

# the Courthouse Journal

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*Washington Association of County Officials  
Washington State Association of Counties*

**June 23, 2005  
Issue No. 21**

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Courthouse Journal*

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## WSAC Conducting Four Legislative Forums

In response to county commissioners and councilmembers from around the state who want to be more involved in developing WSAC's legislative package, WSAC is conducting four Regional Forums to take suggestions on issues and priorities for the 2006 WSAC Legislative Package from county commissioners, county councilmembers, county executives and county department directors.

**The four Regional Forums will take place:**

- **June 29, 2 pm - 4pm**  
**Lincoln County Courthouse**  
**(Davenport)**
- **June 30, 10am - 12 pm**  
**Benton County Justice Center**  
**(Kennewick)**
- **July 7, 9 am -11 am**  
**Snohomish County**  
**E. Admin Building**  
**(Everett)**
- **July 7, 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm**  
**Lewis County Law & Justice Center**  
**(Chehalis)**

Suggestions made at these forums will be collected and presented to WSAC's Legislative Steering Committee prior to its first meeting -- August 11, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm in Spokane. Along with the 2005 priorities that need continued effort, the suggestions made at the Forums will assist in establishing legislative priorities for the 2006 session.

Those elected officials and

department heads planning to attend are encouraged to review the current WSAC Policy Statement. The Policy Statement, which is adopted by the membership each year, serves as the foundation for WSAC positions and priorities. It was sent with the e-mail notice of the Legislative Forums and can be provided to any member with a call to WSAC. A summary of the 2005 WSAC priorities, indicating what passed and where continued effort is needed, also will be sent prior to the Legislative Forums.

In addition, Ron Walter and Eric Johnson, the Co-Chairs of the WSAC Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) are considering whether to establish Issue Teams to work with the LSC and the professional policy staff in Olympia. This will be yet another way to engage more members in policy development and provide a formal touchstone for staff between meetings and during the legislative session. These Issue Teams will provide substantive input to the LSC and assist its members in advocating with legislators.

Each Issue Team will include two members of the Legislative Steering Committee – one of whom will be the primary contact with the staff and be responsible for calling meetings, setting the agenda, etc. -- and additional WSAC members and staff. Each Issue Team would consist of no more than eight members, representative of diverse

## The Courthouse Journal

Published weekly (during Legislative Session) and Bi-weekly (other than Session) by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Wednesday.

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### CPO PROGRAM

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viewpoints. Most meetings will take place by conference call and we anticipate that on-going e-mail conversations among members will also take place. In short, the Co-Chairs are looking for people who will bring the same high-level of commitment that is expected from LSC members (without as much travel involved).

Initially, we anticipate establishing Issue Teams listed below. At least for the time being, we also plan to continue both the Transportation Subcommittee and the Rural Issues Subcommittee of the Legislative Steering Committee.

If you are interested in being on an LSC Issue Team, please let Paul Parker at WSAC know. You can clip and paste the form below to indicate your choices, in numerical order of your preference. Of course, you may not get the first priority if too many volunteers share your interest.

\_\_\_ Finance, General Govt & Adm  
\_\_\_ GMA & Land Use  
\_\_\_ Human Svcs, Juv Justice & Hsg  
\_\_\_ Law & Justice, Emerg Mgmt  
\_\_\_ Public Health & Health Care  
\_\_\_ Water & Natural Resources

## Commissioner Rhea Miller Announces Her Resignation Effective July 1, 2005

San Juan County Commissioner Rhea Miller has announced that she will be stepping down as county commissioner after 10 ½ years. Miller, who lives on Lopez Island, has represented the 3rd District during her tenure.

Miller will be leaving for New Zealand on August 2 at the invitation of the Waitaha, an indigenous people of New Zealand. A New Zealand agency has offered an expense paid trip and honorarium in November to conduct workshops on affordable housing and

alternative techniques on building. There has been renewed interest in her book within the scientific community. She will also be accompanying the Waitaha in the Americas at a date yet to be announced.

