

# PORT EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM

# PEWS

# PEWS - Sirens

- ⦿ Located in various areas throughout the Port of Tacoma
- ⦿ Locations provide overlapping sound radius to ensure comprehensive warning ability

Westminster Chimes - Testing



Wailing Sounds – Real Emergency



Wail



Westminster Chime

# PEWS - Activation

- ◎ How does it get activated?
  - When an incident requires
    - Emergency Notification to Public
    - Shelter in place actions need to be taken
    - Evacuation needs to take place
  - The Incident Commander requests Tacoma Fire to activate the system
    - Notifications will be made to the Port and/or affected areas
    - Incident specific instructions will be broadcasted by the PEWS sirens

# When will it be activated

- PEWS can be activated for the following situations but not limited to:
  - General Emergencies – dangerous situations warranting a shelter in place or evacuate order
  - Hazardous Materials Emergencies
  - Flooding
  - Lahar (Mudflow)
  - Tsunami
  - Test

# How do I know it's a Test

- There will be testing on a regular basis and the testing schedule will be made public
- The sound for the TEST will be WESTMINSTER CHIMES and the test message will state this is a test
- In a real event the sirens will broadcast wailing sounds with instructions to what the problem is and what action should be taken and will be repeated more than once

# Suggested Actions

- ⦿ Instructions to stay inside a facility and minimize the outside air intake
- ⦿ After the threat has been cleared an all clear will be issued
- ⦿ Ensure you have radio, TV, text or email ability
- ⦿ Move away from the dangerous situation
- ⦿ Follow the suggested evacuation routes
  - In your facility
  - On the roads
    - May have to walk due to congestion or damaged roads
    - May have to use vertical evacuation (on top of buildings, overpasses, etc.)

# Different Evac Routes

- ◎ Several issues can cause an evacuation
  - **Lahar** – threat comes from inland towards the Port and has a specific inundation zone (see Maps)
    - Limited amount of time to evacuate (will arrive within 1-2 hours)
  - **Tsunami** – threat comes from Commencement Bay and will affect the Port, and the inland shoreline has specific inundation zones (see Maps specific by areas of concern)
    - Extreme short period to evacuate (can arrive within 10-15 minutes) depending on depth and strength of associated Earthquake on the Tacoma or Seattle Fault

# Different Evac Routes (Cont.)

- Hazmat Incidents – can be an airborne release or spill, may cause evacuation. Routes will be determined by wind direction and composition of hazardous material
  - Short notice requires quick action
- Flooding – weather events that cause the Puyallup River or citywide flooding events
  - Notification of possible flooding will be made without utilizing the PEWs
  - If flooding is imminent PEWS will be utilized to coordinate evacuation



# Different Evac Routes (Cont.)

- General Emergency – a dangerous situation in the area that requires:
  - Shelter in Place
  - Evacuation
    - NO NOTICE – should initiate immediate action
- Test
  - Regular testing will take place, notification of date and time will be provided
  - Westminster Chimes sound will be utilized

# What can I do?

- Review PEWS handouts
  - Where are you located in the hazard areas
- Identify and practice
  - Shelter in Place options
  - Research multiple evacuation routes
- Make an Emergency Plan
  - Include your family and pets
- Obtain free training
  - Map Your Neighborhood
  - Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Review and implement
  - Emergency Plan specific to your facility and business
- Identify and practice
  - Shelter in Place Options
  - Research multiple Evacuation routes in your facility and property in addition to the Ports Plan
  - Determine emergency supplies needed for your staff in case of an extended shelter in place situation
- Obtain training
  - Specific to the product you carry
  - With local responders

# Where do we go from here?

- ⦿ Review the materials available to you
- ⦿ Make a list of questions
- ⦿ Businesses
  - Work with your safety committee and local responders to update your emergency plans and procedures
  - Coordinate with local Emergency Management on preparedness and planning
- ⦿ Individuals
  - Create a Family Emergency Plan
  - Get free training
  - Contact your local Emergency Management for information on personal preparedness

# Questions

## Contact:

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