SEATTLE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Annual Report **2014**

Message from Emergency Management Director—Barb Graff

Seahawks Victory Parade

Three separate parts of the city's emergency management program were tested – and proven very proficient – this year. Of the seven activations of the Seattle Emergency Operations Center in 2014, perhaps the most notable was for the Seahawks Super Bowl Victory Parade in February. Anticipating a record-setting attendance for a downtown week-day event, the EOC hosted a close-knit team of subject matter experts in transportation, utilities, public safety, health and human services, public information, as well as Century Link and Seahawks organization representatives to address any issues that might arise.

Oso Responders

Following two of the rainiest months on record a devastating mudslide along State Route 530 claimed the lives of 43 people and nearly the same number of homes in Snohomish County. Seattle was quick to offer assistance through the Washington State Mutual Aid System. More than 100 trained city employees helped over 4 weeks with rescue, operations, logistics, critical incident stress debriefing, public information, and general EOC support as well as donated vacation time converted to disaster relief contributions valued at $72,000.

Throughout the entire month of December the Office of Emergency Management hosted multi-agency coordination conference calls between city and county departments, private utilities, and the Washington State Department of Transportation when the tunnel project experienced unexpected ground settlement. Five city departments established a unified command structure and adhered to the unity of effort and planning for which the incident command system was first developed.

Road Closure Sign in construction zone

These are all vital aspects of a city-wide emergency management system and 2014 provided record-setting opportunities to practice them. We look forward to 2015 with new staff joining our program and a number of major plans being revised or developed – a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Emergency Operations Plan, Emergency Support Functions, and Disaster Recovery Framework. All achievements, past and future, are a reflection of the incredible partnerships we have with enormously talented people and we are forever grateful.

Barb Graff, Director

Seattle Office of Emergency Management

Disaster Ready

Operations

Oil Train Safety

On July 24th a train departing one of its rail yards in north Seattle derailed. The train was carrying crude oil and traveling approximately 5 MPH. Luckily the incident was did not result in a spill or explosion, although it occurred just under a major vehicle overpass. The incident highlighted how vulnerable the area is in regards to the potential for a major disaster resulting from a oil train accident. The City of Seattle has seen an increase in the number of trains carrying oil through the city and each additional train brings added risk. The Seattle Office of Emergency Management has been very involved in looking at the risks associated with oil trains and developing strategies to mitigate the impact (such as earthquake early warning systems) and plans for responding to incidents that may occur. To that end, Director Graff testified at Senator Patty Murray's Transportation Committee on the hazards of crude oil trains and provided recommendations for actions that could to reduce our risks.

Ebola Planning & Response

When the first case of Ebola was confirmed in the United States, OEM began planning in event that the Centers for Disease Control confirmed someone had tested positive for the Ebola virus in King County. We developed a draft of a Consolidated Action Plan that identified our objectives if we were to activate because of Ebola. Those objectives were based in part on the lessons learned from Dallas regarding their response to such an incident. For most of the month of November and early into December we provided information daily to a variety of stakeholders on the status of activities being takenboth locally and nationally to address the disease. We also took advantage of the heightened interest in this virus to continue to provide education regarding minimizing any infectious diseases such as the seasonal flu.

SR530 Landslide

The landslide that occurred in Oso, while many miles from Seattle, kept the Office of Emergency Management busy for more than a month. Immediately following the event, OEM began coordinating the deployment of City resources to assist in the rescue efforts. Daily e-mail briefings were conducted outlining the specific needs and assignments for the upcoming operational periods. OEM was also providing regular informational updates regarding how the City was supporting the efforts in Snohomish County. For those responding to the field and the Snohomish County Emergency Operations Center, the incident presented unique challenges and required long hours of work. OEM provided an opportunity for a debrief following the deployment to ensure that we were capturing lessons they learned and reviewing our own planning documents to ensure they were incorporated.

