



Washington State Emergency Management Council



**December 2006 Statewide Emergency Preparedness
Report to the Governor**

Washington State Emergency Management Council

Washington State Patrol

State Fire Marshal

Sheriff and Police Chiefs

State and Local Emergency
Management Directors

Department of Ecology

Department of Health

Military Department

Building Officials

Department of Natural
Resources

Private Industry

Search and Rescue
Volunteers

City Officials

County Officials

Washington State Association
of Fire Chiefs

Member-at-Large

Washington Emergency
Management Division
Building 20: TA-20
Camp Murray, WA 98430

February 15, 2007

The Honorable Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

I am pleased to present the Washington State Emergency Management Council's (EMC) 2005-2006 Annual Assessment of Statewide Emergency Preparedness, as required by RCW 38.52.040.

This report provides an assessment of some of the significant hazards, both natural and human caused, facing citizens of the state and outlines the capabilities and shortfalls in meeting these hazards. The report also recommends enhancements for overall preparedness in the state.

The highlighted feature of this Assessment is the report on a proposed Statewide CBRNE (chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear, and explosive) Response Program. The report was created by the State Emergency Response Committee (SERC), a subcommittee of the EMC, and is an analysis of Washington's ability to respond to significant events involving CBRNE agents. While the report acknowledges the strengths of CBRNE response programs statewide, it also reveals gaps between current capabilities and those required for effective, cost-efficient, and safe responses to these types of incidents.

In addition, the Committee on Homeland Security (CHS), another subcommittee of the EMC, has collaborated with federal, state and local agencies to address threats and acts of terrorism through prevention, preparedness, response and recovery planning. This year, CHS began working with its local, state and federal partners, as well as Canadian authorities, to plan for the emergency management challenges associated with the 2010 Winter Olympiad in Vancouver, British Columbia.

An all hazards approach to emergency management continues to be a priority for the EMC. The council has received information about the state's hazard mitigation efforts, which helped reduce the losses and suffering inflicted by the floods, winds and tidal surges of January, February, November, and December, 2006. We can all agree that 2006 was an unusual year for weather related problems. While we are among the best, we still can and need to do more to respond to such emergencies.

The EMC operates as the principal statutory body to advise you on state and local preparedness. It is the hope of the members that we are fulfilling your expectations and needs for the benefit of all of Washington's citizens.

Sincerely,



Diane Oberquell, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Emergency Management Council (EMC), created by RCW 38.52.040, is comprised of 17 Governor-appointed individuals representing: city and county governments; sheriffs and police chiefs; Washington State Patrol; the Military Department; The Department of Ecology; state and local fire chiefs; seismic safety experts; state and local emergency management directors; search and rescue volunteers; emergency medical care experts; building officials; and private industry. With the wide spectrum of knowledge and expertise within the EMC, members are expected and required to advise the governor and the director of the Washington Military Department on matters pertaining to state and local emergency management.

Emergencies and disasters such as the November 2006 floods are local events first, and after they occur, may require the assistance of



local and state governments, the private sector, and citizens. Emergency management planning is crucial to reducing or eliminating the adverse effects of disasters and emergencies. The emergency management needs of Washington State's communities continue to increase and are becoming broader in scope. The EMC continues to assess the level of preparedness of state and local jurisdictions and their ability to respond to and recover from all hazards.

Each year EMC highlights a particular activity in its Assessment Report. The highlighted topic in this report relates to **CBRNE Response Capabilities**. One of the primary responsibilities of any government is to protect the safety and

well-being of its citizens. A terrorist incident involving chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear, or explosive (CBRNE) agents would threaten that safety and well-being of citizens. The state of Washington

has analyzed its capabilities to respond to CBRNE incidents and has determined that there are gaps between current capabilities and those required for effective and safe responses to these types of incidents. The **State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)**, a sub-committee of the EMC, has led the effort over the past year to develop a proposed statewide program that will fill many of the identified gaps. The EMC has accepted the final report of the SERC sub-committee and is considering next steps. The proposed Statewide CBRNE Response Program would be a partnership between the Office of the State Fire Marshal, state agencies including the

Departments of Ecology and Health, local response agencies, and the private sector.

