AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

February 2014
Inform on Agency Representatives assigned to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

Topics:

1. Basic SEOC Information
   • Alaska Emergency Management
   • Activation
   • Disaster Assistance

2. Agency Representatives in the SEOC
   • Organization
   • Duties
   • Position Preparedness
Basic State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Information
State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC)

Who: Emergency management staff handling the event or incident

What: Structure where state level emergency management can be performed

Where: Located JBER in National Guard Armory Basement

When: Created in 1994

How: Alaska Statute 26.23, functions to assist with policy making, management, and coordination
The SEOC exists to:

• gather, process, and report emergency situation intelligence.
• aid in State policy and decision making.
• support local communities as they direct and control disaster or emergency response operations.
• account for the State’s response costs.
SEOC - Goals

1. Save lives
2. Ensure the safety and health of all responders
3. Reduce suffering and care for casualties
4. Protect public health
5. Protect government infrastructure
6. Protect personal, private, and commercial property
7. Protect the environment
8. Reduce economic and social losses
9. Restore the area to normal as soon as possible
The SEOC Provides

• Monday to Friday, 0730 – 1700 hrs coverage by 8 Operations Staff
  • After hours coverage via a toll-free telephone number (MATCOMM) forwarded to a SEOC Duty Officer.
  • Daily communication checks with local, state, and federal agencies
  • Continuous assessment/evaluation of the Alaska situation followed up with warnings to potential affected communities of threats.
  • Preparation of Daily Situation Report

• 24/7 operation expands during events, emergencies and disasters

• Utilization of standard Preparedness Levels
SEOC During the Pre-Disaster Phase

- Coordination with private non-profit, volunteer, state, military, and federal response, relief, and recovery agencies.
- Provide technical assistance.
- Assist with evacuation planning.
- Warn potentially-affected communities of imminent or potential dangers.
- Activate emergency alert system via governmental communication systems.
- Prime statewide resources for possible logistics requests.
Upgrading from Normal Operations

Preparedness Levels characterize transition from normal duties to SEOC activation:

- **Level 1**: Routine operations; SEOC usually not activated.
- **Level 2**: Heightened sense of awareness; SEOC may be activated.
- **Level 3**: Actual event occurring; SEOC partially/fully activated.
- **Level 4**: Event or operations occur in response to major loss of life, life-threatening, environmental or property damaging event; SEOC fully staffed.
SEOC Activation Criteria

- Significant number of people at risk.
- Potential or actual threat to people, property and/or environment.
- Significant response/evacuation coordination required.
- Inadequate local resources or there is need for outside help.
- Uncertain future conditions – situation likely or expected to get worse.
- Unknown scope of damage or there are multiple locations.
- Local officials are overwhelmed, slow to act, understaffed, etc.
EVENT OCCURS OR IS IMMINENT; SEOC ALWAYS AT LEVEL 1

EVALUATE FOR SEOC ACTIVATION; IS THE ACTIVATION CRITERIA MET?

EVENT RESOLVED OR BEING ADEQUATELY HANDLED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS WITHOUT HELP KEEP AT SEOC LEVEL 1

MONITOR SITUATION; MAINTAIN READINESS TO RESPOND IF REQUIRED/REQUESTED

Yes

Determine Upgrade to Higher SEOC Activation Level

HEIGHTENED AWARENESS:
- SMALL EVENT/THREAT
- SINGLE LOCATION
- FEW AGENCIES
- STATE HELP MAY BE NEEDED OR REQUESTED BY LOCALS
  SEOC LEVEL 2

LIMITED FUNCTIONS ACTIVATED BASED ON CONDITIONS; RESPONSE MAY BE HANDLED BY OPS SECTION ONLY

No

ACTUAL EVENT/EMERGENCY:
- MODERATE EVENT/THREAT
- 2 OR MORE SITES
- SEVERAL AGENCIES
- LIMITED EVACUATIONS
- STATE DISASTER
  SEOC LEVEL 3

PARTIAL FUNCTIONS ACTIVATED (IC, SECTION CHIEFS, PIO, LIAISONS, AND OTHERS AS NECESSARY

MAJOR DISASTER:
- MAJOR EVENT/THREAT
- WIDESPREAD/MANY SITES
- MANY AGENCIES
- FEDERAL DISASTER
  SEOC LEVEL 4

ALL FUNCTIONS ACTIVATED TO UNIT LEVEL. ALL LIAISONS ACTIVATED
**Initial Response Flow**

**EVENT OCCURS**

**Yes**

DHS&EM notified of emergency. DHS&EM contacts community to verify status and determine level of assistance needed. Is this a true emergency? Can they handle situation? What really do they need?

**No**

Notify appropriate DHS&EM staff, leadership, borough, state, federal, and non-profit agencies. What are their priority needs? Can other agencies/entities help?

**IS RESCUE NEEDED?**

Are lives in danger? Have there been any deaths? Is there anyone missing, sick, or injured? Is an evacuation occurring, expected, or planned?

**Yes**

DHS&EM Operations activates and staffs SEOC. Initiate/support immediate response by DHS&EM and/or appropriate agencies. Deploy state liaison or DIRT to impacted area if appropriate.