Tunnel Monitoring

Early in December the City was notified that unexpected ground settling had occurred in the area where digging was

Operations

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occurring to rescue the large drill head of "Bertha", the tunneling machine that was being used to dig a tunnel to replace SR99 viaduct. Immediately OEM began coordinating with other City Departments, Washington State Department of Transportation, and several other private companies to ensure that everyone was aware of, and understood what was being done to address the issues. In the first week-end following the news, twice daily conference calls were conducted. As the situation progressed, the calls were reduced to three times a week. A unified command structure was established because the issues impacted several departments. OEM continues to coordinate information and facilitate discussion between all the stakeholders.

The Seattle Emergency Operating Center was activated on seven different occasions. They included:

- 2014 Super Bowl Game;
- Seahawks Victory Parade;
- May Day Demonstrations;
- Torchlight Parade;
- NFL Kickoff Game;
- and twice for events surrounding the Ferguson Grand Jury Decision.

OEM Staff Duty Officers handled more than 30 incidents that did not require the EOC being activated, but benefited from considerable coordination between a variety of stakeholders.

Disaster Declarations

Currently, OEM is managing six open disaster declarations. The most recent one is in connection with the March, 2014 landslide in Snohomish County, which resulted in damage to a Seattle City Light transmission tower.

Emergency Support Functions Accomplishments

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible for leading the City of Seattle's overall emergency management efforts. To achieve this, OEM works with departments across the city to ensure that all activities are coordinated. One of the ways we organize our work is through the use of emergency support functions (ESFs). ESFs are resources and capabilities that are grouped into "functional" areas to provide support, resources and services that are most likely to be needed to respond to a disaster. The following are highlights the 2014 Accomplishments:

ESF 1-Transportation

Lead— Seattle Department of Transportation

- Developed language to assist the state and United States Department of Transportation to develop policy regarding moving oil trains through urban areas
- The addition of oil train hazard in the Seattle Hazard Inventory & Vulnerability Analysis allowed Seattle Department of Transportation to prioritize projects in the Hazard Mitigation Plan

ESF 2-Information Technology

Emergency Support Functions Accomplishments

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Lead— Department of Information Technology

- Working on the development of the 'Next Generation Data Center'

ESF 3-Public Utilities

Lead—Seattle Public Utilities

- Debris Management Plan was approved by FEMA
- Together with Seattle City Light hosted an exercise testing response plans for the Tolt River Dam

ESF 4 -Fire Fighting, ESF 9-Search & Rescue ESF 10– Hazardous Materials

Lead—Seattle Fire Department

- All hazmat responders were provided training on responding to oil train fires (supported by Burlington Northern Santa Fe). Provided awareness and operational materials to all fire fighters, which led to the revamping of all the Seattle Fire Department Rail Response.
- Planning for response to a variety of incidents that could occur in the State Route 99 tunnel once it is operational.
- Provided training to all responders in the region on personal protective equipment (PPE) use based on the risks associated with the Ebola virus.

ESF 5-Emergency Management

Lead—Office of Emergency Management

- Provide structure and coordination for the City-wide Emergency Management program

ESF 6-Mass Care

Lead—Human Services Department

- Tested a number of ESF 6 plans in response to the State Route 530 mudslide. Most significant was the Reunification of Personal Belongings plan
- The shelter appendix was updated
- Regional Catastrophic Feeding Plan was finalized

ESF 7-Logistics

Lead—Finance and Administrative Services

- ESF 7 was updated
- The seismic risk assessment completed
- Developed pre-determined mission package for the establishment of base camps
- Completed an inventory of shelter supplies on hand and identified what was needed

ESF 8-Public Health

Lead—Public Health Seattle King County

- Tested their mutual aid agreement with the Medical Examiner's Office on the State Route 530 mudslide
- Ebola response Washington was one of nine states to do medical countermeasures plan

Emergency Support Functions Accomplishments

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- Participated in the Regional Area Medical (RAM) clinic

ESF 11-Agriculture

This ESF has limited relevance in the City because it pertains mostly to agricultural issues. The two responsibilities associated with ESF 11 that affect the city are Food Supply and Food Safety. Food supply is addressed by ESF 6– Mass Care and food safety is address through ESF 8– Public Health.

