

Personnel News December 2011

Jeff Parsons was named Dec. 1 as Washington Emergency Management Division's (EMD) the new Private Industry Program Manager reporting to Wendy Freitag, EMD External Affairs Manager. Parsons, who has worked with the EMD's Planning, Exercise and Training Unit since 1996, served the last few years as the state Critical Infrastructure Program (CIP) Manager and Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) Officer. In addition to his work on the CIP, Parsons has extensive operational experience having served as State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Planning Chief & Supervisor, EOC Manager, and Operations Section Chief. He also was a local jurisdiction liaison during past disasters and was selected as one of a handful of EMD liaisons for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Parsons has served in a variety of planning roles such as the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Coordinator and most recently as the Washington Information Sharing Environment (WISE) project coordinator. In his new position, he will serve as the business community's primary point of contact for the Evergreen Quake Series 2012. Parsons will work on several projects to ensure that all the excellent CIP work that has occurred the past few years can be fully leveraged and integrated into our state EMD business liaison program model, and he will produce most of the future "Business Information site" notices, Freitag said. "This additional investment in our business outreach program will allow us to expand our preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery program offerings. Stay tuned for more information as we roll out several new initiatives designed to provide direct support for restarting businesses faster post disaster."

Rick Searles retired from state service Dec. 31 after working eight years as a state emergency operations officer in the Emergency Management Division's Alert and Warning Center (AWC). He joined EMD in 2003 after completing 23 years of service as the Washington National Guard's liaison to the Emergency Management Division.

Bruce Beardson was appointed Dec. 7 to succeed Searles as a state emergency operations officer in the Alert and Warning Center. Beardson, who first came to the Emergency Management Division in 1997, had served as a supervisor in the Enhanced 9-1-1 Unit since 1999. "Bruce has long been a part of the Mitigation Response and Recovery (MRR) Unit and the AWC extended family," said Paul McNeill, response manager in the MRR unit. "So though we are very sad to lose Rick, we are also very fortunate to be welcoming Bruce to take his place."

Noemi LaChapelle was named Dec. 2 to the post of Program Assistant in the Earthquake/Tsunami Program in the Mitigation/Response/Recovery Unit. LaChapelle previously worked in the Military Department's Payroll Department.

Deborah Henderson, who returned to EMD on June 30 after a two-year stint in the state Department of Agriculture, was promoted Dec. 9 from program assistant to program coordinator in the Homeland Security Section of EMD's E911/Homeland Security Unit. In her new position, Henderson will be coordinating the Urban Area Security Initiative programs for the Seattle UASI, as well as other related homeland security programs.