

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #11—AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LEAD AGENCIES

Emergency Provision of Nutritional Assistance

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management

Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Response

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

Food Safety and Security

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD)

Natural, Cultural, and Historic (NCH) Resources Protection

Pierce County Parks & Recreation

Pierce County Planning & Public Works

Safety and Well-Being of Animals

Pierce County Sheriff's Department-Animal Control Services

SUPPORT AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

Pierce County Cooperative Extension

Pierce County Human Services

Nongovernmental Organizations/Private Nonprofits

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

This Emergency Support Function (ESF) supports county, local and tribal authorities to address: (1) emergency provision of nutritional assistance; (2) coordinate to control and eradicate an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, highly infective exotic plant disease, or economically devastating plant pest infestation; (3) assurance of food safety and food security; (4) protection of natural and cultural resources and historic (NCH) resources prior to, during, and/or after an "Incident of National Significance," and the safety and well-being of animals impacted by an incident.

B. Scope

This ESF coordinates five primary functions. The performance of these functions is in the context of emergencies or major disasters.

- 1. Emergency Provision of Nutritional Assistance:** This includes determining nutrition assistance needs, obtaining appropriate food supplies, arranging for delivery of the supplies, and authorizing disaster food stamps. May coordinate with ESF #6 and #8 to determine food assistance needed.
- 2. Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Response:** This includes implementing an integrated federal, state, local and tribal emergency response to an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, an outbreak of a highly infective exotic plant disease, or an economically devastating plant pest infestation.
- 3. Food Safety and Security:** Includes the inspection and verification of food safety aspects of slaughter and processing plants, products in distribution and retail sites,

and import facilities at ports of entry; laboratory analysis of food samples; control of products suspected to be adulterated; plant closures; food-borne disease surveillance; and field investigations.

4. **Natural, Cultural, and Historic (NCH) Resources Protection:** Includes appropriate response actions to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore NCH resources. This includes providing post-event baseline assessments of damages and providing technical assistance and resources for assessing impacts of response and recovery activities to NCH resources.
5. **Safety and Wellbeing of Animals:** The Pierce County Sheriff’s Department-Animal Control supports together with ESFs #6, #9 and #14 to ensure an integrated response that provides for the safety and well-being of animals including sheltering, feeding, veterinarian care, and tracking for the reunification with owners, when possible.

C. Core Capabilities and Actions

The following table lists the core capabilities that ESF #11 most directly supports along with the related ESF #11 actions. In addition to the core capabilities listed in the table, all ESFs support the following core capabilities: Planning, Operational Coordination, and Public Information and Warning.

Mission Area	Core Capability	Description and Actions
Response	Logistics and Supply Chain Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver essential commodities, equipment, and services in support of impacted communities and survivors (including animals), as well as the coordination of access to community staples. Synchronize logistics capabilities and enable the restoration of impacted supply chains. 2. Mobilize and deliver governmental, nongovernmental, and private sector resources to save lives, sustain lives, meet basic human needs (including pets and animals), and transition to recovery, to include moving and delivering resources and services to meet the needs of disaster survivors.
	Mass Care Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide life-sustaining services to the affected population, such as hydration, feeding, and evacuee support (for animals), and distribution of emergency supplies. 2. Support emergency shelters in providing for the affected animal population.
	Critical Transportation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide transportation for response priority objectives in relation to the evacuation of animals. and the delivery of vital response personnel, equipment, and services into the affected areas.

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Mission Area	Core Capability	Description and Actions
Response (continued)	Critical Transportation (continued)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ensure basic animal needs are met, assist transition into recovery for an affected area, and restore basic services and community functionality.
	Environmental Response/Health and Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the health and safety of the public and workers, as well as the environment, from all-hazards in support of responder operations and the affected communities. 2. Identify, assess, and mitigate worker health and safety hazards and disseminate health and safety guidance and resources to response and recovery workers. 3. Minimize public exposure to environmental hazards through assessment of the hazards and implementation of public protective actions. 4. Detect, assess, stabilize, and clean up releases of hazardous materials into the environment, including natural and cultural resources, and properly manage animal waste. 5. Identify, evaluate, and implement measures to prevent and minimize impacts to the environment, natural and cultural resources, and historic properties from all-hazard emergencies and response operations.
	Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide lifesaving medical treatment via Emergency Medical Services and related operations and avoid additional disease and injury by providing targeted public health, medical, and behavioral health support, and products to all affected populations. 2. Deliver medical countermeasures to exposed populations. 3. Complete triage and initial stabilization of casualties and begin definitive care for those likely to survive their injuries and illness. 4. Return medical surge resources to pre-incident levels, complete health assessments, and identify recovery processes.
	Infrastructure Systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stabilize critical infrastructure functions, minimize health and safety threats, and efficiently restore and revitalize systems and services to support a viable, resilient community. 2. Decrease and stabilize immediate infrastructure threats to the affected population, to include survivors in the heavily-damaged zone, nearby communities that may be affected by cascading effects 3. Re-establish critical infrastructure within the affected areas to support ongoing emergency response operations, life sustainment, community functionality, and a transition to recovery.

