

# FEMA: Washington must participate in nuclear 'attack'

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, rejecting a Washington state claim of "extenuating circumstances," has notified Gov. Booth Gardner that it finds the state's withdrawal from an upcoming National Security exercise "a serious breach" of the state's written agreement with FEMA.

The agreement is the basis for federal funding of emergency management activities in Washington.

FEMA is offering the state an opportunity to reschedule a drill, aimed at ensuring compliance with nuclear attack preparedness requirements, prior to June 30. If the state does not, William H. Mayer, FEMA regional director, said he will begin instituting procedures to stop providing about \$1.4 million in civil defense funding to Washington and local jurisdictions now receiving those funds.

Gov. Booth Gardner had told FEMA the state did not have time to prepare for the exercise.

The exercise was originally scheduled to involve Idaho and Oregon — this week — and Alaska and Washington, March 31-April 2.

The exercise will go on as scheduled in Alaska and Idaho, according to FEMA officials.