

Pierce County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

BASIC PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mission

1. Pierce County government will prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against disasters, natural and manmade, impacting Pierce County to its best ability with available resources. This will be done for the purpose of protecting lives, property, the economy, and the environment.
2. The county government will work cooperatively with other governmental authorities and jurisdictions, the military, tribes, private businesses and agencies, volunteer organizations, and individual citizens to achieve the mission.
3. Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (PCDEM) goals are to:
 - Develop citizen awareness and self-sufficiency.
 - Implement warning and emergency notification procedures, and evacuation route identification.
 - Apply an all-hazards approach to emergency contingency planning.
 - Develop procedures for emergency operations, enhance responder capabilities, and coordinate emergency resources.
 - Administer recovery activities and provide services as applicant agent.
 - Facilitate mitigation efforts through hazard identification and risk assessments, and identify corrective actions.
 - Create an atmosphere of interagency cooperation during those operations.
 - Coordinate public information through a joint information center (JIC).
 - Maintain a continuity of operations plan that provides for PCDEM to deliver essential services with essential staff during extreme emergencies.

B. Plan Purpose

This CEMP will identify emergency management functions and responsibilities of local government and associated agencies and organizations.

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C. Scope

This Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) provides guidance for a systematic and coordinated effort to: emergency and disaster mitigation, emergency preparedness, disaster response and recovery operations. The CEMP details the capabilities, authorities and responsibilities of county departments and, primary and support agencies in emergency management.

1. Pierce County Code 2.06.010N identifies PCDEM as the lead department for the following functions:
 - Prepare and coordinate plans for emergency management with the county in the event of a disaster.
 - Develop mutual aid agreements to be executed by the county Executive or designee for the purposes of regional emergency management.
 - Act as the hazardous materials incident coordinating agency for Pierce County.
 - Manage and coordinate the county inter-departmental radio communications system.
 - Manage, coordinate and maintain system data base for county-wide (including municipalities) computerized telephone emergency access Enhanced 9-1-1 system.
 - Manage the Office of Fire Prevention and Arson Control (Fire Prevention Bureau).

In addition to these functions, PCDEM will:

- Maintain and operate the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center (PCEOC) and the Pierce County Joint Information Center (PCJIC).
- Develop Homeland Security strategic plans and manage Homeland Security grants.
- Sponsor and coordinate the Pierce County Terrorism Early Warning (TEW) and Response Task Force.
- Sponsor and coordinate the Pierce County Homeland Security Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) and the four working committees: planning and intelligence, training, exercise, and resource.
- Develop catastrophic and mass evacuation plans.
- Sponsor and manage Urban Search and Rescue Washington Task Force 1, (WA-TF1).
- Develop county-wide mitigation and recovery plans.

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- Coordinate the development of a Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) for the county.
- Coordinate public outreach programs: Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC-NET), E 9-1-1, and emergency preparedness training.
- Coordinate the County's Citizen Corps Council and Program.
- Maintain and operate the Pierce County Mobile Operations Command Center (MOCC) and Tactical Area Communications (TAC) vehicles.
- Approve training and certification for the county's paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and first responders.

The risk potential and scope of the natural and manmade hazards detailed in the Pierce County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA) are the foundation for the activities listed above. Therefore, this CEMP has an "all-hazards" approach to incidents that range from emergent to catastrophic. The HIVA is published separately.

2. The county government will work cooperatively with other governmental authorities, the military, tribes, private businesses and agencies, volunteer organizations and individual citizens to achieve its mission.
3. The magnitude of the emergency or disaster drives county decisions about how the county will respond and to what extent the resources are available to the county will be tapped. Resources available to the county in mounting such a response include other government agencies, non-profit organizations, volunteers and private businesses, and equipment.

Therefore this CEMP will:

- Identify the emergency preparedness, response and recovery functions of the county (mitigation, as prescribed by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, is addressed in the Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Plan, published separately).
- Identify the emergency management roles and responsibilities of county departments as related to the emergency response and recovery, and emergency support function (ESF) agencies and volunteer organizations to include emergency functions.
- Establish the framework of the policies, assumptions and procedures the county follows in emergency response.
- Coordinate county response and recovery operations.
- Identify relationships between the county and other emergency response and service providers.