Working with federal, state, local and tribal

jurisdictions, **Hazard Mitigation** continues to prove its effectiveness in reducing the magnitude of many disasters. Washington is subject to nearly every natural hazard and the state is subject to numerous technological hazards ranging from hazardous material spills to dam failures. Washington was the first state in the nation to complete an Enhanced State Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA. Information on planning, preparedness and response is continually evolving and it is important not only for emergency management officials but for the public to be aware of emergency procedures.

The **Seismic Safety Committee** continues to review emerging information on the seismic vulnerability of Washington State. The state has historically seen catastrophic tsunamis that can strike lands that directly face the ocean and by the lands that border the Puget Sound area. In addition, our geological history includes great earthquakes with shocks of magnitude 8 or larger. More than 1,000 earthquakes are recorded annually. Revisions to the national and regional probabilistic ground motion maps to



reflect emerging information are in process. Some areas of the Puget Sound lowlands will be shown to be at higher risk on the revised maps. The estimated overall

vulnerability is also increasing for the Puget Sound region as a result of better information on the nature and extent of crustal faulting. As our knowledge of the crustal structure is refined in areas along Cascade Foothills, evidence is accumulating that some of these faults may extend over longer distances than previously thought, increasing the magnitude of possible movement along the faults.

Flooding is the most prevalent natural hazard in Washington as realized by the substantial flooding and damage which occurred in November of 2006. Since 1956 flooding has been involved in 28 of the 47 federally declared disasters, including two flood events in 2006 that resulted in federal disaster declarations. Flooding occurs on both sides of the Cascades, but the majority of flood damage involves the Puget lowland. Eastern Washington is subject to uncommon, but violent, flash floods, and urban storm water flooding is becoming increasingly common. The Flood Hazard Committee regularly reviews the progress of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in its effort to mitigate flooding

and Washington Department of Ecology's efforts to update and digitize all flood hazard maps.

The purpose of the EMC Committee on **Homeland Security** is to develop initiatives and recommend statewide strategies that address all hazards as well as threats and acts of terrorism through mitigation, prevention, preparedness, and response and recovery activities. The collective effort in addressing the needs of homeland security involves a wide range of federal, state, and local agencies. This collaboration has created multiple innovative accomplishments and successes that focus on all aspects of the terrorism threat. Through these efforts, Washington State continues to be recognized nationally as a leader in expeditiously implementing Department of Homeland Security programs and introducing innovative approaches to homeland security initiatives.

The successful administration of the above programs is essential in the preparation of citizens, businesses and government for both natural and human caused disaster. In order to maintain its commitment to an "all-hazards" approach to emergency management, the Emergency Management Council has tracked the progress of the eighteen recommendations made in the **Task Force on Local Programs Report** that was the featured item in the 2005 EMC Annual Report. Significant progress has been made towards addressing and fulfilling those recommendations.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ASSESSMENT OF STATE-WIDE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

RCW 38.52.040 mandates that the Emergency Management Council (EMC) provides the Governor and Director with an annual assessment of statewide emergency preparedness including, but not limited to, hazard mitigation, seismic safety improvements, flood hazards reduction, and hazardous materials planning and response activities. Homeland Security/ Terrorism is now included in the assessment.

PROGRAM: STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE (SERC)

Overview

The State Emergency Response Commission has analyzed the capabilities of state and local authorities to respond to significant events

involving chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear, or explosive (CBRNE) agents and has determined that there are gaps between current capabilities and those required for effective, cost-efficient, and safe responses to these types of incidents. SERC and

the Emergency Management Council have led the effort over the past year to develop a proposed, sustainable statewide CBRNE program that will fill these gaps, building on existing capabilities of regional response teams and state agencies. The addition of technical capabilities and equipment to existing teams is

clearly the most cost-effective way to address this challenge.

The proposed program is now defined through a formal report, *Statewide CBRNE Response*



Hazardous chemical treatment facility fire in Apex, NC. 17,000 people evacuated (October 2006)

Program – Final Report

(October 2006). The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) will serve as the program-administering agency for the state.