ESF 12-Energy

Lead—Seattle City Light

- Completed a qualitative analysis and measurements of Seattle City Light processes
- Continuing seismic upgrade to substations

ESF 13-Public Safety and Security

Lead—Seattle Police Department

- Members of the Seattle Metropolitan Incident Management Team were the first to respond to the SR530 Landslide to provide support to the Snohomish County Emergency Operations Center.

ESF 14-Long Term Recovery and Mitigation

Lead—Office of Economic Development

- Nearing completion of the Recovery Framework

ESF 15-External Affairs

Lead—Mayor's Office

- Completed ESF 15 Joint Information Center Planning Annex

Training & Exercises

Go Kit contains vital information needed to stand up

OEM conducted two exercises designed to practice the ability to relocate and establish operations at an alternate site. The first exercise conducted in April focused on OEM staff only. This allowed us to test the administrative and logistical aspects of our plan. A second exercise in September tested communication processes and included key EOC responders. We successfully tested our ability to move our operations, notify our critical partners and respond to one of our alternate sites within the allotted timeframe.

Training & Exercises

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Other training conducted in 2014 include:

- Two offerings of EOC training a mandatory series (4 courses) for all individuals who have been identified as EOC responders by their department directors.
- Conducted EOC training for members of Seattle's Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS). ACS is a group of ham radio operators that support the EOC during activations.
- EOC logistics section training
- I-Snap Report Training—a new tool developed to help combine regional situational awareness following a major disaster.
- SharePoint Training for Staff Duty Officers

Specific training and orientation sessions were provided to members of Seattle's Disaster Management Committee members:

- Orientation on understanding crude oil train transport
- Understanding Emergency Telecommunications System (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service
- Orientation on public health plans
- Orientation on winter weather plans

Members of the Disaster Management Committee exercise the Winter Weather Plan.

Preparedness Cycle Foundation for Training and Exercise Plan

The Seattle Office of Emergency Management uses the National Incident Management System (NIMS) definition of preparedness as " a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response." This definition is the foundation for our training and exercise plan. The above cycle shows the process that we follow to take our plans from being documents on a shelf, to living and breathing strategies that everyone has been trained on and exercised to test in real world scenarios.

Planning

OEM updated several plans that guide our response efforts including:

- Winter Storm Incident Annex—This Annex outlines the strategies to be used when responding to significant winter weather including windstorms, flooding, landslides, snow and ice storms.
- Vulnerable Population Medical Transportation Plan—This plan outlines regional strategies for how Seattle can transport medically vulnerable populations to critical appointments (i.e. kidney dialysis) during winter storms when public transit is not operating.
- ESF-6 Mass Care, Housing and Human Services Annex—describes how sheltering, mass care, food assistance and other human services resources will be coordinated during disasters.
- ESF-7 Logistics Annex—describes how needed resources will be coordinated and managed during a disaster.
- Update of Emergency Proclamation Protocol. This checklist is used when creating and approving any emergency proclamations made or emergency measures taken during a disaster.
- Continuity of Operations Plans for response departments– All response Departments in the city are required to have a Continuity of Operations Plan that details how they will provide essential services following a major disaster. The plan outlines what functions and personnel are essential, line of succession, delegation of authority, and continuity facilities that will be used if their existing building is uninhabitable.

The creation of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was a major focus of our planning efforts in 2014. This plan in addition to the new Emergency Operations Plan will replace our Seattle Disaster Readiness and Response Plan.

Annual City-wide Emergency Management Strategic Plan for 2015-2017

The City of Seattle emergency management program's success is based on the collaboration and coordinated efforts of a great number of people, both inside and outside City government. The strategic plan is meant to provide the vision of the city-wide emergency management effort through a multi-year strategy. The plan is continually reviewed, adjusted and new strategies are developed in recognition of funding, organizational structures and dynamics that may arise.

