



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Helgeson, Brown, Mital, Simpson and Carlson
FROM: Doug McGillivray, Emergency Program Manager; Mel Damewood, Chief Water Engineering and Operations Officer
DATE: November 7, 2017
SUBJECT: Update on Emergency Preparedness for Winter Season
OBJECTIVE: Information and Update.

Issue:

Requested Information and Update.

Background:

Glossary

BCP: Business Continuity Plan

EOC: Emergency Operations Center

ICS: Incident Command System

IMT: Incident Management Team

NWS: National Weather Service

OEMA: Oregon Emergency Management Association

**CURRENT AND ONGOING ACTIONS – ACTIVITIES TO PREPARE EWEB
FOR THE COMING WINTER SEASON:**

Incident Command System History:

ICS was developed in Southern California in the early 1970's as a result of numerous wildland fires. Response to these fires was – as is usually the case – rapid with resources arriving from all over the country. Many of the resources arrived without benefit of an invitation, therefore, no one expected them and no plans had been made to support them. Additionally, some resources were used to the point of exhaustion while resources of similar ability were not used at all even though they may have been sitting side by side. This posed problems not only for the fire management team but also for the agencies sending the resources.

The original program borrowed an organizational chart diagram from the U.S. Army and was called "Firescope." Not too many years later it morphed into the Incident Command System or ICS. Oregon adopted ICS in the late 1980's and over the years made numerous changes and adaptations to the program.

On February 28, 2003, President George W. Bush signed Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD 5) and at the direction of FEMA Administrator, Gov. Tom Ridge, ICS became the method of choice for incident response and management across the USA.

The program that was developed in Oregon, became the basis for the national model as it exists today.

ICS Training:

EWEB will be offering advanced Incident Command System courses later this year and beyond. Courses initially offered will be ICS 300 and ICS 400. ICS 300, Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents takes the information learned in ICS 100 and ICS 200 and ratchets it up a notch. This training is designed to provide the participants with an understanding of the principles and techniques involved in managing an expanding or growing incident. ICS 400, Command and General Staff – Complex incidents, is specifically designed for those who will function in an EOC environment during and immediately following a major emergency or disaster.

We will also be offering an on-going series of position specific training for IMT personnel in roles such as Public Information Officer and Planning Section Chief.

Exercises:

Exercises are currently being designed and conducted to ensure that all EOC staff and IMT members have a complete understanding of their assigned roles and are basically familiar with other ICS roles and responsibilities. This is to ensure that EWEB EOC's, will be able to function even when faced with a possible reduced staffing level due to a major emergency or disaster. To accomplish this, individuals are being trained to ensure that EWEB has a 3-deep staffing level of all Command and General Staff positions.

On-going Plan Reviews:

All Emergency Action Plans are being reviewed to identify gaps and to ensure they are current, viable and useable. These plans are being used during exercises to ensure the EOC participants are familiar with the document(s)

EWEB's BCP, or Business Continuity Plan:

EWEB's Business Continuity Plan is being revised and made more streamlined, thus, more user friendly. The revised document will provide access to procedural information that will contribute to maintaining EWEB's business activities. All information excised from the existing BCP, will be kept in separate binders in the EOC, and updated on a regular basis. The goal for this revision is the facilitation of EWEB's expeditious recovery from any major emergency or disaster.

Community Preparedness, Outreach and Collaboration:

- EWEB has once again partnered with the cities of Eugene and Springfield as well as Lane County and other regional partners in several community events. These events are designed to educate and inform the public not only about EWEB, but also about emergency preparedness

actions and training that members of the public might undertake to better prepare themselves and their families to withstand and survive the effects of a major emergency or disaster.

- Community outreach and involvement is crucial to EWEB's preparedness and community outreach efforts and one of the most popular topics is Family Preparedness. We will be carrying that message to the community on a regular basis through in-person training sessions, participating in community meetings, social media and appropriate web-site postings.
- Brown bag lunch-time presentations are being planned for the ROC and HQ. The first offering will be a presentation on a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and its ramifications in Oregon generally and in Lane County specifically. Included in these presentations will be a short (14 minute) video by Oregon State University professor, Dr. Chris Goldfinger, Oregon's most prominent earthquake expert.
- On **Nov 8th**, EWEB is collaborating with Eugene, Springfield and Lane County to present a Winter Planning Meeting that will be highlighted by a presentation from the National Weather Service on expectations for the coming winter season. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for attendees to compare notes, maps and share contact information. The meeting will take place on Nov 8th, from 2:30 to 4:00, at the Springfield EOC, 230 4th Street, Springfield. The NWS will follow this meeting with a Weather Spotter training session for all those interested. This meeting will be Nov 8th at 5:00 PM in the same location.

OEMA:

EWEB maintains a presence and membership in the Oregon Emergency Management Association. This provides a large network of experienced emergency managers with whom EWEB shares information and from whom EWEB can draw information and even assistance should the need arise.

EWEB Emergency Management is active in this organization and is working on a plan to provide emergency access to fuel stored underground in the event of a major power outage.

Next Steps:

- Update the regional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.
- Continue outreach to the community by conducting briefings and training to community groups and at preparedness fairs.
- Conduct ICS training for emergency responders in our region.
- Look at programs and techniques that are 'outside the box' that will assist in mitigating future emergency situations and in moving EWEB's emergency management programs and disaster recovery plans forward.
- Advance EWEB's program of employee preparedness training to include employee family members.

- Collaborate with regional planning groups to increase EWEB's preparedness activities and footprint.

Recommendation

This Board backgrounder is for information only. If you have any questions about EWEB's Emergency Preparedness please contact Mel Damewood at mel.damewood@eweb.org