

Washington State Emergency Management Division

Limited English Proficiency

LEP Program

- Mission: Improve partnerships between state agencies, local governments, and community stakeholders with the goal of providing emergency preparedness alert and warning capabilities in LEP communities.
- Origin:
 - 2014/2015 Easter Washington wildfire season – worst in the state history – LEP communities were the most affected due to absence of LEP Communications Plan.
 - Effect: **SSB5046**

- **Basic requirements**

- To develop and execute communications plan for LEP populations for life and safety messaging during emergencies

- **Legislative intent on life safety messaging**

- All persons should be informed of emergency notifications, harms, and actions they can take to protect themselves in a manner they can understand.

- **Life Safety Messing**

- Evacuations, sheltering, sheltering-in-place, facility lockdown, food and water

- **what we have learned thus far from local Emergency Managers**

- Limited Resources such as funding and personnel damper LEP plan efforts.
- Attempts at conducting outreach strained by cultural differences or government aversion.

- **Current Projects**

- AmeriCorps outreach volunteer for Counties
- Interpreter emergency management awareness Program
- Collaborative database of translated messaging and information
- H-2A Guest Worker outreach
- Monthly Sync/ bi-weekly Emails