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4. This CEMP is consistent with and supports other emergency plans required by the state and federal government.

D. Organization

1. Pierce County became a home rule county by the vote of the people in 1981. The Pierce County Charter separated executive and legislative responsibilities by establishing a position of county Executive to serve as the chief executive officer and a seven-member Council to serve as the legislative branch.
2. The Pierce County Charter establishes the County Council as the policy determining body.
3. Pierce County Code Sections 2.06 and 2.07 establish the Department of Emergency Management and a Director appointed by and reporting to the Executive.
4. Divisions within the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management are:
 - Office of the Director
 - Fiscal Services
 - E 9-1-1
 - Fire Prevention Bureau
 - Emergency Management
 - Mitigation and Preparedness
 - Response and Recovery
 - Radio Communications
 - Urban Search and Rescue
5. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is adopted by the Pierce County Resolution Number R2005-3. NIMS is a single, comprehensive incident management system that provides universal terminology and details emergency management functions such as command and general staff, planning, operations, logistics and finance / administration. As outlined in Homeland Security Presidential Directive / HSPD-5, it will allow for seamless operations, transitioning over jurisdictional boundaries and layers of government.

II. POLICIES

- A. Pierce County will prepare and use personnel, resources, and facilities for dealing with any emergency or disaster that may occur. Disasters and

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emergencies by their very nature may disrupt existing systems and the capability of Pierce County to respond to protect life, public health, and public property. Therefore citizens are encouraged to be self-sufficient for at least seven (7) days should an emergency or disaster occur.

- B. The county Executive, through the Director of the PCDEM, is responsible for the direction and control of the organization, administration and operation of the emergency management program and the emergency operations center for the county.
- C. To facilitate coordination among county departments, each department will appoint a liaison and alternates to work with PCDEM on planning, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery issues. Each department will make staff available, at the request of the Director of PCDEM or the PCEOC manager, to assist in emergency operations in the PCEOC. This will include, but not limited to, appropriate training for such activities as public information support, documentation, operations and damage assessments.

Each department director will ensure that internal operations procedures are developed. At a minimum, those procedures will address:

- Continuity of operations, continuation of essential services, mission-essential personnel, and lines of succession (Continuity of Operations Plan [COOP] – published separately).
- Emergency actions for mission-essential personnel for on and off duty hours of operation.
- Primary and alternate locations for department operations.
- Procedures for conducting emergency assessments of facility, operational status, resource status and needs and employee accountability.
- Procedures for emergency internal communications and communications with the PCEOC.
- Personnel for emergency operations training and PCEOC staffing.
- Procedures for emergency record keeping for operations and fiscal impacts.

An overarching Continuity of Government (COG) Plan, in development at the Executive level, addresses the emergency roles of elected officials, executive staff, and department heads.

- D. Pierce County will coordinate and support other political jurisdictions within and outside of Pierce County in emergency and disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts, as resources allow.

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- E. Federal assistance will be available for disaster response and recovery operations under the provisions of the National Response Plan (NRP) and Public Law 93-288, when certain criteria are met.
- F. Individual county departments, primary and support agencies, and other affected agencies and organizations will incur their respective costs of supporting emergency management and operations activities.
- G. Mutual aid and interlocal agreements will be implemented as needed for emergency response and recovery operations.
- H. Nondiscrimination

In the exercise of its powers or in the performance of its duties, the county shall ensure that no person is discriminated against because of race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap or any other basis not reasonably related to the accomplishment of a legitimate governmental purpose, and after consideration of veterans' preference, shall take whatever affirmative action necessary to accomplish this purpose as defined in the State and Federal constitutions and applicable court interpretations (Pierce County Charter Section 9.65 – Nondiscrimination).

I. Authority

This Plan is developed under the following local, state and federal statutes and regulations.