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Mission Area	Core Capability	Description and Actions
Response <i>(continued)</i>	Critical Transportation <i>(continued)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Coordinate the clearance, removal, and disposal of debris. 5. Formalize partnerships with governmental and private sector emergency response teams to accept, triage, and collaboratively respond to cascading impacts in an efficient manner.
Recovery	Infrastructure Systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restore and sustain essential services (public and private) to maintain community functionality. 2. Develop a plan with a specified timeline for redeveloping community infrastructures to contribute to resiliency, accessibility, and sustainability. 3. Provide systems that meet the community needs while minimizing service disruption during restoration within the specified timeline in the recovery plan.

II. POLICIES

- A. WAC 296-203-121(2)(F) Disposal of Dead Animals
- B. Chapter 16.36 RCW 16.36 Animal Health
- C. Animals are defined by Pierce County Code 6.02.010.
- D. Pierce County Code 6.02.010

III. SITUATION

- A. Emergency/Major Disaster Conditions and Hazards

Natural or human-caused hazards identified in the Pierce County Pierce County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) may impact agriculture, natural, cultural, or historic lands, plant and animal health/welfare, and/or the availability of food supply.

- B. Planning Assumptions

- The lead agency for each incident coordinates with appropriate ESFs and other annexes, including the coordinating agency for the Worker Safety and Health Support Annex, to ensure appropriate use of volunteers and their health and safety and to ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect the health and safety of all workers.
- Each support agency is responsible for managing its respective assets and resources after receiving direction from the lead agency(ies).

- Actions taken under ESF #11 guided by the existing internal policies and procedures of the lead agency for each incident.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

The Pierce County response structure operates under the direction of the lead agency coordinator as identified in the responsibilities section for a specified function. The County relies heavily on the WSDA, WSDNR, WSDOH, WDAHP, and USDA for support before, during and after an emergency or major disaster affecting agriculture and natural and cultural resources. Once ESF #11 is activated, the County coordinates and conducts all actions cooperatively with federal, state, tribal, and local incident management officials and with private entities.

The County will convene a conference call with appropriate support agencies, as well as federal and non-federal partners, to assess the situation and determine appropriate actions. Regardless of the nature of the disease or pest emergency, Pierce County establishes a Joint Information Center (JIC), collocated with the Tacoma-Pierce County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)—hereafter called the “EOC.”

Support agencies must assign a designee as an agency representative/liaison to operate from the EOC—when activated—to coordinate agency activities within the overall disaster response and into disaster recovery

B. Emergency Provision of Nutritional Assistance

1. Determine the critical needs of the affected population in terms of numbers of people, their location, and usable food preparation facilities for mass feeding.
2. ESF #11 agencies coordinate with, and support as appropriate, agencies responsible for ESF #6, involved in mass feeding.
3. Catalog available resources of food, transportation, equipment, storage, distribution facilities and can locate these resources geographically.
4. Coordinates with TPCHD to ensure that all identified food is fit for human consumption.
5. Coordinate with the Incident Command Post and any other activated local EOCs for the location of staging areas for food supplies and issue points of distribution.
6. Coordinate shipment of food to staging areas within the affected area.
7. Initiate direct market procurement of critical food supplies that are unavailable from existing inventories.
8. Request the authorization of the Disaster Food Stamp Program.
9. Expedites requests, if any, for emergency issuance of food stamp benefits after access to commercial food channels is restored.
10. Establishes logistical links with organizations involved in long-term congregate meal services.

11. Establishes need for, and replacement of, food products transferred from existing FNS nutrition assistance program inventories.

C. Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Response

It is highly likely that either the USDA and/or the WSDA will be the first notified if there is a concern about a contagious animal or disease outbreak in Pierce County. Once ESF #11 is activated EOC will support operations by participating in the JIC, conducting any alert or warnings necessary and assisting in identifying local resources to support operations.

