

Governor's Office

Mission and philosophy

The mission of the Office of the Governor is to provide leadership that builds public trust through accessibility, service, accountability and cooperation. Governor Freudenthal and his staff believe in personal responsibility, professionalism, high ethics and honesty, requiring accountability, efficiency and respect. The role of the governor's office is to provide opportunity, through partnerships, to meet the needs of Wyoming, today and tomorrow.

The governor's vision for Wyoming includes a state that values and nurtures family and community; a state with an enhanced economic base, thriving businesses, community development and protection for our social and natural environment; a state with natural resources developed in a safe and clean manner; a state whose residents have access to the latest and most productive technology; a state where high-quality education effectively prepares the state's youth for a meaningful and challenging future; and a state where government services are delivered using financial resources in an effective and efficient manner.

Results of outcomes

Governor Freudenthal took office on Jan. 6, 2003 and did not have an opportunity to draft his administration's strategic plan until approximately six months later. Therefore, his accomplishments thus far can be clearly enumerated, but will not reflect upon an earlier strategic plan.

Among his first duties upon taking office was to make hundreds of appointments to state positions and boards and commissions. Within approximately three months, several well-qualified agency heads were put into position. Governor Freudenthal also revived two valuable positions that had existed in previous administrations: counsel to the governor and state planning coordinator. Restoring the State Planning Office, and allocating approximately 10 positions for policy analysts of varying specialty areas, assures the state of a centralized planning process and a reduction in redundancy across state government. It also guarantees access for officials and concerned residents to members of the governor's office, if the governor himself is not available.

Governor Freudenthal created the Office of Homeland Security, which sprang from the existing structure of the Wyoming Emergency Management Agency and incorporates workers from the Wyoming Highway Patrol and the state Department of Health. Through the department, he has since approved millions of dollars of federal homeland security funding to be distributed to local governments.

Governor Freudenthal also created a Local Government Coordinating Council, which comprises representatives of city and county governments in the

General information

Governor Dave Freudenthal

Agency contact

State Capitol
200 W. 24th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

307/777-7434

Other locations

N/A

Year established

1890

Statutory references

Wyoming Constitution, Article 4; Wyoming Statute 9-1-201

Number of authorized personnel

29 full-time

Organizational structure

Governor's Office, State Planning Office, Office of Homeland Security

Clients served

Wyoming residents

Budget information

(administration): **\$1,202,459**

hopes of giving them a stronger voice at the Capitol. He also saw the creation of the Office of Consumer Advocate, an office he campaigned for and one that was established during the 2003 legislative session, at the Public Service Commission.

As early as January, Governor Freudenthal began to attend troop deployment ceremonies around the state as Wyoming-based military members were sent overseas in the ongoing war on terror and war in Iraq. He also immediately began town hall-style meetings with stakeholders in the development of coalbed methane, first in Gillette and later in Sheridan and other places.

Governor Freudenthal immediately began work with the School Facilities Commission as it began to research and draft recommendations to the state for school capital construction requests and needs. Given legal requirements facing the state, the governor is advocating a conservative budget so that all schools can be treated equally. In the hopes of creating a pay system that is equitable and consistent across state government, Governor Freudenthal created a task force, which is nearing a final plan, to re-examine the way pay raises are given to state employees.

The governor has taken a number of actions in support of Wyoming's children, which range from his work on education spending to hosting a roundtable on children and families (for which attendance numbered in the hundreds) to supporting legislation requiring a study of how the state meets their needs.

Governor Freudenthal has taken a number of steps in support of electric transmission development in the state, including an executive order advocating regional teamwork in its development and planning, along with Utah Governor Mike Leavitt, a subregional transmission planning initiative scheduled for late September.

Strategic plan changes

Goals as outlined in new strategic plan:

Goal: To operate the executive branch of state government in an open, ethical and accountable manner.

Objective: To allow constituents to find answers to their questions and concerns with only a reasonable amount of effort.

Outcome: An increasingly "user-friendly" state government.

Strategy: Ensure that state employees that interact regularly and directly with the public have a working knowledge of the duties and capabilities of all major state agencies.

Strategy: Ensure that state employees that interact regularly and directly with the public can direct constituents to the state Web page or other resources as a starting point.

Strategy: Remove as many automated telephone systems as possible, to ensure that constituents reach a live person when calling state offices.

Objective: To ensure that constituents know their concerns are heard at the state level.

Outcome: A constituency that feels represented by its state government and therefore responds fairly to governmental policies.

Strategy: Respond to all correspondence in a timely manner, prioritizing those that come from Wyoming residents.

Strategy: Ensure that all telephone calls are returned in a timely manner.

Strategy: When possible, allow constituents calling or writing the governor's office to directly speak to the governor.

Strategy: When residents' concerns or suggestion serve as the basis for policy, clearly state that as the case.