Sections 2.06 and 2.07, Pierce County Charter
Chapter 2.118, Pierce County Code
Chapter 38.52, RCW Emergency Management
Chapter 35.33.081 and 35.33.101, RCW, as amended
Chapter 34.05, RCW Administrative Procedures Act
Chapter 118-30 WAC
Public Law 920, Federal Defense Act of 1950, as amended
Public Law 960-342, Improved Civil Defense 1980
Public Law 93-288 Disaster Relief Act of 1974, as amended
Title III of the Superfund and Re-authorization Act of 1986
Homeland Security Act of 2002
Homeland Security Presidential Directive / HSPD-5
Homeland Security Presidential Directive / HSPD-8

I. Assignment of Responsibilities

- 1. Pierce County is responsible to respond, to the best of its ability, to emergencies and disasters within its borders. County resources include government agencies, non-profit organizations, volunteers,

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and private sector personnel and equipment. The degree of involvement of these resources and the extent to which the county will respond will be dependent on the type and magnitude of the disaster. The county may assist other local jurisdictions which are impacted by an emergency or disaster.

2. This CEMP outlines the functional roles and responsibilities of local government and other organizations. Resources critical for emergency management functions are categorized as Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). Each ESF describes the policies, situation, planning assumptions, concept of operations, and responsibilities for the activities of ESF.

Each ESF identifies one agency or joint primary agencies with primary responsibilities for coordinating each ESF, while other agencies are tasked with detailed functional ESF supporting roles. Each ESF, numbered 1 – 15, corresponds to the National Response Plan operation and organization model. The Support and Incident Annexes have been modified to reflect emergency planning and disaster operations at a local / county level.

J. Limitations

1. Pierce County will endeavor to make every reasonable effort to ensure an emergency management program is in place to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

No guarantee of a perfect emergency management program or system is expressed or implied by this CEMP or any parts, references or attachments.

2. During emergencies or disasters the county, as delegated to PCDEM, will make every reasonable effort to coordinate and provide emergency response. However, county resources and systems may be overwhelmed. The responsibilities and tenets in this CEMP will be fulfilled only if the situation, information exchange, extent of actual county / agency capabilities and resources are available at the time. There are no assurances that county assistance will be available or possible.
3. This CEMP does not address the internal departmental operations plans required of each department head within the county. These additional operations are outlined in each department's COOP (published separately).

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III. SITUATION

A. Emergency / Disaster Conditions and Hazards

1. Emergencies and disasters can occur in Pierce County at any time causing significant human suffering, injury and death, public and private property damage, environmental degradation, loss of essential services, economic hardship to businesses, families, and individuals, and disruption to local, state, Native American governments, and other governmental entities.
2. The Pierce County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA), published separately, provides information on the potential risks of natural and technological hazards throughout the county. The HIVA identifies the threat, assesses the county's vulnerability to a hazard and provides the basis for this CEMP.

Pierce County is vulnerable to many natural hazards such as the damaging effects of high winds, floods, storms, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, avalanches, drought, snowstorms, fires, land subsidence, and tsunamis.

Pierce County is also vulnerable to a variety of manmade hazards such as the damaging effects of hazardous materials and chemical munitions incidents, explosions, power outages, pipeline failures, transportation accidents, dam failures, computer failures, acts of terrorism, and civil disturbance.

3. The potential exists for emergencies or disasters occurring outside of Pierce County to negatively affect the county. Coordination of any hazard-specific program will be essential to the successful mitigation of, preparation for, response to, or recovery from the hazard.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Some emergencies and disasters occur with sufficient advance notice that there is time to take preparatory actions. Other emergencies will occur without notice.
2. There are three organizational separations for governmental emergency preparedness, response, and recovery: Local, state, and federal. Preparedness, warning, protection, and recovery are general responsibilities of all governments working together. Emergency operations are initiated locally for a rapid response to the emergency or disaster.