Regional Catastrophic Grant

In July of 2014 the city's responsibility for the Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant (RCPGP) ended. Over the life of the grant there was incredible work done by the planning team, that represented county, city, tribal, business and non-profit stakeholders. Among their many accomplishments, a comprehensive coordination plan was developed. Components of the plan include:

Planning

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- Evacuation and Sheltering
- Long Term Care Mutual Aid
- Medical Surge Resource Management
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Triage and Treatment
- Structural Collapse Rescue
- Transportation Recovery
- Victim Information and Family Assistance
- Volunteer and Donations Management

While the grant has expired, the group has made a commitment to continue to meet. Lead agencies that developed plans will maintain and enhance those plans as resources allow. The State of Washington Emergency Management Division continues to host all of the products and plans on their website.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

The bulk of the work for the 5 year revision of the Seattle All Hazards Mitigation Plan was completed in 2014. As part of the strategy development, a seismic risk assessment methodology was developed in order to screen and prioritize seismic retrofits within the City's portfolio of key facilities. Community meetings were held to gather input about the issues that concern people the most. The revised plan will go before Council for approval in 2015, to be followed by a close out workshop for city and partner agencies and organizations.

State/FEMA-funded Mitigation Projects

OEM continues to provide oversight on several grant-funded projects:

- Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) successfully completed the Seattle Urban Flooding Hazard Identification Project. Through the combination of field site visits and data analysis, this project enabled the investigation of more than 70 known or suspected urban flooding "hot spot" locations. As a result, the City has an improved ability to prepare for, respond to and mitigate urban flooding problems. The great success of the project inspired the creation of a new program within SPU's asset management portfolio.

OEM Staff TJ McDonald reviews map of Seattle with community members attending Mitigation meeting

- Work continued on the Unreinforced Masonry Building (URM) Public Education and Outreach Pilot Project. URMs, primarily old brick buildings that have not been structurally strengthened, are known to be very vulnerable to earthquake damage. The purpose of this project is to develop and test information pieces to educate the community and inspire seismic retrofit of these buildings. The resulting communications toolkit will help the city conduct outreach to building owners, occupants and the general public.

Planning

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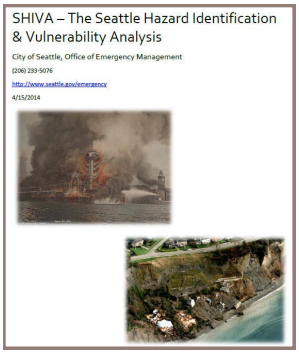
Recovery Planning

The development of a disaster recovery plan for the city, called the Seattle Disaster Recovery Framework, is nearly complete. Several meetings of the planning committee, which included representatives from many partner agencies, organizations and businesses, helped to identify and group key recovery issues. A proposed organizational chart has also been developed to guide recovery management and problem solving. Work continues to identify city and community representatives to serve on a standing Community Recovery Task Force. The Recovery Framework will be taken before council for approval in 2015.

Update of Seattle Hazard Inventory & Vulnerability Analysis


SHIVA – The Seattle Hazard Identification & Vulnerability Analysis

City of Seattle, Office of Emergency Management

(206) 233-5076

http://www.seattle.gov/emergency

4/15/2014

This report specifies the 18 hazards that could cause major disasters in Seattle. It is the basis for Seattle's entire emergency management program. This update captured new research, added a section on cyber disruption added two scenarios for each hazard and included an analysis showing how critical facilities, vulnerable populations and different land uses are exposed to earthquakes, landslide, tsunami, volcano and flood hazards.

Prepared People

Public Education & Community Preparedness Program

National Night Out Against Crime

OEM provided disaster preparedness information and training to neighborhoods throughout Seattle during National Night Out. This year our community outreach staff worked with the Lakeridge community in Southeast Seattle to host an event aimed at building sustainable community relationships and partnerships. Several booths were set up, challenging the attendees to test their knowledge and practice their skills. The planning team was a diverse group, representing faith based and community based organizations along with neighborhood businesses. More than 150 community members took part in the event.

Skills Training

Seattle OEM taught two Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training series, graduating 65 participants. This 32-hour course met on three consecutive Saturdays and covered essential skills that will be needed following a major disaster. Each graduate has made a commitment to educating their families, neighbors and communities about the importance of emergency preparedness.