Requirements for training and equipment have been developed and coordinated through the SERC

Technical Committee with representatives from the state's nine Homeland Security Regions. Without such a program in place, even existing capabilities are at risk due to diminishing funding sources.

This program provides the primary basis for achieving Goal 5.8 of Washington's Statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan, which is

"To Enhance Regional CBRNE Response Capability and Capacity Statewide". We will protect Washington State's citizens, businesses, and infrastructure through implementation of this program.

Need for the CBRNE Program

One primary responsibility of *any* government is to protect the safety and well-being of its citizens. An incident involving CBRNE agents would threaten that safety and well-being. Washington remains susceptible to the effects of such incidents, as several reasonable steps to assure a rapid, effective response have yet to be taken. A CBRNE incident could be an accidental occurrence or it could be the result of a terrorist activity. While the origin of the event is important from the standpoint of prevention of future events, the first responders are faced with a series of challenges to swiftly, effectively, and safely stabilize the incident site, irrespective of the origin.

Our response needs, along with the response needs of every local and state response agency in the country, changed after September 11, 2001. It became all too obvious that CBRNE threats in the United States were very real. The potential magnitude of a major CBRNE event, coupled with law enforcement, public health, logistics, and communication issues, requires a well-coordinated, multi-agency response in which we must "get it right the first time". The threat of this type of event requires our first responders to

expand their capabilities in two dimensions. First, a CBRNE incident may involve new and unknown hazards for which the local hazardous material (HazMat) teams have not yet been trained. Specialized equipment for monitoring and personal protection is also required. Second, the scale of a CBRNE incident may require coordination with other organizations to an extent that goes well beyond the current HazMat team experience.

Most of the structure necessary for a successful statewide CBRNE program is in place today. The additional required elements simply build on the current capabilities. The result is a regionalized CBRNE response program in which existing first responders are trained and equipped to the necessary levels for response to any type of event. This increased knowledge, training, and equipment will result in safer, more effective, and cost-efficient responses throughout the state.

Previous Studies

Previous studies examined the state's existing HazMat response capabilities and provided recommendations for improvements. The most recent study, *Establishing Sustainable Regional CBRNE/HazMat Response Capability in Washington State*, was completed in November 2005 and provided the foundation for the current proposed Statewide CBRNE Response Program. This study identified the variety of programs and procedures in place across the state and

identified the gaps, redundancies, and inadequacies in the current response program. It showed areas where CBRNE response capability was inadequate; revealed a lack of interoperability in terms of procedures, training and equipment standards; highlighted deficiencies in responder training to the new CBRNE environment; documented the absence of a sustainable program funding source, and analyzed existing programs in several other states to determine the best model for a comprehensive, sustainable CBRNE program in Washington. The SERC Committees, representatives from each Homeland Security Region, city and county governments, various state and federal agencies, and Native American tribes had significant input to this study.

Program Overview

The proposed Statewide CBRNE Response Program is a partnership between the OSFM, state agencies, including the Departments of Ecology and Health, local response agencies, and the private sector. It will:

- Build on the existing HazMat teams and bomb squads to create a network of fully-trained and equipped regional CBRNE response teams that operate with standardized training, equipment, and procedures.
- Administer an aggressive cost recovery program to recover the costs of

responding to CBRNE incidents from responsible parties.

- Reimburse local jurisdictions for approved responses to CBRNE incidents.
- Pay for training, equipment, and medical surveillance for CBRNE technicians.
- Support training for other levels of responders (awareness, operations, specialist, and command).
- Purchase necessary equipment.
- Be supported by a sustainable funding source.

The program was developed during an extensive review of the existing response capabilities and alternative program components by four SERC Committees: Strategic/Legislative, Administration, Technical, and Contracts. The *Statewide CBRNE Response Program – Final Report* (October 2006) provides a detailed description of the program, including candidate funding mechanisms and draft legislation. The locations, team types, and number of technicians were chosen after a detailed review of the recent history of incidents and exposure factors using a risk-based model.