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3. Citizens, businesses, county agencies, and local industries will utilize their own resources and be self-sufficient for at least seven (7) days following an emergency or disaster.
4. The severity of problems resulting from a disaster or emergency will depend on factors such as time of occurrence, severity of impact, existing weather conditions, area demographics, and nature of building construction. Collateral incidents such as fire, floods, and hazardous materials releases will increase the impact on the community, multiply losses, and hinder the immediate emergency response effort.
5. The county will endeavor to maintain essential services as soon as and long as possible. Conditions may be of such magnitude and severity that some or all county services may be lost. The county will be unable to fulfill all emergency requests under these conditions. Setting of priorities will be necessary.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The Director of PCDEM:
 - Has lead responsibility in the coordination of resources to support county departments and agencies and contracted cities and towns with either local, mutual aid, or state and federal government resources, as necessary.
 - Will manage and prioritize the activities of all organizations for emergency management within the county.
 - Will maintain liaison with and cooperate with emergency management agencies and organizations of other counties and the state.
 - Evaluates emergency conditions and advises the County Council and Executive to enact emergency ordinances; in order to preserve public peace, health and safety or supports the county government and its existing institutions. Such ordinances are effective upon the Executive's approval.
2. The PCEOC manager will establish overall direction, control and coordination of emergency operations and resources through the PCEOC. PCEOC operations will align with NIMS principles and expectations. Additional guidance for PCEOC operations is found in the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center Plan (published separately).

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3. County department heads and primary and support agency heads have a dual role in emergency management. One is to develop and maintain an internal emergency operations plan which assures and supports the continuation of their missions and essential services.

Two, is meeting the responsibilities of an ESF primary or supporting role as stated in this Plan. This may require designated staff and agency liaisons to report to the PCEOC and / or provide equipment to support field emergency operations.

B. Emergency Management Concepts

1. Pierce County has established the following priority of response and allocation of resources during an emergency or disaster: Protect lives, property, the economy and the environment.
2. The PCEOC is the local clearinghouse and collection point for all activities and information associated with emergency response and recovery. When resource requirements exceed local capabilities, the PCEOC will request additional resources through the Washington Emergency Management Division (WEMD) EOC. The WEMD EOC will coordinate resources with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X and the National Operations Center (NOC) when indicated. In unusual circumstances, PCDEM and PCEOC may coordinate directly with the NOC. Information exchange follows the same channels unless the incident dictates otherwise.
3. PCDEM has a memorandum of understanding with Fort Lewis, Madigan Army Medical Center, McChord Air Force Base, and the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Healthcare System for immediate health and medical response assistance.

C. Direction and Control

1. The County Executive, through the Director of the PCDEM, is responsible for the direction and control of the organization, administration, and operation of the emergency management program and the emergency operations center for the county.
2. During EOC operations the Director of PCDEM may delegate emergency management responsibilities to the PCEOC manager. The PCEOC manager is usually assigned to one of the PCDEM managers or the fire marshal. In extended operations, the PCEOC

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manager responsibilities may be assigned to a sheriff's deputy or a senior PCDEM duty officer.

D. Emergency Operations Facilities

1. Pierce County Emergency Operations Center (PCEOC) / Joint Information Center (JIC)

- The PCEOC / JIC is located in the basement of the County-City Building, 930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room B-36, Tacoma, Washington, 98402-2102. The PCDEM Administrative Offices, 2502 South 35th Street, is an alternate location. The Pierce County mobile operations command center (MOCC) will function as alternate PCEOC when necessary.
- The PCDEM administers, manages and maintains the PCEOC.
- The PCDEM divides the PCEOC activities into three separate operational levels. These levels are size and complexity driven according to each emergency or disaster scenario.

Level 1 – 24-hour duty officer operations.

Level 2 – Enhanced operations, alert stage, with a duty officer, selected emergency management staff, and a representative(s) from the affected agency(s).

Level 3 – Full operations with county department, and primary and support agency representation.

- The PCEOC will activate when any of the contracted partners open their respective EOCs. This is done to support their operational needs. The decision to activate the PCEOC can be made by the Executive, the Director of PCDEM, the managers of PCDEM divisions, and the PCDEM duty officer.
- More detailed information is located in the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center Plan (published separately).