Community Skills Class participants practicing patient assessments

In addition, 76 community members took community skills classes training. These courses are the skills based portion of the CERT curriculum, offered as stand alone classes. In light search and rescue, participants learned how to enter and search a room and safely lift and move injured people after disaster. Participants took each other's pulse and practiced how to control bleeding in the disaster first aid. The Seattle Channel ran a story on how preparing to respond with neighbors can make a big difference during disaster.

Preparing Schools and Childcare programs

Helping our childcare providers to be disaster ready was one of the focuses for public education in 2014.

- OEM partnered with the King County Public Education Workgroup and Childcare Health Programs of Public Health Seattle & King County to offer three workshops called Disaster Preparedness for Childcare Providers. The day-long workshop taught childcare providers how to develop a comprehensive disaster plan for their site, introduced them to the Incident Command System, and explored best practices for family reunification after a disaster. The participants learned how to create and conduct effective drills and exercises and how to reduce earthquake hazards at their site.
- OEM partnered with Seattle Public Schools Head Start Program to teach parents about preparedness at their home and in their neighborhood. The class included information on how to be safe in an earthquake, how to create a family disaster plan, how to build a disaster supplies kit on a budget and how to be ready to help each other after a disaster. Translated preparedness information and interpreters were provided as part of the partnership with Seattle Public Schools.
- OEM conducted a training on lockdown procedures for childcare providers contracted through the Human Services Department's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. A community outreach representative from Seattle Police Department was on hand to train the providers on the lockdown process and additional training was provided on active shooter preparedness and response. A brief active shooter tabletop exercise was conducted.
- Seattle Public Schools and Seattle OEM partnered to offer district-wide training for faculty and staff on family reunification after a disaster, disaster first aid & triage, and simple search and rescue. Each class also included a brief overview of the Incident Command System and preparedness for faculty and staff. As a result of the programs, individual schools also worked directly with Seattle OEM and arranged for on-site training for faculty, parents and kids.

Prepared People

Public Education & Community Preparedness Program

Partnerships Enhancing Emergency Preparedness

1. Youngster get to practice putting out a fire with laser fire extinguisher prop 2. Community members learn how to disinfect water 3. ASL interpreter translates at community meeting 4. Participants at Disability Awareness Seminar 5. Panel members at Disability Seminar.

The city of Seattle is committed to educating its communities about disaster risks and what they can do to stay safe. Disaster supplies are an essential part of being prepared. However, for some of Seattle's low income and immigrant families attaining these items is difficult. OEM has partnered with Target Corporation over the last several years to support emergency preparedness activities focused on vulnerable populations. This year Target provided substantial disaster supplies to 150 low income Seattle families and provide learning experiences to more than 650. With the Target grant we were able to achieve the following goals:

- Provide basic disaster supplies to more than 650 families vulnerable to a major disaster event
- Engage underrepresented communities in conversations about local disaster risks, including those that are potentially exacerbated under a changing climate
- Empower communities through hands on learning how to prepare for and respond to a major disaster

Prepared People

In 2014 the public education & outreach team partnered with Seattle's Office of Sustainability. They joined a growing list of city and community based organizations we partner with to outreach to communities that are especially vulnerable following major disasters. These new connections enhanced our existing efforts to build resiliency and self-sufficiency in communities. Highlights include:

- International District Chinatown Community Center's Fall Festival—The goal of the event was to teach community members about emergency preparedness and give them tools to reduce their risks. Participating families received disaster supplies and learned about aspects of preparedness, such as managing household utilities, making an emergency plan, upcycling household items for preparedness, and how to build a disaster kit.
- Halloween community building event at the International District Community Center. 200 families representing the Chinese and Vietnamese received "flash" trainings on individual disaster preparedness as well as disaster supplies for their families.
- Lantern Walk—along with Seattle Housing Authority's New Rainier Vista, FEMA Corps, Friends of Cheasty Greenspace and Habitat for Humanity. The walk is an annual event where all the neighborhoods in the area participate in a reflective tour through the Rainier Vista neighborhood and Cheasty Greenspace.
- Family Night at Yesler Terrace –100 residents representing the Chinese, East African and Vietnamese immigrant community received education on winter safety and emergency preparedness as well as disaster supplies for their families. Seattle City Light participated in this event as well.
- Holiday dinner and community building event at South Park Community Center. Information was provided to the community on environmental sustainability as well as disaster preparedness, which included flood related information in response to the threat of winter flooding in the area. 300 people from the Latino community were in attendance.

