

Region X – Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

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Thursday, June 29, 2006 – OR and ID chose to focus on **Evacuation**; AK and WA chose to focus on **Sheltering**

- 1. List and describe in narrative at least the three most important issues that were addressed during the session.**
 - a. There is a need to perform an assessment to understand what is currently available.
 - b. There is a need to define ‘special populations’ and a few delegates liked the FL definition. People who have disabilities have gone through enough red tape, and should not be subject to that process in an emergency evacuation.
 - c. All four states identified agencies that need to be involved in emergency planning for special populations when they return to their respective states, since task forces are needed. Partners include CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team), the Red Cross, DD Services and Child Care Divisions.
 - d. In terms of evacuation, the use of school bus system and also community based care (e.g. nursing home facilities with wheelchair vans).
 - e. Communication plans need to be included in evacuation plans.
- 2. List and describe in narrative at least the three biggest challenges or barriers discussed.**
 - a. Shelters are not capable of handling the special needs population.
 - b. There are limited facilities to serve as shelters in AK.
 - c. There is doubt as to what Red Cross would be willing to do. A conversation will be initiated in AK and a back-up plan is anticipated.
- 3. List and describe in narrative at least three ‘next steps’ action items identified during the session.**
 - a. Quarterly conference calls could include the involvement of the regional office staff. They could also take the lead, since the states do not have funds to hire a regional coordinator.
 - b. DHS has been doing targeted capabilities – just finished phase one. This is where UTLs (Universal Task Lists) are used, and of which a TCL (Targeted Capabilities List) was derived. All travel is paid for and serves as an opportunity for states to call their colleagues in other states to participate in a TCL. This can begin by contacting the Department of Homeland Security.

- 4. Report on other important issues that were discussed during Working Group.**
- a. ID discussed its SAWS (State Augmented Warning System) which works similarly to reverse 911. SAWS is operated by Code Red (the company used), where there are lists with 24-hour contact information of residents. A phone number and code are used to send a mass message to a group of people to alert them of danger or an activity.
 - b. The EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact) was discussed. This can be used to pull resources into each other's states. All states are involved in EMAC, so that when a state has a disaster and do not have enough resources, resources can be requested from another state. Resources can be received within 24 hours by specifying what is needed (including cost) and having a willing state to supply those resources (usually personnel). Delegates were referred to www.emacweb.org for more information.
 - c. WA mentioned the radios donated to a population of about 100,000. There are options on those radios for the hearing impaired. There is extensive public information in that area, and when people were given radios at no cost, they were informed of the services that they could receive.