

August 1, 2006

Pierce County Departments, Offices, and Agencies:

The Pierce County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) provides guidance and establishes policies and procedures for the County, concerning emergency management policies and responsibilities in the event of a natural and manmade emergencies and disasters, and domestic acts of terrorism.

This CEMP supersedes the Pierce County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan; January 1998.

Pursuant to Pierce County Code 2.118 and Chapter 38.52 RCW, this Pierce County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is set forth and each department, office, and agency of the County is directed to become knowledgeable of its contents and be prepared to respond, or support response efforts, during times of necessity.

The Department of Emergency Management will continue to coordinate input and updates to this CEMP, and to work with Pierce County departments, offices, and agencies in the continuing emergency planning process.

Thank you for your continued support to our community emergency management and disaster planning program.

Recommended by:

Steven C. Bailey, Director
Department of Emergency Management

Approved as to form by:

Robert Dick, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Promulgated by:

John Ladenburg, Executive
Pierce County

Pierce County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Executive Summary

The Pierce County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) establishes a comprehensive all-hazards approach to enhance the ability of Pierce County to manage emergencies and disasters. The purpose is to save lives; protect public health, safety, property, the economy, and the environment; and return to a normal way of life as soon as possible.

This CEMP was developed through a collaborative effort by Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, Pierce County government, public safety agencies, military, Puyallup Tribe, appropriate subject matter experts, and volunteer organizations. It will outline broad objectives that will provide for the greatest protection of life and property that can be achieved with resources available. It should be used as a guideline for those agencies (command, primary, and secondary) that have a role in emergency response and recovery. This CEMP is not a prescribed action plan.

This CEMP incorporates best practices and procedures from incident management disciplines – homeland security, emergency management, law enforcement, firefighting, public works, public health and safety, emergency medical services, and volunteer organizations and integrates them into a unified structure. It forms the basis of how county government and emergency responders will work together and how the county government will coordinate with other local, states, and tribal governments and the private sector during incidents.

This CEMP was written in the context of an emergency or disaster that has the scope and scale that challenges the day-to-day and mutual aid response capabilities. It outlines the pivotal role of the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the overall incident management emergency, integrations with other EOCs, collection and dissemination of information, identification and procurement of resource requirements, the establishment of priorities, the development of policies as driven by the incident, and serving as the “Applicant Agency” for all impacted public agencies.

This Plan is organized into five sections:

Base Plan addresses Concept of Operations, Coordinating Structures, Roles and Responsibilities, Definitions, etc.

Appendices includes Glossary, Acronyms, Authorities, and applicable National Interagency Plans

Emergency Support Functions outlines group capabilities and resources into functions that are most likely needed during an incident.

Support Annexes describes common processes and specific administrative requirements.

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Incident Annexes outline core procedures, roles and responsibilities for specific contingencies.

Although this CEMP is titled “comprehensive” it focuses on the response to a disaster. Accompanying plans include the Pierce County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis, the Pierce County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, the Region 5 Homeland Security Strategic Plan, and the Pierce County Economic Recovery Plan. Supplemental plans include the Pierce County Mass Fatalities Response Plan, the Pierce County Volunteer and Donations Management Plan, the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center Plan, the Pierce County Emergency Management Continuity of Operations Plan, the Pierce County Pandemic Flu Plan, and the Mt. Rainier Volcanic Hazards Response Plan.

This CEMP is as current as the time it was written. As emergency management continues to evolve and lessons are learned with each emergency and disaster, it is to be considered a document in a constant state of revision. Stakeholders and customers of this CEMP are encouraged to submit recommendations for future revisions. Make recommendations to:

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management
Mitigation and Preparedness
2501 South 35th Street
Tacoma WA 98409

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