The County Democratic Central Committee will submit three names to the Board of Commissioners that will then have five days to select a replacement for Miller. The timing of this announcement will require that the newly appointed member of the board will need to be selected as the Democratic nominee and run in the September primary. Normally that would entail filing for office with the county auditor during the last week of July; however, both the state Democratic and Republican parties have said that any partisan position on this fall's primary ballot must be nominated by the party and not by a list of names submitted to the county election official. Many county central committees have held or plan to hold nominating conventions by the end of June. They have threatened to take the county auditors to court if they accept other nominations than those they have endorsed. This issue will end up being argued in the courts. A guest article has been written in this issue of the Courthouse Journal about this conflict by Secretary of State Sam Reed.

Commissioner Miller will be missed by the members of WSAC. They all wish her the best.

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## **Budget, Finance and Taxes**

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### **Assessor's Choose Legislative Priorities at Annual June Meeting**

The Washington State Association of County Assessors (WSACA) held their annual June Meeting in Ellensburg June 13-15. The meeting was well attended with 29 of the 39 counties in attendance.

For those who arrived early, there was a "Hack in-a-Bush" golf tournament. Swinging their way to first place was the team of Whatcom County Assessor Keith Willnauer and Douglas County Chief Deputy Appraiser Pat Dull. The team of Yakima County Assessor Dave Cook and Okanogan County Assessor Scott Furman came in a close second place. The closest to the pin honors also went to two Assessors; Dave Cook of Yakima County at 40' 7" and Jim Avery of Kitsap County at 25' 6".

Tuesday, all Assessor Committees held meetings and discussed various issues and possible legislative concerns. Those Committees included a joint meeting of the Timber and Open Space Committees, Education, Ratio, Computer Technology, and Assessment Standards. The day concluded with dinner at the hotel.

Wednesday morning the Legislative Committee reviewed 2005 legislation that impacted Assessors. Following the presentation, possible legislative priorities were discussed and various possible priorities were forwarded to the general business meeting. That business meeting reviewed the various committee reports, heard a presentation from the Washington State Department of Revenue (DOR) regarding the proposed consolidation and improvements to

the personal property and industrial valuation guidelines and the full body adopted legislative priorities. Those priorities for the 2006 legislature include:

WACO Priorities; 1) The merger of open space timber and designated forest land statutes and 2) Ballot language that would include the dollar amount to be collected by the ballot proposal along with an estimated rate.

Affiliate Priorities: 1) The option for revaluation notices to list a single value rather than breaking out land and improvement value. 2) Changing the appeal procedure to match the revaluation schedule approved by DOR. 3) Providing funding for Assessor Geographic Imaging Systems.

### **County Treasurers Meet in Yakima**

The 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Washington State Association of County Treasurers (WSACT) was held under sunny skies in Yakima, June 21-24, with Jefferson County Treasurer Judi Morris presiding. Host official Ilene Thomson, Yakima County Treasurer, and her able staff, deserve many thanks for their efforts in planning such a memorable event.

The Yakima County Sheriffs' Color Guard presented the flag during opening ceremonies on Tuesday, June 21, and an 11-year old girl, Chae Hudson sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. Yakima County Commissioner Mike Leita welcomed treasurers, deputies and guests to the Yakima Valley. Klickitat County Treasurer Dani Burton moderated a spirited roundtable discussion with questions that had been submitted by

treasurers throughout the state prior to the conference. This networking session, held each year, is everyone's favorite venue in which to share information about their offices and practices. Following that, treasurers Ilene Thomson, Yakima County; Barb Cory, Whatcom County; and Katie Jungquist, Skagit County led a workshop on treasurers' statutory duties. Topics included tax collection, advance taxes, investments, debt issuance, warrants, banking and deposit services.

Luncheon entertainment was by the Wapato Indian Club Dancers. In the afternoon, State Representatives Jim Clements (R), 14<sup>th</sup> District and Bruce Chandler (R), 15<sup>th</sup> District, gave their perspectives as to this year's legislative session. A legislative workshop followed, where treasurers discussed their process in developing legislative recommendations for the WACO package each year and some changes that could be made.

The President's reception Tuesday evening was enjoyed by everyone at the beautiful Central Washington State Fairgrounds. The theme was western and there were burgers on the grill, hayrides around the grounds and a great country band to cap off the event.

