

Good evening City Council. I wanted to provide an update on the actions of the West Lane Emergency Operations Group over the past few days.

Who is WLEOG?

Established in 2007, the West Lane Emergency Operations Group (WLEOG) is based on an intergovernmental agreement to establish emergency operations in Western Lane County between the City of Florence, Dunes City, the Port of Siuslaw, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue District, Western Lane Ambulance District, Mapleton Fire Department, Peace Health, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians Police Department.

The WLEOG Board meets monthly to plan disaster drills, review policies and procedures, and coordinate regionally. In addition to the Board members, WLEOG incorporates dozens of regional partners, including Lane County, for emergency preparedness and management. The WLEOG Board adopted the latest version of the West Lane Emergency Operations Plan in 2016 and is currently in the process of updating it.

The West Lane Emergency Operations Group (WLEOG) Board has been in constant communication regarding COVID-19 since March 1, 2020, to monitor the global pandemic. The WLEOG Board has been participating in regional meetings with the Lane County Emergency Operations Center since that time. In addition, our members have been participating in discipline specific meetings with Lane County, the State of Oregon, the League of Oregon Cities, and public health networks. This information is shared during our local partners call.

Emergency Operations Center Activation – What does it mean?

The West Lane Emergency Operations Group met Friday, March 20, 2020, to implement the West Lane Emergency Operations Plan and stand up its Emergency Operations Center in conjunction with regional partners. This ensures our ability to enhance coordination among our partner agencies, maintain critical and essential services, as well as support state and county health efforts.

As outlined in our Emergency Operations Plan, which has been approved by all eight partner agency Boards, incident command is established based on the nature of each disaster. An incident command structure has been established by the WLEOG partner agencies with Fire/EMS Chief Michael Schick and Police Chief Tom Turner, as well as City Manager Erin Reynolds, serving as unified command.

We have activated the West Lane Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Due to the nature of this pandemic, the EOC activation is primarily virtual to avoid contact and we are using technology solutions to share information.

So, what is the EOC and the purpose?

The purpose of the EOC is to allow us to coordinate as a local area, as well as with the Lane County Emergency Operations Center.

A large-scale event will exceed the emergency response capabilities of the city and WLEOG member agencies. Additional resources will be required from the county and other states and/or the federal government to achieve an effective response. The EOC will facilitate the acquisition of additional resources to aid in the emergency response effort.

The West Lane EOC coordinates with the main Lane County EOC on all aspects of this event. We have established joint messaging with Lane County and the main landing page for our information is on the City's website, which points back to Lane County, Oregon Health Authority, and the CDC.

What authority does incident command have and how does that relate to our elected boards?

The Incident Command System is responsible for overall management of the incident and consisting of the Incident Commander and in this case is a unified command structure. Each agency participating in the EOC and response is still subject to their elected board, jurisdiction, and financial resources.

Our EOC has branch managers to assist the EOC in processing requests, track financials, manage operations, etc. Again, these are tracked by agency but through a coordinated effort.

How does the Declaration of Emergency relate to WLEOG?

The Federal, State, and County government have already declared a state of emergency as it relates to COVID-19. The City's declaration of emergency allows the City to use its authority, through the City Manager, to take actions necessary to respond to the current emergency. Those actions will be outlined in the following agenda item.

As we track resources used through the EOC, having the emergency declaration will also provide assistance in requesting assistance, funds, and reimbursement from the State of Oregon and federal agencies throughout the response and during recovery. Our declaration will address our authorities within the City limits. Lane County and the State of Oregon's declarations also cover the City limits.