**No**

Initiate/support expedited response by DHS&EM and appropriate State, Federal, Volunteer agencies. Safeguard situation to ensure against relapses into Rescue and Relief modes.

**IS IMMEDIATE RELIEF NEEDED?**

Are there immediate needs to protect lives, public health, critical infrastructure, or public property? Are there debris clearing, individual assistance (e.g., temporary housing/shelter, food, water, etc.) or other needs?

**Yes**

DHS&EM Operations monitors situation and remains ready to assist if needed. Non-emergency events will be handled in coordination with other agencies.

**No**

Monitor incident until immediate concerns are met and/or incident is stabilized. Lead damage assessment teams. Compile data into Fact Sheet for DPC meeting. Follow DPC instructions. Transfer incident to Disaster Assistance Section for management.

**IS SHORT-TERM RECOVERY NEEDED?**

Debris removal, temporary critical and utility infrastructure repair, communication, etc.

**Yes**

Assist Disaster Assistance Section with project worksheet development, applicant briefings, and kickoff meetings, as requested.

**No**

**IS LONG-TERM RECOVERY NEEDED?**

State/FEMA individual assistance and public assistance (Category A through G) project work, and small business assistance.

**Yes**

**No**
SEOC Action Phases

- **Response** immediate actions. Preserve life, property, environment, and the social, economic, and political structure of the community.
- **Relief** short-term assistance, typically less than 30 days. Repair and restoration of essential lifeline systems.
- **Recovery** long-term restoration, four weeks to several years following an event. Activation of recovery operations during the response phase will reduce losses and speed recovery time.

**Agency representatives can be used during any phase.**
## Response, Relief, and Recovery Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response (Immediate)</th>
<th>Relief (Short-term)</th>
<th>Recovery (Long-term)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Search and rescue</td>
<td>• Provision of interim housing</td>
<td>• Long term housing for displaced victims</td>
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<td>• Emergency shelter, housing, food, water, fuel, and energy</td>
<td>• Repair and restoration of lifeline utilities</td>
<td>• Debris management</td>
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<td>• Emergency medical and mortuary services</td>
<td>• Emergency repair of vital transportation systems</td>
<td>• Hazard mitigation</td>
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<td>• Public health and safety</td>
<td>• Building safety inspections</td>
<td>• Reconstruction of permanent housing</td>
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<td>• Decontamination after a chemical, biological or radiological incident</td>
<td>• Debris removal and clean-up</td>
<td>• Reconstruction of commercial facilities</td>
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<td>• Removal of threats to the environment</td>
<td>• Provision of critical incident stress counseling for response staff and community</td>
<td>• Reconstruction of transportation systems</td>
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<td>• Emergency restoration of critical services (electric and natural gas services, water, sewer, telephone)</td>
<td>• Restoration of social/health services</td>
<td>• Implementation of long-term economic recovery</td>
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<td>• Transportation, logistics, and other emergency services</td>
<td>• Restoration of normal civic services</td>
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<td>• Private sector provision of needed goods and services through contracts or donations</td>
<td>• Coordination of local, state, borough, and federal damage assessments</td>
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<td>• Secure crime scene, investigate and collect evidence</td>
<td>• Re-occupancy of structures</td>
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<td>• Planning for relief and recovery</td>
<td>• Economic recovery, including sites for business resumption</td>
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<td>• Building demolition</td>
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Agency Representatives in the SEOC
SEOC Organized by Incident Command Structure

Command (8 stations)
Finance/Administration (6 stations)
Logistics (6 stations)
Operations (5 stations)
Agency Reps (12 stations)
Planning (7 stations)
Graphics Support (2 stations)
Where do Agency Representatives (AREPs) fall in SEOC Organization?

- IC
  - Operations Chief
  - Planning Chief
  - Logistics Chief
  - Finance/Admin Chief

- Operations SEOC Staff
- Operations Field Staff

- Liaison Officer
- Agency Representative
Agency Functions

Military support
AKNG, DOD, USCG, CAP, ASDF

Public Safety
DPS, DOF

Specialized/Technical Assistance
NWS, AVO, USACE

Public Works
DOT&PF, AKRR, DEC

Health/Human Services
DHSS, DCCED

Disaster Assistance
FEMA, Red Cross, AK VOADs

Natural Resources
DNR (DOF), DF&G, DEC

Government
Governor’s Office, Legislature Rep, Local Gov Rep

SEOC
To achieve a coordinated response to an emergency, LOFR should have:

- A professional work ethic, goal-oriented personality, positive attitude, and strong communication skills
- Coordinates flow of information between AREPs and the SEOC.
- Participates in the planning process.
- Provide/Collects information from all four sections.
- Go-to person for information from assisting/cooperating agencies.
- Ensures SEOC understanding of the appropriate use of resources from agencies.
- Troubleshoots problems.
- Monitors developing situation.
Definition of an AREP

“A person assigned by a primary, assisting or cooperating Federal, State, local, or tribal government agency or private entity that has been delegated authority to make decisions affecting that agency’s or organizations participation in incident management activities following appropriate consultation with the leadership of that agency.”

