

WSDOT Aviation Division & Office of Emergency Management:

Aviation Emergency Services Program Update

“JTC Aviation Search and Rescue Study”

Lynn Peterson
Secretary of Transportation

Cam Gilmour
Deputy Secretary

Tristan Atkins
Director of Aviation

John Himmel
WSDOT Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Manager

Tom Peterson
Aviation Emergency Services Coordinator

November 20 , 2013





Presentation Agenda

- Meeting Purpose (how you can help)
- Overview of Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Aviation SAR Study
- WSDOT's response to the JTC's recommendations
- Overview of the WSDOT's Aviation Emergency Services budget Decision Package (DP)
- Aviation Emergency Coordination Center (AECC) concept and need
- Round-table discussion of recommendations, response and next steps
- Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) briefing by Washington National Guard



Welcome and Meeting Purpose

Meeting's Purpose: Obtain your support for WSDOT's budget Decision Package (DP) and Aviation Emergency Coordination Center (AECC) that will enable WSDOT to implement the JTC Study's recommendations.

- JTC Aviation SAR Study website-- <http://www.leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/CompletedStudies.aspx>

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE
JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Legislature Home | Senate | House of Representatives | Contact Us | Search | Help | Mobile

Legislature Home > Joint Transportation Committee > Completed Studies

Completed Studies

2012-13

Aviation Search and Rescue
A study group will evaluate the most appropriate organization for the aviation search and rescue program, how best to use state and federal funding, how to address duplication of services and training, and to identify the appropriate source of funding if relocated from WSDOT.
Study group invitees shall include:

- Aircraft owners and pilots association
- Washington pilots association
- Washington wing of the Civil Air Patrol
- USAF Civil Air Patrol
- WSDOT aviation division
- Military Department emergency management division
- Washington Association of Search and Rescue
- Washington State Patrol

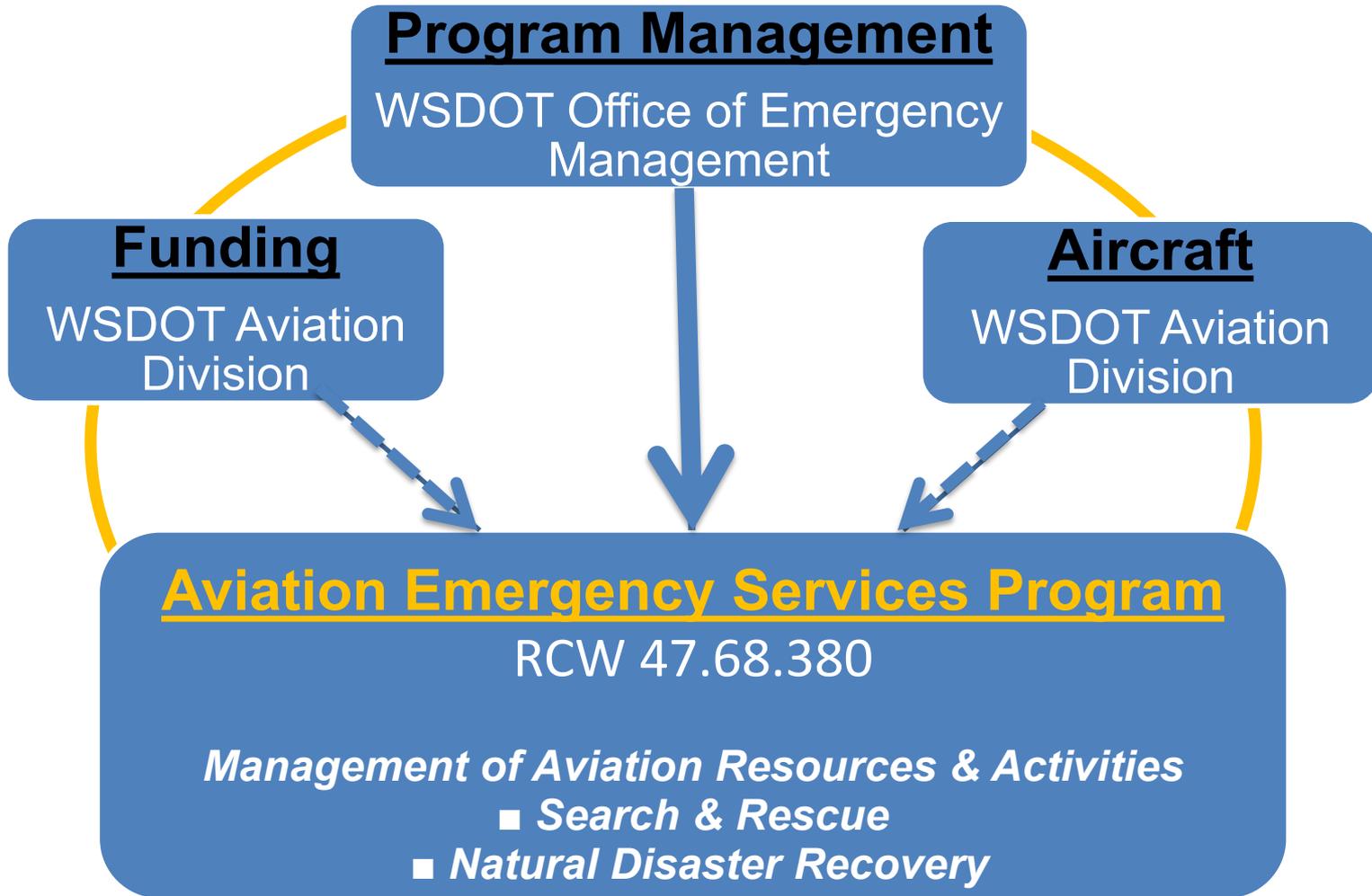
Report due date: December 14, 2012
JTC Staff: Gene Baxstrom lead; Mary Fleckenstein, back-up
HTC & CTC Staff: Jerry Long & Hayley Gamble