The program leverages on the existing Homeland Security regional boundaries and develops at least one highly qualified response team in each of these nine regions. It creates a coordinated, statewide network of regional teams and avoids redundancy by using existing HazMat teams,

bomb squads, and health protection teams, integrated through common procedures, training and equipment. These teams can respond effectively within their region and can travel to any other region in the state to work cooperatively on major incidents.

The Statewide CBRNE Response Program will result in over 600 trained technicians who are capable of responding to CBRNE incidents. The response personnel will remain employees of their current local governments or state agencies. The number of response employees will not increase, but there will be a major expansion in their capabilities. The result is a regionalized CBRNE response program in which existing first responders are trained and equipped to the necessary levels for response to any type of event. This increased in knowledge, training, and equipment will result in safer, more effective, and cost-efficient responses throughout the state.

A Technical Advisory Committee will assist the OSFM in establishing program policy and guidelines and will provide ongoing counsel on program implementation.

The program does not pay for CBRNE incident response; rather, it creates a trained, equipped response force along with a cost recovery

process to obtain reimbursement from responsible parties. The program will require sustainable source of funding to ensure the reliability and continuity of these services.

Next Steps

The SERC has collaborated with the Washington Fire Chiefs Association, which has submitted legislation in the 2007 session to enact provisions of the Statewide CBRNE Program. The SERC will continue the process of communicating the Statewide CBRNE Response Program need and description to ensure that all involved parties, including the legislature and affected state and local agencies, are well informed about the features, benefits, and obligations of the program.



Train car derailment of highly flammable liquefied petroleum gas in Vancouver, WA (October 2006)

PROGRAM: FLOOD HAZARDS

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION:

Flooding is the most prevalent natural hazard in Washington. Since 1956 flooding has been involved in 28 of the 37 presidential declared disasters. The principal season is mid-fall through mid-winter in western Washington and mid-winter through spring in eastern Washington. In 2006, two flood events resulted in federal disaster declarations.

Flooding occurs on both sides of the Cascades, but the majority of flood damage involves the Puget lowland. Eastern Washington is subject to uncommon, but violent, flash floods. Fire-damaged watersheds can flood in the years following a fire.

Urban storm water flooding is becoming a more common occurrence, particularly in the state's more developed areas. High groundwater tables and inadequate urban storm drainage contribute to this problem.

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY:

Mt. Vernon, Burlington, and the smaller communities along the Skagit River; Centralia and Chehalis along the Chehalis River; and many smaller rural areas that are along main stem Cascade Range streams, including the Snoqualmie, Snohomish, Stillaguamish, and Nooksack rivers, are the most vulnerable communities.

RISK ASSESSMENT: HIGH

- Private Properties located in flood hazard areas are continuously at risk
- Many of the state's pipelines, highways and rail corridors, must use or cross floodplain areas.

PROGRESS/POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS REPORTED TO THE EMC:

- The EMC regularly reviews the progress of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program's grant awards. Through various federal grant programs directed at mitigation, the State of Washington has acquired and/or elevated more than 600 homes to mitigate flooding; but the need is far greater than the funding.
- The Washington State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan – the first of its kind in the nation – qualified the state to receive an increased level of federal mitigation funds after the January 27 – February 4, 2006 Severe Storms, Flooding, Tidal Surge, Landslides, and Mudslides that resulted in a federal disaster declaration.
- Department of Ecology (DOE) is participating in a FEMA initiative to update and digitize all flood hazard maps statewide by 2009. DOE is working with local communities to determine their mapping needs,

- establish priorities, and develop a business plan to obtain FEMA funds for the mapping project. The average age of existing flood maps is 17 years. Flood hazard map modernization projects have been initiated in ten counties thus far and assessment efforts have been conducted for the remaining counties.
- DOE has partnered with EMD to provide \$1.5 million per year to develop and implement plans and projects that reduce flood hazards.
 - DOE has partnered with Washington State Department of Transportation to undertake a major effort to coordinate state activities aimed at flood hazard reduction. These activities include a focused effort on obtaining improved flood mapping that will lead to better identification and avoidance.