Innovative Outreach Efforts

- Cultural Awareness Series—This was a series of events that was created to inform human service providers, public educators and emergency managers about the unique strengths, differences, and needs of the communities they serve. The goal of the series was building community relationships and partnerships that support resiliency for vulnerable populations when disasters occur. Two workshops were held in 2014 focusing on disability awareness and African American cultural awareness. In total more than 200 people attended the two events.
- A poverty simulation exercise was conducted which used interactive tools and scenarios to allow participants to experience real life situations encountered by individuals experiencing poverty. This event focused on educating emergency managers and first responders on how to competently meet the needs of clients living in poverty. Approximately 60 people attended.
- OEM staff in partnership with the King County Vulnerable Populations Operations Workgroup conducted a communications planning workshop for 35 Seattle and King County faith-based, non-profit and community-based organizations, as well as community Hubs. The workshop provided materials and templates on creating an agency plan and coordinating critical information to staff and clients during an emergency. This training was part of a year long series of training opportunities offered by the King County Emergency Planning Institute which trains agencies who serve underrepresented populations on how to be better prepared.

Resilient Communities

Hub Training for 9 Community Gardens

Community trainers from OEM, the Department of Neighborhoods and Habitat for Humanity partnered to complete a series of emergency preparedness training for multi-lingual P-Patch gardeners in SE Seattle. Training and supplies were part of a $35,000 FEMA grant received in 2012 to create community emergency hubs in areas of Seattle with fewer resources to devote to emergency planning. There are now 47 hubs where community members can come together to exchange vital information after a disaster, share resources and problem-solve together when City services are unavailable.

King County Executive's Community Preparedness Award

Over five years ago, neighborhood leaders throughout Seattle decided to join forces and develop their own network of emergency hubs – gathering places where people could meet after a major disaster to exchange vital information when other means of communication have been interrupted. The emergency communications hubs were recognized for their efforts with the 2014 King County Executive's Community Preparedness Award in October.

Neighbors "Showcase" Community Organization

Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepared (SNAP) and Community Hubs showcased their achievements at the Senior Services' bi-annual Conference. Participants in both programs demonstrated how neighbors who plan and organize together for disaster can boost confidence and save lives in a disaster. The fast-paced, interactive demonstration got participants out of their seats and interacting with each other while recreating three 20-minute simulations of what happens when the "first" first responders are the people right around you.

Training City Employees

OEM routinely provides emergency preparedness training to City employees. In 2014, classes were offered eight times through the Seattle Department of Human Resources as part of New Employee Orientation. During the 75-minute session, employees learn how the City reprioritizes it functions and reallocates resources for a unified response during disaster.

Home Retrofit Classes

Seismic home retrofit classes continued to be the most consistently attended program, offered six times a year, 167 people took advantage of this course in 2014. Volunteer instructor, Tony Holder, has been teaching OEM's classes since the late 1990s. Seattle's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) provides extensive support by providing materials and streamlining the permit process for homeowners. DPD issues an estimated 80-100 permits a year to Seattle homeowners.

Resilient Communities

1. King County Executive Dow Constantine presents the 2014 Community Preparedness Award to Cindi "Hub Cap" Barker. 2. Hub volunteers connect neighbors to information and needed resources during a local emergency. 3. Garden Coordinator Julie Bryan teaches preparedness to neighbors at Rainier Vista-Sunrise Community P-Patch and Homeowners Association. 4. Mien gardeners stand ready to respond with equipment, tools and emergency kits at the Snoqualmie Community Garden. 5. Volunteer Instructor Tony Holder explains the basics of Home Retrofit.