Wednesday morning, State Treasurer Mike Murphy spoke about the duties and responsibilities of his office and relationships with the county treasurers' offices throughout the state. Other workshops held on Wednesday were on "Current Trends and Remittance Processing," with Debra Sciano from Key Bank, and for the deputy treasurers, Nicole Moore, a revenue specialist with Whatcom County, discussed Sales

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## ***Budget, Finance, and Taxes (continued)***

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tax revenue.

More entertainment was enjoyed at lunch on Wednesday with dancing by the Los Bailadores Del Sol Dancers. The afternoon was spent discussing the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). DOR Representatives gave a demonstration on how the automated REET process will work when it is up and running, and showed the test site on the department's website. A treasurers'/WACO legislative proposal that passed this year, **2SHB 1240**, provides an increase in the REET fee for the sole purpose of developing an automated system for the electronic processing of REET. After the demonstration, a discussion was held on the REET process and the collection of the new fees. A drafting mistake in the language of the bill has been confusing the issue. In addition, the money appropriated in the bill

concerns a grant program, but no language as to exactly how the funds will be distributed. The bill will need to go back to the legislature next year for changes.

The treasurers' business meeting on Thursday included the Association's financial report, committee reports and general discussion. Judi Morris was elected president of WSACT for a second term. Other officers elected were Cowlitz County Treasurer Judy Ainslie, vice president; Mason County Treasurer Lisa Frazier, secretary; and Whitman County Treasurer Bob Lothspeich, treasurer.

Scott Sacket, with the Secretary of State's office, was the speaker for a session on electronic records retention and the responsibility of elected officials for archiving. Luncheon speaker was Phil Cline with Yakima Cellars. In the afternoon, Phil Sanders, Property

Tax Manager for King County, conducted workshops on both real property foreclosure and personal property distraint.

The annual banquet featured Yakima Valley wines and local entertainment by the Melody Lane Singers.

The conference wrapped up on Friday with a short business meeting and a presentation on debt management by Susan Musselman, an independent financial advisor.

Next year's conference will be held in Bremerton and the treasurers voted to go to Walla Walla in 2007.

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## ***Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice***

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### **Criminal Indigent Defense Bill to Be Codified**

**HB 1542**, which established a structure for state assistance to counties for criminal indigent defense, will be recommended for publication in the RCW, according to the state Code Reviser's Office. However, because the bill did not include funding, the standards identified in the bill will be advisory only.

The good news is that, assuming the Statute Law Committee affirms the law – which now appears likely – counties and other supporters of the bill won't have to start over and pass another bill. The only hurdle will be to secure adequate state funding to

implement HB 1542 – approximately \$12 million per year.

While **HB 1542** was validly adopted in 2005– it passed the Legislature and was signed by the governor – it included “null and void” language which provided that if not funded the substantive provisions of the bill would be null and void. The Legislature did not fund the bill; however, a budget proviso for the state Office of Public Defense (OPD) apparently was sufficient to overcome the “null and void” language of the bill, insofar as keeping the law in the RCW.

# Environment, Land Use and Resources

## Ecology Draft NPDES Stormwater Permits – Comments Requested

Preliminary draft NPDES stormwater permits are available for public review until August 19, 2005. Ecology has scheduled four workshops during this period to explain the permits, explain the changes from the previous permit if there was one, and answer questions.

Once the public review period has ended on the preliminary draft permit, Ecology will consider the comments received and will prepare a final draft permit. The final draft permits are expected to be ready sometime this Fall, and will go out for a public review period. Within that review period, workshops and formal public hearings will be held to receive comments.

Final General Permits will be issued after Ecology receives and considers all public comments. If public comments cause a substantial change in the permit conditions from the final draft permit, another public notice of draft and comment period may ensue. Ecology expects final permits to be issued in the spring of 2006.

Once Ecology issues these permits they will become effective 30 days later. When issued, a copy of the notice of issuance and Ecology's responses to the comments will be sent to all persons who submitted written comment or gave public testimony at the public hearings.