PROGRAM: SEISMIC SAFETY

The Seismic Safety Committee continues to review emerging information on the seismic vulnerability of Washington State, and compare this information to the policy recommendations already made to the Emergency Management Council. The committee has identified several policies for the development of specific implementation strategies for consideration by the EMC. In particular, development of a unified approach to training people in ATC-21 (Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards) and ATC-20 (Post earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings), Development of improved post-earthquake communications protocols among earthquake scientists and first-responders, and use of the latest ground motion data to refine the locations where the bridge retrofit at the state and local levels should be concentrated.

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION:

FEMA ranks Washington number two in the nation for seismic risk based on population vulnerability to earthquake hazards.

Washington has five specific seismic risks:

Intraplate or Benioff Zone

Earthquakes

- Earthquakes that occur in the subducting Juan de Fuca plate from 25 to 100 km deep and are usually strong shakers. The largest recorded was the 1949 M7.1 in Olympia that lasted about 20 seconds. The 2001 M6.8 Nisqually earthquake lasted about 40 seconds. Since 1870 there have been six Puget Sound Basin earthquakes of M6.0 or larger. The national seismic risk maps estimate that there is an 84 percent probability of a similar quake in the next 50 years.



Shallow Crustal Earthquakes

- Usually within about 30 km of the surface, these earthquakes occurred near Bremerton in 1997, Duvall in 1996, Maury Island in 1995, Deming in 1990, North Bend in 1945, North of Portland in 1962, and on the St. Helens' seismic zone in 1981. Washington's largest earthquake, estimated at M7.4, was the 1872 North Cascades earthquake and is thought to have been shallow.

Subduction Zone (interplate)

Earthquake

- These enormous earthquakes occur along the interface between tectonic plates and affect our south-coast communities. Averaging every 500 years, these earthquakes are approximately M8 – M9+. The last to strike this area was about 300 years ago. The national seismic risk maps estimate that there is a 14 percent probability of a similar quake in the next 50 years.

Volcanic Hazards

Washington has five major volcanoes: Mt. Baker, Glacier Peak, Mt. Rainier, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Adams. More than 200 eruptions have occurred over the past 12,000 years ejecting ash and other material, lava flows, lahars, and debris avalanches. Importantly, intrusions of magma (not eruptions) or steam explosions at the volcanoes may have caused other enormous debris avalanches and lahars. Except for Mt. Adams, all major volcanoes have erupted within the last 250 years. Since they do not erupt at regular intervals, it is difficult to forecast when one might return to an active state. On September 26, 2004, Mount Saint Helens exhibited seismic activity that was the start of dome-building eruptions that are continuing as of this writing.

Tsunami Hazards

- Tsunami hazard assessments were completed in many at-risk communities.
- Tsunami inundation maps were completed by Washington Department of Natural Resources for Bellingham, Anacortes and Northwest Whidbey Island.
- Tsunami brochures with evacuation maps were completed for 104 communities and two tribes along the Washington Coast and the Straits of Juan de Fuca in Clallam and Jefferson counties.

VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS:

Washington is vulnerable to many seismic events. The state has historically seen catastrophic tsunamis that can strike lands that directly face the ocean and by the lands that border the Puget Sound area. In addition, our geological history includes great earthquakes with shocks of magnitude 8 or larger. More than 1,000 earthquakes are recorded annually. Revisions to the national and regional probabilistic ground motion maps are in process. Some areas of the Puget Sound lowlands will be shown to be at higher risk on the revised maps. Others will be slightly lower. These changes are a result of the on-going collection of geological and geophysical data that allow scientists to refine our view of expected ground motions in those areas where high quality geologic mapping, subsurface data, and geophysical

observations exist. The estimated overall vulnerability is also increasing for the Puget Sound region as a result of better information on the nature and extent of crustal faulting. As our knowledge of the crustal structure is refined in areas along the Cascade foothills, evidence is accumulating that some of these faults may extend over longer distances than previously thought, increasing magnitude of possible movement along these structures.

RISK ASSESSMENT: HIGH

Due to increases in population, infrastructure, and construction the next great earthquake is expected to have significant impact in terms of loss of life and to the state's economy. The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute recently published a study on an earthquake on the Seattle Fault. The Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup published one on the Cascadia Subduction Zone. These studies represent the best documentation to date on the most probable human health and economic damage impacts from earthquakes in Washington.

