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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

NWS Western Region Support For Large Pre-Planned Events

Large pre-planned events are no stranger to the western U.S. These events usually also have a National Special Security Events (NSSE) or higher Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR). The National Weather Service (NWS) plays a key role in supporting the emergency management community not only for the primary event, but the set-up, tear down, and variety of supporting events which could be up to a couple of weeks in advance. Support for these events goes well beyond precipitation and includes other weather elements such as heat/cold, wind and lightning. Even when the weather is considered “quiet”, the NWS plays a key role in supporting non-weather events such as a HAZMAT incident.

In NWS Western Region, a conscious effort has been made to lean forward in a significant way for the support of our emergency management community for these events. This has led to the NWS providing onsite support for as many Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), or equivalent, as possible. At times, some partners have reacted in a way that they do not want to burden the NWS by having them onsite and can call if weather support is needed. In these cases, we have reiterated to the partners that

there is no burden and we can provide the onsite support. Being visible and present in the room allows us to be a part of the conversation as well as being able to quickly be called upon for any weather support needs rather than having to pick up the phone. During the past couple of years during the pandemic, there have been times where virtual support was the only option due to virtual EOC activations or space restrictions. In these cases, we have strived for a dedicated resource to support these virtual activations.

This presentation will highlight recent events the NWS supported as well as future events that are scheduled. It will emphasize to the emergency management community the importance of including the NWS in not only activation plans but also the planning process.

Presentation Theme: Findings related to supporting the emergency management community for pre-planned events.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: Scott Carpenter