



# Walla Walla County

## Emergency Management Department

27 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Walla Walla, Washington 99362  
Phone: (509) 524-2900 • Fax: (509) 524-2910  
[www.wwemd.info](http://www.wwemd.info)

**T. Chris Lee**  
Director

**PATRICK PURCELL**  
Coordinator

# AGENDA

## Emergency Management Executive Board Meeting

January 16, 2024 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM

*This will be a hybrid meeting; in-person at Board of County Commissioners Chambers<sup>1</sup>, or via WebEx (virtual)*

1. Welcome and Introductions	
2. Directors Report	Chris
3. Roundtable Discussion – Any Comments/Questions	All
4. Adjourn	

*Next Meeting – April 16, 2024, 2 - 3 PM*

### WebEx Meeting Details:

#### Meeting Link

<https://wwco.webex.com/wwco/j.php?MTID=m0f48b10ce022241f873802d121494c69>

#### Join by phone

+1-408-418-2nd9388 United States Toll Free

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<sup>1</sup> 314 W. Main, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Walla Walla, WA 99362



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### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 1 – December 31, 2023

#### 1. Meetings

- a. Attended EMS and Trauma Care Council meetings. (10/05/2023 & 12/07/23)
- b. Participated in the Emergency Management and Communications Advisory Board (EMCAB) meeting. (10/12/23, 11/09/23 & 12/14/23)
- c. Participate in meetings hosted by Walla Walla County Department of Community Health to maintain situational awareness of Community Health issues affecting the community, staff/resident safety in Long Term Care Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities and Adult Care Homes. This meeting is the consolidation of what had been two separate meetings. (Monthly)
- d. In cooperation with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health coordinated the sharing of weather information and the communication of shelter locations available during extreme weather events. (01/08/24 & seasonally as needed)
- e. Participated in Public Health Situational Awareness calls for PHEPR Region 8. This call incorporates reporting from Hospitals, EMS and Emergency Management for Walla Walla, Benton, Franklin, and Yakima County. (Monthly)

#### 2. Training

Title Scope/Purpose	Sponsor	Date(s)
<i>Everbridge ENS/Incidents</i>	<i>Everbridge</i>	<i>10/03/23</i>
<i>Everbridge Suite: Member Portal Configuration and Best Practices</i>	<i>Everbridge</i>	<i>10/19/23</i>
<i>JEM Stressors and Mental Health of Emergency Managers</i>	<i>Journal of Emergency Management</i>	<i>11/01/23</i>
<i>WISE-Food Control Area GIS Integration and Training</i>	<i>WWCEM</i>	<i>11/07/233</i>

#### 3. Alert and Notification

- a. WWEM in cooperation with Everbridge continues to refine templates for evacuation notifications. WWEM continues to work with Everbridge to integrate English to Spanish language translation into emergency alerting so that we can continue to expand our accessibility to all county residents.

**4. Public Information**

- a. Conducted Emergency Management and Preparedness public out-reach to the Walla Walla Rotary. (11/30/23 & 12/14/23)

**4. Drills and Exercises**

- b. Walla Walla County Ares participated in the St. Mary Medical Center annual Influenza vaccine drive through clinic. Ares members provided communications to vaccine officials to facilitate management of the clinic. (10/07/23)
- c. Participated in the Grant PUD 2023 annual EAP Seminar for the Wanapum and Priest Rapids Dams. Participants reviewed emergency action plans and were briefed about plan updates. (10/30/23)
- d. Participated in the Food Control Area drill facilitated by WAEMD and the SEOC. The purpose of the drill was for training related to the processes used to develop a Food Control Areas protective action decision package for a radiological incident at the Columbia generating Station (CGS). (11/21/2023)
- e. Participated in the USACE Tabletop exercise for Lower Monumental Dam. The exercise brought together USACE personnel and community partners in a simulated response to a potential dam breach. (11/21/23)
- f. Walla Walla County ARES participated in providing communications with parade officials to facilitate command and control during the Annual Walla Walla Parade of Lights. (12/02/23)
- g. Walla Walla County ARES participated in a WAEMD sponsored 5th Saturday EOC to EOC functional communication exercise. (12/30/23)

**7. Administration (Planning & Logistics)**

- a. Continued management of grant deliverables in support of the Interlocal Agreement between WWEM and Walla Walla County Fire District 4 to complete the scope of work described in the Mill Creek Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fuels Reduction Hazard Mitigation Grant.

Received proposals from those contractors who had responded to the RFPs sent out for the Update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan. After scoring it was determined that Northwest Management Inc (NMI). was the unanimous choice. After legal review, the contract was sent out to NMI for review and signature. As soon as it is returned it will be processed for approval and signature by Walla Walla County Commissioners.

**8. 2023 RECAP**

While we understand that the quarterly Directors report covers the minutia of most Emergency Management activities, we decided that perhaps a broader annual review might better highlight some of the year's accomplishments.