1. WSDA or USDA will assume lead responsibility in providing response direction and resources. WSDA will provide information and recommendations to the State EOC and federal agencies for incidents involving an outbreak of highly contagious/zoonotic animal disease, highly infective exotic plant disease, or economically devastating plant pest infestation that may require quarantine actions or that may impact intrastate/interstate commerce.
2. WSDA and USDA will assist in assigning veterinary personnel to assist in delivering animal health care to injured or abandoned animals and performing veterinary preventive medicine activities, including the conducting of field investigations and the provision of technical assistance and consultation as required.
3. TPCHD will partner with WSDA and WSDOH if there is a concern of a zoonotic outbreak.
4. When addressing animal diseases, all animal depopulation activities are conducted as humanely as possible while stopping pathogen spread and limiting the number of animals that must be euthanized.
5. TPCHD in conjunction with Pierce County Planning & Public Works and the WDOE will partner with WSDA to identify adequate means of transporting and destroying contaminated materials as well as proper decontamination methods.
6. If a possible intentional pathogen release is reported, the Regional Intelligence Group and Department of Agriculture will be contacted.

D. Food Safety and Security

1. Matters concerning food safety and security are under the authority of the local food safety official. Regular inspections of commercial food production, distribution or retail consumption will occur to check for contamination. Confirmation of contamination will be reported to the proper authorities for additional proper action and surveillance. Product tracing will be initiated to determine the source, destination, and disposition of adulterated and/or contaminated products.
2. Food emergency may be identified through food surveillance, environmental surveillance, consumer complaints, notifiable condition surveillance, industry notification, or via law enforcement.
3. The local Public Health Officer is required to immediately notify the State Health Officer who, with the assistance of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), determines the next appropriate action(s) to confirm or rule-out the presence of a food emergency, and

to restrict animal and, if necessary, human movement within and through the affected area. A public health official from the FDA, CDC, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or state food/feed regulatory agency has the authority to restrict movement of food and feed products suspected of contamination within the State.

4. If capacity of TPCHD is exceeded in any way, state or federal resources will be called on.

E. NCH Resource Protection

In consultation with state, local, tribal, and private entities, critical needs, and resources available for NCH resources protection will be determined. Based on this determination, WSDNR, WDOE, and WDFW may be consulted to determine which agency serves as the lead agency for the incident.

1. Provides scientific/technical advice, information, and assistance to help prevent or minimize injury to and to preserve, protect, conserve, stabilize, rehabilitate, or restore NCH resources.
2. Establishes logistical links with organizations involved in long-term NCH resources protection, preservation, conservation, rehabilitation, recovery, stabilization, and restoration.

F. Safety and Wellbeing of Animals

1. Animal care, evacuation and sheltering is led by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Animal Control Division, WASART and the Washington State Department of Agriculture and should be conducted in conjunction with human evacuation and sheltering efforts. Animals should be sheltered near their owners to the extent possible. Owners should be expected to provide food, water, husbandry, and exercise for their pets during the time they are in emergency shelters. Coordination with the American Red Cross and other sheltering organizations will be critical for proper care of animals (ESF #6).
2. Pierce County Sheriff's Department Animal Control Division will be responsible for managing unclaimed, abused, or unvaccinated household pets.
3. Evacuations will be coordinated with WASART when possible.
4. An assessment to determine the critical needs of animals will be conducted and resources will be acquired with help of the EOC.
5. Businesses where animals are integral to operations (such as pet shops and veterinary hospitals) should be encouraged to have contingency plans in place for those animals in the event of an emergency.
6. Upon in-taking animals, veterinarian examinations and vaccinations should be considered, when possible.

G. Prevention Mission

1. Annual inspections of animal-related businesses for required evacuation plans.

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2. Public outreach activities on how to build a disaster kit, including animal-specific papers and supplies.
3. Coordinated planning efforts
4. Training for volunteers

H. Mitigation Mission

1. Responder safety training
2. Proper protective equipment to prevent spread of disease
3. Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan
4. Surface Water Management Emergency Response Management Plan

I. Response Mission

1. Save animals
2. Keep food safe

J. Recovery Mission

1. Carcass disposal
2. Reunification
3. Demobilization of resources
4. Coordinate restoration of damaged county natural resources.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

Lead Agencies	ESF Responsibilities
Pierce County Department of Emergency Management	<p>Emergency Provision of Nutritional Assistance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determines nutritional assistance needs. 2. Obtains appropriate food supplies. 3. Arranges transportation for food supplies. 4. Authorizes Disaster Food Stamp Program.
Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)	<p>Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Response</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinates with TPCHD and Washington State Department of Ecology for disposal of contaminated debris and carcasses. 2. Implement an integrated national-level response to an outbreak of an economically devastating or highly contagious animal/zoonotic disease or an outbreak of a harmful or economically significant plant pest or disease.

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Lead Agencies	ESF Responsibilities
<p>Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) <i>(continued)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Identify appropriate treatment or disposal of contaminated crops or livestock as well as denomination of facilities or land. 4. Coordinate veterinary and wildlife services in affected areas. 5. Identify and implement quarantine areas as appropriate.
<p>Pierce County Planning & Public Works-Solid Waste Management</p>	<p>Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Response</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinates with TPCHD and Washington State Department of Ecology for disposal of contaminated debris and carcasses.
<p>Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department</p>	<p>Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Response</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assists in identifying proper areas adequate for decontamination or disposal/destruction of contaminated materials. 2. Coordinate and disseminate guidance for immediate protective actions for the public, such as water information regarding preventive measures for contaminated food and water. 3. Advise local government officials of health hazards. <p>Commercial Food Supply Safety and Security</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performs inspection and verification of meat, poultry, and egg products in affected areas to ensure safe and wholesome products enter commerce. 2. Conducts foodborne disease surveillance. 3. Coordinates recall and tracing of adulterated products. 4. Coordinates disposal of contaminated food products. 5. Provides inspectors and laboratory services to affected areas. 6. Monitor emergency food and water supplies for compliance with health regulations (ESF #8).
<p>Parks & Recreation and Planning & Public Works</p>	<p>NCH Resources Protection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinates natural resources identification and vulnerability assessments. 2. Facilitates development and application of protection measures and strategies. 3. Assists in emergency compliance with relevant Federal environmental laws during emergency response activities, such as emergency permits or consultation for natural resources use or consumption. 4. Manages, monitors, and assists in or conducts response. 5. and recovery actions to minimize damage to natural resources. 6. Coordinates with ESF #3 on the removal of debris affecting NCH resources.

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Lead Agencies	ESF Responsibilities
Parks & Recreation and Planning & Public Works <i>(continued)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Coordinates with ESF #3 to manage, monitor, or provide technical assistance on emergency stabilization (and during recovery, restoration) of shorelines, riparian buffer zones, and hillsides to protect NCH resources. 8. Shares best practices and assists in development of programmatic approaches to address and expedite NCH-related requirements for all Federal actions/initiatives taken to respond to or recover from an incident requiring a coordinated Federal response. 9. Provides up-to-date geospatial data related to impacted NCH resources, and develops and provides standard operating procedures for collecting NCH digital data, conducting GIS analyses, and disseminating geospatial products related to NCH resources, such as maps. 10. Provides Incident Management Teams to assist in NCH 11. resource response and recovery actions. 12. Water Quality: Authorize & perform emergency water quality sampling. 13. GIS SWM: Monitors County owned ponds.
Pierce County Animal Control	<p>Safety and Wellbeing of Animals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports DHS-FEMA together with ESFs #6, #9, and #14 to ensure an integrated response that provides for the safety and well-being of animals due to natural disasters, an injured, displaced, or rescued companion animal, and other emergency events resulting in mass displacement of civilian populations. 2. Provides technical support and subject-matter expertise regarding the safety and well-being of animals. 3. Conducts critical needs assessments. 4. Expedites requests for resources to assist in evacuating and sheltering of animals. 5. Coordinate shelters in conjunction with human sheltering efforts (ESF #6). 6. Coordinate with WASART for evacuation needs.
Support Agencies/ Organizations	ESF Responsibilities
Pierce County Cooperative Extension	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide information on safe preparation, handling, storage and preservation of food and water. 2. Provide educational information to discourage waste and/or loss of food. 3. Provide information on sources of food supplies.

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Support Agencies/ Organizations	ESF Responsibilities
Pierce County Human Services Department	1. Coordinate the support of emergency needs of agency clients. These needs include food, potable water, and sanitation.

VI. AREAS OF COORDINATION CROSSWALK

The following table describes the typical functions concurrently active during incidents involving ESF #11. Other ESF annexes are listed as a reference to guide coordination.

Function	Agency	ESF Annex
Hazardous Materials Response	Fire Districts, WA Ecology	ESF #10
Public Messaging	Pierce County Communications Department	ESF #15

VII. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

- American Red Cross, Mount Rainier Chapter Disaster Plan.
- Pierce County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, March 2015.
- RCW 43.43.961: Fire Service Resource Mobilization Plan, as amended.

VIII. TERMS AND DEFINITONS

- (See Appendices I and II)

IX. ATTACHMENTS

- (None)

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