Program: Homeland Security/Terrorism

The purpose of Washington State Emergency Management Council's Committee on Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Program is to develop initiatives and recommend statewide strategies that address all hazards as well as threats and acts of terrorism through mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION:

The multi-faceted terrorist threat includes threats posed by chemical and biological agents, radiological materials, nuclear, incendiary and explosive devices, and cyber attacks.

VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

SUMMARY:

Washington State communities are vulnerable to terrorist activity and attacks directed toward individuals, as well as highly visible and vulnerable targets such as critical infrastructure facilities, public sites, infrastructure systems, and special events.

Critical facilities, sites, and special events could become targets for terrorists because of potential broad social and economic impacts and the presence of high profile persons or government leaders. Major sporting or entertainment events provide the opportunity for harm to large numbers of people. Additionally, national and international meetings and events such as the 2010 Winter Olympics can provide terrorists with attractive targets. Other sites and smaller gatherings pose the potential to impact governing and leadership structures of our society.

Coordinated and integrated efforts between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies identifying the sources of potential attacks will continue to be required.

Establishment of the Washington Joint Analytical Center greatly increases the multi-agency sharing, analysis and rapid dissemination of intelligence information to uncover both common criminal behavior and potential terrorist activity.



RISK ASSESSMENT: HIGH

To successfully counter and respond to possible terrorist acts, counties, cities, tribes, agencies, and community organizations must work closely together on a regional basis to maximize resource use and to effectively integrate planning and response. Innovative regional approaches in conjunction with the use of existing processes are essential to successful management of all hazards. The plans and systems developed for

all-hazard threats and disasters have been incorporated to serve as templates for developing a comprehensive homeland security program.

This collective effort, involving a wide range of federal, state and local agencies, has realized numerous innovative accomplishments focused on all aspects of the terrorism threat:

- Continued maintenance and enhancement of on-line distance learning for Incident Command, National Incident Management System and other training for law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical service and other emergency responders.
- Three-day *Capabilities and Enhancement Plan Workshop* conducted in December 2005 that brought over 250 local, state, tribal and federal partners together to build 5-year homeland security Initiatives.
- Statewide NIMS implementation efforts, in accordance with NIMS Integration Center requirements.
- Statewide selection, acquisition, and distribution of over **\$25M** in standardized and interoperable equipment through Department of Homeland Security grants.
- Continuing restructuring/reassessment of the Committee on Homeland Security (CHS) and its subcommittees and working groups, including the addition of

the CHS Agriculture and Food Safety Subcommittee.

- Updated State three-year exercise strategy.
- Refinement and re-organization of the statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan.

The State's top priorities for enhancing its existing capability for responding to and recovering from terrorist acts and weapons of mass destruction incidents continue to be:

- Access to federal intelligence and the ability to analyze and share it with state and local officials on a need-to-know basis.
- Acquisition and integration of resources for local and state agencies, to enhance the preparedness and response of public and private healthcare systems including improved surveillance systems, training, surge capacity, and secure communications.
- Acquisition of resources for statewide integration of exercises, planning, training and equipment for response agencies, to include secure and interoperable communications systems.
- Statewide adoption, integration, and compliance with the National Response Plan and the National Incident Management System as required by the Department of Homeland Security in

- Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5.
- Statewide integration of the National Preparedness Goals and priorities as part of Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-8.
- Identification of critical infrastructure in all 17 critical sectors and associated sub-sectors throughout state.
- Maximizing limited federal homeland security funding to enhance statewide preparedness.

Task Force on Local Programs Report – Update

The EMC has revisited and updated its **Task Force on Local Programs Report**, the centerpiece of the Council's 2005 annual report. Of the eighteen recommendations put forth in the report, action has been taken on fifteen, while the remaining three have been actively studied. One of the recommendations – the establishment of a state funding source to support emergency planning and mitigation efforts – was realized when the legislature and the governor made a one-year appropriation of \$1.6 million available for Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance Grants. Another recommendation – to increase public awareness and participation in emergency preparedness – was realized with the creation of a comprehensive Public Education plan, and the addition of staff for Public Education and Training at the state level.