From: National Response Framework/National Incident Management System
SEOC Agency Representatives (AREPs)

To achieve a coordinated response to an emergency AREPs should have:

- A professional work ethic, goal-oriented personality, positive attitude, and strong communication skills
- Authorization to act as single point-of-contact between their agency and the SEOC
- Updated knowledge on status of agency facilities
- Working knowledge of agency capabilities and resources
- Past experience in emergency management in Alaska
- A good understanding of ICS system and EOC operations
Basic Duties for AREPs

1. Coordinate/liaise between agency and SEOC
2. Provide/expedite agency response and relief support
3. Provide damage assessment on agency facilities/efforts
4. Perform logistics and resource management
5. Provide historical knowledge
6. Manage public information

Each of these duties in detail.....
AREP Duties

1. Coordinate/liaise between agency and SEOC
   - Serves as the single point-of-contact between SEOC and agency.
   - Participates as a member of the SEOC Operations Section under the Liaison Officer.
   - Monitors agency command centers and provides input to SEOC Operations.
   - Continuously monitors agency’s response and recovery activities.
   - Interprets agency information for incorporation into the overall SEOC incident plan.
2. Provide/expedite agency response and relief support

- Evaluate need for immediate agency support.
- Provide recommendations to Liaison Officer and Operations Section Chief.
- Activate agency response in coordination with overall SEOC operational plan.
- Monitor deployed team progress.
- Provide updates for situational awareness and display boards.
 AREP Duties

3. Provide damage assessment on agency facilities/efforts
   • Monitor current condition of agency facilities.
   • Obtain initial damage estimates to damaged/impacted facilities.
   • Provide actual or estimated costs of repairs.
   • Provide timelines for procuring, transporting, and completing emergency work.
   • Provide agency expertise for damage assessment for non-agency facilities, if appropriate.
4. Perform logistics and resource management

- Monitor current resources available (personnel, equipment, materials, supplies, etc)
- Identify contacts/mutual aid agreements in place
- Identify availability of technical experts (e.g., bridge inspectors, structural engineers, environmental specialists, etc)
- Identify availability of special teams (e.g., haz mat, spill response, emergency power, search and rescue, aerial reconnaissance, etc)
5. Provide historical knowledge

- Recommend response, relief, and recovery activities based on unique experience and agency expertise.
- Provide past history of similar events in the area.
- Identify any known complications due to weather, transportation, political environment, etc.
- Identify current and ongoing agency work in the impacted area.
- Provide past logistical experience on how long repairs of a similar nature should take.
6. Manage public information

- Verify information is correct - do messages coming out of the SEOC have accurate information?
- Ensure message to public is what the lead agency official wants to put out (i.e., what is going to be good PR and bad PR for your agency and the State?)
Preparing to Staff the SEOC

The SEOC Guide is the standard reference for working in the SEOC. Should be reviewed by AREPs prior to their arrival.

This guide has section-specific guidance for:

- Command
- Finance/Administration
- Logistics
- **Operations**
  - Liaison/AREPs
- Plans
Materials and Supplies

SEOC AREPs should ensure they have the sufficient supplies and materials to perform their work.

The SEOC (MAY) provide:

• Workstation with/computer
• Telephone
• Bulletin or white boards
• Basic office supplies
• Graphics support (e.g., maps, posters, with prior notice)
• Photocopier/fax support

AREPs should provide:

• Agency-specific computer software/programs (preferably on a thumb drive)
• Maps/posters with specific agency information
• Agency guides, forms, reference material, and other information
Checklists typically cover:

- Responsibilities
- ICS forms used
- Immediate and daily duties
- Section management and supervisory considerations
- Demobilization
Standard FEMA ICS terminology, positions, planning cycles, and forms

- AREPs should expect to provide regular input to the following ICS forms:
  - ICS 203 Organization Assignment List
  - ICS 204 Assignment List
  - ICS 207 Organization Chart
  - ICS 209 Incident Status Summary
  - ICS 211 Incident Check-In List
  - ICS 214 Unit Log
  - ICS 221 Demobilization Checkout
  - DHS&EM After-Action Comment Form
How AREPs work in the SEOC

1. Check-In
2. Obtain Incident and Organization Assignments
3. Attend Initial Briefing from LOFR upon arrival
4. Establish a work location
5. Attend planning and operations briefings
6. Monitor/Share Command and General Staff Interaction
7. Ensure Safety and Well-Being of Agency Personnel
8. Maintain contact with LOFR and your agency
9. Document and Maintain Special Reports
10. Provide Resource accountability and documentation
11. Demobilize and Debrief
Some Questions

• What agency information could you provide to SEOC Operations upon your arrival?
• What are your chief concerns?
• What additional information do you need in order to help? Who would you ask?
• What resources could you provide for the immediate (response), short-term (relief), or long-term (recovery) basis?
• What challenges do you see in dealing with logistics, transportation, resource management, or public information?
• How would your answers or approach change if the incident happened in October or January? What if the incident was caused by a fall sea storm, flood, or earthquake?
• Others?
Contact Information

Operations and SEOC
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seoc@ak-prepared.com

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