[View study materials and information](#)
[Aviation Search and Rescue Study Final Report](#)
[WSDOT Update - presented to JTC on 9/11/13](#)
[WSDOT Response to recommendations - presented to JTC on 9/11/13](#)



Aviation Emergency Services Program

Structure





Overview of JTC Aviation SAR Study

- March 2012, the Legislature directed the Joint Transportation Committee to evaluate the most appropriate organization for the aviation search and rescue (ASAR) program.
- The study was to address the following issues:
 1. Where the aviation search and rescue operations should be located to provide the maximum benefit for these searches;
 2. How the duplication of services and training should be addressed;
 3. Whether the current structure is the best use of state and federal funding; and
 4. If aviation search and rescue is relocated, what should be the source of funding?



Overview of JTC Aviation SAR Study

Summary of Recommendations

- ASAR should remain in WSDOT, where it functions well.
- WSDOT could improve the program by additional cross-training of staff to lead air searches, and by making the program more transparent to its volunteer community.
- WSDOT and CAP should coordinate their training and make an effort to conduct training in Eastern Washington.
- All general aviation agencies and organizations can contribute to general aviation safety by encouraging pilots to file flight plans and use emergency locator beacons.





Overview of JTC Aviation SAR Study

Aviation SAR Study Work Group Members

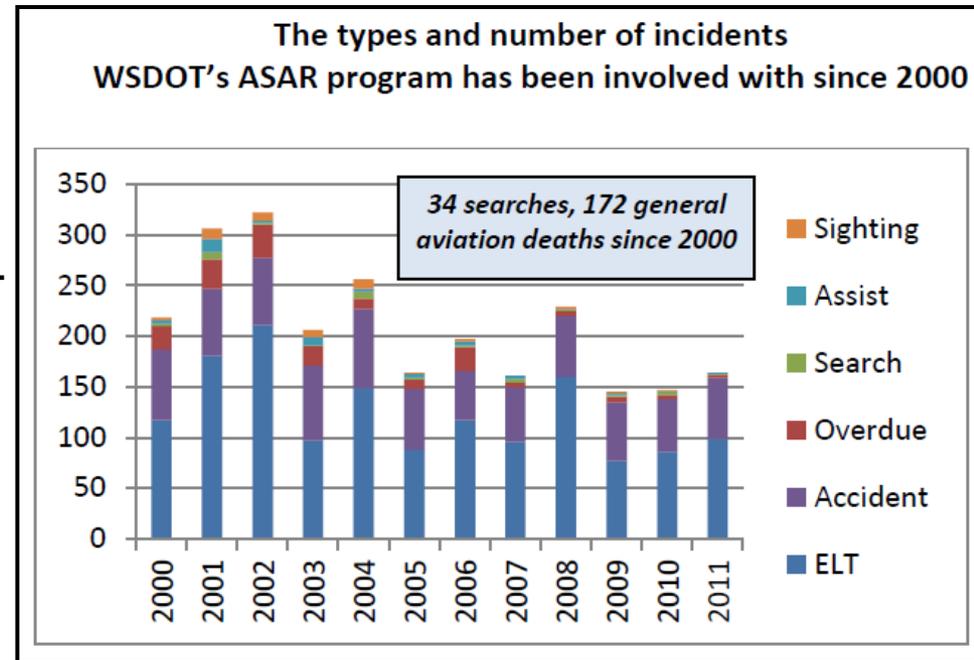
ASAR Study Work Group Members		
	Agency or Organization	Participating Representative
1.	Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association*	Les Smith, AOPA member, Washington
2.	Washington Wing of the Civil Air Patrol*	Col. David Lehman, Commander, Washington Wing
3.	Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force*	Jim Nakauchi, State Director
4.	Federal Aviation Administration^	Gary Mayer, Operations Lead, NW MTN Regional Operations Center, Renton
5.	United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center^	Danny R. Conley, AFRCC Chief, Tyndall AFB, Florida
6.	Washington Air Search and Rescue*	Matt Towers, President
7.	Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department*	Major General Gary Magonigle, Commander Washington Air National Guard
8.	Washington Pilots Association*	Tom Jensen, Airports Director, WPA
9.	WSDOT Aviation Division*, Emergency and Security Operations Division	Tristan Atkins, Aviation Director and John Himmel, Emergency and Security Operations Manager
10.	Washington State Patrol*	Captain Rob Huss, WSP
Others participating in the July 31, 2012 meeting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senator Jim Honeyford; Rep. Brad Klippert• Tom Peterson, WSDOT Aviation Emergency Services Coordinator• Lt. Jim Nobach, WSP Aviation Section• Kurk Hardin, Chris Long and Dan Swisher, Washington Military Department• Colonel Tom Green, CAP• Gene Baxstrom, Mary Fleckenstein, Jerry Long, Hayley Gamble, Laura Zanzig, legislative staff• Alyson Cummings, OFM staff		



Overview of JTC Aviation SAR Study

Aviation Search and Rescue in Washington (WSDOT)

- WSDOT is responsible by statute (RCW 47.68.380) for the coordination and management of all aerial search and rescue within the state.
- WSDOT relies heavily on volunteers and other agencies to conduct search and rescue operations.
- The program is funded for one FTE, rescue training, operation of a SAR aircraft and mobile command center and limited volunteer reimbursements.

