

## ANNEX A: WARNING

### I. SITUATION

#### A. Purpose:

1. To warn the people of Sheridan County of impending or actual disasters/emergencies. The Warning System may be utilized to warn or alert government officials, emergency response personnel and/or the general public in the event of (for example):
  - a. National disaster/emergency
  - b. Natural/technological disaster/emergency
  - c. Refer to the hazards in the Basic Plan
2. To pass warnings originating in Sheridan County through the State Warning System

#### B. Assumptions:

1. Some citizens will ignore, not hear or not understand warnings of impending disaster broadcast over radio or television or sounded by local siren systems. Mobile public address and even door-to-door operations may be required in some disaster situations.
2. Warning systems will be operational

#### C. Vulnerabilities of the Warning System

1. Lack of Electro Magnetic Pulse (EMP) protection
2. Destruction/damage to repeaters
3. Damage/destruction to radio bases
4. Power outages/surges, lack of emergency power for all sirens/warning equipment
5. Breakdown of equipment
6. No warning sirens [Except VA has a warning siren—manual activated (but manned 24 hours a day) and Dayton Fire Department—manual activation]
7. Inability to interrupt cable TV system to broadcast warning messages
8. Terrorism
9. Inadequate training of warning personnel
10. Dependence on telephone lines to activate fire sirens (can be set off manually)
11. Dependence on telephone lines for radio communication for base station
12. Lack of specific procedure for utilizing fire sirens for warning for disaster

#### D. Resources (Local):

1. Personnel – Refer to Basic Plan, Appendix 4 for Key Personnel Listing
2. Fire Sirens
3. Mobile sirens and public address systems on Law Enforcement and other emergency response vehicles will be used to augment the fixed siren warning

4. The Primary County 24-hour Warning Point for the State Warning System is located in the Sheridan Law Enforcement Building Communications Center. Other Warning Points are:
    - a. Rancheater: Mayor
    - b. Dayton: Mayor
    - c. Clearmont: Mayor
    - d. Store: Fire
    - e. County: Sheriff's Office
    - f. Buffalo: Sheriff's Office
  5. Alternate County Warning Point is located at: County Fire Dept.
  6. Warning messages on the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) and other commercial radio and television:
    - a. KWYO 1410 AM (EBS station for Sheridan County) Located at Sheridan
    - b. KLWD 96.5 FM
    - c. KROE 930 AM, 194.9FM (alternate EBS station)
    - d. Cable TV-Sheridan Cable Vision/Tongue River Cable TV
    - e. KSGW Channel 12 subscribes to the NOAA Weather Wire
  7. US Forest Service has radio coverage for: Entire county
  8. Game & Fish has radio coverage for: Entire county
  9. Other methods of warning
    - a. RACES/ARES (Ham radio)
    - b. Citizen Band Radio
    - c. Telephone Fanout
    - d. Radio Scanners
    - e. Door-to-door
    - f. Dome Communications
    - g. Any other means available to warn people.
- D. Resources (State)
1. National Warning System (NAWAS)
    - a. State Warning Point is the Highway Patrol
  2. Law Enforcement Teletype System (LETS)
  3. Mutual Aid-Highway Department
  4. EBS
  5. State Agency Law Enforcement Communication System (SALECS)
- E. Resources (Federal):
1. National Warning System (NAWAS)
  2. Civil Defense National Teletypewriter System (CDNATS)
  3. National Weather Service Radio
  4. NOAA Weather Wire
- II. EXECUTION
- A. Concept of Operations:
1. The Warning system consists of:
    - a. Warning Fanout – Basic Plan, Appendix 4
    - b. Emergency Broadcast System

- c. Siren System (mobile sirens and public address system)
  - d. Person-to-person contact (telephone or door to door)
- 2. All warning information received or disseminated shall be recorded in a warning log. All trouble on the net and the action taken will also be reported.
- 3. Law Enforcement Communications Center can receive warning messages directly from the State Warning Point (State Highway Patrol Dispatch) via the NAWAS phone.
- 4. The Law Enforcement Communications Center will fanout warning messages according to the Warning Fanout – Basic Plan, Appendix 4.
- 5. Municipal Warning Points in Sheridan County will fanout warning messages to appropriate municipal officials:
  - a. Mayor
  - b. Council
  - c. Police Chief
  - d. Fire Chief
  - e. Emergency Management Coordinator
  - f. Others as directed
- 6. For Warning Messages received by means other than the NAWAS phone, the agency receiving the message will notify the Law Enforcement Communications Center or County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center to fanout the message as appropriate
- 7. Upon receipt of an immediate disaster warning, the dispatcher-on-duty will notify by telephone or the most appropriate means, any of the following for authority to initiate fanout
  - a. Warning Point Supervisor
  - b. County Sheriff/Municipal Police Chief
  - c. Chairman of County Commissioners/Mayo
  - d. Emergency Management Coordinator
- 8. If the Warning Point Supervisor or other appropriate official authorizes, contact other warning points and give message as received
  - a. County Sheriff's Office
  - b. Sheridan City
  - c. Clearmont
  - d. Dayton
  - e. Ranchester
  - f. National Weather Service Office
  - g. Story Fire Chief
  - h. Johnson County Sheriff's Office (Buffalo)
- 9. Broadcast the warning over all available state/county/municipal and citizen and radio nets to all bases and mobile units.
- 10. With the assistance and guidance of the individuals in paragraph 7 above and other alerted operators, the dispatcher on duty will alert key operations personnel as per Appendix I to report to the

communications center or the Emergency Operating Center as the situation dictates