2. PCDEM maintains the mobile operations command center (MOCC) and the tactical area communications (TAC) vehicles. Each serves as a mobile command post in support of emergency field operations. Either will function as an alternate PCEOC when indicated. It is available for emergency use by other county

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departments and public safety partners. It is requested through the PCDEM duty officer.

E. Mitigation Activities

Mitigation strategies are based on the hazards listed in the Pierce County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (published separately) and data gathered following disaster declarations, as well as input from various county agencies, the private sector and the public. The Pierce County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (published separately) discusses the strategies in detail.

F. Preparedness Activities

Prior to the emergency or disaster Pierce County and ESF primary and support agencies will

- Establish procedures to preserve essential records and data technology and to maintain the continuity of essential services.
- Establish procedures for emergency fiscal responsibilities.
- Compile inventories, conduct needs assessment and procure critical resources.
- Determine internal emergency communications priorities and expectations, and develop necessary procedures.
- Institute mutual aid agreements and memoranda of understanding, and build partnerships with appropriate agencies, organizations and contractors.
- Annually review and discuss internal emergency operations plans with department personnel.

G. Response Activities

During the emergency or disaster PCDEM will:

- Take emergency actions to safeguard employee health and safety.
- Take emergency actions to protect life, property, the environment and the economy.
- Conduct personnel roll calls for identification and accountability.
- Implement emergency operations plans.
- Activate the PCEOC for the coordination of transportation, telecommunications and warning, public works and engineering, firefighting, mass care, health and medical, search and rescue, hazardous materials, food and water, utilities, military support to civilian authorities, recovery and restoration, law enforcement, damage assessment, and evacuation and movement field operations and resources.

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- Activate the PCJIC to meet public emergency information and media responsibilities and expectations.
- Dispatch the MOCC and TAC when requested and indicated.

H. Recovery Activities

During and after the emergency or disaster PCDEM will:

- Compile damage assessment and fiscal records as requested by the PCEOC manager in response to state and federal emergency proclamation evaluation and determination.
- Identify minimum resource needs for the resumption of services.
- Determine short and long-term recovery goals.
- Determine and coordinate emergency staffing coverage.
- Identify recovery funding sources.
- Consider crisis intervention and counseling needs of personnel.
- Conduct post-disaster analysis.
- Revise internal emergency operations plans.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES (as related to emergency management operations)

A. Executive

The Executive's emergency management responsibilities include:

1. Provide overall direction and control through the Director of PCDEM.
2. Approve emergency ordinances passed by the County Council and coordinate other disaster legislative needs.
3. Proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a disaster as recommended by the Director of PCDEM.
4. Request assistance from and through the Governor or when delegation of legal authority of the Governor under Chapter 38.52 RCW or other statute is necessary or desirable to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.
5. Provide emergency public information.

B. Executive Pro Tempore

In the absence of the Executive, the Executive Pro Tempore's responsibilities are those of the Executive.

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C. County Council

1. Elect an Executive Pro Tempore and Chair to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a disaster as recommended by the Director of PCDEM.
2. Pass by two-thirds vote emergency ordinances necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the county government and its existing institutions.

D. County Council, Chair

In the absence of the Executive and the Executive Pro Tempore, proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a disaster as recommended by the Director of PCDEM.

E. Chief of Staff

In the absence of the Executive, the Chief of Staff has decision-making authority in the interpretation and application of established county policy.

F. Executive Directors and Department Heads

Develop and maintain internal emergency operations plan to include the following information and related ESF responsibilities.

1. Establish procedures to ensure the preservation of essential records and data technology, and maintaining the continuity of essential services.
2. Determine internal chain of command and succession of authority to ensure continuity of leadership and operations. Department heads will ensure that their identified successors are aware of their emergency responsibilities.
3. Designate primary and alternate locations from which to establish internal direction and control of departmental activities.
4. Conduct a need and availability assessment. Compile inventory of critical personnel, facilities, and resources. Identify and obtain necessary equipment and supplies to conduct departmental emergency activities.
5. Establish policy and procedures for tracking disaster operations, overtime and other associated costs.