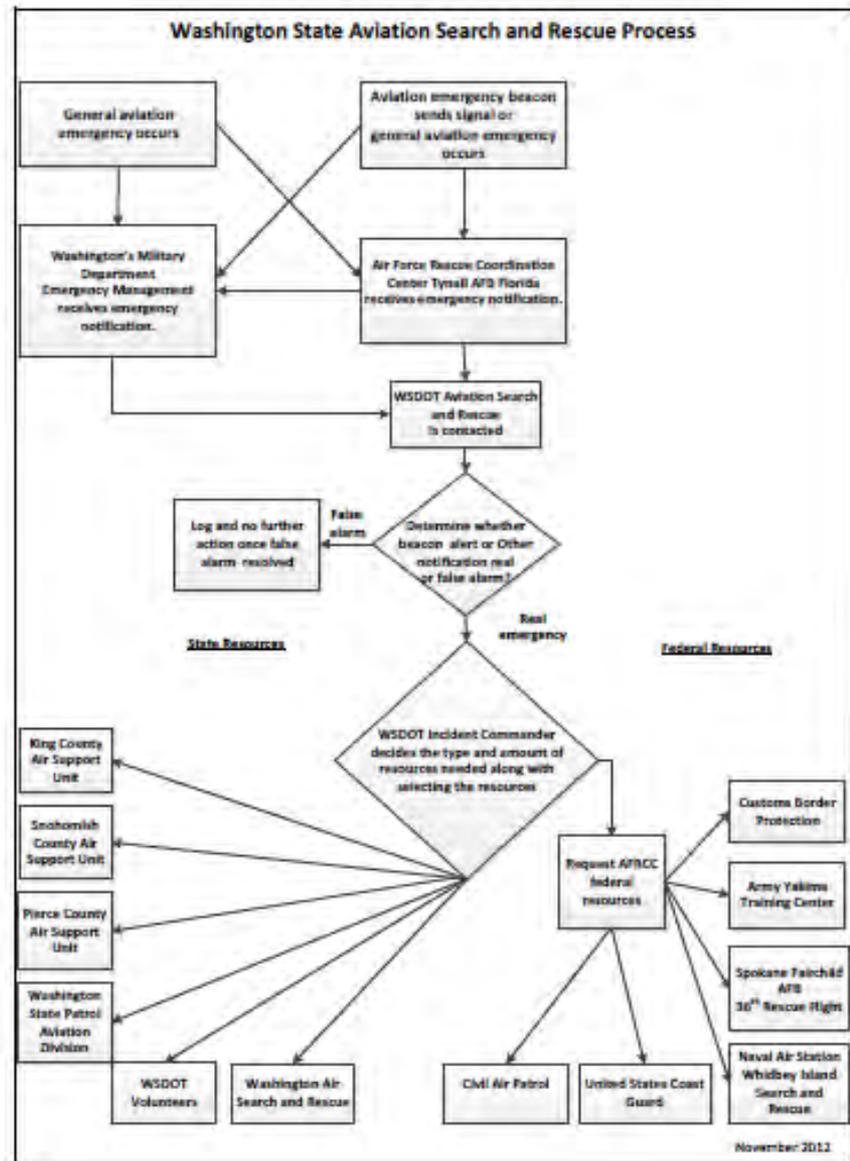




Overview of JTC Aviation SAR Study

Responding to an aviation search and rescue incident

- Real-life example: July 2012 SAR for a missing airplane en route from Tonasket airport to Sequim.





Overview of JTC Aviation SAR Study

July 31, 2012 ASAR Work Group meeting & follow-up

- **Key element of this section of the JTC Study Report:**

*“Concerns were raised about having a single individual in WSDOT to coordinate all ASAR events. If that person should go on a vacation or is for whatever reason unavailable when an aircraft goes missing, there could be a leadership void. WSDOT acknowledged the problem, and said they're working on cross-training **but could use another full-time FTE to provide back-up.**”*



Study Observations

- The JTC Study list 16 Observations (pages 13-17)
- **Key “Observation” from the JTC Study Report:**

O-8. Concerns were raised about the lack of back-up for the aviation emergency coordinator. Other WSDOT staff has only minimal ASAR-related training.

A single individual is primarily responsible for ASAR activities at WSDOT. While this person does not function alone, reporting to a supervisor who has some ASAR-related knowledge, no one else at WSDOT is trained to manage ASAR missions. **Having a single individual doing the job provides a consistent approach to aviation search operations, but it leaves aviation emergencies susceptible to that person’s absence.**