The schedule of public workshops for Phase I and Phase II Western WA permits are:

**Tacoma:** 6/23/05  
(9:00 - 4:00; lunch on your own)  
King Oskars Hotel & Conference Ctr  
8820 S Hosmer

**Everett:** 7/12/05  
(9:00 - 4:00; lunch on your own)  
Everett Events Ctr / Ballroom 3 So.  
2000 Hewitt Av - Suite 200

**Bothell:** 7/14/05  
(9:00 - 4:00; lunch on your own)  
Country Village Courtyard Hall  
720 238th St SE - Suite H

**Vancouver:** 7/18/05  
(9:00 - 4:00; lunch on your own)  
Water Resources Education Center  
4600 SE Columbia Way

To sign up for any of these workshops, e-mail  
cnel461@cy.wa.gov

Ecology recommends that comments on the draft permits include the following information:

- ✓ The specific language in the permit or appendix that is the subject of the comment. Include the page and line number for the permit, or the name of appendix and page number.
- ✓ The basis for the comment, in particular the legal, technical, administrative, or other basis for the concern.
- ✓ A suggested alternative to address your concern.

**Submit comments by e-mail to:**  
PermitComments@ECY.WA.GOV

### To comment by mail:

Western Washington  
Municipal SW Comment  
Charlene Witczak  
WA Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

## Interagency Committee (IAC) for Outdoor Recreation Polishes Draft Report on State Land Acquisition Practices

On Tuesday, June 21, 2005, the IAC scrutinized the staff draft of the report on state land acquisition and disposal practices required by **SSB 6242**, enacted during the 2004 legislative session. The legislation, developed by Senator Linda Parlette (R-Chelan County) at the request of WSAC, directed an inventory of recent state land acquisition and disposal for habitat and recreation purposes, recommendations for a coordinated statewide strategy, and consideration of options for a no net gain policy in counties with large portions of existing public habitat and recreation land.

The full draft report and appendices can be found at:  
[http://www.iac.wa.gov/Documents/IAC/6242/draft\\_material/appendices\\_links.htm](http://www.iac.wa.gov/Documents/IAC/6242/draft_material/appendices_links.htm)

Senator Parlette and WSAC staff both made positive comments and critical suggestions for improving the report in final form. Paul Parker, WSAC Assistant Executive Director, told the IAC that the report focuses too much on land specifically set aside for habitat and recreation purposes and should more fully take into consideration the state lands that serve multiple purposes, such as

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## ***Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)***

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the DNR trust lands. "Written as it is, this report still misses the concern that substantial acquisition continues to take place in areas with large amounts of public land," Parker said, "whether that be DNR trust land, or U.S. Forest Service land."

IAC members seemed to agree that the report should focus more on total public ownership, acknowledging that forest lands managed primarily for timber production also are valued and used for habitat and recreation.

Parker also recommended that the language in the report be revised where possible to better tell a story. Rather than merely report that the state has placed 257,999 acres into habitat and recreation purposes since 1980, a reader could understand the meaning of that acreage better if it were written as 403 square miles and compared to the land mass of Kitsap County – only 393 square miles.

Overall, however, Parker and Senator Parlette agreed that the recommendations in the report should help to better focus state land acquisition policy and improve agency sensitivity to future acquisition in those counties where substantial land is already in public ownership.

### **Oil Spill Advisory Council to be Appointed by Governor**

Governor Gregoire is beginning the process of naming members to the Oil Spill Advisory Council newly created by the 2005 Legislature in **ESSB 5432**. The 17-member council, headed by a nonvoting chair-facilitator, includes three county representatives from counties bordering Puget Sound; those on the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean, and those on the Strait of Juan de

Fuca, including the San Juan Islands. By September 15, 2006, the council must make proposals for the long-term funding of the council's activities and for the long-term sustainable funding for oil spill preparedness, prevention, and response activities.

Other seats on the Council include representatives from three environmental organizations; one from commercial shellfish growers; one from commercial fisheries; one from marine recreation; one from the tourism industry; two from marine trades; one from marine labor; one representing major oil facilities; one from public ports; and one individual who resides on a shoreline.

Council duties of the council include: the hiring of professional staff and expert consultants to support its work; consulting with government decision-makers; providing independent advice, expertise, research, monitoring, and assessment of these programs; monitoring and providing information regarding state of the art programs; evaluating incident response reports; and seeking and promoting citizens involvement.

