

Background

The Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance (PNWBHA), established in 2009, is a cross border coalition of: the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington; the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan; and the Yukon Territory. The PNWBHA goal is to provide leadership in the integration of health sector preparedness and response initiatives at all levels of government, including Tribal and First Nations, throughout the Pacific Northwest. The creation of the Alliance has provided the framework for expansion of such inter-agency and interdisciplinary collaboration in the Pacific North West.

Who We Are

The PNWBHA Emergency Medical Services Working Group is comprised of individuals and organizations engaged in the provision of emergency medical services, in the Pacific North West

The Working Group composition may include representatives from, but not limited to:

- PNWBHA local, regional, state, and provincial member jurisdictions
- First Nations and Tribal health representatives
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- PNWBHA Emergency Medical Services
- US Department of Health and Human Services (Region X)
- US Centre for Disease Control Quarantine Service
- Canadian Border Services Agency
- US Customs and Border Patrol
- Emergency Management
- Law enforcement
- Fire
- FDA
- Communications
- First Nations/Tribal



**Pacific NorthWest
Border Health Alliance**



**Emergency Medical Services
Working Group**

Purpose

The purpose of the Emergency Medical Services Working Group is to:

- identify potential cross border issues related to ;
 - Patient Care Protocols Medical Oversight
 - Interoperable Communications
 - Response capabilities
 - Patient Tracking
 - Customs and Border Patrol
 - Isolation & Quarantine
 - Pediatric Care resources and training
- develop integrated contingency plans for responding to potential inter-jurisdictional public health incidents;
 - Provincial/territory Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) boiler plate and state National Incident Management System (NIMS) boiler plate.
- provide leadership and direction for the development of integrated exercises to validate contingency plans; and
 - Joint work session with Emergency Managers
 - Sharing of lessons learned from past events
- clarify roles and responsibilities between cross border health stakeholders;
 - Maintain and update province/ state/territory points of contact
- review and/or resolve cross-jurisdictional emergency medical responder concerns

Accomplishments include:

- Operational Plan for Moving Emergency Medical Service Staff and Resources Across the Washington and British Columbia Border <http://www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/WA-BC-EMSagreement.pdf>
- Expedite border crossings process in the Operational Plan, Appendix C
- Codifying temporary licenses for EMS provider within British Columbia Part 2.7
- http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/210_2010#section4
- Process for temporary recognition of EMS provider credentials in Washington State
- 2010 Winter Olympics Response capabilities and table top exercise and response capabilities
- Baseline EMS response capabilities matrix with points of contact
- 2012 Evergreen Quake functional exercise
- Cross-check hospital and emergency medical response plans

Next Steps:

- Design Mutual Aid Agreement(MAA) boiler plates
- Complete Interoperable Communications Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Create and publish an Exercise and training calendar
- Publish and conduct a 2013 Cross Border Workshop