Recommendations: Separate JTC Presentation

**WSDOT Aviation Division &
Office of Emergency Management:**

**Report to the Joint
Transportation Committee**
"Aviation Search and Rescue Study"

Lynn Peterson
Secretary of Transportation

Cam Gilmour
Deputy Secretary

Tristan Atkins
Director of Aviation

Tom Peterson
Aviation Emergency Services Coordinator

September 11, 2013

 Washington State
Department of Transportation



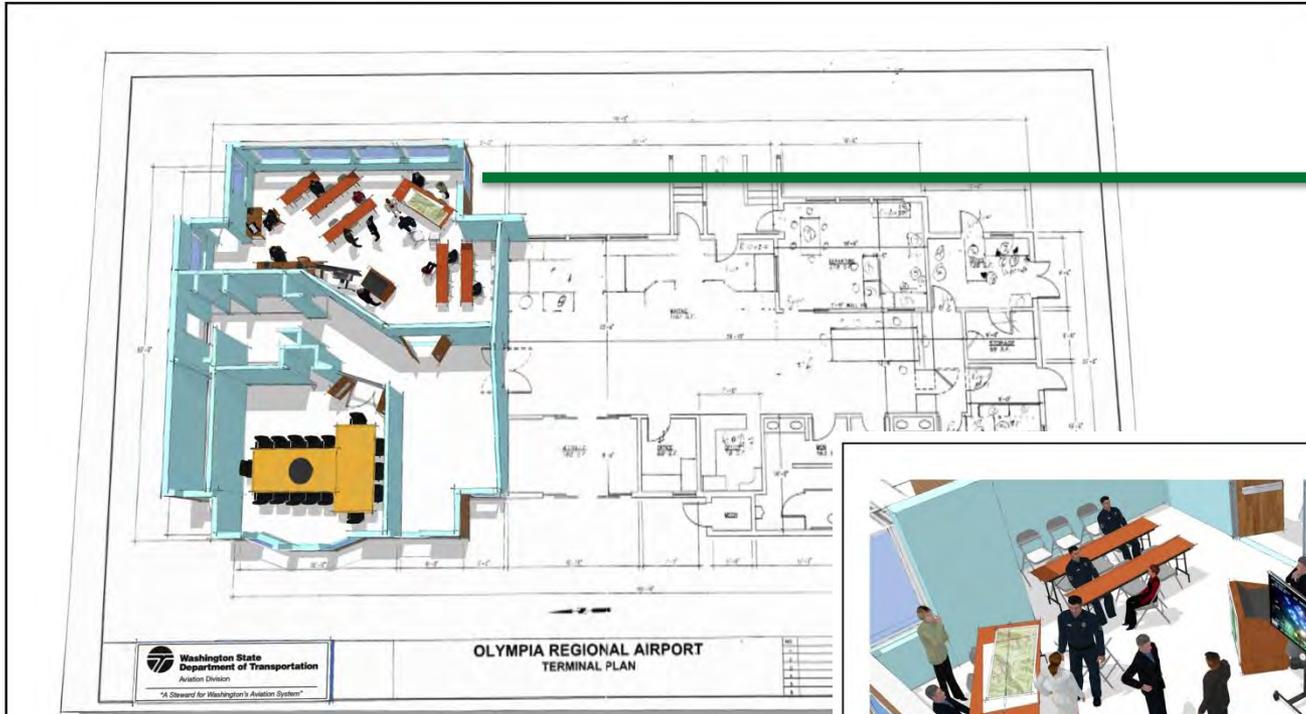
Overview of Aviation Emergency Services DP

Funding is requested to address the JTC recommendations and enhance WSDOT's Aviation Emergency Services Program:

- **One additional FTE-** \$124,600 (*FY15*)
- **Fiber optics upgrade for the WSDOT Aviation Emergency Coordination Center (AECC)-** \$60,000
- **Additional Aviation SAR and natural-disaster response training and exercises-** \$18,000
- **Additional flight hours for WSDOT aircraft to support increased training and exercise requirements-** \$30,280
- **Reimburse SAR-related flight hours for state agencies with FLIR-equipped aircraft-** \$21,120



