

Section 7

Plan Maintenance Procedures Requirements

Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan---Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i):

[The plan maintenance process **shall** include a] section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.

- Does the plan describe the method and schedule for **monitoring** the plan?
- Does the plan identify the party responsible for monitoring and include a schedule for reports, site visits, phone calls, and meetings?
- Does the plan describe the method and schedule for **evaluating** the plan?
- Does the plan identify the party responsible for evaluating and include the criteria used to evaluate the plan?
- Does the plan describe the method and schedule for **updating** the plan within the five-year cycle?

Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms---Requirement §201.6(c)(4) (ii):

[The plan **shall** include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate...

- Does the plan identify other local planning mechanisms available for incorporating the requirements of the mitigation plan?
- Does the plan include a process by which the local government will incorporate the requirements in other plans, when appropriate?

Continued Public Involvement---Requirement §201.6(c)(4) (iii):

[The plan maintenance process **shall** include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

- Does the plan explain how **continued public participation** will be obtained?
- Will there be public notices, an on-going mitigation plan committee, or annual review meetings with stakeholders?

SECTION 7

**REGION 5 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
CITY OF FIRCREST
PLAN MAINTENANCE SECTION**

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The planning process undertaken in the last two years is just the foundation of breaking the disaster cycle by planning for a disaster resistant community in the City of Fircrest and Pierce County Region 5. This Section details the formal process that will guarantee the Fircrest Hazard Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The Plan Maintenance Section includes a description of the documentation citing the Plan's formal adoption by the City of Fircrest City Council. The Section also describes: the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating within a five-year cycle; the process for incorporating the mitigation strategy into existing mechanisms; and, the process for integrating public participation throughout the plan maintenance. The Section serves as a guide for implementation of the hazard mitigation strategy.

Plan Adoption

Upon completion of the Fircrest Plan it will be submitted to Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD) for a Pre-Adoption Review. The EMD has 30 days to then take action on the Plan and forward it to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X for review. This review, which is allowed 45 days by law, will address the federal criteria outlined in FEMA Interim Final Rule 44 CFR Part 201.6. In completing this review there may be revisions requested by the EMD and/or FEMA. Revisions could include changes to background information, editorial comments, and the alteration of technical content. Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (PC DEM) will call a Planning Team Meeting to address any revisions needed and resubmit the changes.

The Fircrest City Council is responsible for the adoption of the Plan after the Pre-Adoption Review by the EMD and the FEMA Region X. Once the City adopts the Plan, the City Manager will be responsible for submitting it, with a copy of the resolution, to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at the Washington State EMD. EMD will then take action on the Plan and forward it to the FEMA Region X for final approval. Upon approval by FEMA, the City will gain eligibility for both Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program funds.

Appendix A will list the dates and include a copy of the Washington State EMD and FEMA Region X approval of the Fircrest Plan. A copy of the local resolution will be attached there following State and FEMA approval. In future updates of the Plan Appendix C will be used to track changes and/or updates.

Maintenance Strategy

The City of Fircrest maintenance strategy for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation provides a structure that encourages collaboration, information transference, and innovation. Through a multi-tiered implementation method, the City will provide its citizens a highly localized approach to loss reduction while serving their needs through coordinated policies and programs. The method's emphasis, on all levels of participation, promotes public involvement and adaptability to changing risks and vulnerabilities. Finally, it will provide a tangible link between citizens and the various levels of government service, ranging from

community action to the Department of Homeland Security. Through this strategy, Fircrest will continue to break the disaster cycle and achieve a more disaster resistant community.

Implementation

In order to ensure efficient and effective implementation, the City of Fircrest will make use of its capabilities, infrastructure, and dedicated population. The City will implement its mitigation strategy over the next five years primarily through the annual City of Fircrest budget process and varying grant application processes. All programs and entities identified in the Capability Identification Section will serve as the implementing mechanisms within those processes.