Objective: To ensure that the people's business is not conducted entirely behind closed doors, while still allowing a measure of privacy to constituents who desire it.

Outcome: A constituency who trusts state government because of a governor who is accountable for his actions by taking them predominantly in clear public view.

Strategy: Make the governor's schedule as publicly available as possible, and answer openly any questions about meetings not listed publicly.

Strategy: Acknowledge that, periodically, an individual constituent or official has the right to meet privately with the governor.

Strategy: Regularly update the governor's Web site with press releases and other forms of information regarding the duties he performs.

Goal: To operate the executive branch of government in a responsible, effective and efficient manner.

Objective: A fiscally conservative and easily understandable state budget that was fairly developed and can be readily justified.

Strategy: Set aside significant time in the months leading up to a budget session for working with agency heads to compile their budget.

Strategy: Make clear directions and expectations for budgets to be submitted to the governor's Office.

Strategy: Apply consistent rationale to budget decisions.

Objective: To avoid redundancy of duties within the governor's office.

Strategy: Establish specific destinations for correspondence of various subject matters.

Strategy: Log all correspondence so that it may be tracked through the system.

Office of Homeland Security

March 7, 2003

Governor Signed Senate File 55 Into Law

This law created the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security and authorized the governor to appoint a director, Joe Moore, and appoint the Coordinator of the Wyoming Emergency Management Agency, Larry Majerus.

This law also removed WEMA from the Wyoming National Guard and placed it within the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security.

March 24, 2003

The 4 C room was established.

The Crisis Command, and Control Center, for Emergency Operations is now established in the Hunt Building, 2305 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, as a place for the governor and key policy-making government leaders to conduct operations in case of large statewide disasters or in incidents where the capitol cannot be used. It provides a secure communication system and space for key government officials to perform related duties during such emergencies. It will be activated in cases of credible threats or whenever the governor directs it should be activated.

April 1, 2003

Major Ken Galbraith, WHP, detailed to the OHS

Major Galbraith's position, salary and operational costs are provided by the Wyoming Highway Patrol and WYDOT. He is detailed/assigned to work with the Director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security to develop the Homeland Security program for the state, and specifically to coordinate the "Crisis Management" element in dealing with criminal acts.

April 8, 2003

Governor Approves ODP 2002 Funding for PPE Equipment to First Responders

Previously existing Office of Domestic Preparedness/Department of Homeland Security Grant funding provided Personal Protective Equipment to all sworn peace officers in Wyoming. This equipment is critical to protect these first responders in cases of potential exposure to terrorist attacks such as Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear, and Explosive substances and during investigative work or while responding to natural or manmade technological disasters.

April 9, 2003

WOHS makes a presentation to WLEA administrator's Conference

The Office of Homeland Security made a presentation to the Annual Wyoming Law Enforcement Administrator's Conference in

Douglas, concerning the creation of our agency and potential funding to help law enforcement and all first responders in thwarting acts of terrorism and preventing them from occurring.

April 14, 2003

Robert (Bob) Sherard, Dept of Health, is detailed to the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security.

Mr. Sherard's position and salary are provided by the Wyoming Department of Health.

He is detailed/assigned to work with the Director of the Office of Homeland Security to develop the program for the state.

April 14, 2003

Dept. of Health adopts their established state regions to match the 6 response regions of the Fire Department.

The State Fire Marshal's Office had previously established six regions around the state, based on an approximate two hour response time to most locations within the Wyoming. In the spirit of coordination and in the best interest of establishing a "Regional Response Team" concept, the Department of Health adopted these same regional boundaries for their program- beginning with the smallpox vaccination program.

April 17, 2003

Marcelino Galvin, Dept. of Homeland Security, Region 8, Grant Manager, met with Wyoming Office of Homeland Security Mangement.

This meeting established authorization to make specific requests for federal grant consideration, which might be more specific to the needs of Wyoming than formally issued and directed on a nationwide level.

April 22, 2003

Governor Approves Portable Interoperable Communications Systems (PICS) units to be distributed to the established Six Homeland Security Response Teams.

These units provide critical technology to allow all agencies and first responders to communicate with each other during critical events of terrorist attacks, natural disasters, or planned events within the state. This communication enhancement permits the use of existing two way radios now located within each of the agencies, within limited areas around the incident.

April 28, 2003

Michelle Ammerman, Dept. of Health, Bio-terrorism Program, is detailed to the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security.

Mrs. Ammerman's position and salary are provided by the Wyoming Department of Health.

She is detailed/assigned to work with the Director of the Office of Homeland Security to develop the program for the state.

April 29, 2003

Mr. Maurstad, FEMA, was here and met with OHS Management concerning FEMA funding issues.

