



Jefferson County - City of Port Townsend
COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN



Part 3: Emergency Operations Guide

EOG 3.2.01 WARNING

(ESF 2 equivalent - partial)
August 18, 2008

ACTION NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES AND PROTECT PROPERTY - A “warning” is the timely notification of persons at risk, by multiple means, that they may be in danger of an impending situation; and they need to take action to protect lives and property. The hazard warning capabilities of Federal and State government, assisted by the broadcast media, are the first line of warning dissemination.

Locally, we have the responsibility for supplementing those warnings where possible with the emergency information necessary to take action appropriate to our unique circumstances.

LIMITATIONS - Most of our citizens become aware of hazardous situations when there is significant media attention, such as severe weather or flooding. Because there are no local broadcast media outlets here (and some remote areas do not receive broadcast radio or television), warning of imminent risks in some areas is difficult.

EXTEMPORANEOUS MEANS - Warnings must either be received via regional (Seattle-centric) news outlets, or local government must use extemporaneous means of notifying the public. The lack of local emergency resources makes this event more problematic.

WARNING AND INFORMATION RECEIVING POINT - Jeffcom is the designated Primary Warning Point (PWP) for Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend. Procedures and equipment are in place there to receive warning information from many sources, and make notifications to the agencies responsible for taking emergency action.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION - The primary source of regional and national warnings is via the National Warning System (NAWAS¹). Jeffcom monitors the NAWAS line 24/7. Print-out versions of the NAWAS bulletins is also transmitted to Jeffcom via the Washington State Patrol data network (ACCESS). NAWAS can also be monitored in the EOC when it is activated.

The State of Washington Emergency Management Division maintains a State Warning Point (SWP) at the State EOC. There are multiple information sources available to the SWP for retransmission via NAWAS.

TYPES OF WARNINGS –

- Severe weather
- Flood and flash flood
- Tsunami
- Fire weather
- Evacuation
- Nuclear accidents
- Reentering space debris
- Volcanic eruptions and ash

¹ See EOG 3.2.01-B for NAWAS procedures.

- Attack warning
- Fallout
- Hazardous materials

LOCAL HAZARDS - Jeffcom may become aware of locally occurring hazards from citizens via 9-1-1

LOCAL WARNING CAPABILITIES - Further dissemination of warning and alert information will be based on the nature of the hazard. That may include activation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), the All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) stations, the Emergin® Key Personnel Notification System, Jeffcom “all call” tones, door-to-door notifications² or a combination.

WARNING OUTLETS – Warning methods include, but are not limited to:

- Regional AM and FM broadcast stations (sparse coverage in West Jefferson County)
- Regional broadcast television outlets (no coverage in West Jefferson County)
- Cable television (limited subscribers; north Quimper only)
- Local FM broadcast station (KPTZ)
- All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) sirens (limited coverage; waterfront only)
- NOAA Weather Radio (initial alert only)
- Local emergency response agencies (police and fire resources when available)
- Amateur Radio Network (licensed stations)
- Fire Radio (all fire districts and personnel)
- Law Enforcement Radio (all law enforcement agencies and personnel)
- Subscriber e-mail emergency notification (usually weather warnings)
- Neighborhood Preparedness information fan-out system

LOCAL WARNINGS AUGMENT STATE WARNINGS - The local warning system will not be activated for regional, state-wide or national events that will originate at higher levels. Local warnings can be initiated to augment where needed.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR WARNING DISSEMINATION - Activation of the local Warning System is the responsibility of the Department of Emergency Management. The department maintains a 24/7 duty officer program to assure timely implementation of warning and alert plans. Guidance will be provided to the PWP for key personnel notification and activation of local warnings.

ACTIVATION OF THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) – In the event the incident meets the warning criteria the Department of Emergency Management may order activation of the Emergency Alert System. EAS activation will trigger Puget Sound Area broadcast radio and television outlets.

COORDINATION OF ADDITIONAL WARNINGS – In the event additional warnings are needed, the Emergency Operations Center will be activated, and warnings will be disseminated via the most expedient methods.

² Using available emergency response resources.