The City Manager will work in conjunction with those departments/agencies/entities identified in both the Capability Identification Section and under each mitigation measure to initiate the mitigation strategy. For example, any infrastructure-related measures will be implemented through the jurisdiction infrastructure related plan, such as the Capital Facilities Plan, and the various departments and/or agencies involved through the normal budget schedule. Regulatory and land use measures will continue to be implemented through collaboration with the City's Planning and Building Department and its updates of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Other measures will be implemented through collaboration with the identified jurisdictions/departments listed under each measure's evaluation and through the mechanisms and funding sources identified in the Capability Identification Section.

These efforts fall under a broader implementation strategy that represents a county-wide effort. This strategy must be adaptable to change while being consistent in its delivery.

The mitigation implementation strategy is a three-tiered method that emphasizes localized needs and vulnerabilities while addressing City as well as multi-jurisdictional policies and programs. The first tier is implementation through individual citizen level—Public Education Programs already existing in the City such as information provided to citizens through utility bills. The second is the City Wide mechanism for implementation, in this case the City Administration in conjunction with Pierce County Emergency Management. The third tier is a more external and multi-jurisdictional mechanism, the Hazard Mitigation Forum (HMF).

This method ensures that implementation speaks to unique vulnerabilities at the most local level, allows for coordination among and between levels, and promotes collaboration and innovation. Further, it provides a structured system of monitoring implementation. Finally, it is a method that can adapt to the changing vulnerabilities of the City, the region, and the times. These three levels and their means of implementation and collaboration are described below.

Public Education Programs

At the individual citizen level, public education programs provide the City with a localized mechanism for implementation. This approach to mitigation can adapt to the varying vulnerabilities and needs within the growing City and region. Public education programs are also a means for involving the public in mitigation policy development. Departments conducting mitigation-related programs will provide the existing targeted neighborhoods and special-needs populations a catalogue of mitigation measures from which individuals can choose those that would be most effective in their neighborhood.

Jurisdiction-Wide: City Manager

The City Manager will be responsible for determining the direction of the Plan's implementation. The City Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the City and its departments, the annual budget, and personnel. The City Manager follows the general policy as set by the City Council. The Department is responsible for the selection, evaluation, and training of all city staff. It oversees, coordinates, and manages the activities of all city departments and offices in carrying out the requirements of ordinances, laws, rules and regulations.

Initially, the City Manager will be responsible for the overall review of the plan and will designate mitigation measures to those departments responsible for their implementation. This will be done with assistance from both the Police Chief and a Community Planning Employee. The Emergency Management Division will address the Plan on an annual basis during the Month of September. The Police Chief and the Community Planning Employee will monitor the plan's implementation throughout the year and report to the City Manager at this Annual meeting. Evaluation and updates will be completed at this meeting. Recommendations will be made to coincide with the normal budgeting processes and provide an ample time period for review and adoption of any necessary changes to the implementation schedule.

Eventually, the Emergency Management Division may choose, with the approval of the City Manager, to cede this responsibility to a Hazard Mitigation/Public Safety Committee. This committee would be composed of representatives from the departments identified in the Capability Identification Section as having a role in hazard mitigation. The Committee would ultimately provide a mechanism for coordination among those departments engaged in mitigation to ensure that a comprehensive and efficient approach be undertaken in the City's efforts at all-hazards mitigation.

Hazard Mitigation Forum

The PC Hazard Mitigation Forum (HMF) represents a broader and multi-jurisdictional approach to mitigation implementation. The PC HMF will be comprised of representatives from unincorporated Pierce County and all jurisdictions, partially or wholly, within its borders that have undertaken mitigation planning efforts. The PC HMF will serve as coordinating body for projects of a multi-jurisdictional nature and will provide a mechanism to share successes and increase the cooperation necessary to break the disaster cycle and achieve a disaster resistant Pierce County. Members of the PC HMF will include the following jurisdictions who have completed, or who have begun the process of completing, DMA 2000 compliant plans:

- City of Bonney Lake
- City of Puyallup
- City of Roy
- City of Sumner
- City of Tacoma
- City of University Place
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Pierce County
- 48 Jurisdictions in this effort
- Pierce County Fire District #3
- Pierce County Fire District #14
- Pierce County Fire District #17
- Pierce County Fire District #22
- Firgrove Mutual Water Company
- Bethel School District
- Clover Park School District
- Sumner School District
- City of Fircrest

Coordinated by the PC DEM, the PC HMF will meet annually in August. The City of Fircrest will be an active participant in the PC HMF, and will be represented by the City Emergency Manager or their representative. Only through this level of cooperation can these jurisdictions meet all of their mitigation goals.

