people to be infected. These viruses come from Southeast Asia, and everyone is vulnerable. Pandemic Flu can happen anytime of year and is not related to weather. The symptoms for this flu are similar to traditional flu, however the Avian Flu will kill more people than traditional flu. Cases of this type of flu were seen in 2003. Now health officials have seen about 100 cases, and half of these people died even though they were on anti-virals. It is very likely that we will see this flu in our region/state. Right now, surveillance is our only defense, and the World health Organization is on the ground in Southeast Asia. To-date, no domesticated birds or humans have been infected with the Avian Flu in the United States.

### **Seismic Safety Committee**

Ron Teissere, Department of Natural Resources, presented on how to move forward with a policy plan formulated a few years ago. The SSC has come up with a plan that includes people from the Governor’s office, seismic network, school districts, court associations, local land planning, business interests, transportation, legislative staffers, utility interests, telecommunications and someone who can share expertise on public behavior. The SSC will create a work plan to present to the council during a future meeting.

WSEMA Membership

**Committee on Homeland Security**

Amy Cook, Homeland Security Strategic Planner, briefly discussed the Homeland Security News letter which can be accessed from the HLS website. Article submissions are welcomed and must be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> each month.

Arel Solie, Homeland Security Section Manager, briefed the Council on the progress of the FFY 06 Homeland Security Grant. A timeline follows:

November 1, 2005	Program/capabilities review
November 15, 2005	Enhancement Plan Guidance released
December 2, 2005	FFY06 Grant Requirements and Application requirements released
February 28, 2006	Quasi-Competitive Application Due
April 30, 2006	Awards Announced

FFY06 HS grants will be more competitive than in the past. To meet national preparedness goals, the state is reviewing existing strategies, updating strategies, reviewing Homeland Security programs and capabilities, identifying gaps, and developing or sustaining initiatives. At a minimum, the following capabilities must be reviewed:

- Intelligence/information sharing and dissemination
- LE investigation and operations
- Interoperable communications
- CBRNE detection
- Explosive device response and decontamination
- Medical Surge
- Mass Prophylaxis

Homeland Security is also assessing risk-based allocations, and considering the following in the process:

- Population
- Population Density
- Critical Infrastructure

The FFY06 Grant is based on a quasi-competitive application and states will be grouped together in "bands". There are still many unknowns about the FFY06 grant process which should be answered in the FFY06 Grant Guidance and Application Requirements which are to be released on December 2, 2005.

EMPG has been decoupled from Homeland Security for 2006, and there will be a separate application and award process for FFY06 EMPG.

**Task Force on Local Programs**

Mark Foutch and Nicole Simpkinson, co-chairs of the Task Force on Local Programs Working Group, reported on the status of recommendations made in it's final report to the Council. Mark and Nicole asked that the Council focus on recommendations numbers four and five at this point.

WSEMA Membership

Recommendation number four (4) is to establish local liaisons at EMD for outreach to local emergency managers. There are not currently resources at EMD to support this type of program, however EMD is trying a small-scale pilot program in Region 8 . An EMD employee is in the tri-cities area assigned to the Hanford/DOE programs, and Director Mullen stated that they will utilize that staff person as time allows to provide a liaison to the Region. EMD will track what people ask for, and evaluate the program after a period of time. If it appears that the liaison program is needed, the working group will look at how to develop it into a long-term plan.

Recommendation number five (5) was to secure stable funding for Emergency Management. Other states are going through the same processes and conversations are occurring between agencies on how to make this happen. It was suggested that WSEMA needs to work with the legislature and lobby to pursue funding.

### **State Emergency Response Commission**

The SERC has been on a project to "Establish and sustain a regional CBRNE and Hazardous Materials response capability and capacity Statewide". This project is tied to goals and objectives included in the State Homeland Security Strategic Plan. As part of this project, the SERC assessed local CBRNE/Hazmat capabilities in Washington State, prepared a gap analysis of emergency response capabilities and recommended actions, and obtained respondent program recommendations. They then examined other state response programs and prepared team recommendations. The report includes 5 Program Options which are listed below. The EMC members were requested to review the SERC's report, and vet the Program Options through their stakeholder organizations prior to the January EMC Meeting. WSEMA should share these options with members and be prepared to provide feedback for the next EMC meeting.

#### **Program Option #1**

State-wide mutual aid contract

Receiving jurisdiction reimburses response outside the responders local jurisdiction

#### **Program Option #2**

State-wide mutual aid agreement

State reimburses response outside the responder's local jurisdiction

#### **Program Option #3**

State-wide mutual aid contract

State reimburses response outside the responder's local jurisdiction

Regional Teams established with local personnel

Regional team leads report to lead state agency

#### **Program Option #4**

State-wide mutual aid contract

State reimburses response outside the responder's local jurisdiction

Regional teams established with local personnel

regional team leads report to lead state agency

State pays for pre-response activities

**Program Option #5**

Regional teams established with local personnel  
Regional team leads report to lead state agency  
State pays for pre-response activities  
Regional teams are state employees  
State responsible for all HazMat responses

**Note:** The SERC has recommended **Option #4.**

If you have questions about this report or would like additional information, please contact JoAnn Boggs or Trudy Winterfeld.

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