Aviation Emergency Coordination Center



Aviation Emergency Coordination Center (AECC) Floor Plan

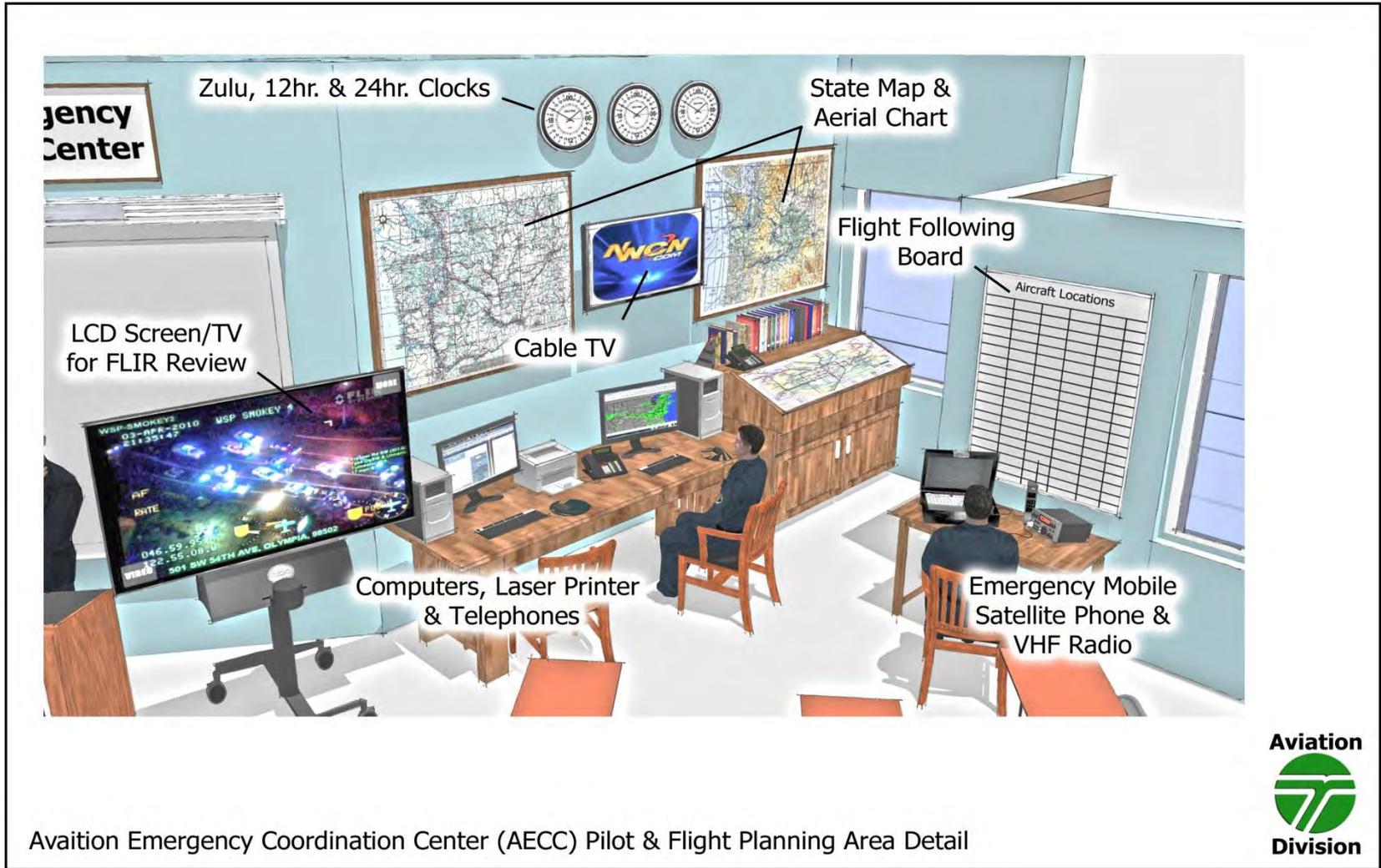


Aviation Emergency Coordination Center (AECC) Detail View 1





Aviation Emergency Coordination Center





Round-table discussion

Round-table discussion of recommendations, response and next steps

- Letters of support
- Discussion and input

January 8, 2009

Floodwaters swamp Washington

More than 30,000 people were urged to leave their flood-endangered western Washington homes...a similar flood in December 2007.





