

**SB 557 Uniform Tsunami Warning Signal Work Team
Minutes from meeting September 20, 2006**

Attendees of conference call

Al Aya, Wayne Stinson, Steve Scibelli, Tom Manning, George Priest, and Jay Wilson

Absent

Don Baker, John Buchanan, Mark Metcalf, and Ryan Sandler, Chris Jonientz-Trisler, and Tyree Wilde

Agenda

1. Minutes from last meeting
2. Executive Order 13407
3. Comments/concerns from WA EMD
4. Douglas County sirens test
5. Survey of local siren equipment and responsible authorities

Meeting began with a review of minutes from August 28th meeting. Don Bishoff from Senator Morrisette's office is interested in tracking our work and asks to be notified of future scheduled meetings. OEM Director Ken Murphy will be providing the Senator with an update on our discussions.

Executive Order 13407

The team discussed the Executive Order 13407 that specifies DHS prepare policy and guidance for a Public Alert and Warning System. We have asked FEMA to review our issues and hope to have someone from FEMA HQ to sit in on our conference calls and provide comment/review of our objectives relevant to upcoming federal warning standards. As of this meeting we have had no direct communications with FEMA HQ and with agency representation from Chris J-T of FEMA Region X.

Comments and Concerns from Washington EMD

The group discussed the inquiries from Washington EMD that Oregon is doing its own thing by possibly changing from the CPG 1-17 standards. WA-EMD has shared many correspondences with FEMA Region X and OEM to inquire about or deliberations and express concerns that if Oregon adopts a different standard it will cause confusion along the coast. WA-EMD currently uses their All Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB) Radios to provide notification of multiple event warnings with a 3-minute steady tone signal followed by hazard specific voice messaging.

All agreed to be willing to change existing standards if agreed on by consensus, but want to comply with other states and the federal guidelines – and several stated they do not wish to comply with the precedent if it is not the most effective approach.

Group recommends accepting interim understanding that there is a mix of warning tones currently in use along the Oregon coast.

Testing

Douglas County will test its newly installed tsunami warning system on October 2 with volunteers to measure audibility of signal during both steady and wavering tones. It was suggested to also test a voice message to determine the distance for understandable speech.

Cannon Beach mentioned that their directional speakers can provide voice coverage a mile from source. He mentioned that the coverage shifts to a pear-shaped pattern from wind.

Uniform testing was discussed and Saturdays were mentioned as a good recommendation to better catch the attention of tourist and children out of school.

Survey of local siren equipment and responsible authorities

The group agreed to provide data for a spreadsheet that details the location of warning siren devices and who has jurisdictional authority for activation. We also will try to collect information on device model, power requirements, when currently tested, power output radius and GPS coordinates using datum WGS 84.

Al from Cannon Beach reminded the group of the impact of the Nisqually quake and how Cannon Beach lost power and phones from ground shaking. He emphasized the importance of having trickle charge batteries and consideration for emergency power requirements, especially for mechanical sirens.

Steve Scibelli from North Bend Police mentioned a future Liquid Natural Gas facility in the Coos Bay area that will require an emergency notification system and that Coos Bay already has sirens tied to a dam failure warning system too. Coordination between a tsunami warning system and these others are necessary.

It was also noted that tsunami warning sirens are located outside of communities in State Parks like Cape Lookout and Nehalem.

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