Plan Evaluation and Update

It should be noted this planning process began in early 2006 following the then current CFR 201.6 Hazard Mitigation Planning Requirements. Based on new requirements in the Stafford Act put forth in the summer of 2008, the City of Fircrest will evaluate and update the plan to incorporate these new requirements as necessary. Furthermore, if there are additional Stafford Act changes affecting CFR 201.6 in the coming years, the planning process will incorporate those as well.

The Fircrest Plan will guide the City's mitigation efforts for the foreseeable future. The City of Fircrest representatives on the Planning Team have developed a method to ensure that regular review and update of the Plan occur within a five year cycle. The Emergency Management Division will coordinate any reviews through September meeting noted above.

PC DEM will collaborate with the City and the PC HMF to monitor and evaluate the mitigation strategy implementation. PC DEM will track this implementation through Pierce County's GIS database. Findings will be presented and discussed at the annual meeting.

Police and Community Planning will provide a report of the Plan's implementation to the City Manager at the annual meeting. This report will drive the meeting agendas and will include the following:

- Updates on implementation throughout the City;
- Updates on the PC HMF and mitigation activities undertaken by neighboring jurisdictions;
- Changes or anticipated changes in hazard risk and vulnerability at the City, county, regional, State, FEMA Region X, and Homeland Security levels;
- Problems encountered or success stories;
- Any technical or scientific advances that may alter, make easier, or create measures.

The Administrative Group and local experts will decide on updates to the plan's strategy based on the above information and a discussion of:

- The various resources available through budgetary means as well as any relevant grants;
- The current and expected political environment and public opinion;
- Meeting the mitigation goals with regards to changing conditions.

PC DEM will work with the City to review the Risk Assessment Section to determine if the current assessment should be updated or modified based on new information. This will be done during the regularly scheduled reviews of the Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Additional reviews of this Plan will be required following disaster events and will not substitute for the annual meeting. Within ninety days following a significant disaster or an emergency event impacting the City, The emergency Manager or his or her representative will provide an assessment that captures any "success stories" and/or "lessons learned." The assessment will detail direct and indirect damages to the City and its infrastructure, response and recovery costs, as part of the standard recovery procedures that use EMD Forms 129, 130, and 140. This process will help determine any new mitigation initiatives that should be incorporated into the Plan to avoid or reduce similar losses due to future hazard events. In this manner, recovery efforts and data will be used to analyze mitigation activities and spawn the development of new measures that better address any changed vulnerabilities or capabilities. Any updates to the Plan will be addressed at the annual September meeting.

As per 44 CFR 201.6, the City of Fircrest must re-submit the Plan to the State and FEMA with any updates every five years. This process will be coordinated by PC DEM through the Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Forum. In 2013 and every five years following at the Hazard Mitigation Forum, the City of Fircrest Administrative Group will submit the updated plan to PC DEM. PC DEM's Mitigation and Recovery Program Manager will collect updates from the Region 5 Plan jurisdictions and submit them to the State EMD and FEMA.

Continued Public Involvement

The City of Fircrest is dedicated to continued public involvement and education in review and updates of this Plan. The City of Fircrest Emergency Management Division and the Planning Department will retain copies of the Plan and will make it available to the public.

Prior to submitting the Plan to WA EMD and FEMA for the five year review, the City of Fircrest will hold a public information and comment meeting. This meeting will provide citizens a forum during which they can express their concerns, opinions, or ideas about the City of Fircrest Mitigation Plan. This meeting will be advertised by the City through a variety of media, including the local newspaper and our City Town Topics and a posting on the website¹.

Endnotes

¹ <http://www.cityoffirecrest.net/>