The council also serves as an advisory body on, and provides for stakeholder and public consideration of, matters relating to international, national, and regional oil spill issues. The council makes annual recommendations for the continuing improvement of the state's oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response.

**ESSB 5432** also directs the Department of Ecology to evaluate all other oil spill advisory committees and revise or eliminate functions which are no longer

necessary.

Based on the wording of the statute, interested county officials should apply directly to the Governor as well as notify WSAC of their interest. The Governor will take into consideration any recommendations from WSAC, but the final decisions on appointments are hers to make.

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## Good Things

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### Pierce County Auditor Pat McCarthy Named Auditor of the Year

Pierce County Auditor Pat McCarthy has been named the Secretary of State Office's County Auditor of the Year for her work on election reform and the statewide voter registration database.

Secretary of State Sam Reed announced the award at the annual meeting of the Washington State Association of County Auditors last week. Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman received the Voter Outreach Award. "It is a testament to the strong leadership and dedication of County Auditors McCarthy and Wyman," Reed said. "Both

responded with professionalism and creativity to the unprecedented and challenging 2004 election cycle and its aftermath."

McCarthy was cited for her work with Reed's office in legislative election reform. "We appreciate Pat McCarthy's successful efforts toward establishing valuable working relationships between the state and county levels," Reed said.

McCarthy also has contributed substantially to the creation of a statewide voter registration database. This critically important program will be operational by the end of the year.

"McCarthy's and Wyman's professionalism and leadership are

true assets to the people of Washington," Reed said.

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## Courthouse Ramblings

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On Wednesday, June 22, WSAC lost a long-time friend and past president, **Bill Stoner**, former Pierce County Councilman. Bill passed away at his home after battling prostate cancer for a number of years. He is survived by his wife Laura; sons, Sandy and Shawn; daughter, Kerry; and three grandchildren. Bill served on the county council for ten years from 1985-1996 after serving on the Puyallup City Council for 23 years as councilman and major. He served 37 years on the Puyallup Fair Board.

Bill was president of WSAC in 1991/92 and known for his quiet leadership in the association and his humor with friends and colleagues. He made a commitment during his year as president that he would get around and meet every member;

which he did by visiting courthouses and attending every meeting which the members were at. Laura accompanied him on nearly every trip. He loved the association and will be remembered for being a mentor and friend to WSAC.

Services are pending as we go to press for this Courthouse Journal and as soon as the association learns the details we will email them to everyone.

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Douglas County Sheriff **Dan LaRoche** started his second round of hospitalization on Monday for chemo. He will be leaving June 27 for Seattle to start the stem cell transplant process. He stays as upbeat as possible and thanks all for their good thoughts and prayers.

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Mason County Coroner **Martha Reed** is also ready to start her own stem cell transplant process July 5. Her brother who is a positive match will be there for 3 days. Then in August she will have the actual transplant. Thereafter, she'll be there for 4 months. We look forward to her good health and success. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Martha.

