

## 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  
PIERCE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #8  
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 Pierce County Fire District-8 (PCFD-8) and Pierce County Region 5. This Section details the formal process that will guarantee the PCFD-8 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 Board of Fire Commissioners. 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 Pierce County Fire District 8 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 Board of Commissioners is responsible for the PCFD-8 adoption of the Plan after the Pre-Adoption Review by the EMD and the FEMA Region X. Once the Board adopts the Plan, the Fire Chief 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, Pierce County Fire District 8 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 Pierce County Fire District 8 Plan. A copy of the fire commissioners' 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 PCFD-8 maintenance strategy for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation provides a structure that encourages collaboration, information transference, and innovation. Through a multi-tiered implementation method, the District 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, the District will continue to break the disaster cycle and achieve a more disaster resistant community.

## Implementation

In order to ensure efficient and effective implementation, PCFD-8 will make use of its capabilities, infrastructure, and dedicated population. The District will implement its mitigation strategy over the next five years primarily through its annual 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. District staff will work in conjunction with those agencies/entities identified in both the Capability Identification Section and under each mitigation measure to initiate the mitigation strategy. 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 both District and multi-jurisdictional policies and programs. The first tier is implementation through individual citizen level—existing Public Education Programs in the District. The second tier is the District-Wide mechanism for implementation. 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 District, the region, and the times. These three levels and their means of implementation and collaboration are described below.

### *Public Education Programs*

At the citizen level, Public Education Programs provide the District with a localized mechanism for implementation. This approach to mitigation can adapt to the varying vulnerabilities and needs within the District 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 communities.

### *Jurisdiction-Wide*

PCFD-8 is responsible for determining the direction of the Plan's implementation. The Chief is responsible to the Board of Commissioners for the day-to-day operations of the department, the annual budget, and personnel. The District is responsible for the selection, evaluation, and training of all district staff.

The Chief is responsible for the overall review of the plan and designates mitigation measures to those staff members for implementation. The Chief, or his designee, will address the Plan on an annual basis. The Chief, or his designee, will monitor the plan's implementation throughout the year and report progress and impacts to the Board of Commissioners annually. Evaluation and updates will be completed at this meeting. Recommendations will be made to coincide with the normal budgeting processes and provide ample time for review and adoption of any necessary changes to the implementation schedule.

### *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

Coordinated by PC DEM, the PC HMF will meet annually in August. PCFD-8 will be an active participant in the PC HMF, and will be represented by a Chief Officer.

### **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 PCFD-8 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 PCFD-8 Plan will guide the District's mitigation efforts for the foreseeable future. PCFD-8 representatives on the Planning Team will develop a method to ensure that regular review and update of the Plan occur within a five year cycle.

PC DEM collaborates with the District and the PC HMF to monitor and evaluate the mitigation strategy implementation. PC DEM tracks this implementation through Pierce County's GIS database. Findings may be presented and discussed annually.

The District may receive assistance from PC DEM 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 regional partners' Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analyses and their Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans.

Within ninety days following a significant disaster or an emergency event impacting the District, the District will document any "success stories" and/or "lessons learned" and will provide the documentation to share holders if requested. The assessment will detail direct and indirect damages to the District 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 limit 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 annual meetings.

As per 44 CFR 201.6, PCFD-8 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, PCFD-8 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**

PCFD-8 is dedicated to continued public involvement and education in review and updates of the Plan. The District will retain copies of the Plan and will post it on the PCFD-8 Website<sup>1</sup>. Prior to submitting the Plan to WA EMD and FEMA for the five year review, the District will hold a public information and comment meeting. This meeting will provide the public a forum during which citizens can express their concerns, opinions, or ideas about the PCFD-8 Plan. These meetings will be advertised in PCFD-8 through a variety of media, including the local newspaper and a posting on the website.

## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.edgewoodfire.org/>