

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 278

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRST INFORMER BROADCASTERS; AMENDING TITLE 31, IDAHO CODE, BY
THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 59, TITLE 31, IDAHO CODE, TO DEFINE TERMS,
TO PROVIDE FOR FIRST INFORMER BROADCASTERS IN THE IDAHO EMERGENCY OPER-
ATIONS PLAN, TO PROVIDE FOR TRAINING AND TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Title 31, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended
by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chap-
ter 59, Title 31, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

CHAPTER 59

FIRST INFORMER BROADCASTERS ACT

31-5901. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter the following terms have
the following meanings:

(1) "Broadcaster" means any corporation or other entity that is pri-
marily engaged in the business of broadcasting video or audio programming,
whether through the public airwaves, cable, direct or indirect satellite
transmission or any other similar means of communication.

(2) "Emergency" means the declaration of a state of emergency or disas-
ter as provided by law.

(3) "First informer broadcaster" means a broadcaster in Idaho that
makes application to the Idaho office of emergency management for designa-
tion as a first informer broadcaster and that is granted such designation as
a first informer broadcaster pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated
by the coordinator of the office of emergency management pursuant to chapter
10, title 46, Idaho Code.

31-5902. FIRST INFORMER BROADCASTERS. The unified incident command
system and the Idaho emergency operations plan shall, by July 1, 2017, es-
tablish planning for first informer broadcasters such that first informer
broadcasters, to any extent practicable, during an emergency may:

(1) Have access to areas affected by an emergency for the purpose of
restoring, repairing or resupplying any facility or equipment critical to
the ability of a broadcaster to acquire, produce or transmit emergency-re-
lated programming including, but not limited to, repairing and maintaining
transmitters and generators and transporting fuel for generators; and

(2) Not have vehicles, fuel, food, water and any other materials seized
or condemned that are essential for maintaining or producing a broadcast or
broadcasting signal.

31-5903. TRAINING. The Idaho office of emergency management may de-
velop or adopt courses of instruction for use in training personnel of first

1 informer broadcasters on personal safety and navigation in an area affected
2 by an emergency. The requirements of any such training shall be established
3 pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director of emergency
4 management. The costs of any such training shall be paid by the first in-
5 former broadcasters participating in the training.

6 31-5904. EXCEPTION. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as giv-
7 ing broadcasters authority over emergency management personnel.