## Calendar of Events

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Information</b>
<b>For your convenience training and workshops are bolded.</b>			
<b><u>JUNE 2005</u></b>			
National Sheriffs' Association Annual Conference	Louisville, Kentucky	June 25-29	(360) 753-7319
Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Annual Conference	San Antonio, Texas	June 26-29	(360) 753-7319
<b>Advanced Leadership Pilot Course – CPO Program - CANCELLED</b>	<b>Westside – TBD</b>	<b>June 28</b>	<b><a href="http://www.cpoprogram.org/">http://www.cpoprogram.org/</a></b>
International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers' (IACREOT) 34th Annual Conference	New York, New York	June 29 – July 6	(360) 397-2003 or joanne.mcbride@clark.wa.gov
<b><u>JULY 2005</u></b>			
<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>	<b>WA Counties Bldg CLOSED</b>	<b>July 4</b>	<b>(360) 753-1886</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Pend Oreille Valley Lavendar Festival	Pend Oreille County	July 9-10	<a href="http://www.co.pend-oreille.wa.us/">http://www.co.pend-oreille.wa.us/</a>
Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) Annual Conference	Honolulu, Hawaii	July 13-14	<a href="http://www.pria.us">www.pria.us</a>
National Association of Clerks, Recorders and Elections Officials (NACRC) Annual Conference (with NACo)	Honolulu, Hawaii	July 15-17	<a href="http://www.nacrc.org">www.nacrc.org</a>
National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Conference	Honolulu, Hawaii	July 15-19	<a href="http://www.naco.org">www.naco.org</a>
National District Attorneys' Association (NDAA) Annual Summer Conference	Portland, Maine	July 17-20	(360) 753-7319
Assn of County Human Services	Wenatchee	July 20-22	(360) 753-1886
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Training, 1 pm	Red Lion Hanford House, Richland	July 26	(360) 586-7447
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Annual Board Workshop, 1 - 5 pm	Red Lion Hanford House, Richland	July 27	(360) 586-7447
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Annual Board Meeting, 9 am	Red Lion Hanford House, Richland	July 28	(360) 586-7447
<b><u>AUGUST 2005</u></b>			
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Annual Conference	Davenport Hotel, Spokane	August 8-11	(360) 753-7319
Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Board Only 2006 Rate Setting	Prime Hotel at SeaTac (formerly Wyndham Gardens)	August 18	(360) 586-0466
<b>Ethics – CPO Program</b>	Spokane	August 24	<a href="http://www.cpoprogram.org/">http://www.cpoprogram.org/</a>
<b>Meet the Media – CPO Program</b>	Spokane	August 25	<a href="http://www.cpoprogram.org/">http://www.cpoprogram.org/</a>

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## Attachments

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### **Better to be safe than fired**

*from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, June 21, 2005 by Guest Columnist Eric Holdeman, Director of the King County Office of Emergency Management*

What will it take to get you to evacuate a building during a fire, run to higher ground because of a tsunami or volcanic lahar, or "shelter-in-place" because a toxic substance is floating in the air outside your home?

The answer is not as easy as it might seem at first glance. Countless studies show that even when people are directly warned of a danger, many seek a secondary verification of the threat that is perhaps only minutes away from killing them. When seconds count, do you need to smell smoke before you believe the fire alarm?

Last week's tsunami warning for the Washington coast that petered out into just a bulletin, and a wave height that was measured in inches, not feet, is the most recent example of the complexity we have in determining when to pull the trigger on a warning and trying to judge what people will do in response.

As an emergency manager, I know that the easiest way to be fired is to be blamed for a "failure to warn the public." Experience is a wonderful teacher, and I had a very real life lesson when the last tsunami warning was issued about 10 or 11 years ago. I was the operations unit manager at the state's Emergency Operations Center when a tsunami warning was issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. This warning was passed down to coastal counties so that they could take appropriate action to evacuate people at risk along the coast.

After doing the initial warning,

we started checking with coastal counties on the status of their evacuations. We discovered that some counties had not taken any action to warn their citizens (sound familiar?). I immediately got this hollow feeling in my gut, thinking of the ramifications of a failure to act.

I immediately initiated actions to issue an Emergency Alert System warning to the public, using commercial television and radio to issue the warning. Before the EAS message could be sent, the tsunami warning was canceled.

Since that time, I've resolved that if I'm going to be fired, it will be for doing something that I believe can save lives, and not for a failure to act. I'm not too sure this was the same lesson learned by the public officials who failed to take action to warn their citizens last week or even 10 years ago. It may be that by dilly-dallying around they were awarded with a canceled warning and "a no harm done." I'm reminded of the Thailand official who did not issue a tsunami warning because it might hurt tourism.

To those public safety and elected officials who understand the threat of a tsunami to their community, a situation where seconds count, and who followed their emergency procedures to warn residents -- I say "well done," you did the right thing!

The average person also has to be ready for the next warning. Understand the hazards that you face at home, work and schools. Forewarned is forearmed. Knowing the hazards allows you to create a plan, establish a disaster kit and get training.

As Americans, we seem to have a low tolerance for mistakes that

cause an inconvenience to us, such as making us miss our favorite program on television that night. It is a small price to pay for participating in a real-life drill that may save you or your children's lives in the future -- because they'll remember the right way to respond to a warning!