During this meeting, the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security made a request for 75/25 percent matching funds to build a Sensitive Compartmentalized Information Facility (SCIF) for the governor to use in "classified" information or critical incident matter.

Also during April, Office of Homeland Security met with the following groups (including but not limited to) the Wyoming Association of Municipalities, the County Commissioners Assn, Wyoming Dept. of Education, (routine scheduled meetings with the Dept. of Health, Bio-terrorism Group), U.S. Attorney's Office, Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, State Fire Marshal's Office, the Annual Fire Chief's Meeting, Command Staff of Warren Air Force Base, and the Chairman of State Emergency Response Commission Commission.

The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security also initiated a system to announce critical matters of concern to Wyoming Law Enforcement, or others needing to know, through a joint message from the FBI, the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, as may be needed. Letterhead was drafted, an OHS logo was made, and an incident reporting form for in-house documentation was created.

April 30th- May 2nd

Meetings with Local Officials

During the first week of May, we traveled and met with representatives of local law enforcement, fire personnel and County Emergency Coordinators from Carbon, Fremont, and Hot Springs County. We also addressed the County Veterinarian Members at Thermopolis on May 2nd. The purpose was to review the operation of our agency and answer questions concerning grant funding and processes.

May 6, 2003

Meeting with Region 8 FEMA

Employees of OHS Emergency Management went to the Region 8 office of FEMA in Denver. They examined the resources of FEMA and continued the discussion of our plan for the need of a secure Command Center for emergency operations.

May 20, 2003

Annual County Emergency Coordinators Meeting

The Coordinator of OHS Emergency Management Agency gave a welcome to the County

Emergency Coordinators at their annual conference in Rock Springs

May 21, 2003

Office of Homeland Security Presentation to LECC Conference

A Power Point presentation on our program was presented to the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee Annual Conference in Jackson, Wyoming. We also introduced the WI2MS CD disks, which contains a vast database of information by county and regions, and distributed them to all attendees.

May 22, 2003

Presentation to the SERC Commission

A Power Point presentation on our program was presented to the State Emergency Response Commission Meeting in Rock Springs dealing with Wyoming Homeland Security.

May 30, 2003

Purchase of EOD Equipment

Governor Freudenthal approved the use of ODP FY02 grant funding to purchase Explosive Ordinance Disposal Equipment including such items as: protective suits, protected communications systems, a robot, trailer for the robot, and specialized equipment for the robot) at a cost of \$275,876.00. This equipment will be available for response to any location in the state and will be operated by existing trained law enforcement technicians.

May 30, 2003

Purchase of Protective Equipment for Firefighters

Governor Freudenthal approved the use of ODP FY2002 grant funding to purchase specialized protective equipment for 145 fire departments, career and volunteer, at a cost of \$1,550,000. This purchase was coordinated and recommended by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

June 2, 2003

FEMA Awards Funding For The SCIF

FEMA awards \$34,752 as federal match (75/25 percent) for the completion of our Sensitive Compartmentalized Information Facility.

June 6, 2003

Three-Year Exercise Plan Announced

The Department of Homeland Security announces Wyoming is the first state to develop the timeline for a three-year exercise plan as required by the Office of Domestic Preparedness.

June 17, 2003

Purchase of Units for Hospitals

Governor Freudenthal approves the purchase of decontamination units for 31 hospitals (includes

Indian Health, Lusk and VA Centers). Purchased by FY02 Health Resources and Services Administration federal grant funds (\$360,000) and FY03 federal grant funds. (\$200,000).

June 20, 2003

Presentation to Legislative Committee

Director Joe Moore made a presentation to the Joint Transportation Committee/Legislative on the Office of Homeland Security, history, goals, and initiatives. The presentation included a demonstration of the Portable Interoperable Communications Systems (PICS) units.

Office of Homeland Security-Emergency Management Agency

August 2002

Kaycee Flood

Office of Homeland Security personnel were deployed to Kaycee after the flooding to assist with preliminary damage assessments and recovery.

October 2002

Floodplain Managers Handbook Created

The Office of Homeland Security designed and published a handbook for Floodplain Managers and also hosted and coordinated a workshop dealing with this issue.

March 2003

House Bill 19 - Wyoming Emergency Management Act (EMAC) Becomes Law

This new law provides for state assistance and mutual aid assistance among the political subdivisions of the state in cases where a disaster or attack requires resources beyond the ability of the affected community to properly handle.

May 2003

Search and Rescue Reimbursements

The agency reimbursed, from federal funding, \$47,190.48 to local counties for costs related to search and rescue incidents.

During this reporting period, Office of Homeland Security-Emergency Management also conducted 78 training courses. A total of 1158 students attended these classes.

The agency also calibrated 2,427 radiological testing devices and exchanged or provided maintenance to an additional 467 radiological kits.

Office of the Governor organization chart

