



WSEMA

Washington State Emergency Management Association

Washington State Emergency Management Association (WSEMA) Report On the Past Year's Activities to the Washington State Association of Counties November 2008

The Washington State Emergency Management Association (WSEMA) has been involved in a variety of activities over the past year.

Legislative Activities

WSEMA has actively promoted legislation to provide funding for state and local emergency management programs through a surcharge on insurance policies. To examine a similar program, WSEMA sent several members to the state of Florida, which has received insurance funding for their emergency management programs for several years. During this trip, members learned what elements of the Florida program were successful and what things they wish they had done differently. WSEMA is partnering with the Washington State Association of Counties to host a legislative reception tentatively scheduled for December 4, 2008 to provide an opportunity to promote this legislation. WSEMA also anticipates working on emergency management mobilization legislation in 2009.

2007 Flood After-Action Report and Analysis

On June 10, 2008, WSEMA sponsored an after-action report workshop in Mason County to analyze the December 2007 flooding and develop improvement recommendations. Former Washington State Emergency Management Division Director Glen Woodbury facilitated the session with 65 participants. An executive summary with recommendations is available.

Best Practices and Standards

WSEMA is working with a subcommittee of the state Emergency Management Council on developing emergency management accountability standards, using the nationally-recognized Emergency Management Accreditation Program as a guideline. The Florida visit also served the purpose of identifying best practices in use in Florida's successful emergency management program. Lessons learned includes: the state provides representatives to its seven regional zones to help facilitate planning, response and recovery; they have a campaign called "Volunteer Florida" that helps coordinate volunteer efforts throughout the state; the Florida State Department of Emergency Management can tap into every state department during an emergency to aid in paying for disaster relief; they provide an active professional certification series for emergency management workers at all levels.

2008 Joel Aggergaard Scholarship Award

WSEMA provided scholarship funding to Samuel Ripley from Bellingham. Samuel is pursuing a degree in Disaster Reduction and Emergency Planning at Western Washington University.

Conference

WSEMA held its annual conference at the Quinault Beach Resort in Ocean Shores in September 16-18, 2007 with approximately 200 participants. WSEMA is partnering with the Oregon Emergency Management Association for a joint Washington/Oregon emergency management conference on September 15-17, 2009 at Salishan in Lincoln City, Oregon.

WSEMA Committees: Legislative, Conference, Education, Private Sector Outreach

Council and Committees with WSEMA-Filled Positions: Washington State Emergency Management Council, Washington State Committee on Homeland Security, Washington State Enhanced 9-1-1 Committee, Washington State Emergency Response Commission, Washington State Interoperability Executive Committee, Washington State Citizen Corps, Washington State Seismic Safety Committee, Washington State Fire Protection Policy Board