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6. Make staff available, when requested by the Director of PCDEM, for appropriate training, planning, exercise design and emergency assignments, such as PCEOC operations.
 7. Provide staffing to support PCEOC operations, damage assessments and/or liaison with other agencies and organizations when requested by the PCEOC manager.
 8. Provide accurate emergency contacts and phone and pager numbers to the Director of PCDEM and update with indicated changes.
 9. When indicated, activate internal emergency operational procedures. This includes internal communications, conducting a roll-call and accountability of personnel, conducting a damage assessment, evaluating needed resources, and continually communicating this and other related information to the PCEOC manager.
 10. Funnel any emergency information intended for the public through the PCJIC.
 11. Compile damage assessment and fiscal records as requested by PCEOC manager in response to state and federal emergency proclamation evaluation and determination.
 12. Establish mutual aid agreements, memoranda of understanding, contracts and other indicated relationships, if indicated to maintain departmental emergency activities.
 13. Conduct a post-disaster analysis of departmental emergency activities and make necessary revisions to internal emergency operations plan.
 14. Any and all costs related to the listed and other emergency activities, will be the responsibility of the respective county department or ESF agency.
- G. Director of PCDEM
1. Develop, implement and administer the Pierce County emergency management program including the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.
 2. Develop and maintain PCEOC readiness.

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3. Lead and coordinate emergency contingency planning for Pierce County. Planning will detail emergency management activities within the unincorporated areas of the county and within cities and towns, which contract with PCDEM for emergency management services.
4. Advise the Executive of the need to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a disaster.
5. Request the Executive of Pierce County or in his / her absence, the Pro Tem, or in his / her absence, the Chair of the County Council to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a disaster and the termination thereof, or to issue such proclamation in the Executive, Pro Tem, and the Chair are not available, subject to confirmation by the Executive at the earliest practicable time (Chapter 2.118.030 A, Pierce County Code).
6. Request the Executive of Pierce County or in his / her absence, the Pro Tem, or in his / her absence, the Chair of the County Council to request the Governor to proclaim a state of extreme emergency when, in the opinion of the Director of PCDEM, the resources of the area or region are inadequate to cope with the disaster, or to make such request to the Governor if the Executive, the Pro Tem, and the Chair, are not available, subject to confirmation by the Executive at the earliest practicable time.

In the event of the proclamation of a disaster within Pierce County or the proclamation of extreme emergency by the Governor or declaration of a Presidential Emergency, or Incident of National Significance, the Director of PCDEM is empowered:

- To make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such disaster; provided, however, such rules and regulations must be confirmed at the earliest practicable time by the Executive of Pierce County.
- With the approval of the county Executive or designee to obtain vital supplies, equipment, and such other properties found lacking and needed for the protection of Pierce County property and the life of the residents thereof, and bind the county for the fair value thereof, and if required immediately, to commandeer the same for public use.
- To require emergency services of any county officer or employee, and in the event of the proclamation of a state of extreme emergency by the Governor, in the region in which the

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county is located, to command the aid of as many citizens of this community as necessary in the execution of official duties; such persons shall be entitled to all privileges, benefits and immunities as are provided by state law for registered emergency workers.

VII. REFERENCES (published separately)

National Response Plan
State of Washington Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
Pierce County DEM Continuity of Operations Plan
Pierce County DEM Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis
Pierce County DEM Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan
Pierce County DEM Emergency Operations Center Plan
Pierce County DEM Joint Information Center Plan
Pierce County DEM Volunteer and Donations Management Plan
Health and Medical Response Memorandum of Understanding
Legal mandates

VIII. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Emergency – As defined in the Stafford Act, an emergency is “any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement state and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.” (National Response Plan, November 2004)

Major Disaster – As defined under the Stafford Act, any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm or drought) or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under this Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of states, local governments and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship or suffering caused thereby. (National Response Plan, November 2004)

Mitigation – Those actions taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to people, property, the social infrastructure or the environment from hazards and their effects.

VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Emergency Management Organization Chart



Pierce County
Department of Emergency Management