- a. End of COVID PPE Operations. This ended what had been a multi-year response to providing emergency PPE to diverse agencies across Walla Walla County and its incorporated cities. Serving clinics, school districts, long term care facilities and skilled nursing facilities/providers (to name just a few) more than 2,500 000 were requested and distributed.

- b. Managed the application and management of several grants which provide financial support to County emergency management personnel, planning updates, project/program funding and equipment purchases.

- (i) Hazard Mitigation Grants: Provide financial support to County Emergency Management, fuels reduction project and the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Fuels reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). In cooperation and special thanks to Walla Walla County Fire District 4 for their project management, provided funding for 61 working days of fuel mitigation within pre-identified areas. To date the project is 90% complete with approximately \$30,000 of grant funded work completed. This is at no cost to the contracted residents.

Update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). While still in the early stages, the request for proposals resulted in six responses. After Scoring, the unanimous choice was Northwest Management Inc. (NMI). After the legal review the contract was submitted to NMI for signature.

- (ii) Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) Grant: Funds received from this grant are primarily used to support training and exercise preparation for Emergency Events originating at the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) Nuclear Power point located on the Hanford Reserve.

In addition to a complete re-write of our CGS emergency response plan, we have been planning and preparing for a large multi-county Ingestion exercise to be held in February and March of 2024. This exercise held every eight years, will involve a coordinated effort between local, state, and federal partners in response to a hypothetical emergency event at CGS, which has resulted in contamination across multiple counties.

Note: We would like to extend an invitation to committee members to come by and observe exercise activities. If you would like more information on the dates and times of the exercise, please send us an email. We will be happy to send you a calendar invite.

- (iii) Homeland Security Grants: Helps provide funding to the Emergency Management office and supplies money for equipment purchases which have shown to have a nexus to terrorism.

Emergency Management was able to complete the purchase of new handheld radios which can be used to enhance emergency response during emergencies. Emergency Management maintains this cache of radios for use by responders during emergencies.

Facilitating the purchase of an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) to enhance the public safety capabilities of Local Law Enforcement.

Note: Funding availability through Homeland Security Grants has become competitive at the State and National level. It is likely that revenue from these grants will be reduced soon.

- (iv) Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG): This funding is primarily used to provide funding to local Emergency Management Office to ensure that they can maintain Emergency Management programs for the counties they serve.
- b. During 2023 the Emergency Management office monitored over 40 fires that occurred during June through September timeframe. Incident Commanders for two of these fires requested State Mobilization to be able to access air assets.

During the monitoring of these fires, Emergency Management monitored radio traffic and communicated with WESCOM to try and establish the exact location and direction of fire movement. Using that information, the Everbridge Emergency Notification System (ENS), was used to pre-locate at risk or populated areas in the fires path, establish polygons to designate geographical areas that might need to be evacuated and be prepared to send out evacuation notifications as soon as requested by the Incident Command.

We also requested spot weather forecasting for the fire affected area to be able to provide that information quickly to Incident Commanders if or when requested.



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Director

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Coordinator

## **Emergency Management Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 16, 2024, | 2:00 – 3:00 PM**

### Members Present:

Elizabeth Chamberlain, Deputy City Manager, City of Walla Walla -Virtual  
Gunner Fulmer, Walla Walla County Commissioner  
Norma Hernandez, Mayor, City of College Place-Virtual  
Todd Kimball, Walla Walla County Commissioner, Chair  
Jenny Mayberry, Walla Walla County Commissioner

### Non-Members Present:

T. Chris Lee, Director, Walla Walla County Emergency Management  
Patrick Purcell, Coordinator, Walla Walla County Emergency Management

#### **1. Welcome**

Commissioner Kimball called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM and welcomed those members in attendance and had those present in person and virtually, introduce themselves.

#### **2. Directors Report**

Chris noted that the Directors report had gone out as a read-ahead and that there were some changes to make the information it contained more locally relevant.

Chris also spoke about the upcoming Columbia Generating Station (CGS) ingestion exercise and how it would be bring together County partners in response to a radiation emergency. He emphasized how this was response had a training and preparedness nexus to all hazard emergencies within the County.

### **3. Public Comments**

None present

### **4. Roundtable Discussion – Any Comments/Questions**

Mayor Hernandez asked whether the pending EOC move would involve both the EOC and the 911 Center. It was confirmed that both would be moved. Norma asked how many people were utilizing the Warming Center. The current numbers at the time of the meeting were 12 – 18 people.

Elizabeth Chamberlain noted that the city of Walla Walla would continue sharing/updating information on priority routes, plowing and snow removal. Information updates would be provided on the City's Facebook page.

Commissioner Fulmer asked both Elizabeth and Mayor Hernandez to please thank their emergency responders for their hard work and their steadfast response despite extreme cold and icy conditions.

### **5. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Kimball at 14:25 PM.

*Next Meeting – April 16, 2024, from 2 PM to 3 PM*