Conclusion

The Washington State Emergency Council is committed to advising the Governor and the Adjutant General on matters of emergency preparedness. To most effectively do so, it approaches emergency preparedness from an “all-hazards” perspective.

In early 2007, the Washington State Emergency Management Council will meet in special session to assess its strengths and weaknesses, and to establish an attainable set of priorities for 2007/2008. By doing so, the EMC will increase its ability to fulfill its statutory obligation to... “advise the governor and the director on all matters pertaining to state and local emergency management.”

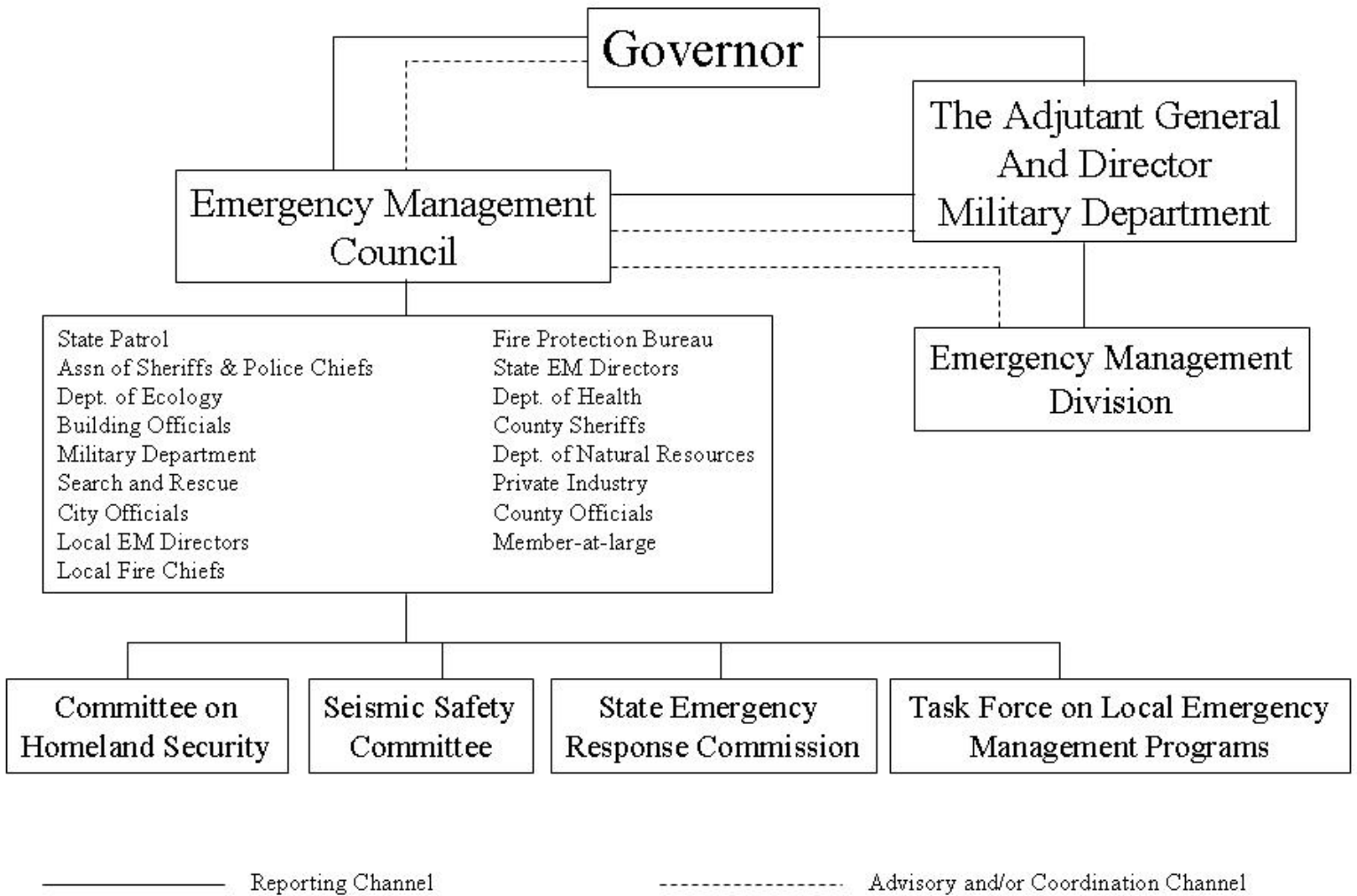
It is the opinion of the EMC that the state of emergency preparedness in the State of Washington is Excellent. In many instances Washington State is viewed as a leader in emergency preparedness in the United States.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPRESENTING

MEMBER

State Emergency Management Directors	Steve Bailey, Vice Chair <i>Director, Pierce County Department of Emergency Management</i>
Building Officials	Kenneth Korshaven <i>Building Official, City of Lynnwood</i>
City Government	Mark Foutch <i>Mayor, City of Olympia</i>
County Government	Diane Oberquell Chair <i>Commissioner, Thurston County</i>
Department of Ecology	Jay Manning <i>Washington Department of Ecology</i>
Department of Natural Resources	Doug Sutherland <i>Commissioner of Public Lands</i>
Local Emergency Management Directors	JoAnn Boggs <i>Director, Pend Oreille County Department of Emergency Management</i>
Local Fire Chiefs	Don Bivins Chief, Vancouver Fire Department
Department of Health	Mary Selecky Washington State Department of Health
Police Chiefs	Jim Scharf Everett Police Department
Private Industry	Robert Zimmerman Senior Manager, Support Operations, Security and Fire Protection, The Boeing Company
Search and Rescue	Art Jordan Chairman, Washington State Search and Rescue Volunteers Advisory Committee
Sheriffs	John Didion <i>Sheriff, Pacific County</i>
State Fire Marshal	Mike Matlick <i>State Fire Marshal, Fire Protection Bureau</i>
Washington Military Department	Jim, Mullen <i>Washington Military Department</i>
Washington State Patrol	John Batiste <i>Chief, Washington State Patrol</i>



**WASHINGTON STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

RCW 38.52.040

Emergency management council -- Members -- Ad hoc committees -- Function as state emergency response commission -- Rules review.

(1) There is hereby created the emergency management council (hereinafter called the council), to consist of not more than seventeen members who shall be appointed by the governor. The membership of the council shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of city and county governments, sheriffs and police chiefs, the Washington state patrol, the military department, the department of ecology, state and local fire chiefs, seismic safety experts, state and local emergency management directors, search and rescue volunteers, medical professions who have expertise in emergency medical care, building officials, and private industry. The representatives of private industry shall include persons knowledgeable in emergency and hazardous materials management. The council members shall elect a chairman from within the council membership. The members of the council shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended.

(2) The emergency management council shall advise the governor and the director on all matters pertaining to state and local emergency management. The council may appoint such ad hoc committees, subcommittees, and working groups as are required to develop specific recommendations for the improvement of emergency management practices, standards, policies, or procedures. The council shall ensure that the governor receives an annual assessment of state-wide emergency preparedness including, but not limited to, specific progress on hazard mitigation and reduction efforts, implementation of seismic safety improvements, reduction of flood hazards, and coordination of hazardous materials planning and response activities. The council or a subcommittee thereof shall periodically convene in special session and serve during those sessions as the state emergency response commission required by P.L. 99-499, the emergency planning and community right-to-know act. When sitting in session as the state emergency response commission, the council shall confine its deliberations to those items specified in federal statutes and state administrative rules governing the coordination of hazardous materials policy. The council shall review administrative rules governing state and local emergency management practices and recommend necessary revisions to the director.

[1995 c 269 § 1202; 1988 c 81 § 18; 1984 c 38 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 57 § 8; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 82; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 6; 1951 c 178 § 5.]

NOTES:

Effective date -- 1995 c 269: See note following RCW 9.94A.850.

Part headings not law -- Severability -- 1995 c 269: See notes following RCW 13.40.005.

Effective date -- Severability -- 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34: See notes following RCW 2.08.115.