More Information

WSDOT Aviation- Search and Rescue Website:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/SAR/>

Washington State Department of Transportation

Traffic & Cameras Projects Business Environment Maps & Data

You are here: Home > Aviation > Aviation Search and Rescue

Aviation - Search and Rescue

Most Requested

- [Airport Cameras](#)
- [Aircraft Registration](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [State Rules and Regulations](#)

Aviation

- [Aviation Home](#)
- [State Airports](#)
- [Airport Grants Program](#)
- [State Capital Improvement Program](#)
- [Search & Rescue](#)
- [Aviation System Planning](#)
- [Airport Land Use Compatibility Program](#)
- [Education and Training](#)
- [Aerial Photography](#)

Find Your Airport

Select a specific area

Contact Us

- [Staff Directory](#)
- [Airport Directory](#)
- [WSDOT Aviation Directions and Maps](#)

The mission of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Air Search/Aviation Emergency Services program is to aid those who are in distress.

WSDOT Aviation is tasked by the Legislature with the responsibility of managing all Air Search and Rescue operations within the state as well as coordinating the use of aviation assets for disaster relief efforts. WSDOT accomplishes this mission by closely coordinating with all available resources and agencies, including the Washington State Patrol, Washington Emergency Management Division, U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. We also use volunteer resources from Washington Air Search and Rescue, the Civil Air Patrol and county sheriff's search and rescue programs across the state.

Search and Rescue Resources

- [Safety Information](#)
- [Forms](#)
- [Volunteer Information](#)

Emergency Air Operations

- [Emergency Operations Districts](#)
- [WAC 468-200 Air Ops \(pdf 96 kb\)](#)
- [RCW 47.68.380 \(pdf 9 kb\)](#)
- [High Bird Operations manual \(pdf 570 kb\)](#)

Training

- [WSDOT Aircraft Training Reference Text](#)
- [JCE 100 Student Guide](#)
- [2012 Training calendar \(pdf 58 kb\)](#)

Photos



Questions & Contacts

Questions regarding this report should be addressed to:

Tom Peterson

Aviation Emergency Services Coordinator
Office of Emergency Management
Office: 360-705-7442
Mobile: 206-949-1022
PeterTh@wsdot.wa.gov

John Himmel

Emergency & Security Operations Manager
Office of Emergency Management
Office: 360-705-7973
Mobile: 360-239-6759
himmelj@wsdot.wa.gov

Tristan Atkins

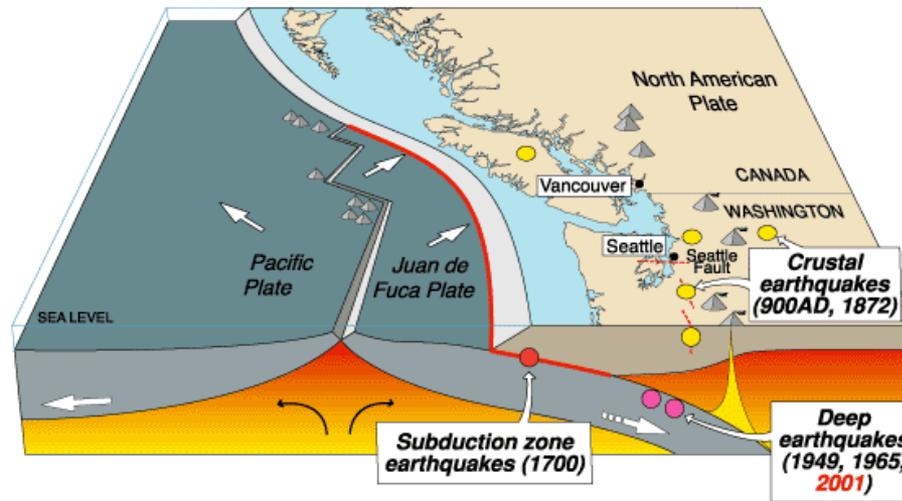
Director of Aviation
Office: 360-709-8020
Mobile: 3660-529-6550
AtkinsTK@wsdot.wa.gov



Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ)

Presentation by Washington National Guard: LTC Clay Braun

Cascadia earthquake sources



Source	Affected area	Max. Size	Recurrence
● Subduction Zone	W.WA, OR, CA	M 9	500-600 yr
● Deep Juan de Fuca plate	W.WA, OR,	M 7+	30-50 yr
● Crustal faults	WA, OR, CA	M 7+	Hundreds of yr?