Preparedness Education Blog

In May the public education team launched a community focused preparedness blog to engage underrepresented groups and audiences with emergency preparedness tips and topics. The blog provides easy preparedness tips and information about what is going on in their communities around preparedness. The blog features stories about individuals, neighborhood groups and organizations in Seattle who are doing things to make their communities more resilient. Also, the blog engages audiences with "do it yourself" projects, quick preparedness tips and man on the street style interviews with Seattle residents around preparedness.

Public Education & Community Preparedness Program

Emergency Notification and Alerting System (ENAS)

Seattle Office of Emergency Management received funding to replace the city's outdated alert system. The project officially began in mid-April. Below are some of the highlights of the work that has been done in 2014:

- OEM established a charter to manage project structure and governance with the collaboration of eight stakeholder departments.
- A project manager was hired through Finance and Administrative Services and a business analyst assigned to lead the work of completing the system requirements and development of an Request For Proposal to select a vendor.
- As the result of a comprehensive Request for Proposal process and on-site demonstrations and usability testing, Rave Wireless was selected as the city's ENAS service provider. Contract negotiations are in process and implementation is planned to begin in January of 2015.
- City Budget Office will carry forward appropriations to fund the contract and project management costs in 2015. Additionally, funding will be transferred to support maintenance and operation in 2015 and 2016.

Redesign of OEM Website

With the City moving to a new web management tool, OEM had the opportunity to look at how the information on the old website was being displayed. The redesign organizes our information in three basic categories.

- **What If?**—this highlights our risks, hazards, and plans for how we will respond to major events.
- **What can I do?**—This provides the user with information about how they can better prepare themselves, their families, homes and businesses. It also highlights information on planning for vulnerable populations.
- **Working Together**—This is where viewers can find out about how to engage your neighborhood and your community in preparing to take care of each other following a disaster.

We have also created a resource library and a recovery page. To check out the new site go to www.seattle.gov/emergency

Seattle Auxiliary Communications (ACS)

Seattle Amateur Radio Services continues to grow and develop its mission and capabilities:

- During the year we gained 14 new members, conducted 52 weekly on-the-air check in radio network sessions averaging approximately 40 members and 10 visitor check-ins.
- In May ACS in collaboration with the Seattle Hubs conducted a city-wide field exercise involving over 60

ACS member set up antennae for Field Day

amateur radio operators and scores of hub participants. This was a simulated eruption of Mount Rainer with associated ash fall and mud flows stressing the city's ability to communicate and conduct normal operations.

- ACS completed major improvements to its communications equipment and antennas at the EOC as well as its network of radio repeaters across the city. Most activities and improvements were planned and completed by ACS volunteers.
- ACS has recently restructured its mission and organization to be more responsive to the City's need for communications and general staff support during emergency operations. Significant changes include:
    - Established an EOC support team roster of ACS members with associated training and experience tracking.
    - Restructure ACS's organizational structure along ICS lines to reflect Planning, Operations and Logistics.
    - Incorporated public service events into its mission and practical skill development plan.
- Implemented an emergency communications support strategy based on seven communications teams assigned to seven geographic sectors of the city to support hubs and other community organizations as well as City departments and other public agencies.
- Other major accomplishments include:
    - In collaboration with other organizations sponsored and coordinated the 2014 Communications Academy, a regional conference for training and discussing emergency communications best practices.
    - Co-sponsored the 2014 Field Day event at South Seattle College. Field Day is an opportunity for ACS members to exercise and test their equipment. This year the public was invited to come to the campus and learn about the new capabilities of the ham radio operators and how to get their own FCC radio license.
    - Coordinated special event communications for the fat salmon open water swim on Lake Washington.
    - Provided public service communications support to the organizations coordinating SeaFair, the Sea Hawks victory parade, NFL kickoff game, Seattle Marathon and others.
    - Recruited and sent ACS volunteers to support Snohomish OEM's communications operations for the Oso slide incident.

Public Education Volunteers

OEM continues to benefit from a dedicated group of six volunteers who assist us in delivering our Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepared (SNAP) program throughout Seattle. In 2014, they conducted 41 living room trainings, staffed emergency preparedness information tables at several community events and spread the word about the importance of individual preparedness to over 800 people.

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