



Jefferson County - City of Port Townsend  
**COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**



**Part 3: Emergency Operations Guide**

**EOG 3.2.01-B  
NATIONAL WARNING SYSTEM (NAWAS)**

September 04, 2008

**SPECIAL PURPOSE HOT LINE** - The National Warning System (NAWAS) is a special purpose telephone system that provides the capability for simultaneous (selective) dissemination of warnings. Through NAWAS, essential warning and emergency information can be initiated either at the federal level, state level, or local level.

**NAWAS ANSWERING POINTS** - There are two NAWAS answering points in Jefferson County: In Jeffcom (24-hour answering point) and in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC Radio Room). The NAWAS functions like an open "hot line". Each of the participant stations must be able to monitor warnings on a state-wide basis in real time.

**CONCEPT** - The NAWAS system provides for timely dissemination of critical warning information, simultaneous updates state-wide, and access to the national warning circuit in the event of a national emergency

Warning information is received from multiple local, regional and national sources. Procedures are in place to further disseminate essential information to the populations at risk via several outlets.

**TYPES OF WARNINGS RECEIVED VIA NAWAS**

- Severe weather warnings
- Flood warnings
- Tsunami warnings
- Fire weather warnings
- Nuclear accidents
- Reentering space debris
- Volcanic eruptions
- Attack warning
- Fallout warning

**SIMULTANEOUS SIGNALING** - Simultaneous signaling of all warning points within the state can only be accomplished by the State Warning Point, Alternate State Warning Point, and the National Weather Service Office in Seattle. In addition to the dual tone signal, each phone has a visual indicator (red light) which alerts the station user.

**STATE WARNING POINT** - The State Warning Point (SWP), located at the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray, monitors and controls all activity on the state circuit. The Alternate State Warning Point (ASWP) is the WSP Communications Center in Yakima. Both facilities have identical equipment.

**LOCAL WARNING POINTS** - Primary Warning Points (PWP) have been installed throughout the state. Each PWP is required to be staffed on a 24-hour basis. In addition, duplicate Warning Points are established in several local Emergency Operations Centers.

Jeffcom is the PWP for Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend. There is a duplicate station in the EOC radio room. There is no NAWAS outlet at the Alternate Emergency Operations Center.

Routinely, NAWAS is monitored in the Emergency Operations Center during the business day and when the EOC is activated. Audio dissemination of NAWAS alerts can be broadcast through the EOC audio distribution matrix.

**BACK UP COPY** - Depending on the status of the network, a "hard copy" of all warnings and alerts is also broadcast throughout the warning area via the ACCESS messaging system (received at Jeffcom).

**TWO-WAY CAPABILITY** - In addition to receiving immediate real time messages from the National or State warning points, the Primary Warning Point (or alternate) can direct inquiries to the SWP. Two way communication usually consists of requests for clarification or for permission to contact an adjacent community via NAWAS for emergency traffic.

**MONITORING AND TESTING** - The system is routinely tested by roll call twice every 24 hours. The PWP (Jeffcom) is expected to answer the roll call and log the successful test. A biweekly test between the SWP and the duplicate warning points (EOC's) will be conducted by special roll call every other Wednesday.

**CALLS BETWEEN LOCAL PWP'S** - Calls between one PWP and another is authorized provided permission is requested through the State Warning Point via NAWAS. Calls between PWP's should be restricted to immediate emergency matters.

#### **CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN TERMS USED HERE**

- Attack warning – impending or actual attack or accidental missile launch against the US has been detected and protective action should be taken immediately.
- Fallout warning – a potential radiation hazard exists resulting from nuclear detonation, accidental release, or terrorist activities.
- Hot line – the ability to hear all conversations on all NAWAS stations on the state circuit at the same time.
- Warning point – a facility that receives warnings and other emergency information via NAWAS and relays that information according to internal plans