

SECC Meeting

July 21, 2016

Present:

Terry Spring-KWPX
John Price-Mason/Thurston LECC Chairman
Rafael Estevez-WA EMD LEP Coordinator
Roy Benavente-WA MIL Dept
Arlene Hand-TAB 2
Melanie Rogers-WA LIL Dept
Matt Modarelli-WA MIL Dept
Scott Miller-Yakima County LECC Chair
Mark Stewart-WA Military Department
Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle
Jim Dalke-Dalke Broadcast Services

Phone:

Phil Johnson-CPS LECC Chair
Lowell Kiesow-KPLU
Dennis Hull-NWS Pendleton
Carri Gordon-WSP
John Kasprick-SBE
Keith Nealy-KIRO-TV
Bill Putney-KPTZ
Jeanne Gilbert-NPS LECC Chair
Melanie Groner-Alert Sense
Alan Rule-Comcast

Clay Freinwald called the meeting to order and introductions were made. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

The FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making for EAS was discussed. NPRM's are a chance for interested parties to make comments to the Federal Communications Commission on proposed rules and policies. The response from the SECC was over 30 pages long. We did not comment on the cyber security or multi-lingual aspects of the proposal.

The new EAS Handbook is supposed to be ready in time for the upcoming national test. There is a good chance of this happening. This will be the work of a CSRIC committee. The current one is badly outdated. There will be one version for both broadcast and cable. All stations and cable systems are required to have a copy at their control point. In Washington, it is a TAB in the state plan.

TAB updates for the state plan are available on the state EAS remailer. TAB indexes are available commercially at office supply stores and other outlets. A 31 tab index is used. TAB 24, LECC Guidelines, was the last one to be revised. The new LECC chair in the Thurston/Mason area found it useful in reorganizing the committee. TAB 31, the state plan index, is also revised whenever another TAB is revised. It can be used to make sure your copy of the state plan is up to date. The Washington State EAS Plan is a dynamic document and is revised and updated often.

The recent regional NPT was mentioned. It was run by FEMA. It was good to see two federal agencies working together.

Several of the Local Emergency Communications Committees (LECC) have new chairs. John Price is the new chair in the Mason/Thurston area. Scott Miller is the new chair in Yakima. And in the North Puget Sound, the new chair is Jeanne Gilbert.

The EAS remailer was discussed. If there are concerns about the number of emails received, it is suggested that the digest feature be turned on. The list is self-administered. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or make changes in your account go to <http://sea.sbe16.org/mailman/listinfo/eas-wa>. If there are too many bounces to an email address, that address will be unsubscribed automatically. Only subscribers are allowed to post, so use the same account that you receive list emails from to post. When posting, only send the message to the list. Multiple addresses cause the post to be blocked. A big thank you to Hatfield and Dawson for hosting the list.

Radio World had an email interview with Clay on how EAS works in Washington. He put the exchange on the remailer.

In old business, Arlene Hand from BEARS (the Boeing Employee Amateur Radio Club) is working on updating TAB 2, LECC Chairs and County DEMD Officials. She has sent out inquires and received some cooperation. She has received no response from some areas. Tracking down all the information is time consuming so please help her out. There will be more detail in this TAB than in the past.

TAB 10 is being revised by Jon Kasprick. Central Puget Sound (TAB 10-A) and North Central (TAB 10-K) are almost ready. John Price is working on Mason/Thurston (TAB 10-J). Jeanne Gilbert is working on North Puget Sound (TAB 10-L). Yakima will be working on theirs. TAB 10 used to be one big document. It is now split into one TAB for each local area. Updates will be distributed on the remailer and then posted on the state EAS web site. Send the information to Jon on the remailer. Put TAB 10 in the subject line.

TAB 19, Cable TV Specific Information, is overdue for revision. Due to lack of participation by the cable industry, the TAB was split into separate parts for each cable company. Jim Dalke contacted a cable

organization. They expressed some interest but not much has happened. Comcast is working on their part of it.

In new business, Ted Buehner, of NWS Seattle reported that the new EAS event codes all are tropical storm related and will have no impact here.

Two of the four weather forecast offices in the state have implemented the new nationwide NOAA Weather Radio broadcast systems. Portland and Pendleton are running this system now. Seattle and Spokane will have this system in place by September. The system includes a next generation text-to-voice process, but only offers the male voice. There is also a tone blackout feature so that longer-fused EAS events like a flash flood watch can be delayed to avoid waking people up in the middle of the night.

NWS Seattle techs were at the Mt Octopus weather radio transmitter site (day of the meeting) and plan to access the backup power situation.

A reminder - the Great Shakeout this year is on Thursday, October 20, at 10:20 AM. The NWS will again conduct the RMT at this time statewide for the earthquake drill and include the coastal area tsunami warning communications test as well. There will likely be heightened media interest in the tsunami comms test given the new Ocosta School building that also serves as a vertical tsunami evacuation facility.

The FCC's new EAS Test Reporting System was discussed. There are three forms involved. Form 1 is due to be submitted on August 28. It is expected that it will take 30 to 40 minutes for each station to fill out the forms. For the transmitter location the FCC wants the coordinates in decimal form using NAD 83. The official licenses have the coordinates in degrees, minutes, and seconds using NAD 27. This has

to be converted. There have been some complaints, but nothing is likely to change.

The National Test is scheduled for September 28 at 11:20 AM Pacific. The local RMT schedule for the first week in September will not be changed. Sage will be issuing a firmware update for the ENDEC. Other currently supported boxes are compatible with the NPT code.

Logging of EAS events was discussed. Modern EAS boxes keep track of alerts and tests received. Although logs can be kept on a computer, it is still a good idea to keep track of the relevant events on a form. Jim Dalke will post one on the remailer. EAS logging is not specifically in the FCC rules, but the rules do say the state plan must be followed.

Multi-lingual alerts were discussed. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on national origin. This includes language. Alerts should be in the language of the residents in an area. King County has 28 languages. The state has to do better at reaching non-English speakers with emergency messages or face possible enforcement action from the US Department of Justice. The state Emergency Management is developing a plan. Emergency messages will be available in several languages within a year. Their guidance says that populations that are 5% of a jurisdiction, or 1000 people, whichever is less, need to be served. There is a lot of pressure to figure out how to do it. AlertSense is also working on it.

EPIS (Emergency Public Information System) was updated by Phil Johnson. During a major disaster, such as a big earthquake, there is likely to be major damage to land-based communications infrastructure. Broadcasters may be in the best position to get emergency messages out if any survive. The question is how the authorities get messages to any surviving broadcasters.

From the WEMD, the ESF-2, a statewide work group for assisting in communications during a major emergency, will meet September 29. They want all forms of communications represented. More information will be on the remailer.

Carri Gordon reports that AMBER will be getting new software next year.

The next meeting will be on September 29 at 9:30 AM at Camp Murray.