



Snohomish County
County Executive's Office
Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Executive Reardon Secures \$1 Million for New County Department of Emergency Management

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon announced today that Snohomish County is keeping \$1 million in federal homeland security grants for its new Department of Emergency Management (DEM).

“I am pleased at the outcome of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) core group’s decision,” said Reardon. “The team recognized the value of our emergency management proposal to improve the safety and security of Snohomish County and the region.”

The grant will be used for computers and equipment to upgrade Snohomish County’s emergency operations center.

Effective January 1, 2006, the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (SCDEM) made the transition from independent agency to that of a department of Snohomish County government. The decision to dissolve the (SCDEM) was made August 2005 by its Board of Directors of twelve city mayors. Confidence in Snohomish County’s ability to grow and manage a disciplined emergency management program in a post 9/11 world motivated the board to make the change.

Shortly after assuming DEM the grant originally awarded by Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) was called into question when a disputed proposal deadline of December 1, 2005 had been missed by the previous (SCDEM) management team.

“Once the problem had been identified, we acted quickly to identify and resolve the issues,” says Executive Reardon. “We are actively moving forward with our plans to develop the best, emergency management systems possible.”

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