11. After the initial responsibility has been completed, the dispatcher on duty will closely monitor the radio and will disseminate all changes and new information using the same instructions as for a warning

12. Termination of Warning, and EBS Radio Alert

- a. When desired over the warning system to terminate a warning and EBS radio alert, disseminate the information exactly as received, in accordance with the procedure outlined above for the dissemination of a warning

2. Tests and Exercises:

- a. When unscheduled National Warning System tests are conducted, follow the procedures exactly as specified
- b. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from its regional headquarters in Denver and the State Emergency Management Agency in Cheyenne will conduct exercises at various times. "CHECKERBOARD" will be the code word for these simulated exercises. Fanout the checkerboard exercise according to Basic Plan, Appendix 4 – Fanout. Special instructions may be distributed prior to each exercise.

- B. Hazard Specific Information

1. Natural Disaster:

- a. Forward initial reports of natural disasters to the Wyoming State Warning Point – Cheyenne

2. Severe Weather Warning:

- a. Sheridan County will receive the warning from the Weather Service Office in Billings, Montana.
- b. The operator on duty at the County Warning Point shall disseminate the warning as received as per Basic Plan, Appendix 4, Warning Fanout
- c. No Evaluation or interpretation of the Message will be made. It will be quoted verbatim with the authority ascribed to the National Weather Services Office issuing the message.
- d. In the event unusual weather conditions are observed in the county and reported to the County Warning Point, the operator on duty will
  - 1) Report this information to the National Weather Service in Billings, Montana
  - 2) Contact First Alert Official
  - 3) Upon verification of the unusual weather conditions, activate the warning system.

3. Missing Aircraft Report:

- a. Notify County Sheriff/Deputy on Duty
- b. Alert County Wyoming Emergency Locator Team \*WELT) members if available
- c. Alert RACES Officer

- d. If you are first report on missing aircraft, notify Wyoming Highway Patrol
  - 4. Spills/Hazardous Materials on Highways:
    - a. Contact Wyoming Highway Department
- C. Sheridan County Law Enforcement Agencies responsibilities in the event of an immediate disaster warning and/or in the event of a need for the evacuation
  - 1. Fanout warning to residents
  - 2. Warning Methods
    - a. Public address systems on vehicles
    - b. Telephone
    - c. Radio contact
    - d. Personal contact (door-to-door, etc.)
  - 3. Coordinate the evacuation of residents
- D. Sheridan County Fire Department's responsibilities in the event of an immediate disaster situation and/or in the event of a need for evacuation if there are not fire control responsibilities.
  - 1. Fanout the warning to area residents
  - 2. Warning methods
    - a. Fire sirens
    - b. Public address systems on fire vehicles
    - c. Telephone
    - d. Radio Contact
    - e. Personal contact (door to door, etc.)
  - 3. Assist law enforcement with evacuation of area residents
- E. Task Assignment & Implementation
  - 1. Warning Point Supervisor
    - a. Responsible for supervision of warning capability in the county
    - b. Development of Warning Fanouts for particular emergencies/ disasters and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Warning Point Operators
    - c. Responsible for training Warning Point Operators (dispatcher-on-duty) on their duties and functions
    - d. Ensure fanout of Warning to appropriate governments within Sheridan County and neighboring counties as appropriate
  - 2. Warning Point Operator (Dispatcher-on-duty)
    - a. Fanout warning as appropriate
    - b. Notify all emergency agencies
    - c. Establishes a Warning Point Log
    - d. Monitors further communications/warnings
    - e. Alert Fire Chief
    - f. Activate Police and Fire warning procedures
  - 3. Dayton Municipal Base Station/Veterans Administration Base Station:
    - a. After receiving warning/alert, responsible for fanning out the warning/alert throughout their agency and department or city

- b. If the warning/alert is initiated by them, responsible for contacting Law Enforcement Center to provide warning/alert information
- 4. Law Enforcement Agency Heads
  - a. Coordinates warning dissemination by law enforcement personnel
  - b. Coordinates evacuation of area residents, as required
- 5. Fire Chiefs
  - a. Coordinates warning dissemination by fire personnel
  - b. Coordinates fire departments assistance in evacuation procedures, as required
- 5. Agency/Department Heads: