



City of Seattle

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**Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan**  
*Emergency Operations Plan*

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*Updated May 2015*

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City of Seattle  
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan  
Emergency Operations Plan

Prepared by  
Seattle Office of Emergency Management

Updated May 2015

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) describes how the City will respond to save lives, protect property, and stabilize the incident. It describes how coordination is managed among the many departments and organizations that may be involved in response so that unity of effort may be achieved.

The EOP is one of the plans that make up the City of Seattle's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP is a set of overarching documents that describe Seattle's overall plan in managing disasters.

## **II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

In addition to those base statements, the following elements apply specifically to the EOP.

### **A. Situation**

The City maintains a strong capability to respond to emergencies that typically occur on any given day. Supporting this response, the Office of Emergency Management provides an on-call, 24/7, Duty Officer who can assist responders in obtaining resources, gathering information, and facilitating the transition from normal response operations to activation of the City Emergency Operations Center.

On a less frequent basis, larger scale incidents can occur. These have expanded requirements and challenges that can exceed the response capability of one department, the entirety of the City or the region and can involve large numbers of dead or injured, extensive property damage, environmental damage and economic hardship.

### **B. Assumptions**

The City of Seattle CEMP, Introduction contains a common set of assumptions that apply to the EOP. In addition to those, the following assumptions that are specific to the EOP apply:

- Weather related incidents that trigger coordination under this plan may occur several times a year.
- The time of year, day of the week, time of day, and weather conditions can affect the seriousness of an incident and the City's ability to respond.
- The City's five 24/7 operational departments (Seattle Fire Department, Seattle Police Department, Department of Transportation, Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities) are prepared and have sufficient resources to adequately handle most commonly encountered incidents.
- Generally, departments do not maintain caches of food, water, equipment and supplies in sufficient quantity to support the anticipated scale of operations after major incident has struck.

- Some incidents would severely stress normal municipal systems and would likely require outside assistance from the state and federal governments.
- In a major incident, the City of Seattle government response may be overwhelmed, requiring the community to be without basic services for at least the first 72 hours after an event and possibly longer.

### **III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

The National Response Framework doctrine of tiered response emphasizes that response to incidents should be “managed at the lowest jurisdictional level and supported by additional capabilities when needed.” The vast majority of incidents are, in fact, managed locally and do not require deviation from normal, daily operational procedures.

The National Incident Management System and the National Response Framework provide guidance on how federal, state and local resources will coordinate their efforts during major incidents. In addition, the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs) for Washington State and King County describe how incident response operations will be conducted at their respective levels in coordination with local efforts.

The City of Seattle defines an “incident” as “any occurrence or event, natural or manmade that requires a response to protect life or property. Incidents can include major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist incidents, civil unrest, wildland and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, tsunamis, war related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, and other occurrences requiring an emergency response.” In the EOP and CEMP, the term “incident” is used broadly to avoid confusion between other terms such as disaster, emergencies or events.

There are four key actions that typically occur during the response to an incident:

1. Gain and Maintain Situational Awareness.
2. Activate and Deploy Resources.
3. Coordinate Response Actions.
4. Demobilize.

#### **A. City Strategic Goals for Response**

There are 7 strategic goals for City response. They are:

1. Saving and protecting the greatest number of people at risk.
2. Providing for the safety of emergency responders, other City employees, and the public.

3. Supporting a response that accommodates vulnerable populations, including access and functional needs.
4. Saving and protecting as much vital infrastructure as possible.
5. Saving and protecting as many residential, business and industrial properties as possible.
6. Restraining the spread of environmental damage.
7. Minimizing human hardship and economic interruptions.

## **B. City Response Coordination**

Coordination of response occurs at many levels but always begins in the field at the incident scene. In City wide incidents, such as a snow storm, where there is no one incident scene, field operations, snow plowing, are coordinated through Dispatch Centers and Department Operations Centers.

Levels of coordination, starting with field response:

### **1. Incident Command**

The City uses the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage and coordinate the response to emergencies.

The first responder to arrive on the scene of an emergency is in command. As other departments respond, overlapping responsibilities and authorities have the potential to interfere with the effectiveness of the response. To overcome this, departments and agencies with functional, jurisdictional or statutory responsibility for incident response have options for managing the emergency:

An agency or department may establish Incident Command with all other responders reporting to the Operations Section Chief and/or other sections within the General Staff.

Establish a Unified Command.

Each incident command is responsible for command and control over all tactical operations at the incident scene.

### **2. Unified Command**

In Seattle, Unified Command is generally the preferred approach because it supports the establishment of common objectives, strategies and tactics without any organization abdicating authority, responsibility or accountability.

In Unified Command, the participating departments or agencies designate an Operations Section Chief who has authority over incident operations. The appointment of Deputy Operations Section Chiefs may be used to ensure adequate and effective representation.

### 3. Area Command

When multiple incident commands/unified commands are established, one or more Area Commands may be created to better coordinate operations and improve resource support.

Area Commands have been rarely used in Seattle. During a response to a major incident, all qualified personnel who could be assigned to operate an Area Command may already be assigned to an Incident Command, a DOC, the EOC or some other duty.

One (or more) All Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) may be needed to augment staffing at incident commands, areas commands, department operating centers and the Emergency Operations Center.

#### a. Area Command – Healthcare

Public Health Seattle and King County provides services to the entire county. During an emergency, it coordinates and supports the healthcare community response. To accomplish this, Public Health may activate the Health and Medical Area Command (HMAC). The HMAC works closely with the Disaster Medical Control Center (DMCC) and the Multiagency Coordinating Group, which is led by the Local Health Officer.

The DMCC, operated by Harborview Medical Center, is responsible for coordinating the distribution of patients to local hospitals coming directly from incident scenes or the transfer of inpatients evacuated from healthcare facilities. The healthcare system has procedures in place for hospitals to rapidly report on their available bed space.

The Multiagency Coordinating Group provides policy direction in support of HMAC operations and is composed of:

- **King County Local Health Officer:** The Local Health Officer has unique authority and responsibilities which are in effect at all times and do not require an emergency proclamation or approval by local jurisdictions. Some examples are; activating the regional medical surge strategy, prioritizing and rationing of medical resources or implementing Isolation and Quarantine orders.
- **King County Medical Examiner:** The King County Medical Examiner also has county-wide duties and has unique authority and responsibilities which are in effect at all times and do not require an emergency proclamation or approval by local jurisdictions. The Medical Examiner represents a key element of the healthcare system and his/her participation brings specific medical expertise and helps coordinate and establish consistent response strategies for the countywide health, medical and mortuary response.
- **Emergency Medical Services Medical Directors for King County and City of Seattle:** The EMS Medical Directors represent all ALS, BLS, private ambulance, and air ambulance agencies in the county.

- **King County Healthcare Coalition Executive Council:** The Executive Council has members which represent healthcare provider organizations in the county such as long term care facilities, pharmacies, medical product suppliers, skilled care nursing homes, hospitals, kidney dialysis, Puget Sound Blood Center, behavioral health, and other medical professionals. The King County Healthcare Coalition Executive Council members represent organizations which fall within their healthcare function. Their participation leverages the expertise of medical and executive leaders from across the continuum of healthcare in King County.

#### **4. Dispatch Centers**

The majority of incidents do not require activation of the EOC or a DOC. On a daily basis, Dispatch Centers activate resources and coordinate the response to short duration, limited incidents. For example, a light accumulation of snowfall over the entire city, late at night, might be best addressed through the use of on-duty resources coordinated through department Dispatch Centers.

The following departments maintain a 24/7 dispatch center, control center or on-call duty officer:

- Seattle Police Department.
- Seattle Fire Department.
- Seattle Public Utilities.
- Seattle Department of Transportation.
- Seattle City Light.
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Public Health Seattle and King County.

During a major incident, Dispatch Centers can become overloaded with calls for service, coordinating the initial response effort and making notifications. In these situations departments may choose to activate their Department Operations Center (DOC) and/or request activation of the EOC.

#### **5. Department Operations Center (DOC)**

A DOC enhances, above that of a dispatch center, the ability of a department to coordinate and support the response to an incident. A DOC can also assist in sustaining routine services in areas of the City unaffected by the incident.

DOCs can coordinate directly with each other as needed and with their department's representative in the EOC. Each department determines how their DOC will operate depending on operational need.

The following City departments have an established a DOC:

- Seattle Police Department – Seattle Police Operations Center (SPOC).

- Seattle Fire Department – Resource Management Center (RMC).
- Seattle Public Utilities – Operations Resource Center (ORC).
- Seattle Department of Transportation- Charles Street Operations Center (CSOC).
- Seattle Department of Planning and Development –Department Operations Center
- Seattle City Light – Department Operations Center.
- Seattle Department of Information Technology Information Technology Operations. Center (ITOC)
- Finance and Administrative Services – Department Operations Center.
- Department of Parks and Recreation –Department Operations Center.

## **6. City Emergency Operations Center**

The mission of the City EOC is to minimize the impact of incidents on the community through coordinated planning, information sharing and resource management between all City departments, partnering agencies and the public. The EOC does not command tactical incidents in the field.

The Director of the Seattle OEM is also the Director of the EOC when it is activated and is responsible for:

- Authorizing the activation of the EOC.
- Coordinating the citywide strategic response.
- Providing advice to the Mayor on emergency management related matters.
- Facilitating the Mayor’s Emergency Executive Board meetings.
- Coordinating the identification and resolution of policy issues related to the incident.
- Resolving conflicts over jurisdiction and authority.
- Supervising the development or termination of Emergency Proclamations and any associated Executive Orders.
- Acting as the City representative and point of contract with other emergency management agencies in the region and the state.
- Designating alternate EOC Directors and appointing EOC General Staff Section Chiefs and Branch Directors.
- Approving Mutual Aid requests.
- Coordinating the review and signing of any Delegations of Authority.
- Acting as a representative of the City EOC at press conference and media interviews.

### C. Relationship Between Field Operations and the EOC

The EOC doesn't direct field operations; rather it provides support to field operations in the form of resources, policy direction, and by providing situational awareness. The EOC also supports incident commanders and operations in the field through the development of interagency or inter-governmental plans of action. The EOC can also develop city-wide, or regional strategies that, in turn, support field operations.

In normal response operations, the EOC does not communicate directly with field response units. Instead, field units communicate directly with their department or agency through established procedures or standard operating guidelines. Field communication may be to a DOC or to an agency representative who in turn communicates with the appropriate ESF representative in the EOC.

## IV. THE CITY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is built to exceed by 50% the maximum building code standard for critical facilities. It has redundant communication systems, emergency power generators, 60 workstations in the main operations area, and six breakout rooms with additional workstations. There is also a dedicated communications room, a Mayor's Policy Room, a Joint Information Center (JIC) and a Media Briefing Room. The Seattle OEM also maintains an electronic information sharing and management program, called WebEOC, which can be accessed via any internet connection.

### A. Authority to Activate the EOC

Any department director or incident commander may *request* activation when they see a need to develop plans of action, coordinate resources, gather information, or seek assistance in resolving policy issues during events. The Director of the Office of Emergency Management, in consultation with the Mayor or his/her designee, *authorizes* the activation of the EOC.

Factors to consider when determining if EOC activation is needed, and to what level, are:

- The nature, scale, and severity of the hazard and immediate known or possible impacts (which may include secondary risks or impacts).
- The potential for the hazard and/or secondary impacts to increase.
- The degree and extent of support needed to achieve response and/or recovery objectives.
- The time of day and day of the week.
- The amount of media or public attention garnered by the incident.
- The benefit achieved by coordinating departmental operations from a centralized location.

- Other unrelated incidents underway or planned events scheduled.

## **B. EOC Activation Process**

The Seattle OEM Staff Duty Officer serves as the single point of contact for any request to activate the City's Emergency Operation Center. The OEM Staff Duty Officer:

- Receives notification for any request to activate the EOC
- Consults with decision makers on activation and departments who should respond.
- Performs initial notifications to appropriate personnel to respond to the EOC.
- Tracks any issues, problems, or potential EOC requests until such time as the EOC is activated.

## **C. Modes of EOC Activation**

EOC modes of activation provide a way to quickly summarize and communicate the level of response by the City. OEM staff use the modes of activation to help organize EOC staffing levels, operations and planning efforts.

EOC modes are presented in descending order and progressively greater severity:

### **1. Increased Readiness Mode (ICS Type 5 or 4 Incident)**

Incident or events where there is a period of warning or the impacts are limited and mutual aid not needed. The OEM Staff Duty Officer closely monitors the situation and briefs the OEM Director, staff, and key City or other stakeholders that may be either impacted by the incident or event or play a role in response. The Duty Officer is also available to provide assistance to the responding departments as needed.

EOC activation is unlikely.

A proclamation of Civil Emergency is highly unlikely.

Some examples of possible triggers include:

- National Weather Service forecast and/or storm watch or warning.
- Intelligence indicating that violence is anticipated at a planned event.
- Large structural fire.
- An outbreak of disease on cruise ship affecting several passengers.
- Isolation/quarantine ordered for an individual or group which may have contracted or been exposed to a serious disease that poses a potential public health risk.

## **2. Major Incident Mode (ICS Type 3 Incident)**

Incident or event has the potential for, or causes, major impacts that are expected to be of relatively short duration and can be managed using City resources. Mutual aid assistance, if needed, is limited.

- EOC activation is likely.
- A proclamation of Civil Emergency is possible but not probable.

Some examples of possible triggers include:

- Large structural fire with significant disruption to the surrounding area.
- Evacuation of a hospital.
- Passenger airplane crash.
- Snowstorm of limited duration and severity.
- Earthquake with limited damage.
- Terrorist attack, using conventional weapons and directed against one target with limited impacts.
- Loss of some utility services for a relatively limited period of time.

## **3. Disaster Activation Mode (ICS Type 2 Incident)**

Incident or event has the potential for, or causes, significant and extensive impacts such as large numbers of injured, loss of life, wide spread damage to structures or loss of utility services.

In this mode, City resources and capabilities may not be sufficient to meet all of the challenges posed by the emergency. Restoration of basic services might take several weeks or months. Mutual aid, State and Federal assistance could be required.

- Activation of the EOC is certain.
- A proclamation of Civil Emergency is likely.

Possible triggers include:

- Strong earthquake with structural collapse, fires, injuries and fatalities.
- Infectious disease outbreak that is widespread but does not significantly impact the delivery of essential healthcare, the continuity of government or services in the public and private sector.
- Terrorist attack involving multiple targets using conventional weapons such as rifles and improvised explosive devices.
- Widespread outage of utility services for an extended period of time.

- Number of fatalities and/or injured, by whatever cause, exceeds the capacity of the Healthcare system.
- Collapse of a dam owned by the City of Seattle.
- Large wildfire in a city watershed.
- Evacuation of large numbers of casualties from elsewhere in the United States to the Seattle region under the National Disaster Medical System program.

#### **4. Catastrophic Activation Mode (ICS Type 1 Incident)**

Incident or event involves widespread and severe damage, significant contamination or large numbers of casualties or significant risk of same. In some scenarios, the actual disaster may occur elsewhere but the secondary impacts may cause extensive disruption locally.

The response and recovery operations would be extensive and long term assistance and support from all levels of government required. Restoration of basic services might take months or years. Due to the potential widespread nature of the impacts associated with this mode, assistance from the federal or state governments may be rationed or severely limited.

- Activation of the EOC is certain.
- A proclamation of Civil Emergency is certain.

Possible triggers include:

- A large magnitude Seattle Fault earthquake.
- A pandemic that impacts the delivery of healthcare, continuity of government or business continuity throughout the region.
- An attack involving a weapon of mass destruction; biological, chemical, radiological or nuclear weapon, or combinations thereof.
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) threat, which is deemed credible by the public and/or government.
- Extensive damage or contamination that will take months or years to repair/decontaminate.
- Cyber attack that severely impacts one or more critical service sectors locally.
- Long duration power outage.

### **D. Purpose of the EOC**

#### **1. Gain and Maintain Situational Awareness**

At the start of any response there are three fundamental questions that all responders ask:

- What has happened? (assessment)

- What are the current and potential impacts to people, infrastructure, systems and services? (impacts)
- What response operations are underway or anticipated? (operations)

From this information a Common Operating Picture is developed. This is not a static picture; during an incident information is constantly changing or being added. For example: information provided by subject matter experts can fundamentally alter what is understood about an incident and its impacts. With this mind, the Common Operating Picture is refined and adjusted on a continual basis in order to provide the greatest level of accuracy.

Crucial to building and sustaining an effective Common Operating Picture is the sharing of information widely throughout the region. Sharing information about an incident provides another way to verify and correct what is known. It also supports unity of effort by helping to establish a common view of the incident; responders can't coordinate effectively if they each hold different opinions of what has happened and its impacts.

Individual departments may collect information that is then shared with the appropriate ESF Coordinator in the EOC. That information is then place into WebEOC. In cases where information is not added to WebEOC, the information may also be provided directly to the EOC Situation Unit who is ultimately tasked with collection, analysis, and dissemination of information involving the City's Common Operating Picture during activations.

#### **a. Common Operating Picture - Assessments**

An assessment of what has happened can take many forms depending on the nature of the incident. On a daily basis, responders utilize their training and experience to rapidly assess incidents they respond to (so called "routine" emergencies). In contrast, during the response to a major incident this may be more difficult, the initial assessment will likely be incomplete due to initial conditions present; communication systems may be inoperable or overloaded, responders may not be able to access the most heavily impacted areas or pressing life safety issues may limit how much time responders can devote to conducting a detailed assessment.

To assist all responders, a standing Essential Element of Information (EEI) Strategy is available that defines what information, or categories of information, each department should be collect and report during the response to a major incident.

Until the EOC is activated, departments share summaries of their assessments with each other by the most effective and expeditious means available. A communications plan is available to assist departments in the exchange of information.

Once the EOC is activated, department assessments, as well as assessments provided by other jurisdictions, are consolidated into various situation reports which are disseminated widely. Further, more specialized assessments, evaluations and inspections will be conducted as response transitions to recovery.

It is recognized that in a catastrophic incident, even conducting assessments may not be possible until sufficient resources can be mobilized and brought to the incident scene.

Businesses, following business continuity plans, conduct assessments of their staff, buildings, vehicles, inventory and suppliers. During EOC activations, ESF #14 Long Term Recovery and Mitigation Representatives may arrange for a business representative to be present in the EOC to assist with the collection of this information.

Concurrent with the initial government and private response, the general public will take action as well. Those members of the community who have received disaster training are expected to:

- Check on themselves, their family and neighborhood.
- Provide first aid.
- Extinguish fires.
- Control utilities.
- Conduct light search and rescue.

In addition, neighborhoods can coordinate and support each other through local community Hubs. Hubs are locations pre-identified by community members where people can go to seek or offer assistance to one another until ordinary city services are restored.

Individuals and groups also use social media sites to share information, contribute to common maps and organize local solutions to problems.

#### **b. Common Operating Picture - Impacts**

Each department is responsible for determining, within their area of responsibility, what the impacts are to the community and their ability to continue to provide services. Through an assessment, a department may determine that one of its buildings has been evacuated. By itself, this information does not paint a complete picture; what services were provided by units housed within the evacuated building or are there specialized resources that are now inaccessible? Some other examples are:

- Seattle City Light can quickly estimate the number of customers affected by a power outage.
- The Seattle Fire Department has a thorough understanding of the businesses located within a Battalion or Company area of operation.
- Seattle Public Utilities can determine what areas of the City will be affected by a major break in a water pipeline.

This information is shared with the Seattle EOC Situation Unit who is responsible for consolidating information into a single common operating picture.

#### **c. Common Operating Picture - Operations**

In a major incident, the sharing of what operations are currently underway or anticipated is vital:

- It promotes unity of effort and prevents conflicts between various operations.
- Contributes to a safer response.

Since no commander or supervisor can have a complete understanding of the impacts, sharing operational information is another way for everyone to gain a better picture of the situation.

At minimum, information should be shared with the department responsible for leading the tactical response in the field. For example:

- For natural disasters or accidents involving injuries, departments coordinate information with the Seattle Fire Department Deputy One or alternate - assisted by the Fire Alarm Center and the Resource Management Center (RMC).
- For incidents caused by deliberate criminal act, or threats of, departments coordinate information with the Seattle Police Department Duty Commander—assisted by the Seattle Police Dispatch Center and the Seattle Police Operations Center (SPOC).

Common sense prevails in this process. Given the large number of potential, and at times overlapping, incident scenarios and missions, it is impossible and unwise to develop a rigid doctrine. Instead, a best practices approach is called for with all departments acknowledging the benefit of sharing as much information between responders as appropriate or possible.

Once the EOC is activated, information sharing about operations will still continue between departments while also sharing with the EOC.

#### **d. Methods of Information Sharing**

During a complex incident or disaster, the amount of information available has the potential to overwhelm any information management process or system. To address this, face to face contact between representatives assigned to the EOC is promoted in training and during activations as the most effective means for maintaining situational awareness, common operating picture and problem solving.

- The EOC Director regularly briefs the entire EOC staff on the situation.
- The EOC Operation Section conducts “stand up” meetings with EOC Branch Directors to coordinate actions and information several times during the operational period.
- The EOC Planning Section Chief facilitates planning meetings, as part of the CAP planning cycle where information is shared.
- ESF representatives meet throughout the operational period as needed.

#### **e. Information Sources**

Departments and ESF Representatives collect, analyze and forward information, intelligence, assessments, impact reports, plans and operational information within their area of operation and responsibility to appropriate sections in the EOC. In addition, the EOC personnel rely on a wide variety of other information sources, some examples are:

- Department of Transportation Traffic Cameras.
- Internet Sites.
- National Weather Service.
- Washington State Fusion Center.
- United States Coast Guard.
- Emergency Management Organizations.
- WATrac Healthcare Information System.
- National Shelter System.
- Broadcast and Social Media.

#### **f. Essential Elements of Information**

The Essential Elements of Information (EEI) strategy defines what information is needed from each department when the EOC is activated. The EEI is a guide to help with the collection of information and departments are encouraged to adapt as needed to meet the intent of the EEI document and needs of the response and recovery.

- The EOC Planning Section Chief is responsible for coordinating the update of the EEI every operational period to match current conditions and operation need.
- A standing EEI is available for use during the initial phase of the response.
- Custom EEIs have been developed for Earthquakes and Snowstorms.

#### **g. EOC Reports**

The EOC Planning Section produces three reports when the EOC is activated:

- ISnap; initial report that is generated at the beginning of the response to assist in the regional situational awareness during major incidents.
- Snapshot Report; short, concise updates issued regularly throughout the operational period that describes what has changed since the previous report,- this report is sent to all email distribution groups maintained by the Seattle OEM.
- Situation Report; a more comprehensive report , generally issued every six to twelve hours, intended to convey the current common operating picture and resource needs - this report is sent to all email distribution groups maintained by the Seattle OEM and specifically with King County and the State of Washington.

The intent is to distribute these reports to as many individuals and organizations as practical or needed.

If email and other communication systems are inoperative, the ESF Representatives are responsible for distributing these reports.

#### **h. City WebEOC**

WebEOC is information management software used in the EOC to document information about the incident and actions taken during the response. WebEOC can be accessed over the internet by any representative or partner that has been granted permission.

Departments order resources by using a resource order form located within WebEOC. Policy decisions are also posted in WebEOC.

During the initial response, an Incident is created within WebEOC by the EOC Deputy Director. Under this Incident, information is divided into two areas:

##### **i. Base and Sub Incidents**

Base Incidents and Sub-Incidents are intended to provide an intuitive way to determine how to store and retrieve information within WebEOC.

Base Incident - All general information updates about the incident which apply to the entire incident are posted in the Base Incident.

Sub-Incident - There can be several Sub-Incidents covering areas of operation or function related to the Base Incident. For example; a Sub-Incident could be created for a Family Assistance Center that has been established by Public Health -all information related to Center is posted under that Sub-Incident

##### **ii. Other Available WebEOC Systems**

The State of Washington and Pierce County each operate their own version of WebEOC. OEM staff can access the State WebEOC account. Both jurisdictions can host a version of the Seattle WebEOC, accessible by internet, in the event the City WebEOC becomes inoperable.

##### **i. Mapping**

The City has a significant mapping capability based on the Graphic Information System (GIS) which, during an activation of the EOC, is used to support emergency operations. Mapping in the EOC is coordinated through the EOC Planning Section Mapping Unit.

- Seattle Public Utilities GIS team coordinates City wide mapping during all phases of emergency management.
- Departments provide copies of any map they create during the incident to the EOC Planning Section Mapping Unit.
- Social Media maps will be considered UNCONFIRMED and must be verified by the EOC Mapping Unit before they can be authorized for use by responders.

- Maps for public information purposes must be reviewed by the Joint Information Center Supervisor and the EOC Planning Section Chief prior to public release to ensure the accuracy of the information.

The Seattle Fire Department, Police Department and Public Health Seattle King County are jointly responsible for verifying the accuracy of maps that define hazards (within their area of responsibility) areas such; as buildings at risk of collapse, current and future locations of plumes, security perimeters, patterns of disease and location of fires.

## **2. Develop Plans of Action**

A key function of the EOC is to provide the means for departments and ESF leads to develop specific response strategies for the incident. Department decision makers who serve as EOC department representatives and ESF leads, assess, problem solve and develop strategic responses that integrate needs, considerations, capabilities from across all City departments, government and non-government stakeholders.

The EOC ensures an integrated and coordinated response among various departments and government agencies that are providing assistance during an emergency.

## **3. Activate and Deploy Resources**

Even though the initial assessment will be incomplete following a major incident, response operations will commence as soon as possible. In those major incidents where the impacts are severe and widespread, and resources in short supply, the response to some individual incidents may be significantly delayed.

Regardless of the type of incident or its size, responders at all levels must balance available resources against the needs of the incident. Priorities for response provide guidance to responders when making a decision as to which resources to activate and where to deploy them. Strategic goals provide further guidance to assist responders at all levels, and especially in the EOC, in developing a comprehensive plan for response and recovery.

### **a. Mobilization**

City resources that are on-duty and available are deployed first. The Seattle Fire Department, Seattle Police Department, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle City Light, Seattle Department of Transportation and Public Health Seattle and King County play a significant role in the initial response to incidents involving injuries and/or property damage.

Concurrent with these initial efforts is the recall of off-duty personnel and activation of Department Operations Centers.

Departments have procedures in place to recall personnel during emergencies. Depending on the type and scale of the incident, recalled personnel could be significantly delayed in reporting for duty. During a major incident, the level of preparedness at home may affect how quickly a responder can report for duty.

## **b. Mutual Aid**

During the earliest phases of the response, City departments, via their dispatch centers, may request assistance directly from agencies in neighboring jurisdictions or districts utilizing existing mutual aid agreements or other regional agreements. All mutual aid requests are coordinated through the EOC once it is activated.

## **4. Public Information**

A Joint Information Center (JIC), located within the EOC, is responsible for providing timely and accurate information to the public about:

- The cause of the disaster and its impacts.
- Hazard and protective action information.
- Status of response operations.
- Instructions on how to obtain assistance.
- How to volunteer or assist in the response and recovery.

The JIC is staffed with public information officers from the various departments involved in the response. The JIC is managed by the Director of the DIT Office of Electronic Communication with the assistance of a JIC supervisor appointed from among the Public Information Officer cadre.

When the EOC is activated, all public messaging by City departments and by Incident Commands in the field is coordinated through the JIC creating one central point of citywide messaging.

To ensure close coordination between operations and public messaging a representative of the JIC participates in all EOC briefings and planning meetings. In addition, the EOC Planning Section Chief and the JIC Supervisor jointly review all EOC Situation and Snapshot reports and press releases before they are published to ensure consistency and accuracy between public messaging and operations.

All reports and press releases are reviewed and approved by the EOC Director prior to release.

### **a. Joint Information System (JIS)**

Joint Information Centers throughout the region coordinate messaging to prevent conflicting messages from being released, share information and ensure messaging supports response and recovery operations. This coordination is referred to as a Joint Information System (JIS). JIS activity is coordinated through the King County Emergency Coordination Center.

Health and Medical Area Command (HMAC) operates a (JIC) for coordinating healthcare related public messaging. The Public Health JIC is part of the regional JIS.

## E. Development of the EOC Consolidated Action Plan

The Consolidated Action Plan (CAP) is the document that guides the EOC in the course of its operations. Specifically the CAP defines the strategies as well as the objectives and missions that will need to be accomplished to meet that strategy. The EOC Advanced Planning Unit is responsible for capturing and documenting the CAP. However the development of the CAP is very much a collaborative process involving most, if not all, stakeholders in the EOC.

The planning P articulates the process for developing a Consolidated Action Plan.

### 1. Initial Event Phase

The initial event phase identifies the planning related actions that guide the EOC operations during the first 1-2 hours of an event. This includes actions related to notification of partners and responders that the EOC is activated .

Objectives during this initial phase will come from one of the following sources:

1. Use of event specific objectives. In cases where enough notice has been given that the EOC may be needed in support of an actual or anticipated event, the OEM, in conjunction with key department representatives, may draft an initial CAP that will be used during

the first activation period.

Examples include special events such as parades or special events when EOC coordination is needed.

2. Use of hazard specific objectives. For some hazards (such as winter storms or earthquake) initial activation objectives have been drafted and are included in hazard specific appendixes to the CEMP.
3. Use of EOC standing objectives. EOC standing objectives are used for no notice events where pre developed objectives have not be developed. The EOC standing objectives are [described below in Section IV, F.](#)

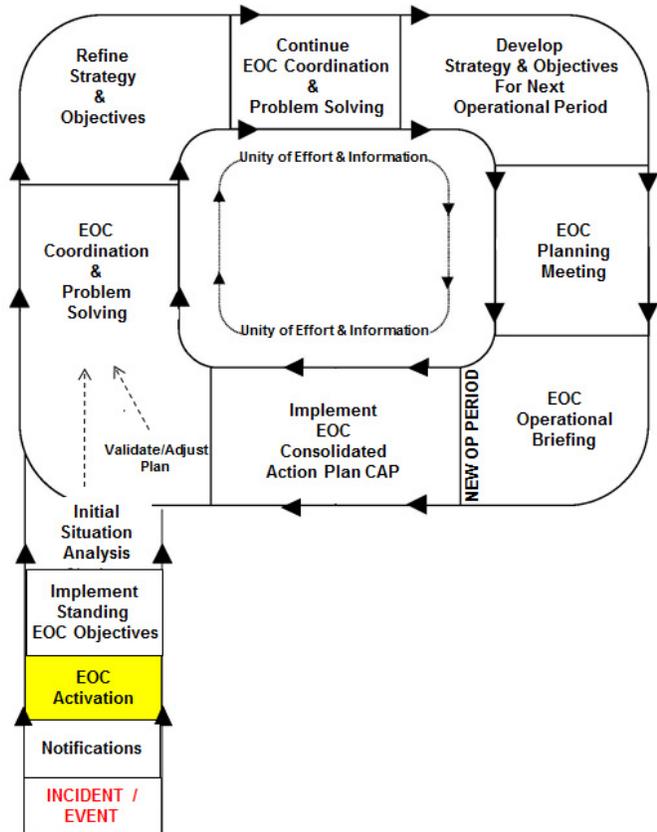


Figure 1 - EOC Planning “P”

Regardless of the event, one of the first activities that will take place will be to conduct an initial assessment and gather information about the situation. This initial assessment, along with the EOC objectives, is what will drive EOC operations during the initial hours of the activation.

## **2. Managed Phase of the Operational Period**

During the first and subsequent operational periods:

- Resources, plans of action, and information are coordinated and EOC reps work to solve issues and problems.
- Objectives are set for the next operational period. The Section Chiefs, key ESF leads and the Planning Section collaborate to establish Operational Period Objectives. The objectives are then approved by the EOC Director.
- The planning section then coordinates the development of strategies, missions and tasks meeting the Strategic Objectives with ESF leads and EOC department representatives.
- The planning meeting reviews, deconflicts, and finalizes the CAP with key branch, ESF, and department leads as well as the JIC Supervisor.

## **F. Standing EOC Objectives**

City objectives contribute to effective response coordination. Working as a team, the OEM Director, OEM staff, Emergency Support Function Representatives, and EOC volunteers, develop a common set of strategic City objectives that guide EOC personnel in their actions during activations. City objectives are updated each operational period (typically 12 to 24 hours) or as needed depending on the incident.

For those incidents that occur without notice, standing EOC objectives can be used until there is sufficient time to develop custom objectives. The following serve as the EOC initial objectives for a no notice activation:

### **1. Develop and maintain situation awareness.**

- Collect, organize, analyze damage assessments from departments and other partners.
- Publish an Essential Elements of Information strategy each operational period or as directed.
- Issue Situation and Snapshot Reports on regular and frequent basis.
- Arrange for subject matter experts to conduct specialized analysis.
- Coordinate Mapping.
- Rapidly incorporate information from social media.

## **2. Develop and execute a City-wide strategy for response and recovery.**

- Establish and maintain the Consolidated Action Plan planning cycle.
- Publish a City Consolidated Action Plan each operational period or as directed.
- Define impacts to vulnerable populations and address through City Consolidated Action Plan.
- Hold EOC Director and Operations Section Chief briefings frequently each operational period.
- Ensure areas of operation and responsibility are clearly defined at all levels.
- Provide logistical support to operations.
- Support restoration of critical services such as utilities and healthcare.
- Conduct advanced planning.
- Designate the department, or departments, responsible for staffing and operating local Points of Distribution, City Staging Areas, Camps, Bases, Heli-Bases, Donation Centers and other facilities and functions.

## **3. Coordinate communication between City departments, external agencies and the community.**

- Establish and maintain communications with all partners.
- Support Auxiliary Communication Service.
- Participate in local and regional conference calls.
- Establish a Joint Information Center.
- Participate in the regional Joint Information System.

## **4. Promote unity of effort with City departments and external agencies.**

- With participation from all ESF Representatives, develop one City strategy.
- Leverage all available City resources, as needed, based on City goals, priorities, strategy.
- Include vulnerable population impacts , and how to address them, in Director and Section Chief briefing agenda.
- Advocate for and support a regional approach to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and for restoring essential services such as public transportation, mass care and healthcare.
- Assign a Zone (Seattle) Representatives to the King County ECC.
- Coordinate requests for assistance from the City to regional, state and federal partners.

- Wherever possible, provide support to neighboring jurisdictions.

#### **5. Address impacts to the community in a comprehensive manner.**

- Utilize advanced planning to identify challenge and opportunities as early as possible.
- Initiate recovery operations as soon as possible.
- Closely coordinate impact analysis and planning with regional partners.

### **G. Special Coordination Issues**

#### **1. Support Facilities**

In general, one or more departments with the least involvement in the response may be tasked with the responsibility for coordinating and managing the operation of City Staging Areas, Points of Distribution, Donation Centers, Camps, Bases, Shelters and other functions or services until assistance can arrive from outside the City.

#### **2. Catastrophic Conditions**

It is understood that for those incidents which cause a catastrophic level of impact responders will face extreme challenges. City resources are finite in number, as the extent and severity of impacts increase, the need for more outside assistance increases as well. In essence, a catastrophic incident is inherently regional, and in rare cases national or global in scope.

- The response to a catastrophic incident builds on the fundamentals outlined above and relies on the ability of responders to quickly adapt as needed to meet the conditions present.
- Regional Plans that address catastrophic level of impacts have been developed by jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region.
- City Priorities for Response and Goals for Response, along with plans, provide essential guidance to responders operating under catastrophic conditions where communication with commanders may not be possible for an extended period.
- Each department, and its responders, is prepared to operate independently when necessary.
- Critical roles are staffed at least three deep so there will be sufficient number of trained individuals available for duty.
- Critical facilities and functions have redundancies to ensure continuity.
- Alternate locations for the EOC have been identified and a contingency plan for relocating has been written.

- At minimum, the City, and its departments, endeavors to always maintain continuity of government and authority over the response, even under the most trying of conditions.

## **H. Demobilization**

When resources are no longer needed they must be quickly demobilized. Just as it is difficult to effectively manage the surge of resources that arrive after a disaster, it is equally challenging to efficiently identify and out-process the many resources assigned to the incident. Some resources, such as Urban Search and Rescue teams are experienced at completing the many steps needed to disengage from the response and return to their home base, while other resources will require an extensive amount of time and energy to demobilize.

Depending on the resource involved, standard procedures for demobilizing field resources or existing department policies and procedures are followed. The EOC Planning Section Chief through the Demobilization Unit leader coordinates citywide demobilization issues through City departments.

Each department is responsible for all documentation related to their response activities.

## **V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

### **A. Mayor**

The primary responsibility for maintaining “the peace and order” in The City of Seattle is vested in the Mayor by The City Charter.

The Council President is authorized to act as Mayor in the Mayor’s absence from the City, or in the event of the Mayor’s incapacitation (See Article V, Section 9 of The City Charter).

Should the Council President, while serving as Acting Mayor, have an occasion to be absent from the City or suffer an incapacitating disability, the President Pro-Tem would be next in the line of succession to be Acting Mayor.

### **B. Emergency Executive Board**

The EEB, composed of department Directors and Mayor’s Office senior staff, advises the Mayor on policy issues, takes steps to improve coordination between departments, modifies response priorities and supports resource allocation. Board meetings are chaired by the Mayor or his designee and are facilitated by the EOC Director.

- The EEB is only convened when needed.
- The EOC Operations Section Chief is responsible for ensuring all policy decisions are communicated to all ESF Representatives in the EOC and regional partners.

## **1. EEB Emergency Policy Review and Development.**

An incident may pose unique challenges that require changes to existing City policies, the creation of entirely new policies, or otherwise require a problem to be decided by the Mayor.

To support an expeditious resolution, an ESF Representative who has identified a possible policy issue is responsible for:

- Coordinating resolution of the policy issue with other ESF Representatives and the Operations Section Chief in the EOC.
- If unable to resolve, completing the EOC proposed policy form which requires a detailed description of the issue, multiple options for resolution and a recommended option for approval.
- The EOC Director reviews each request to determine if it should be forwarded to the Mayor.
- The Mayor, assisted by the EOC Director, may resolve the issue immediately, return it to the Director for resolution or convene the Emergency Executive Board (EEB).

## **C. Emergency Proclamation and Orders**

Should a situation be serious enough, the Mayor may proclaim a “Civil Emergency”. Under the proclamation of emergency, the Mayor may proclaim one or more of the following orders which, in summary, can:

- Impose a curfew.
- Require any or all businesses to close.
- Require closure of businesses that sell alcoholic beverages or restrict sale of alcoholic beverages.
- Stop the sale, distribution or giving away of gasoline or other flammable liquid or combustible products.
- Close business establishments where firearms and/or ammunition are sold or dispensed.
- Close public places.
- Prohibit the carrying or possession of a firearm or any instrument capable of causing bodily harm.
- Request federal and/or state assistance to combat such civil emergency.
- Establish economic controls.
- Direct the use of public and private health, medical and convalescent facilities and equipment.

- Shut off, restore and operate utility services in accordance with priorities established for combating the civil emergency.
- Provide for the evacuation and reception of the population of the City or any part thereof.
- Other such orders as are imminently necessary for the protection of life and property.

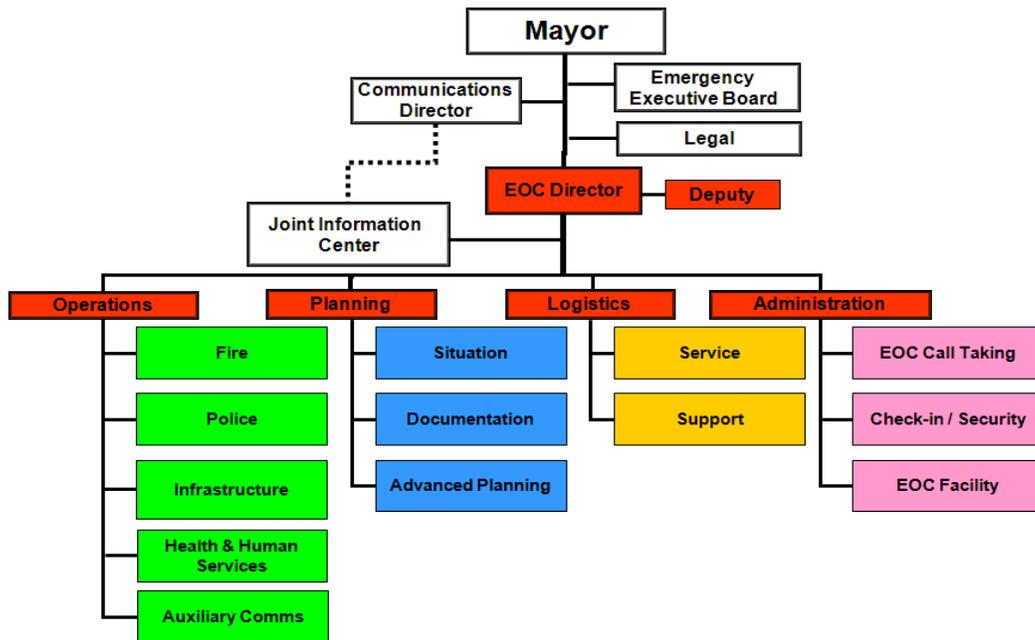
The City Attorney’s Office is responsible for providing legal advice to the Mayor, the City Council and EOC Director in this area. It also assists with drafting the Emergency Proclamation and associated Orders to evoke Emergency Powers.

The emergency proclamation and any orders, once signed by the Mayor must be filed with the City Clerk within 48 hours of their issuance, or as soon as practical. The City Council will endeavor to act on the proclamation or order within 48 hours of its being presented. The Council may ratify and confirm, modify or reject the proclamation or order. Any such action by the Council is prospective.

A similar process is followed to terminate the proclamation once it is determined that it is no longer needed.

**D. Emergency Operations Center**

## City of Seattle EOC Structure



**Figure 2 – Seattle EOC Organizational Structure**

The EOC is organized as follows:

## **1. Operations Section.**

Under the EOC Operations Section, staffed by OEM personnel, consists of four branches, within which several Emergency Support Functions and departments may be represented depending on the nature of the incident:

- Fire Branch (Seattle Fire Department Branch Director) ESF 4, 9, 10
- Health and Human Services Branch (Human Services Department Branch Director) ESF 6 and 8
- Infrastructure Branch (Seattle Department of Transportation Branch Director) ESF 1, 2, 3, and 12
- Police Branch (Seattle Police Branch Director) ESF 13

## **2. Planning Section.**

The Planning Section is staffed primarily by OEM personnel, employees reassigned from other departments or units and volunteers.

- Documentation Unit – responsible for gathering, organizing and storing incident documents.
- Advanced Planning – responsible for developing the City Consolidated Action Plan and conducting long range planning to identify, as early as possible potential challenges and opportunities involved in the response and recovery.
- Situation Unit – utilizing information provided by ESF Representatives, issues Snapshot and Situation Reports, coordinates mapping and other reports as needed to maintain situational awareness and to contribute to developing a common operating picture.

## **3. Logistics.**

Operated by personnel from the Finance and Administrative Services Department, provides logistical support to operations conducted at all levels within the City and as defined by the Logistics Section Chief. The Section also manages financial matters for operations in conjunction with the City's Emergency Executive Board. For details on the operations of the logistics section please see the ESF #7 Annex.

## **4. Administration.**

Staffed by Seattle OEM personnel, the Administration Section maintains the EOC facility during activations and provides material support to the ESF – Representatives assigned.

## **5. Joint Information Center (JIC).**

The Mayor's Office operates the JIC which coordinates public information and employee messaging among all departments and with regional partners – “many voices one message”

## **E. Departments**

During incidents, department directors retain authority over their employees. Directors play a critical role in ensuring their department is fully supporting the response as guided by the roles and responsibilities listed in the ESF Annex and the EOC Consolidated Action Plan. In addition, each department is expected execute its Continuity of Operation plan as soon as practical after the incident has struck.

## **F. Field Operations**

Operations in the field are conducted under an approved incident command organization and documented on the appropriate Incident Action Plan (written or verbal) and led by an Incident Commander or through a Unified Command.

For those situations where it is not practical or possible to establish an incident command, units will coordinate their operations through their department, dispatch center or DOC - these operations will be documented in the EOC Consolidated Action Plan.

Departments should avoid issuing conflicting orders to assigned units and instead coordinate through the Incident Commander.

The EOC Operations Section Chief will work with the EOC Branch Directors and ESF Representatives to define specific areas of operations and responsibility for each incident command in order to promote the safety of the responders, prevent conflict between various operations and support efficient resource allocation.

## **VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

No communication system is 100% reliable. Every communication system is susceptible to being destroyed, damaged or overloaded. Redundancy of emergency communication systems increases resiliency of this system and confidence that critical messages can get through. However, under some scenarios all technology based systems could be out of services for an extended period of time.

### **A. 800 MHz Radio**

The 800 MHz radio is used by emergency management, police, fire, public health, hospitals and utilities throughout King County. Each group is assigned a priority within the radio system which organizes how individual messages are transmitted.

Critical systems in this network have backup power available which is limited by effectiveness of local emergency management organizations to support the refueling of those generators.

During times of peak use, modifications to the 800 MHz radio system can be made to assign higher priority to specific groups of users having the most critical operational need. Also, different channels or communication systems can be patched within, or into, the 800 MHz system.

A regional Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan (TICP) guides the operation of this regional asset.

The EOC Operations Section Chief authorizes, with assistance from the ESF #2 Representative, any request from the EOC to modify the City radio priorities or establish a new patch – Since this is regional system, any such requests must also be approved by the radio system operators.

The Seattle Police Department Communication Center personnel are trained, equipped and authorized to do radio patching.

City OEM can contact City Departments on a dedicated EOC radio channel known as “Ops Call” or when the EOC is not activated, Departments may use this channel, among many others, to coordinate City operations.

City OEM radios have King County radio channels for EOC to EOC communication.

### **B. Additional Radio Systems**

City OEM sponsors the Auxiliary Communications Service which, staffed by volunteers, operates amateur/HAM radios.

Community based volunteer Communication Hubs, equipped with amateur radios, have been established in several neighborhoods throughout the City and provide way for communities to coordinate and communicate with one another.

Warning messages between local government and State or Federal partners are communicated through the Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) and the National Alert and Warning System (NAWAS) - these radios are located in the City EOC.

### **C. Telephone**

Satellite, cell and wired telephones are available in the EOC and in Department Operations Centers.

The City telephone system is more resilient than the public telephone system.

EOC staff and other key response personnel have Government Emergency Telecommunication System (GETS) and Wireless Priority System (WPS) user accounts which provide higher priority, but not guaranteed, access to the public telephone network.

An encrypted telephone is available in the EOC, and in other local EOCs, for confidential communications.

The EOC has one telephone number (non-public) for departments and regional partners to contact the EOC.

An Automated Call Distribution system in the EOC increases the number of phones dedicated to the main phone number

Direct telephone lines connect operations centers, dispatch centers and the EOC some of which operate within the City telephone network (hotlines) and others which operate through the public network (ring down lines).

City employees assigned to emergency response duties, including OEM staff, are issued cell phones which in addition to being able make phone calls, can support text messaging, email, and internet.

### **D. Mass Notification Systems**

The City has two systems capable of supporting mass notification of designated pagers, phones and email.

The Washington State EOC (primary) and the King County Sheriff Dispatch Center (secondary) can launch Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages.

See Alert and Warning Annex for more information.

#### **E. Conference Calls**

Web, video and teleconference capability is available in the EOC.

#### **F. Pagers**

All OEM Duty Officers have assigned pagers which provide an additional capability for communication.

#### **G. Email**

Seattle OEM maintains a number of email distribution accounts to various groups involved directly in the response or in supporting it.

All email correspondence to and from the EOC during activations is done through one non-public, email account which is accessible by OEM Staff Duty Officers 24/7.

The City Department of Information Technology can create an alternate City email system using cloud based resources.

A City-ALL email account is available for use by the Mayor's Office staff, JIC staff or OEM Staff Duty Officers, to send emergency messages to all city employees.

## **VII. LOGISTICS**

### **A. Department Responsibilities**

All City Departments are required to do the following with regards to logistics:

- Provide all initial logistical support necessary to support anticipated field operations for up to 12 hours after the incident has struck or until the EOC Logistics Section assumes responsibility.
- At any Incident or Unified Command or Area Command must establish a Logistics Section or assign responsibility for logistics within the existing incident command organization.
- If operating a DOC, develop processes and procedures for providing and coordinating logistical support to commands and units in the field and with other DOCs.

- Coordinate with the EOC Logistics Section to ensure sufficient resources are available to support any mutual aid, contracted or non-profit resource requested by the department through existing agreements.
- When requested, provide a representative in the EOC Logistics Section to coordinate and support resource requests from their department, especially for specialized resources.
- As directed by the EOC Resource Unit Leader, provide regular reports on the status of assigned resources.
- Submit resource requests following the established procedures defined by the Office of Emergency Management.

In coordination with the Office of Emergency Management, ensure designated department personnel have attended required training in how to order resources.

## **B. Specialized Resource Ordering**

Some departments have pre-existing mutual aid agreements for specialized resources. These specialized resources can and should be ordered by departments having such arrangements in place. For example, Seattle City Light can call upon assistance from power companies throughout the United States who can provide trained personnel and equipment to help repair and restore the electrical system.

The department ordering specialized resources will be responsible for closely coordinating with the EOC Logistics Section to ensure that:

- The resource has not already been ordered through another source.
- Costs and reimbursement or payment is defined and approved.
- Sufficient local resources are available to support the ordered resource when it arrives.
- The movement of such resources into the area can be supported by the State Movement Coordination Center (when applicable).
- If the source of specialized resource runs out or becomes unavailable, the requesting department will order the specialized resource through the EOC Logistics Section following standard EOC resource ordering process.

## **C. Non-Medical Logistical Support to Healthcare Providers**

Health and Medical Area Command (HMAC) or the Public Health Duty Officer, is responsible for coordinating medical supplies and services to healthcare providers in the region.

The City of Seattle is responsible for providing emergency non-medical supplies and services to healthcare providers within its jurisdiction.

Healthcare providers that require assistance in obtaining non-medical resources will first contact HMAC or the Public Health Duty Officer who will evaluate the request and if deemed appropriate, will forward to the Seattle EOC for action.

#### **D. EOC Logistics Section Responsibilities**

When established, the EOC Logistics Section will define which resources the EOC Logistics Section will be responsible for managing and which will remain the responsibility of departments. The EOC Logistics Section is responsible for:

- Obtaining resources for responders and general public and providing logistical support to:
  - Local Points of Distribution.
  - Staging Areas.
  - Emergency Shelters.
  - Bases, Camps, Heli-bases and Heli-spots.
  - Healthcare facilities (non-medical).
  - Family Assistance Centers.
  - Other facilities and functions as directed.
- Managing local donation program for goods, services and cash.
- Coordinating lodging arrangements for, and among departments, whenever the EOC is activated. This includes hotel, motels, or alternate lodging arrangements (e.g. responder camps).
- Coordinating with County and State Logistics Sections.

#### **E. Regional Assistance**

All resource requests that cannot be filled by the City EOC Logistics Section are sent to the King County Emergency Coordination Center. The Center will attempt to fill the resource request from county government sources, private vendors, and other jurisdictions within the County or neighboring counties. If the Center cannot fill the resource request they will send it to the State EOC.

Regional catastrophic plans call for regional coordination and support between counties, and jurisdictions within. Resources from jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region can be quickly mobilized and transported into the affected area.

#### **F. State Assistance**

The State EOC follows a similar process to county; it attempts to fill the request using State resources or private vendors. If unsuccessful in filling the order, the State can call upon assistance from Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) or the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA).

Both EMAC and PNEMA provide the legal framework and supporting procedures for quickly providing resources to Washington State from any state in the union or, with PNEMA, Canada as well.

- Under PNEMA and EMAC, Washington State, using online system requests resources which any State can agree to provide.
- The State is expected to fully reimburse the state that loans the resources.
- The State may establish a Movement Coordination Center with control points to coordinate and track the flow of disaster relief convoys through and to affected areas, providing security escorts where needed.
- State and regional staging areas may be established.
- Reception and integration centers can provide reception, integration, onward movement and accountability for out-of-state resources.

## **G. Federal Assistance**

If the governor believes that the severity of the incident will overwhelm State and local government, he or she can request Federal disaster assistance. Federal assistance is governed by the Stafford Act. Any assistance provided is coordinated through the State.

It is important to note that there is no guarantee Federal assistance will be provided and that such assistance is strictly limited, cost matching may be required and it does not represent an unlimited source of funding for local government, businesses or individuals.

During smaller scale incidents, there may be a significant delay before the decision is made to provide Federal assistance or not.

According to the National Response Framework (NRF), “the Secretary of Homeland Security is the principal Federal official responsible for domestic incident management. This includes coordinating Federal operations and resource deployments within the United States to prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, or other emergencies.”

The National Operations Center (NOC) is responsible for situational awareness and operations coordination across the Federal government. Several Federal Operations Centers provide coordination and support to the Federal effort within their area of responsibility.

- The Federal government uses 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) to coordinate functional capabilities and resources provided by Federal departments and agencies (same ESF structure is followed by the State and the City).
- FEMA can deploy assets and capabilities through ESFs into an area after an incident has occurred or in anticipation of an approaching incident or event that is expected to cause a significant impact and result.

- This coordination through ESFs allows FEMA to position Federal support for a quick response, though actual assistance cannot normally be provided until the Governor requests and receives a Presidential major disaster or emergency declaration.
- US Military resources may also provide assistance under certain conditions – see the Military Support Annex for additional details.

In a no-notice incident, FEMA activates the FEMA Region X Regional Response Coordination Center to coordinate Federal support until a Joint Field Office (JFO) can be established.

A JFO is the primary Federal field structure that integrates the Federal response and provides coordination and support to the response and recovery effort. A JFO is led by a Unified Coordination Group which includes a representative from the affected state. The JFO works in close coordination with the State EOC.

A Joint Operations Center (JOC) which is led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is an interagency command post for managing terrorist incidents or threats and investigative or intelligence activities may be activated as well.

As Federal resources arrive in the area, they are deployed based on specific requests or need. It is understood that in some scenarios, the deployment of Federal resources, and State resources, may occur with limited coordination with local authorities due to the severity of the incident and local conditions at the time. As the incident response develops, resources arriving in the region will be coordinated with the local EOC and local area or incident commands.

## **VIII. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

### **A. State Mission Numbers**

A mission number is obtained from the State EOC whenever the City EOC is activated. This tracking number will be used on all documentation related to the incident.

### **B. Records Preservation**

The Seattle EOC has a process in place to maintain and protect essential records in accordance with the record retention program as defined in RCW 40.10.010. Essential records are those needed in an emergency and for the reestablishment of normal operations after an emergency. Some examples are:

- Situation and Snapshot Reports.
- Proclamations of Emergency and requests for Proclamations of Emergency.
- Requests for Assistance.
- Damage Assessment Reports.
- WebEOC log entries.
- Seattle-EOC email.

During the incident the EOC Planning Section Chief is responsible for ensuring essential records are retained.

When the activation has concluded, the Seattle OEM Deputy Director is responsible for the organization, collection, and storage of incident records.

### **C. Financial Management**

Disaster-related obligations and expenditures in accordance with the provisions of RCW 38.52.070(2), 35.33.081 applicable state statutes and local codes, charters and ordinances.

Records will be kept in such a manner to separately identify incident related expenditures and obligations from general or routine department programs and activities. Complete and accurate records are necessary to document requests for assistance, for reimbursement under approved applications pertaining to declared emergencies or major disasters and for audit reports. Detailed records will be kept from the onset of an incident or event to include, but are not limited to:

- Appropriate extracts from payrolls, with any cross references needed to locate original documents.
- A schedule of equipment used on the job.
- Invoices, warrants, and checks issued and paid for materials and supplies used on the job.
- Work that is contracted out.
- Copies of requests for bids.
- Final contracts.
- Invoices submitted by the contractor.
- Warrants authorizing check issuance.
- Work done under inter-community agreements and mutual aid.

Disaster-related expenditures and obligations may be reimbursed under a number of Federal programs. The Federal government may authorize reimbursement of approved costs for work performed after a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the statutory authority of certain federal agencies.

- This is a complex process that requires significant documentation.
- The Seattle OEM is responsible for coordinating the City effort to properly apply for Federal reimbursement and in general document the incident response and recovery.
- It may take years to complete all the paperwork associated with Federal disaster assistance.

Audits will be conducted in the normal course of state and local government audits. Audits of projects approved for funding with federal disaster assistance funds are necessary to determine the eligibility of the costs claimed by the applicant.



## **APPENDIX 2 – WINTER STORM INCIDENT ANNEX**

*See 2017 Document Published Separately  
Originally Pages 46-71*

**APPENDIX 3 – EARTHQUAKE INCIDENT ANNEX**

*Begins On Next Page*

City of Seattle  
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Emergency Operations Plan  
Earthquake Incident Annex

Prepared by  
Seattle Office of Emergency Management

Updated November 2012

## **EARTHQUAKE INCIDENT ANNEX**

### **PRIMARY DEPARTMENT:**

*Seattle Fire Department  
Seattle Office of Emergency Management*

### **SUPPORT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES:**

*All City Departments*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Purpose**

1. To enable coordinated, multi-department, multi-jurisdictional response to an earthquake. It applies to all City Departments and provides information to all partners that support or depend on the City response.

### **B. Scope**

1. This Annex is part of the Seattle Disaster Readiness and Response Plan (SDRRP). It addresses the challenges posed by the following hazards:
  - a. Earthquake and associated aftershocks, tsunamis, seiche, landslides, liquefaction, subsidence
  - b. The primary focus of this plan is a severe earthquake that causes large numbers of casualties, widespread damage, and catastrophic impacts
2. This plan is a guide which should be adapted as needed to meet conditions at the time of the response.

## **II. POLICIES**

### **A. Authorities**

1. See Seattle Disaster Readiness and Response Plan Volume I.

### **B. Limitations**

1. The City will endeavor to make every reasonable effort to respond to an earthquake and related hazards. However, City resources and systems may become overwhelmed by the magnitude of the disaster and its impacts. This planning represents guidelines and is not intended to guarantee that a perfect response to this type of disaster will be practical or possible.

## **III. EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS**

### **A. Seattle Region**

1. Possible immediate impacts
  - a. Large numbers of dead, injured and missing
  - b. Multiple structures collapsed or severely damaged
  - c. Many people trapped in collapsed structures, including elevated structures such as roadways, requiring rescue
  - d. Multiple fires

- e. Damage to fire detection and suppression systems
  - f. Damage to the waterfront area
  - g. Flooding of waterfront area and around lakes
  - h. Localized flooding from ruptured water pipes, damaged reservoirs or tanks
  - i. Interruption of utility services for days, or even weeks to include electrical, water, natural gas, solid waste, sewer
  - j. Shortage of water, food and other commodities
  - k. Shortage of gasoline and diesel fuel
  - l. Hazardous materials release
  - m. Overloaded telephone systems (wired and wireless)
  - n. Interruption of commercial television and radio service
  - o. Disruption of information technology services
  - p. Separated family members
  - q. Large numbers of missing persons
  - r. Widespread damage to roads and bridges
  - s. Isolated neighborhoods
  - t. Diminished healthcare capacity caused by damage to medical facilities and loss of medical supplies and medications
  - u. Reduction in emergency service capacity due to injured responders or damage to stations and equipment
  - v. Lost animals
2. Possible long term impacts:
- a. Businesses failing due to economic impacts
  - b. Increased unemployment
  - c. Elevated risk of disease
  - d. Increased rates of general illness and mortality
  - e. Mental health issues due to the disaster and aftermath
  - f. Increased homelessness
  - g. Increased traffic congestion
  - h. Decreased tax revenue
  - i. Decreased residential population
  - j. Loss of some seaport customers to other ports
  - k. Large number of structures, public and private in need of extensive repair

#### **IV. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

##### **A. Earthquake**

1. A catastrophic earthquake could occur in the Seattle area without warning and at any time.

##### **B. Planning Assumptions**

1. A detailed and credible common operating picture may not be achievable for 24 to 48 hours, or longer, after the earthquake – response operations may have to begin without a complete or detailed situation and critical needs assessment.
2. Staffing varies in many City departments depending on the time of day, should an earthquake strike at the time of lowest levels of staffing the response will be significantly impaired until off duty personnel can respond.

3. There are not enough City public safety resources to immediately address all, or even a majority, of the life safety needs expected after a severe earthquake.
4. Fires are the leading danger immediately following an earthquake due to the expected number of fires, damage to fire suppression systems, damage to water pipelines, difficulty in accessing fire incidents and limited resources.
5. The number of expected deaths will likely exceed the capacity of the Medical Examiner's Office, as well as any local mutual aid that office might call upon, which will require the mobilization of federal resources, establishment of temporary morgues, and instructions to the public on fatality management.
6. The 911 phone system, if operating, will be overloaded.
7. During the initial response, the amount of radio use by responders will likely overload the 800 MHz radio system.
8. The limited capacity in the region for charging portable radio batteries and the expected high tempo of operations will make it difficult to keep City 800 MHz portable radios charged.
9. Departments should expect to receive no logistical support from the City Emergency Operations Center for 72 hours.
10. Damage to City owned buildings may impact the ability of City employees to effectively respond.
11. Traffic congestion will be significant due to roadway damage which can impact operations such as the establishment of shelters.
12. The University of Washington, a State institution, located within the jurisdiction of the City with its own Emergency Operations Center, relies on the City to provide water, electricity, sewage, fire response and some law enforcement specialized services – careful coordination will be needed between the City and the University to ensure effective operations.
13. Helicopters may be needed to support operational and logistical needs due to extensive road and bridge damage.
14. The City does not stockpile food or water for the general public.
15. Generally, City departments either do not stockpile supplies of emergency food and water for responders or if they do, only have a limited amount.
16. The level of personal preparedness by the public is insufficient to significantly decrease the need for public services.
17. Hospitals may not have sufficient capacity to meet the surge in patient demand.

18. Many organizations, public and private, routinely use “just in time” ordering and do not generally stockpile significant amounts of supplies; after an earthquake shortages of critical items, such as medical supplies are likely.
19. The City’s information technology systems do not have an alternate site location capability for the City’s data center located within Seattle Municipal Tower which will delay recovery of the computer infrastructure should the data center sustain damage during the earthquake.
20. Many City employees live outside of the City and will experience significant delays getting to/from home and work.
21. Damage to water utility infrastructure may impair firefighting.
22. Numerous initial, separate fires may combine to create extremely large fires.
23. The generally cold and wet climate and interruption of water, sewer, electrical and natural gas service may increase the number of individuals in need of immediate shelter following an earthquake.
24. Spontaneous shelters will likely be established by private entities not in coordination with government.
25. The number of individuals seeking shelter will exceed the City’s emergency shelter capacity.
26. It will take several days to establish shelters.
27. There is a large population of individuals in Seattle with access and functional needs that must be addressed during disaster response and recovery.
28. Seattle has approximately 800 unreinforced masonry buildings which are at risk of significant damage or collapse during an earthquake.
29. Social media will be an important source of information for the general public, however the accuracy of social media reports may cause confusion.
30. Missing person reports could number in the hundreds to thousands.
31. The private sector will volunteer assistance to the response effort and provide contract services; which will require coordination with the public response.
32. Many individuals will volunteer to assist with the response; while this represents a potential resource it will also present significant operational and logistical challenges.
33. Donated goods, solicited and unsolicited, may present a significant challenge to manage.

34. Communications and collaboration methods which depend on the Internet or Information Technology infrastructure may be impacted and compromised by virtue of physical damage, over use and heavy traffic, and possibly malicious use by those hoping to take advantage of the disaster. They may require an extended period of time and extensive resources to return to even a minimal level of availability, function and security.
35. Neighboring jurisdictions will also be impacted, limiting the availability of mutual aid, and making it important to coordinate regional response operations through the King County Emergency Communication Center.

## **V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **A. Elements of an Effective Response**

1. Factors necessary for an effective response to a major earthquake:
  - a. City employees who know their role during a disaster and have been provided training and are personally prepared
  - b. A large percentage of the public who are prepared to survive without outside assistance for a minimum of three days and possibly several weeks
  - c. A unified response, at all levels government
  - d. Responders who are prepared to act without delay
  - e. Timely, accurate and comprehensive public information to assist the public in meeting their own needs
  - f. Redundant systems and procedures in place to ensure continuity of command, control, coordination and communications

### **B. Earthquake Response Goals**

1. Saving and protecting the greatest number of people at risk
2. Provide for the safety of responders and other City employees
3. Saving and protecting as much critical infrastructure as possible
4. Saving and protecting as many residential, business and industrial properties as possible
5. Stop the spread of environmental damage
6. Minimizing human hardship and economic disruption

### **C. City Response Priorities**

1. Life Safety
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property Conservation
4. Environmental Protection

### **D. Initial City Objectives For Earthquake Response**

1. Initial City objectives provide a starting point for the response and will be modified as needed.
  - a. Support a City strategy for firefighting, emergency medical service, rescue and hazardous material response
  - b. Assess damage and impacts to community

- c. Provide sheltering in coordination with regional efforts
- d. Sustain public confidence and trust in response and recovery efforts
- e. Ensure life sustaining essentials are available to the public such as food, water, sanitation, medical care and fuel
- f. Sustain situational awareness for City response and recovery

#### **E. City Strategy**

Even in an earthquake with catastrophic impacts, the City will retain jurisdiction and authority over the response and recovery efforts. This will be accomplished by maintaining a line of succession throughout City government, clearly defining areas of operation and responsibility, establishing alternate command centers, augmenting command and general staff using Mutual Aid resources, Incident Management Teams or Emergency Management Assistance Compact teams and delegating authority where needed.

On duty personnel will be responsible for the first hours of the response. The initial common operating picture will be imperfect due to the many challenges that will follow an earthquake. It will be based primarily on windshield surveys conducted by the Police and Fire Departments and possibly some early media reports.

The initial City response to an earthquake consists of supporting and coordinating life safety efforts; controlling fires, addressing hazardous materials releases, providing emergency medical care, ensuring access to hospitals, conducting rescues and evacuations and maintaining public order. Damage to dams, water storage facilities or large pipelines may require immediate response operations to address hazards from local flooding and landslides.

Responders may have to make difficult choices regarding where to assign the limited resources available. Close coordination and unity of effort between all responders will be especially critical.

Repair of roads and bridges and water service to support life safety response operations will have priority over other repair missions.

To support the response, the first public message will be broadcast within the first hour following the earthquake. The first message will include instructions to limit travel on roadways and use of the phone system.

Concurrent with these early response operations, command centers will be activated, damage or impacts to infrastructure, facilities and systems determined, a more comprehensive common operating picture developed, City objectives and priorities established, resources obtained, an emergency proclamation issued and emergency powers implemented as needed.

Given the generally cold and wet climate and the time needed to establish shelters, efforts will be begin as soon as possible to access and assess the cache of shelter supplies, inspect for damage those buildings designated as shelter sites and begin the mobilization of shelter staff. The strategy for sheltering will be determined during the first operational period in the Emergency Operations Center.

Communication and coordination with neighboring jurisdictions and the State will be established as early as possible. The plans and logistics necessary to address the best use of private sector, State and Federal resources will be coordinated from a strategic level through the City Emergency Operations Center.

As resources arrive from outside the City, they will be integrated into response operations as directed in the City Consolidated Action Plan and, where appropriate, individual Incident Action Plans in order to ensure a coordinated and unified response. City and mutual aid responders will work within established areas of operation and under designated command organizations as defined by the City. Self deployment of resources will not be tolerated.

As immediate life safety issues are addressed and stabilized, the number of shelters established and their capacity will be increased as rapidly as available resources permit. To the degree practical, shelters will be established nearest to the community in need. Residents will be encouraged to remain in their homes if at all possible. Points of Distribution for food and water may be established for this purpose.

Fatality management and missing person investigations will be established as early as possible. An effective process for determining the status of missing persons contributes to stabilization and ultimately decreases the demand on law enforcement, medical and rescue resources. The City will advocate for a regional approach to fatality management and missing person investigations in order to maximize limited resources, provide for a consistent approach and high quality of service. Public Health will lead this mission with close support from ESF-13 and ESF-15.

Planning for recovery will begin as soon as possible and in parallel to response operations.

Given the potential for the disaster to overwhelm responders, every effort should be made to enlist the support of the community, where practical and safe to do so. Some examples are; encouraging individuals to clear their streets and sidewalks of debris, marking hazards, checking on neighbors, assisting the elderly or disabled, helping to move rubble at rescue locations, providing shelter to friends who are homeless.

#### **F. Trigger for Response**

City departments will err on the side of caution and be proactive when determining what initial actions to take following an earthquake.

1. Departments will initiate response operations when an earthquake occurs that may have caused damage or impacts to City facilities, systems or services
2. Department Emergency Support Function Representatives and Office of Emergency Management Staff Duty Officers will automatically respond to activate the Emergency Operations Center immediately following an earthquake that may have caused damage or impacts to City facilities, systems or services

#### **G. Common Operating Picture**

Departments will exchange information on damage and impacts to systems through the most effective communication method available at the time. Once Department Operations Centers and the Emergency Operations Center are activated, these reports will be consolidated into Snapshot and Situation Reports. The goal is to develop a Common Operating Picture that includes an understanding of the extent of damage and impacts to people, systems and services.

1. Emergency Operations Center Planning Section is responsible for gathering, analyzing and disseminating information about damage and response efforts citywide
2. Damage reporting and system assessments begin immediately after the earthquake and may take days to complete. Some cannot be done at night. Following an aftershock, some of these may have to be repeated. Building habitability must be considered in addition to structural integrity. There are several types of reports:
  - a. Windshield Assessments  
A rapid survey for fires, damage and the injured along designated routes conducted by Seattle Police and Fire Department personnel immediately following the earthquake which provides an overview of damage to the City and guides the initial assignment of police and fire resources
  - b. News Media  
All media report on damage and impacts soon after the earthquake strikes
  - c. Building Surveys  
Performed on City owned buildings by department employees on site that provides a brief overview of damage and habitability
    - Parks Department, Seattle Center, Library, Department of Transportation, Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle City Light, Seattle Fire Department and Seattle Police Department
  - d. Aerial Survey  
King County Sheriff Office Guardian One can provide a helicopter survey of the City with video downlink, other options for aerial survey include other jurisdiction helicopter, WSP fixed wing, private contractor aircraft or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)
  - e. Rapid Evaluation – Advisory (voluntary tags)  
Finance and Administrative Services personnel trained in ATC 20 post earthquake safety evaluation methodology assess the structural safety of facilities managed and operated under its jurisdiction - at the end of this evaluation an advisory tag will be posted with listed recommendations for acceptable use.
    - Compliance with these tags is voluntary.
  - f. Rapid Evaluation – Placard (mandatory tags)  
Damage evaluation of City or other critical buildings, conducted by Department of Planning and Development teams trained in the ATC 20 process who post Placards describing what is considered lawful use of the building
    - Failure to comply with Placard instruction is unlawful
  - g. Infrastructure Inspections  
Inspection of critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, pipelines by specially trained individuals
    - Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle Department of Transportation, Puget Sound Energy, Seattle Steam, Hospitals
  - h. Jurisdiction Evaluations and Inspections  
Damage evaluations and inspections conducted by neighboring jurisdictions which is reported to King County Emergency Coordination Center
    - Some information is exchanged between specific sectors such as between City Light and Bonneville Power Administration
    - University of Washington
    - Port of Seattle
  - i. 911

- The public will report damage through the 911 system
- j. Social Media Reporting  
Social media sites, within minutes, begin to voluntarily collect, organize and post damage information which can include text descriptions, maps of damaged locations and photographs or video
- k. Private Evaluation  
Damage evaluation of private property conducted by private engineers hired by building owners.
  - Similar to the Rapid Evaluations-Advisory process described above, or more comprehensive assessments to develop a plan to repair a building and to resolve restrictions listed on Placards posted by Department of Planning and Development
- 3. Rapid Evaluation Priorities  
Evaluations will be prioritized to support City objectives as defined in the Consolidated Action Plan.
  - a. Department Building Surveys inform the decision to assign priority
    - For example: a Building Survey report that a building has collapsed will cause it to be removed from the evaluation list
- 4. Infrastructure Inspection Priorities – In Order
  - a. Emergency requests to support life safety operations
  - b. Individual department strategy for restoration of critical infrastructure

## **H. Response Operations**

1. Dispatch Centers
  - a. Immediately following the earthquake Dispatch Centers will request all units limit radio traffic to prevent system overload
  - b. Calls for service will be prioritized as directed by internal department plans, procedures or as directed
2. Field Responders
  - a. Field Response Units that become geographically isolated and are unable to communicate with their Dispatch Center, Department Operations Center or their chain of command shall meet at the local Fire Department Battalion Station to coordinate operations
  - b. Administrative staff and other support personnel should to their regular assigned work location – not the Battalion Station
3. Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical and Hazardous Materials
  - a. Fire Alarm Center may discontinue dispatching and direct all units to account for their personnel, assess their stations for damage and drive their Life Safety Damage Assessment Routes
  - b. While conducting their assessment, fire department personnel may have to bypass emergencies
  - c. Based on the damage information obtained from the assessments, Fire Department personnel will determine the initial strategy for response
  - d. Deputy One is in command of Fire Department resources until relieved by the Assistant Chief of Operations
    - If communication systems are inoperable Fire Department units will coordinate at the Battalion level
4. Law Enforcement

- a. The 911 Center may discontinue dispatching and direct all units to account for their personnel, assess their precinct for damage and drive their Life Safety Damage Assessment Routes
  - b. Police Department damage assessment will be provided to the Fire Department as soon as possible
  - c. Using the damage assessments, and in coordination with the Fire Department and Seattle Public Utilities, Police Department personnel will determine their initial strategy for response
  - d. Life Safety law enforcement calls for service have first priority followed by life safety requests for support from the Fire Department or Seattle Public Utilities
  - e. If communication systems are inoperable, Police Department units will coordinate at the Precinct level
5. Public Works
- a. Upon request, Public Works departments will provide equipment and personnel to support Life Safety operations
    - This may require delaying other Public Works missions
  - b. Based on their critical infrastructure damage and capability assessments, which may take several hours, Public Works departments will prioritize and assign resources to restore services and repair infrastructure
6. Medical.
- a. Disaster Medical Control Center at Harborview Medical Center determines status of hospitals in the region, how many patients they can support and, in coordination with the Fire Department, allocates patients to the appropriate facility
    - Overlake Hospital is the alternate Disaster Medical Control Center
  - b. Health and Medical Area Command (HMAC) coordinates the healthcare system response operations for Region Six (King County) and supports public health, hospitals, other healthcare organizations, emergency medical services and the Medical Examiner
    - Point of contact with health departments in other counties and the State Department of Health
    - Point of contact between local emergency operations centers and the healthcare system
    - HMAC collects damage reports from hospitals and other health care providers and forwards to Seattle Emergency Operations Center
      - i. Public Health Seattle King County provides the staff for the HMAC
    - Establish Specialized Support Functions
      - i. Alternate Care Facilities (ACF) which provide additional non-critical care medical bed space for the region
      - ii. Family Assistance Centers (FAC) which, in partnership with the Police Department, leads the effort to find missing persons and is the point of contact for families to file missing person reports
      - iii. Temporary morgues
    - Supports hospitals, long term care facilities, and other inpatient facilities with medical evacuations as needed
    - Responsible for estimating the number of fatalities and injured in coordination with the Joint Information Center

## 7. Sheltering

Sheltering for people, service animals and pets after any significant earthquake is a high priority. Before a shelter can be opened, the Department of Planning and Development Rapid Evaluation team must first assess the building for structural damage.

Individuals will be encouraged to stay in their homes if at all possible. The number of individuals in need of sheltering may be reduced if warming locations or Points of Distribution for essentials such as food, water and tarps are established. Individuals with functional needs may have the greatest and earliest need for sheltering. In general, pet shelters will be established close to general shelters if possible.

King County, the American Red Cross and the City will coordinate shelter operations. In addition, churches and other non-governmental organizations may also establish shelters.

- a. Human Services Branch in the Emergency Operations Center is responsible for coordinating shelter operations with Parks Department having the lead role in the operation of shelters located in Parks facilities
  - For City operated shelters Parks Department will provide staff
  - An Emergency Operations Center Shelter Task Force, led by the Human Services Department, may be activated to coordinate sheltering
- b. Teams responsible for moving City shelter supplies will assess the cache for damage and accessibility as soon as possible
- c. Shelter activation strategy will be established during the first operational period in Emergency Operations Center planning cycle
- d. There are eight Community Centers identified as Tier 1 Shelters
  - Tier 1 Shelters have emergency generators
  - Total capacity of Tier 1 Shelters is approximately 1000 individuals – this is an estimate than can be impacted by other factors such as building damage and accessibility
  - Tier 1 shelters can expand capacity by developing additional shelters in nearby school gymnasiums – this is known as a Shelter Campus
- f. Examples of other potential shelter options
  - Seattle Center
  - University of Washington
  - Provided by State of Washington, FEMA or other partners
- g. Considerations when establishing a shelter  
Conditions immediately following an earthquake may require opening shelters with very limited services and support.
  - Shelters should be established as close as possible to the areas in most need
  - Inspected by a Rapid Evaluation Team –Placard
  - Fire Department inspection
  - Minimal staff to operate the shelters
  - Arrangements in place to provide for water and food and disposal of solid waste
  - Heat/air conditioning, electricity, gas, water, sewage
  - Ability of Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section to sustain shelters
  - Adequate road ingress and egress routes
  - Sufficient parking for occupants, staff and supporting personnel
  - Transit service routes nearby

- h. Shelter facility inventory, status, occupancy and reporting will be done using the FEMA National Shelter System.

**I. Community Response**

In order to focus City response on the high priorities of fire suppression, survivor rescue, utility damage assessment and repair, etc. an effective response requires active engagement of community members seeing to each other's needs. "Hubs" have been organized in some neighborhood districts intended to be pre-designated sites where people who live close by will come together to help one another out with immediate needs. Each Hub site has radio communication with the City Emergency Operations Center provided by local amateur radio operators. This relatively new program sets the stage to organize similar sites in neighborhood districts throughout the City.

The Office of Emergency Management has trained thousands of individuals and neighborhood groups how to respond to their own needs and those of their families and neighbors through the Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare (SNAP) program and other venues. A SNAP trained neighborhood is more likely to have supplies of food, water and other essentials on hand and trained and practiced controlling utilities, providing first aid, and seeing to the needs of their neighbors in an organized fashion.

The organized effort afforded by both Hub sites and SNAP neighborhoods can be helpful to the community wide response: by providing information about local conditions and needs and organizing teams to assist with response and relief operations.

Many community based organizations have developed emergency plans with the assistance of the Office of Emergency Management and Public Health – Seattle & King County and now stand a better chance of continuing to deliver high priority services.

Many people will likely spontaneously volunteer to assist in response and relief efforts. The key to effectiveness here is channeling that energy into volunteer agencies that can accommodate, train and deploy them such as the American Red Cross.

**VI. Logistics**

Departments will be responsible for their own logistical support until the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section is activated; departments will rely on a combination of stored supplies, retail and wholesale outlets, contractors, service providers, designated Staging Areas, mutual aid and emergency commandeering. After an earthquake it is expected that these sources may not be accessible, be in very short supply or not available at all. This will limit the operations that can be conducted until more resources can be acquired.

It may take up to 72 hours before the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section can operate at maximum capacity. Even after the Logistics Section is fully operational, departments will be expected to maintain responsibility for obtaining specialized resources. The City Consolidated Action Plan will specify what resources the Logistics Section is responsible for providing. In general, the goal is to consolidate the ordering of common resources under the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section while leaving departments responsible for ordering specialized resources.

- 1. Resources – Common, Specialized and Regional
  - a. Common Resource Examples

- Food
  - Water
  - Temporary Sanitation Facilities
  - Fuel
  - Responder housing
  - Sheltering supplies
  - General supplies such as gloves, hard hats, flashlight etc
- b. Specialized Resource Examples
    - Electrical substation transformers
    - Specialized rescue tools
    - Medical supplies
  - c. Regional Resource Examples
    - Water Blivets
    - Radio Cache
2. Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section Staffing  
To manage the anticipated workload the Logistics Section staffing will be augmented by the following:
    - a. Reassigned City employees
    - b. Volunteers
    - c. Mutual Aid
      - Other jurisdictions
      - EMAC Teams
      - National Guard Homeland Response Force
      - Contractors
      - Coast Guard
    - d. Emergency Operations Center Branch Representatives (per 12 hour shift)
      - Law enforcement (1 officer)
      - Fire Department (1 firefighter)
      - Infrastructure (2 individuals)
      - Human Services (1 individual from Human Services and 1 individual from Public Health)
  3. Ordering Common Resources
    - a. Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section defines what common resources will be ordered through departments
    - b. Departments in need of common resources will complete a City Resource Request in WebEOC
  4. Ordering Specialized Resources
    - a. Departments will obtain specialized resources using established department procedures and vendors
      - When specialized resources will require logistical support such as fuel or food, the resource order must be first approved by the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section Deputy Section Chief
      - Branch representatives assigned to the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section will facilitate this process where applicable
    - b. When a special resource can't be obtained the department in need will complete a City Resource Order Form in WebEOC

- Branch representative assigned to the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section will assist with the ordering of specialized resources
5. Ordering Regional Shared Resources
 

Using Federal grants, a number of resources have been purchased which are shared by all jurisdictions within the grant area. During the initial response, departments in the region will attempt to coordinate the use of these resources as fairly as possible and as conditions permit. After activation, local Emergency Operations Centers will coordinate the use of these shared resources.
  6. Facilities
    - a. Replacement of damaged department facilities to support Continuity of Operations
      - Departments provide a needs assessment to Finance and Administrative Services
      - Finance and Administrative Services is responsible for acquiring replacement facilities:
      - As part of Continuity of Operations planning some departments may have already designated specific facilities
    - b. Identification of facilities to support a surge in operations (example: mutual aid strike teams, task forces, contracted service providers, staging areas, and command posts)
      - Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section coordinates the identification and assignment of additional facilities
      - Departments submit a City Resource Request that describes the type of facility needed, intended use of the facility, number of occupants etc
  7. Staging Areas Camps and Bases
    - a. Before the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section is activated, departments establish Staging Areas, Camps and Bases as needed
    - b. When the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section is activated it will determine which of those Staging Areas, Camps and Bases it will assume responsibility for and which will be maintained by departments
    - c. The State of Washington has designated specific locations as State Staging Areas. Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section will be responsible for coordinating with the State on the establishment of these sites.
    - d. Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section is responsible for establishing, supplying and operating all Points of Distribution for food, bottled water and other commodities with the exception of those locations established for distribution of medical equipment and medications -in those cases the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section will provide non-medical support to Medical Points of Dispensing.
  8. Shelters, Warming or Cooling Center
    - a. Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section is responsible for supporting all shelters (human and animal) warming or cooling centers as requested by the Human Services Branch
  9. Donations.
    - a. Donations will be coordinated by the Logistics Section
    - b. In general, unsolicited donations will be discouraged in favor of donations of money
  10. Healthcare Logistics.
    - a. Hospitals and other health care providers are responsible for ordering their own medical supplies, with HMAC providing assistance as needed

- b. On behalf of the medical community, HMAC serves as the single point of ordering for County, State and Federal government resources
- c. Logistical support for mutual aid medical teams will be the responsibility of HMAC
- d. Local Emergency Operations Centers, including Seattle, are responsible for non-medical resource requests from healthcare providers

11. Communications

The City Earthquake Communications Plan describes the various communications systems available to responders and how they will be coordinated during an earthquake. The goal is to provide redundant communication systems that ensure all departments with a critical role can effectively coordinate

- a. Requests for radio patching, 800 MHz radio reprioritizing, Cell on Wheels or Switch on Wheels or other communication resources which are limited in number or capacity will be screened by the Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief and the Department of Information Technology
  - The Department of Information Technology and the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section will coordinate the ordering and support related to communication infrastructure resources
- b. Medical Communication
  - HMAC and all hospitals in Seattle have 800 MHz radios, satellite phones and amateur radio capability

**VII. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. Emergency Support Function 1 Transportation (Department of Transportation)**

1. Determine if Seattle Department of Transportation resources are needed to support life safety priority operations.
2. Support clearing ingress and egress roadways to local hospitals, blood bank, other high priority healthcare locations and major incident scenes as needed.
3. Clear ingress and egress routes to shelter locations based on a priority determined by the Emergency Operations Center Operations Chief.
4. Assess the transportation system for damage.
5. Provide Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief with a recommendation for repairing and restoring the transportation system.
6. Request Seattle Police Department take responsibility for closing bridges determined to be unsafe, so that inspectors may continue with their inspections of other bridges.
7. Coordinate with other transportation agencies in the region to determine status of roads and bridges outside of Seattle.
8. Use Department Mapping Systems and the City of Seattle Street Closure Tracking List Mapping System and the Master Street Closure List to document status of roads.
9. Consider forming an Emergency Bridge Repair Task Force to coordinate rapid repair efforts.

**B. Emergency Support Function 2 Communications (Department of Information Technology)**

1. Assess information technology systems for damage and determine capability to provide critical services.
2. Provide Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief with a recommendation for service restoration and estimate time to complete such restoration.

3. Support the Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief in determining the strategy for radio patching, radio reprioritization, Cell on Wheels\Switch on Wheels requests and allocation.
4. Monitor 800 MHz system use and notify Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief of any decrease in functionality.
5. Conduct damage inspection of 800 MHz facilities and equipment.
6. Report fuel consumption\refueling need of 800 MHz generators to Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section.
7. Coordinate transport of radio system repair parts and teams with Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section.
8. Office of Information Security to consult on the security and reliability of data being received and methods of communications and collaboration that might be taking place during and after an event.
9. Coordinate with local telecommunication providers to support emergency requests for repair or augmentation of phone or internet service to critical functions and locations such as the Emergency Operations Center, dispatch centers, other critical infrastructure or incident scenes.

**C. Emergency Support Function 3 Public Works and Engineering (Seattle Public Utilities)**

1. Determine if Seattle Public Utilities construction equipment and personnel are needed to support life safety priority operations.
2. Assess water, waste water and solid waste infrastructure for damage and determine capability to provide services.
3. Provide Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief with a recommendation for service restoration and estimate time to complete such restoration.
4. Advise Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief immediately if unable to supply water to fire department firefighting operations.
5. Prepare Blivets for immediate deployment (24 hour process).
6. With assistance from Public Health Seattle King County and Emergency Operations Center Logistics, develop plan for providing sanitation in areas without sewer service.
7. Department of Planning and Development
  - a. In coordination with Emergency Operations Center Operations and Planning Sections, revise and set Rapid Evaluation Priority List.
  - b. Contact Public Health Representative to determine initial survey status of following hospitals and incorporate the following locations, as needed, into updated Rapid Evaluation Priority Plan
    - Harborview
    - Swedish
    - Childrens
    - University of Washington
    - Providence
  - c. Notify Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section of any mutual aid Building Inspectors already on scene.
  - d. Conduct building damage assessments and brief Emergency Executive Board on potential issues surrounding red and yellow placarded buildings.
  - e. Assist Joint Information Center supervisor in developing public messaging about building evaluations.
  - f. Revise priority list for Rapid Evaluation of Buildings.

**D. Emergency Support Function 4, 9, 10 Firefighting, Search and Rescue, Oil and Hazardous Materials (Fire Department)**

1. Provide situation report\summary of windshield assessment to City departments and Emergency Operations Center as described in the Essential Elements of Information plan.
2. Fight fires, provide emergency medical services, rescue trapped persons and address hazardous materials incidents.
3. As needed, enlist support from other department resources to support Life Safety operations.
  - a. Request Police Department Liaison Officer assist in locating missing fire units or to act as runners should communications fail
  - b. Request Police Department assign officers to complete damage assessments in those areas that could not be completed by Fire Department personnel

**E. Emergency Support Function 5 Emergency Management (Seattle Office of Emergency Management)**

1. Activate Emergency Operations Center to at least Major Incident Level.
2. Develop and disseminate City Objectives, Emergency Operations Center Operational Schedule, Priority list for Rapid Evaluation, Consolidated Action Plan and Essential Elements of Information Strategy.
3. Assign Office of Emergency Management personnel to Emergency Operations Center Director, Deputy Director and all Section Chief positions.
4. Be the point of contact with County regional, State, Federal emergency management partners and designated non-governmental organizations.
5. Coordinate the citywide response and promote unity of effort in response and recovery operations.
6. Law Department is responsible for proclamation writing, development of emergency orders and general legal advice.

**F. Emergency Support Function 6 Mass Care, Housing and Human Services (Human Services Department)**

1. Determine strategy for sheltering and feeding in coordination with Parks Department.
2. Assess human services infrastructure and need for mass care.
3. Identify vulnerable populations and any communication or support strategies needed.

**G. Emergency Support Function 7 Resource Support (Finance and Administrative Services)**

1. Single order point for County, State and Federal resources.
2. Establish policy for resource ordering –single point or department for specific resources.
3. Determine mutual aid already requested by departments.
4. Advise Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief immediately if City owned gas stations are inoperative or damaged.
5. Establish contact with King County Emergency Coordination Center Logistics Section.
  - a. Assign Liaison to King County Emergency Coordination Center Logistics to assist with processing resource orders from Seattle
6. Develop local Staging Areas, Bases, Camps and update as needed

7. Coordinate directly with Logistics counterparts at King County Emergency Coordination Center and State Emergency Management.
8. Review, update and implement feeding plan for responders.
9. Within the Logistics Section, Personnel will coordinate signing up of volunteers and reassignment of City employees.

**H. Emergency Support Function 8 Public Health and Medical Services (Public Health Seattle and King County)**

1. Assess healthcare system for damage to infrastructure and determine the ability to provide critical services.
2. Provide Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief with an estimate of when critical healthcare services will be restored.
3. Provide official totals or estimates of fatalities and missing persons.
4. Coordinate public messaging with the Seattle Emergency Operations Center Joint Information Center and Operations
  - a. Sanitation and food handling instructions to general public
  - b. Instructions for reporting and managing fatalities
  - c. Release of official totals or estimates of fatalities and missing persons
  - d. How to obtain medical care
5. Coordinate and provide mortuary services, including investigation of sudden, unexpected, non-natural deaths, body identification and disposition.
  - a. Provide guidelines to responders on the disposition of fatalities.
6. Direct and manage medical surge operations, provision of immunizations, prophylaxis and other preventative treatments.
7. With the police department, joint responsibility for investigating deaths and locating missing persons.
8. Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center to establish transportation routes for delivery of critical healthcare supplies and services.
9. Coordinate and provide environmental public health services to include;
  - a. health inspection, on a priority basis, of responder food and sanitation arrangements
  - b. Inspections for Temporary Debris Staging and Reduction Sites
  - c. Disposal of disaster related solid waste
  - d. Assessment of the health impacts of wastewater spills and overflows
  - e. Services to emergency pet shelters, including inspections, sanitation, and guidance on disposal of deceased animals
  - f. Support to Seattle Public Utilities in providing emergency sanitation services to areas expected to be without potable water and/or sewer service for an extended period
10. Plan, coordinate, resource, and provide shelters for medically fragile populations when needed.
11. Coordinate movement of fragile populations from general population shelters to medical needs shelters, alternate care facilities and/or appropriate healthcare facilities.
12. Coordinate medical resource management for healthcare partners.
13. Advise Emergency Operations Center on need to provide emergency drinking water at hospitals using Blivets.
14. Contact Seattle Steam and determine ability to provide steam to area hospitals.

**I. Emergency Support Function 12 Energy (Seattle City Light)**

1. Determine if Seattle City Light construction equipment and personnel are needed to support life safety priority operations.
2. Assess Seattle City Light critical infrastructure for damage and determine ability to provide service.
3. Provide Emergency Operations Center Operations Section Chief with a recommendation for service restoration and estimate time to complete such restoration.
4. Repair and restore electrical service to City Light customers.

**J. Emergency Support Function 13 Public Safety and Security (Seattle Police Department)**

1. Provide situation report\summary of windshield assessment to City departments and Emergency Operations Center as described in the earthquake communications plan.
2. Assess Seattle Police Department facilities for damage and determine ability to provide critical law enforcement services.
3. Assign one officer to Harborview Medical Center to establish contact with Disaster Medical Control Center and to provide traffic control to support ingress\egress to the Center.
4. Assign Liaison to Deputy One until Department Operations Centers or the Emergency Operations Center activates.
  - a. When requested, assign officers to locate missing fire units or to act as runners should Fire Department communications fail
5. Assign officers to close bridges deemed unsafe by Seattle Department Bridge Inspectors.
6. With Public Health, joint responsibility for investigating deaths and locating missing persons.
  - a. Staff the Missing Person function in Family Assistance Center
  - b. Provide estimates of the number of missing
7. Assist Fire Department with emergency evacuations.
8. On a priority basis, and as resources permit:
  - a. Maintain law enforcement service throughout the City
  - b. Conduct high visibility emphasis patrols
  - c. Provide security at shelters, Family Assistance Centers, Alternate Care Facilities, Temporary Morgues and other locations as needed
  - d. Assist with commandeering of critical resources such as fuel
  - e. Provide crowd control or ingress and egress traffic control at major incidents scenes and\or hospitals
  - f. Conduct additional windshield assessments in the event of a major aftershock
    - Fire department resources may not be available to conduct a citywide survey once they are committed to response operations

**K. Emergency Support Function 14 Community Recovery (City Budget Office)**

1. Activate immediately concurrent with response to support short and long term recovery operations and planning.
2. Stand up and coordinate staffing of the Interdepartmental Recovery Team to respond to immediate and anticipated recovery needs in the areas of infrastructure/built environment, local economic impacts and human/community needs.
3. In coordination with the Mayor's Office, support stand up of a Community Recovery Team, an advisory team to harness resources from the wider community and engage stakeholders in recovery planning.

4. In coordination with the Office of Emergency Management, consolidate city damage reports for Federal Emergency Management Agency damage assessment processes required to justify request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration; coordinate with State and Federal partners on requests for disaster recovery assistance programs to offset public and private response and repair costs.
5. In coordination with the Office of Emergency Management, begin process for formal Mayoral designation of an Applicant Agent for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance.

**L. Emergency Support Function 15 External Affairs (Mayor's Office)**

1. When the Emergency Operations Center is activated, all department Public Information Officers become direct reports to the Mayor's Office through the Joint Information Center supervisor.
2. In coordination with Emergency Operations Center Operations Section, ensure public messaging related to life safety issues is initiated as soon as possible.
3. Activate City emergency web page.
4. With Emergency Operations Center Planning Section, review Snapshots and Situation Reports, Press Releases and Consolidated Action Plans for accuracy prior to publication.
5. Provide responders with a written daily summary of disaster related services, where those services can be obtained, hours of operation and contact information. Every City employee and responder is seen by the public as a source of official information about the disaster and what the City is doing about it.
6. Coordinate with Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section on public messaging related to donations.
7. Prepare for a large, national and international media presence following the disaster. Designate an alternate location for press conferences in anticipation the Media Briefing Room in the Emergency Operation Center may not have sufficient capacity and coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section
8. Work with the Emergency Operations Center Operations Section to integrate public messaging events into the Emergency Operations Center planning cycle.

**VIII. DIRECTION CONTROL AND COORDINATION**

**A. Incident Command**

Where there are multiple organizations on scene, Unified Command is preferred. To be included in Unified Command an organization should have:

1. Jurisdictional or functional responsibilities
2. Responsibility for geographic area affected by the incident or response operations
3. Responsibility for commanding, coordinating or managing a major aspect of the response
4. Have the resources available to participate in the response

Within Unified Command, the department or agency responsible for addressing the most immediate, life safety issues will most likely staff the Operations Section Chief role. The use of Branch Operations or Deputy Operations Section Chiefs should also be considered to ensure effective coordination between the various disciplines on the scene.

**B. Area Commands**

Area Commands may be established to improve coordination and support to multiple incident commands.

### **C. City Emergency Operations Center**

Responsible for citywide strategy, support and coordination.

1. Coordinate with King County Emergency Coordination Center, State Emergency Operations Center and other jurisdictions in the region.
2. Coordinate Mutual Aid requests from departments.
3. The Emergency Operations Center Consolidated Action Plan is the citywide plan for disaster response operations.
  - a. Updated each operational period
4. Incident Action Plans cover operations for individual Incident Commands or for Area Commands
5. Type I, II or III Incident Management Teams may be used to augment command and control staff as needed.
  - a. All City and non-city responders will conduct operations either under the City Consolidated Action Plan, a specific Incident Action Plan or both
  - b. The Emergency Operations Center will work with departments to define Areas of Operation or Responsibility
6. The Emergency Operations Center Joint Information Center will coordinate all City public information activity
  - a. The Joint Information Center will participate in the Regional Joint Information System

### **D. Emergency Executive Board**

The Emergency Executive Board is composed of department directors who provide policy advice to the Mayor.

- a. The Emergency Executive Board will convene as needed to resolve policy issues that arise during the response.
- b. Emergency Support Function Representatives in the City Emergency Operations Center are expected to identify and report policy issues that require the assistance of the Mayor and the Emergency Executive Board.
- c. Representatives have been trained in how to document these issues

## **IX. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

### **A. Reports**

The City Consolidated Action Plan and the Essential Elements of Information strategy for earthquakes define how the City Emergency Operations Center shares information. A number of methods are used:

1. Snapshot
  - a. Common Operating Picture
  - b. Issued every one to two hours
  - c. Update on known damage and impacts to services
  - d. Can be viewed using handheld devices
  - e. Is sent to a wide audience of government and partners in the region
2. Situation
  - a. Common Operating Picture
  - b. Generally issued twice during each 12 hour operational period

- c. Comprehensive overview of the situation and response operations
  - d. Is sent to wide audience of government and partners in the region
3. Press Release
- a. Issued frequently during the disaster by the Joint Information Center
  - b. Individual departments may also issue press releases in coordination with the Joint Information Center

## **B. Mapping**

1. Mapping in support of disaster operations will be coordinated through the Emergency Operations Center Planning Section. Requests for Emergency Operations Center maps will be directed to the Planning Section.
2. The initial Emergency Operations Center situation map post earthquake – subject to modification as conditions require:
  - a. Areas, or exact location, of major fires, building collapse, major slides, urban flooding or other immediate and significant hazards
  - b. Status of major bridges
  - c. Status of freeway
  - d. Closed or evacuated hospitals
  - e. Name and location of Incident Command Posts
  - f. Status of ferry terminals
3. Maps generated by other jurisdictions will be reviewed before adoption by the City
4. Maps for public information purposes must be reviewed by the Joint Information Center prior to release
5. Departments will provide a copy of any map they create to the Emergency Operations Center Planning Section
6. A shake map which describes the intensity and location of the earthquake, provided by the United States Geological Service, will be distributed as a separate map
7. Social Media maps
  - a. Social Media maps will be considered UNCONFIRMED and must be verified before use
  - b. Emergency Operations Center Planning Section will monitor social media maps for operational information
  - c. The Joint Information Section will monitor social media maps for public information

## **C. Internet**

1. WebEOC
  - a. Primary tool for documenting information about the disaster
  - b. Base Incident: Major Earthquake Seattle
    - This is a standing base incident available to responders before the Emergency Operations Center is activated
  - c. Sub Incidents - modified as needed during the event  
Sub Incidents divide information into categories in order information easier to locate and organize
    - Area Commands or Incident Commands established
    - Damage reports
    - Shelter Operations
    - Family Assistance Center
    - Mortuary Operations
    - List of Mutual Aid responders

- d. WebEOC Significant Events:
  - Official estimate of the number of fatalities and injured
  - Estimate of disaster costs
  - Areas that have been evacuated
- 2. Emergency Operations Center Email.
  - a. Seattle Emergency Operations Center maintains an email account for disaster response which is monitored by the Emergency Operations Center Planning Section
- 3. City Disaster Website
  - a. The City Homepage can be rapidly switched to a disaster format by the Mayor's office
- 4. Seattle Department of Transportation SharePoint Street Closure Tracking list and Road Conditions map.
  - a. Documents impacts to City streets
  - b. Seattle Police Department can input information into the Street Closure System
- 5. National Shelter System.
  - a. Human Services Branch, and other shelter providers in the region, use the National Shelter System database to share shelter information
- 6. WATrac Incident Management System.
  - a. Incident management software used by HMAC members to share information which Seattle Emergency Operations Center staff can view
- 7. Regional SharePoint Information Sharing
  - a. King County Emergency Management maintains the regional SharePoint site
  - b. Available to support collaboration between departments and jurisdictions as needed

#### **D. Radio and Phone**

- 1. Radio Systems (City and Auxiliary Communication Service)
  - a. A radio communications plan for an earthquake scenario has been provided to all departments
  - b. Auxiliary Communications Service staffs the Emergency Operations Center communication room and monitors Ops Call channel, amateur radio, King County ECC radio and others
  - c. City Hubs can communicate with the City Emergency Operations Center using amateur radios
- 2. Phone
  - a. Government Emergency Telecommunication Service
    - When the phone system is overloaded with calls, increases the chance a caller using this service will be able to complete a phone call using a wired or cell phone
    - City responders have been provided accounts including all Emergency Operations Center Duty Officers
  - b. The City phone network may be more resilient than the public network
  - c. A common phone number for reaching the City Emergency Operations Center has been designated and, if needed, up to six answering stations can be established in the Emergency Operations Center to support this phone line
  - d. The Auxiliary Communications Service monitors the Emergency Operations Center satellite phone

**APPENDIX 4 – MILITARY SUPPORT ANNEX**

*Begins On Next Page*

City of Seattle  
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Emergency Operations Plan  
Military Support Annex

Prepared by  
Seattle Office of Emergency Management

Updated November 2012

## **MILITARY SUPPORT ANNEX**

### **COORDINATING ORGANIZATION:**

*Mayor's Office  
Seattle Office of Emergency Management*

### **COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS:**

*All City Departments  
Washington State Emergency Management Division  
Washington State Military Department*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Purpose**

1. To describe the circumstances under which units of the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Washington National Guard (WNG) can provide Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) during disasters and catastrophes.
2. To describe the procedures the City of Seattle government must use to obtain DSCA

### **B. Scope**

1. This document applies to all City Departments and supporting agencies.

## **II. SITUATION**

### **A. Situation**

The City of Seattle, its citizens, are exposed to a variety of natural and human caused disasters such as severe weather, earthquakes, and acts of terrorism. The Seattle Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis identifies and discusses in detail a wide range of events that could impact the citizens and governments of our region.

In some incidents, the City and neighboring jurisdictions may not have sufficient resources to support the response. The military is one of many resources the City can request assistance from.

### **B. Planning Assumptions**

1. Military assistance is a supplemental resource.
2. Military support like any other form of outside assistance requires the Mayor's declaration of "Civil Emergency" and an executive order.
3. When deployed to provide DSCA, military personnel work under the City's command and control structure, but always retain their unit integrity and chain of command.
4. Only under circumstances where the provisions of "Immediate Response" can be applied, or where a National Guard or Reserve unit coincidentally happens to be in a training status, can military support be expected to be a ready source of help. In all

other situations, it would probably take at least 48 hours to muster and deploy a response.

### **III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

#### **A. General Response**

The Governor maintains control of the state National Guard in peacetime. He or she appoints an Adjutant General to command the state Guard, which is a combination of Army and Air Force units. In Washington, the Adjutant General (TAG) is also the head of the state Military Department.

1. After the Mayor has declared a “Civil Emergency” and based on the Mayor’s request for supplemental assistance made by executive order, the Governor may, if support can best be provided through special resources possessed by the Washington National Guard, task available units and/or activate units not on duty.
2. In general, the type of support provided by the National Guard may include:
  - Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team
  - Limited mass feeding
  - Civil disturbance operations/area security patrols
  - Roadblocks/traffic control
  - Perimeter security/quarantine
  - Limited military engineering
  - Mobile/fixed communications
  - Emergency evacuation (land/air/water)
  - Delivery of supplies
  - Emergency shelter
  - Limited emergency electrical power
  - Light urban search and rescue
  - Limited emergency medical aid
  - Limited potable water
  - Aerial reconnaissance

#### **B. Federal Support**

Despite normal placement of the Guard under the Governor, the President retains the authority to federalize guard forces in a major national crisis. Whenever this happens, units affected by the President’s mobilization order are transferred from their State Area Command (STARC) to active duty commands in the Army or Air Force. Examples of such mobilizations occurred during wars fought in Korea and Viet Nam and more recently in military actions in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq. It can also happen in natural, technological and human-caused disasters, including episodes of serious civil unrest.

The military is capable of providing a wide range of support to local government in a disaster or catastrophe, but the use of military personnel and military assets for DSCA must comply with guidelines set down in DOD Directives and federal law. Within these formal parameters military assistance can be obtained:

1. For an “Immediate Response” situation. In such an event a unit commander can provide immediate assistance to local authority if:

- There is an imminent threat to life or property, and/or human suffering is at stake, **and**
- An exhaustive effort by local government to seek help from public and private resources in the local area has been tried first *without success*, and the local military unit is the only viable source available, **or**
- The local military unit is the only source of help that can respond in time to support the City in countering or alleviating the danger(s) present or imminently expected, **and**
- The local military unit is capable of providing the type of support requested without degrading its primary national defense commitments, **and**
- The Mayor has declared a “Civil Emergency” and invoked his/her “emergency power” to request outside assistance, **and**
- The City agrees to assume costs incurred by the military unit to provide the requested support, **and**
- The City, through the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD), conveys the following details to the Commander, USARMYNORTHCOM through the Defense Coordinating Officer attached to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X Defense Coordinating Element in Bothell, WA:
  - The reason(s) and circumstances necessitating the request for “Immediate Response”.
  - The name of the Commander and unit aiding the City.
  - The type(s) of asset(s) requested.
  - An affirmative acknowledgement of the City’s compliance with the above process, as prescribed in DOD Directives.

In certain circumstances where response time is critical, a unit commander can act in anticipation of official receipt of authorization from the Commander, USARMYNORTHCOM. The unit commander can also decide to forego reimbursement from the City, but the City should always be prepared to assume the costs, which in the past have been paid by the state when the above steps have been followed.

2. After emergency declarations have been made by both the Mayor and Governor, the Mayor may request assistance from the Commander of the Seattle District of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to provide flood fighting and rescue support authorized under Public Law 84-99. The Governor, based on a request from the Mayor, can also ask the USACE to provide emergency supplies of clean water when contamination of normal sources endangers public health.

3. After the Governor has proclaimed a “State of Emergency” and formally requested federal assistance, the President after declaring an “Emergency” or “Major Disaster” may – through FEMA or the through the Joint Field Office (JFO) if established and the Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) if in-place – task the DOD to provide specific support identified in the NRP. DOD participation could be used for:
  - Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs)
  - Disaster Mortuary Teams (DMORTs)
  - Patient evacuation to National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) hospitals
  - Urban fire suppression
  - Communications equipment
  - Debris clearance
  - Structural evaluation
  - Damage Assessment
  - Stabilization or demolition of damaged structures
  - Water supply
  - Restoration of critical public facilities
  - Contracting and construction management
  - Electric generation
  - To defend against a “credible threat” of a terrorist attack, or to respond to a terrorist attack.

#### **C. Direction and Control**

The EOC Director is responsible for coordinating all requests for military assistance.

Military units remain under control of their chain of command when deployed to assist civilian authorities. Military support is coordinated through the EOC and the incident commands that are provided such support.

EMD and/or military Liaisons may be assigned to the City EOC and/or incident commands as needed.

Once DSCA is dispatched to the City, it will be the responsibility of the requesting department to receive, direct, integrate, and sustain this capability for as long as they continue to support the City. Help in supplying the logistics for doing this will be available through the EOC, and should be directed to the EOC Logistics Section.

#### **D. Procedures**

A department that determines it will run out of resources before operations can be completed or has exhausted all resources will follow procedures outlined in the Logistics Section of the SDRRP to obtain outside resources.

### **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **A. Preparedness**

1. Seattle OEM is responsible for ensuring the Military Support Annex is current.
2. All departments that conduct training or develop plans with military organizations will notify the Seattle OEM of such activities before they occur to ensure City training and planning efforts are coordinated.

## **B. Response and Recovery**

1. The Mayor, as the City's Chief Executive, will:
  - Determine when circumstances warrant asking the state for outside assistance, which may be provided through DSCA.
  - After deciding to do so and after declaring a "Civil Emergency", sign an executive order requesting outside assistance.
  - Direct public-notice, and ensure briefings of the City Council President and Public Safety Chair occur as called for in the Direction and Control Support Annex.
2. The City Council will review and act on all proclamations and executive orders as called for in the Direction and Control Support Annex.
3. The EOC Director will:
  - Decide when it would be necessary to request a state mission number.
  - Decide when and if it would be necessary to request the state EOC to send their Emergency Management Division (EMD) and/or Military Department Liaison to the Seattle EOC.
  - Determine if, and when a recommendation will be made to the Mayor to request outside assistance.
  - As soon as the Mayor signs the executive order requesting outside assistance, direct the Plans Section Chief to transmit it to the state EOC.
  - Based on information received from the state EOC (either through Logistics Section Chief or the EMD Liaison), brief the Mayor and as necessary direct the Operations Section Chief to make sure that:
    - Word has been passed to the requesting department.
    - The EOC JIC has been notified.
    - Adequate instructions have been given to the responding military commander, to at a minimum include the name of the official he or she is to report to and their cell phone number, and a map and directions to the staging area.
    - Arrangements are in place to receive and care for the arriving DSCA unit(s).
    - DSCA units are used for approved missions only, and that they are able to withdraw once those missions are completed.
4. The Operations Sections Chief will:

- Ensure all Operations Section ESFs that are activated are coordinating resource requests with the EOC Logistics Section.
- Work with the Logistics Section Chief, EMD Liaison and the Plans Section Chief to monitor critical resource requests that exceed the City's capability. As soon as it can be reasonably determined that outside assistance is the only suitable recourse, inform the EOC Director.
- Follow the EOC Director's instructions in making certain that departments are given an early "heads up" of the arrival of DSCA, and that departments take necessary actions to effectively receive, integrate, direct, and support DSCA units.
- Brief the department requesting the military assistance on what are the approved missions.
- Ensure that DSCA units are able to disengage and return to their normal duty station as soon as their assigned missions are completed.

5. The Plans Section Chief will:

- At the direction of the EOC Director, request the EMD Duty Officer to issue a state mission number for the major incident, disaster or catastrophe.
- At the direction of the EOC Director, request the state EOC to send their EMD and or Military Department Liaisons to the Seattle EOC.
- As necessary, make assistance available to the Law Department Representative in preparing the declaration of "Civil Emergency" and the executive order for outside assistance.
- Work with the Operations Section Chief, EMD and state Military Liaisons, and the Logistics Section Chief in making recommendations to the EOC Director on the need to seek state assistance in obtaining critical resources.
- At the direction of the EOC Director, oversee transmission of the City's request for outside assistance, including the Mayor's executive order and the Request for Outside Assistance form, to the state EOC.
- Once word is received from the state EOC that DSCA resources are on the way, advise the EOC Director and the Operations Section Chief.

6. The Law Department Representative will at the direction of the EOC Director:

- Prepare the declaration of "Civil Emergency" and executive order requesting outside assistance.
- Be available to answer legal questions arising from or about the declaration of "Civil Emergency" or executive order.
- Be available to answer legal questions regarding the approved missions for military units and other issues related to the use of military units.
- Assist in briefing the Council President and Chair of the Public Safety Committee on the declaration of "Civil Emergency" and executive order.

7. Emergency Support Function (ESF) Coordinators for ESFs-1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13, under the direction of the Operations Section Chief, will:

- Make sure DOCs are working with the EOC Logistics Section to resolve resource needs that exceed department capabilities.

- Make sure that once a department's DOC determines that vital resource requirements cannot be met locally they communicate the shortfall to their EOC department representative.
- As soon as a request for outside assistance is received, advise the Operations Sections Chief of the details.
- As applicable and as soon as the Operations Section Chief advises the ESF representative that DSCA is being provided to a City department ensure:
  - The department is informed.
  - The department communicates with the military commander and provides all necessary support.
  - The department coordinates with the EOC Logistics for any support for the military unit it cannot manage on its own.
  - The department uses DSCA for approved missions only.
  - The department releases the military unit as soon as approved missions are completed.

8. EOC Logistics Section Chief will:

- Ensure that within means available to the City, the EOC Logistics Section is providing all necessary logistical support to DOCs.
- Ensure the request is beyond the City's means to obtain with local resources.
- Assist City departments with any logistical requirements that may be necessary to support a military unit that is part of an authorized DSCA mission.

9. Department Operating Centers will:

- As soon as they have exhausted or anticipate exhausting, all local resource and assistance, inform their ESF representative in the EOC of the details and urgency of any resource shortcomings.
- When advised that DSCA is being sent to support the department, notify the Incident Commander, provide detailed description of what military missions are authorized and ensure the arriving military commander is given:
  - All necessary information for safely integrating his/her unit into the department's field operations.
  - All necessary support to sustain the military unit while they are supporting the department.
- For any support requirements needed to sustain the military unit for its assigned mission that cannot be managed with means available to the department, coordinate with the EOC Logistics Section.
- Ensure the military unit is being used for its assigned mission only and is allowed to demobilize as soon as the mission is completed.

10. Commanders of local military installations will:

- As requested and feasible, provide the City of Seattle with DSCA in accordance with guidelines established in DOD Directives.
- In a Presidentially declared “Emergency” or “Major Disaster” provide “direct federal assistance” or “technical assistance” as tasked by the Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) under the National Response Plan.
- For a “credible threat” or act of terrorism, provide “direct federal assistance” or “technical assistance” as tasked by the DCO or the FBI Joint Operations Center that may be operating from the Seattle Field Office or attached to the Joint Field Office (JFO).

11. Washington State Emergency Management Division will:

- Upon receipt of proper notification from the City, issue a state mission number to cover the City’s involvement in managing a major incident, disaster or catastrophe.
- Provide 24/7 Duty Officer support to assist the City in coordinating with the USARMYNORTHCOM in an “Immediate Response” situation.
- As requested by the Seattle EOC Director and as authorized by the state EOC, send a liaison officer to the Seattle EOC.
- As provided for in the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, assist the City with any Mayoral request for supplemental assistance.

12. Washington State Military Department will:

- As requested and as authorized by the state EOC, send a liaison officer to the Seattle EOC.
- Provide National Guard support to the City as coordinated by the state EOC.

**E. Liability**

So long as personnel of the Washington National Guard are acting under the authority of the Governor (RCW 38.08.040) they are indemnified under the “Emergency Worker” provisions of WAC 114-04-070 and RCW 38.52.

Federal employees, including members of the Washington National Guard who may be activated for federal service by the President, are protected under Section 305 of the Stafford Act.

**V. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Logistical Support**

- Requests for military support will be coordinated with the EOC Logistics Section to ensure adequate support is available.
- The EOC Logistics Section is responsible for providing logistical support to all approved military units that have been requested by the City.

## **B. Communications and Data**

- ESF-2 is responsible for coordination of City radio communications support to military units, including patching.
- ESF-2 is responsible for screening any requests for military communications support to ensure compatibility with communications systems deployed.

## **VI. ADMINISTRATION**

### **A. Cost Accounting and Cost Recovery**

Units and departments will use the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System to organize and submit cost recovery documents to City, state and federal agencies as required to recover incident response and recovery cost.

### **B. Annex Maintenance**

The Seattle OEM is responsible in maintaining this annex. The annex will be reviewed and updated annually as prescribed in the DRRP or when deemed necessary by either the Agency Administrator or the Seattle Office of Emergency Management.

## APPENDIX 5 – EVACUATION ANNEX

*Begins On Next Page*

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

**EVACUATION ANNEX**

**REVISED AUGUST 2015**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose

This plan describes the strategies for managing evacuations which exceed the day-to-day capabilities of departments in the City of Seattle. The strategies are built using an all-hazards approach to preparing for and managing evacuations. They are designed to be applied in any event regardless of the threat or hazard that precipitates the need to evacuate. In most cases, evacuation carries the highest “life safety” priority in incident management.

The City of Seattle fully utilizes the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and its concepts in all emergency and disaster related efforts.

### 1.2 Scope

This annex supports, and is a part of, the City of Seattle Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and applies to all City departments, offices, staff, and elected officials.

### 1.3 Plan Limitations

During day-to-day emergency operations, city response agencies may advise persons to take protective actions in a discrete, specified area. Typically, the situation involves homes, businesses or apartment buildings immediately adjacent to an incident site. This may be caused by situations such as gas line breaks, apartment or residential fires, barricaded subjects, flooding affecting a few homes in a single area, etc. The procedures for accomplishing and implementing these actions are included in individual departmental procedures and are not part of this document. This annex addresses situations where protective actions are needed, and the resources to carry out these measures exceed the day-to-day capabilities described above.

### 1.4 Situation

A situation statement that applies to all hazards can be found in the CEMP-Base Plan, Section II A. In addition to the all-hazard situation statements, the following specifically apply to the concepts of public warning:

- Use of this plan will occur for all hazards which could necessitate evacuation and sheltering operations involving all or parts of the City of Seattle.
- It may be necessary for the public to evacuate or to shelter-in-place due to a variety of situations. These cases are considered to be “protective actions.” The boundary of the protective actions area may be extremely limited or may be widespread in scope. In most cases, evacuation carries the highest “life safety” priority in incident management.
- Evacuations will require strategies that specifically address the challenges associated with moving high risk populations.
- Each jurisdiction retains its own authority for conducting emergency actions within its boundaries. Jurisdictional authority ends at the jurisdictional boundaries.

## 1.5 Assumptions

A list of assumptions that apply to all hazards can be found in the CEMP-Base Plan, Section II C. In addition to the all-hazard assumptions, the following specifically to the concepts of evacuation:

- Most people at risk will evacuate when local officials recommend that they do so. A general estimate is that 80 percent of those at risk will comply when local officials recommend evacuation. The proportion of the population that will evacuate typically increases as a threat becomes more obvious and serious to the public.
- Some evacuations may involve multiple jurisdictions due to the direct impacts; transportation routes; the location of safe zones, evacuation centers, or human and pet shelters; or the need for outside resources.
- Evacuations will likely involve a variety of buildings (residential, commercial, schools, daycares, retail, public, medical, etc.), geographic area (parks, transportation routes, etc.) population (residents, visitors, people in transit, workers) and people in a variety of situations (sleeping, driving, walking, biking, working, caring for children, etc) .
- The regional transportation system will become disrupted during large scale evacuation events involving the City of Seattle. Transportation mobility will improve through a regionally coordinated plan to ensure the movement of traffic away from the evacuation zone.
- During a large evacuation, there may not be enough transport capacity available for the number of people and pets needing to evacuate.
- Almost every evacuation will require issuance of a public warning statement. The City of Seattle outlines public warning strategies in a separate annex to the CEMP. A high level of coordination will be necessary to effectively communicate protective action, evacuation corridors, and shelter information to evacuees.
- An evacuation will require expedited coordination between all City departments to maintain an efficient and safe movement of traffic during an evacuation.
- Evacuations will require substantial personnel and equipment, which could stress and/or exceed the capabilities of the City of Seattle. Specific procedures may need to be developed regarding the pre-deployment of mutual aid personnel and equipment resources as required.
- The process for evacuation routes, evacuation centers, shelters or termination of evacuations will vary based on the specific hazard, degree of vulnerability, number of people impacted, and projected area of impact.
- Most evacuations involving several square blocks or more will stress the limited capabilities of roadways leading into and out of the area, particularly during peak travel hours. Traffic factors will impact the time it will take to complete an evacuation.

- Pre-designation of evacuation routes is impractical without verification of safe routes and surviving or safe congregation points and shelter locations.
- Some people will not receive the order to evacuate, or understand the order if it is received.
- Some people will not have the ability and/or resources to evacuate without assistance.
- Some people will choose not to evacuate.
- Pets may be in the evacuation zone, particularly if it includes a residential area.
- Evacuations may be spontaneous without government direction.
- Evacuating and displaced populations will include individuals subject to judicial and/or administrative orders restricting their freedom of movement, such as sex offenders and parolees

### *1 5.1 Assumptions for High Risk Populations*

The following concepts apply specifically to high risk populations and evacuations:

- In an incident involving environmental quality issues, such as a hazardous materials incident or a flood event, people with compromised immune systems or serious health issues (e.g., emphysema or asthma) may need additional assistance.
- Special resources may be needed to decontaminate high risk individuals that have durable medical equipment and/or a variety of medical conditions.
- Evacuated populations will include people with access and functional needs, such as limited mobility, visual impairments, reliance on service animals, prescription medication requirements, durable medical equipment, limited English proficiency, etc.
- During evacuations, the physical and mental health of some people in the high risk population will deteriorate faster than those in the general population.

High risk individuals may also:

- Have difficulty communicating with rescuers during an evacuation event (e.g., hearing or speech impairment, behavioral or cognitive impairment).
- Choose not to evacuate during a disaster, and then become trapped and require rescue.
- Be resistant to search and rescue personnel during an evacuation or rescue operation.
- Become separated from their caregiver or the community with which they live.
- Have durable medical equipment and/or a service animal that need to be rescued with them.

## 1.6 Key Terms

**Protective Action Notice:** A statement which instructs people to take immediate action to protect their life due to a danger or impending danger.

**Evacuation:** National Incident Management System defines evacuation as an organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care to safe areas.

**Incident Command System (ICS):** The Incident Command System organizational element responsible for overall management of the incident and consisting of the Incident Commander (either single or unified command structure) and any assigned supporting staff.

**Incident Commander (IC):** The individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and release of resources. The IC has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations and is responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.

**Incident Command Post:** The field location where the primary functions are performed. The ICP may be co-located with the Incident Base or other incident facilities.

**Shelter-in-Place:** The act of taking immediate shelter in a readily accessible location that puts as much indoor air and mass between the individual and the hazardous outside air, such as a basement or centrally located medium to small room.

## 1.7 Legal Authorities Specific to Evacuation

- City Municipal Code, Chapter 10.02.020 - Authority of Mayor to issue certain orders
- City Municipal Code, Chapter 10.02.070 -Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- RCW 38.10 – Emergency Management Assistance Compact (revised 2001). In accordance with RCW 38.52, cities, townships, and counties are responsible for the evacuation of their own residents.
- Public Law 99-499, Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, Title III, Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).
- Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006.
- PL 110-325 - Title 42 Chapter 126 Americans with Disabilities Act -ADA (1990)
- National Incident Management System (updated 2013): <http://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system>
- Presidential (Policy) Decision Directive 5 (2003) as amended: <http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nspd/hspd-5.html>
- Presidential (Policy) Decision Directive 8 (2011) as amended: <http://www.dhs.gov/presidential-policy-directive-8-national-preparedness>

- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons With Limited English Proficiency
- Executive Order 13347, Individuals With Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness

## 2. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### 2.1 Actions by Phases of Emergency Management

Describe how evacuation actions will be coordinated between the EOC (City and County), DOC (SPOC, RMC, TMC), and the Field.

#### 2.1.1 Normal Operations

Normal operations involve any mitigation and preparedness activities associated with managing evacuations. This phase consists of the following major tasks:

- Where possible, undertake mitigation for known hazards that have in the past led to evacuation.
- Seek improvement to preplanned evacuation routes if needed.
- Coordinate City of Seattle planning and policies with County, regional, State, and Federal agencies to ensure management of evacuations.
- Review and test department level evacuation plans and procedures.
- Conduct public education awareness campaigns to increase citizen awareness on the issues and actions required during evacuations

#### 2.1.2 Response

Response begins when there is awareness that an incident or event may occur or is already in progress. This includes any pre-event activities that may be undertaken prior to the onset of conditions or the event and consists of the following major tasks:

- Identify areas where previous major evacuations have occurred and additional areas that may require large-scale evacuation in the future due to known hazards.
- Review the population of the risk areas and identify facilities that may require special assistance during evacuation (hospitals, nursing homes, schools, etc.) to determine potential transportation requirements.
- Review the transportation options and corridors for public transit in the risk areas and identify possible public transit options for evacuation, including accessible options.
- Identify transportation providers and leverage or develop MOUs.
- To the extent possible, identify individuals with special medical needs who would require assistance in evacuating and maintain contact information for those individuals.

- Ensure that there are transportation options for pets during evacuations.
- Include evacuations when conducting emergency drills and exercises.
- Conduct public information programs to increase citizen awareness of possible reasons for evacuation, preplanned evacuation routes, availability of transportation, the need to take appropriate food, clothing, medicines and other disaster supplies during an evacuation, and to include pets in the planning. Also remind people of the importance of helping neighbors who may need assistance during an evacuation. The education campaign could also emphasize the importance of car-pooling, and inform citizens of where to obtain timely information in event of a mass evacuation.

### 2.1.3 Recovery

Recovery includes short-term and long-term efforts to rebuild and revitalize areas affected by disaster. For the purposes of this plan, recovery will include the following tasks:

- Support communication systems and reunification of families.
- Initiate return of evacuees, when it is safe to do so.
- Carry out appropriate public information activities.
- Coordinate temporary housing for those who cannot return to their homes.
- Coordinate assistance for those with access and functional needs in returning to a safe housing situation.
- Initiative recovery activities for evacuees who have suffered loss of or damage to their homes or businesses as outlined in the Seattle CEMP –Recovery Plan.
- Consolidate paperwork for the post-incident after action review and possible State and Federal reimbursement.

## 2.2 Agency and Positional Responsibilities

All departments and agencies with responsibilities in this annex are responsible for the development and maintenance of their own Standard Operation Procedures.

### 2.2.1 All City Departments

- Develop, maintain, and test Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) including the evacuation of City occupied facilities.
- Support evacuation operations by providing personnel and/or resources as requested by the Seattle EOC.
- Maintain expenditure records to facilitate reimbursement

## 2.2.2 *Mayor of the City of Seattle*

The Mayor, as the ultimate authority, approves any evacuation or shelter-in-place order for the City of Seattle. The Mayor may:

- Issue a declaration of Emergency or Civil Emergency Order when appropriate
- Authorize activation of the City’s Emergency Operations Center
- Provide necessary guidance and leadership
- Through ESF-15, and in conjunction with appropriate department PIO’s, coordinate the dissemination of information through the Joint Information Center located at the Seattle EOC.

## 2.2.3 *Lead Agency or Incident Commander*

During the initial phase of the evacuation, evacuation activities will be managed and directed from the field incident command post. Once the EOC is sufficiently staffed, certain activities may be delegated to the EOC as appropriate. Responsibilities for the lead agency at the incident command (or unified command) are:

- When practical, provide recommendations to the Mayor regarding need for evacuation.
- Defining the evacuation/shelter- in-place footprint. This effort will usually be led by the lead agency as defined in the City of Seattle CEMP – Base Plan, Section IV, C, 1.
- Through the agency Public Information Officer (PIO), coordinate the development and delivery of emergency public information and warning to ensure effective communications of evacuation procedures.
- Determine any other recommended protective actions.
- Identify any recommended transportation routes/corridors for evacuees and emergency response personnel.
- Determine mass transit resources or other modes of transportation (air, rail, water/boat) as appropriate to the incident.
- Field warning operations (door-to-door, public address systems, etc).
- Identify collection points.
- Identify of staging areas for evacuation related resources.
- Track assigned and unassigned resources supporting evacuation operations.
- Initially identify populations’ specific needs and special considerations.

## 2.2.4 *Seattle Transportation/ESF-1*

- Identify evacuation routes and adjust routes to changing conditions.

- Develop transportation plans for evacuees, which include the feasibility of using transportation modes such as air, water, rail, road, and public transportation.
- Develop, implement, and continually adjust traffic plans to ensure that evacuation routes are kept clear.
- Monitor traffic congestion.

### **2 2.5 *Seattle Public Utilities/ESF-3***

- Monitor water quality and flow.
- Provide subject matter experts for events involving water quality or dam safety.
- Assist with traffic plans by providing barricades and/or personnel to assist at traffic control points.

### **2 2.6 *Seattle Fire/ESF-4***

- Manage evacuation operations including defining the course of action, recommended protective actions, parameters of evacuation zones, transportation routes, field warning operations (door-to-door, public address systems, etc.) and all hazards for which they are lead agency.
- Serve as lead agency for coordinating with outside agencies as appropriate any evacuation and re-entry plans involving waterways in or adjacent to the City of Seattle.
- Provide subject matter expertise for all hazards on which Fire is the lead agency.
- Coordinate the management of pre-hospital patient care and movement of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) resources with ESF-8.
- Provide Command Staff level participation in the Mayor’s Emergency Executive Board.
- Through the Fire Alarm (911 communications) Center, facilitate notification of, and communication between, the incident command post and neighboring jurisdictions who may be within an evacuation zone defined as determined by the incident commander.

### **2 2.7 *City of Seattle OEM/ESF-5***

- Coordinate the development and update of this annex. This responsibility is assigned to the Planning Coordinator of OEM unless otherwise specified by the Director of the OEM.
- Coordinate the activation of the EOC in support of any evacuation.
- Ensure continued coordination through the incident particularly with outside agencies including County, State, Military, and/or Federal resources.
- Coordinate the development of any re-entry plan developed at the EOC.

### **2.2.8 Human Services Department/ESF-6**

- Identify population's specific needs and special considerations prior to, during and after an evacuation.
- Ensure human and pet evacuation resources, and shelter resources if needed, have been identified and activated.
- Coordination of human services functions in the field.
- Serve as ESF-6 coordinator when EOC is staffed and activated.
- Define potential animal population requiring attention.
- Ensure that pets are included in all plans and transportation options that evacuate people.
- Recognize that evacuation and transport of pets will require significant logistical support (e.g. specialized, climate control transport) if pets are not integrated into their owners' evacuation options.
- Work with public information to include messaging reminding evacuees not to leave leave pets behind.
- Assess reunification support and coordinate efforts with ESF-8 and 13.

### **2.2.9 Parks**

- Ensure shelter resources have been identified and activated.

### **2.2.10 Finance and Administrative Services/ESF-7**

- Provide resource support.
- Provide reports on the condition and status of all City facilities within any established evacuation zone.
- Staff ESF-7 in the EOC.

### **2.2.11 Seattle Police/ESF-13**

- Manage evacuation operations including defining the course of action, recommended protective actions, parameters of evacuation zones, transportation routes, and field warning operations (door-to-door, public address systems, etc.) and on all hazards for which they are lead agency.
- Provide crowd and traffic control, site, and perimeter security.
- Investigate crime scenes and collect evidence.
- Assist in the development of traffic plans and management of evacuation routes.

- Provide Command Staff level participation in the Mayor’s Emergency Executive Board.
- Through Seattle Police Communications, facilitate notification of, and communication between, the incident command post and neighboring jurisdictions that may be within an evacuation zone defined as determined by the incident commander.

### ***2 2.12 Public Health Seattle-King County/ESF-8***

- Provide subject matter expertise for events where a health emergency may necessitate quarantine or an evacuation of an area.
- Provide guidance and technical assistance regarding medical facilities, long term care facilities, adult day facilities and health care agencies for planning and carrying out emergency evacuation and relocation of medically dependent persons.
- Coordinate transportation arrangements for individuals under client care who require Access Van support or have special transportation needs evacuating.

### ***2 2.13 Department of Planning and Development (DPD)***

- Coordinate the inspection of structures within the evacuation zone in conjunction with ESF-4, ESF-13, and FAS (for City owned facilities).

### ***2 2.14 King County Metro***

- Provide mass transportation for movement of evacuees to designated public shelters, evacuation staging areas, or other safe areas as requested.
- Coordinate and notify the Seattle EOC of the resources used, destination and number of people transported.
- Assist in the development of traffic plans to ensure continuation of mass transit outside the evacuation zone.

### ***2 2.15 US Coast Guard***

- Manage port and water traffic when impacts extend to area waterways.
- Assist with maritime-based evacuation assets when appropriate.
- Provide a liaison to the Seattle EOC when requested.

### ***2 2.16 Port of Seattle***

- Coordinate with the Seattle EOC when evacuations impact port property.
- Serve as liaison with air/freight carriers for possible evacuation transportation modes.

## 2.3 Authority to Issue Evacuations

As the Chief Elected Official, the Mayor has the ultimate authority on whether or not to issue an evacuation or shelter in place order. However there will be instances where, due to factors such as time or accessibility, it may not be possible to obtain Mayoral approval. In cases where a delay could result in unacceptable risk to the public, the authority to evacuate rests with the following individuals (in order of authority):

1. The Director or Chief whose department is the designated lead for the hazard listed in the CEMP-Base Plan Section IV, C, 1.
2. If applicable, the on-scene Incident Commander whose department is the designated lead for the hazard listed in the CEMP-Base Plan Section IV, C, 1.

In cases where the event involves a community-wide emergency or other unique incident, evacuation decisions will be made at the EOC. In these situations, the determination to take protective actions will be made by a group of ESF leads at the EOC and led by the EOC Director. At a minimum, this group will consist of the senior EOC representatives present from Seattle Police, Seattle Fire, Seattle OEM (as the EOC Director), and Seattle Transportation.

## 2.4 Transportation Considerations

### 2.4.1 *Transport of Evacuees*

Every effort should be made to encourage evacuees to leave in their own vehicles, if it is safe to do so. Given the significant number of residents without a vehicle, King County Metro buses will be used to transport evacuees and their pets. All transportation requests should be routed through the EOC, if it is activated or the Seattle OEM Staff Duty Officer if not activated.

The Seattle Police Department has a limited number of police officers who are certified to drive full-sized commercial buses. This pool of drivers could be used to fill a gap in volatile situations or if King County Metro drivers are not available.

### 2.4.2 *Schools*

Additional coordination concepts to consider include the coordination of students. Any required school evacuations should be coordinated with the affected school system. Normally, school buses will be used for this transportation whenever practical and may be a resource if not in use at that time.

### 2.4.3 *Selection of Evacuation Routes*

In most cases, the selection of evacuation routes will be done in the field at the incident command post. In some cases this responsibility may be delegated to a subject matter expert within Seattle Transportation, The Traffic Management Center (if open), or the Seattle EOC (if activated). Considerations that should be considered when selecting an evacuation route are:

- Shortest paths to established shelters or safe area(s).
- Maximum number of lanes that provide continuous flow through the evacuation area.
- Roadways that are not expected to become impassable while the evacuation is in progress.

- Existing signal control and signal coordinated corridors.
- Routes that minimize traffic crossing conflicts at intersections.
- Availability of infrastructure to disseminate real-time conditions and messages to the traveling public (e.g., media, AlertSeattle, variable message signs).
- Minimal number of potentially hazardous points and bottlenecks on evacuation routes such as bridges, tunnels, roadways at risk for landslides.
- Maximum existing capacity.
- Ability to add capacity on a temporary basis.
- Availability of real-time traffic flow and route condition information to decision makers and the public (e.g., from closed-circuit television cameras, traffic detectors, or spotters).

#### 2.4.4 Traffic Control

When possible, Seattle Police, in conjunction with Seattle Transportation (or ESF-1 if the EOC is activated), will establish traffic control at all incident exit/entry points around the evacuation zone. Priority status will be given for barricade requests and from all City sources. A traffic plan supporting an evacuation will identify specific actions that will ensure a smooth flow from evacuation zones to the host shelter or zones of safety including:

- Traffic control points and the responsible agency for providing staffing and operational control
- Barricade plans including location and staffing
- Potential one way / reverse lane operations

Special consideration will be given to personal protective equipment that may be needed by personnel at barricades or traffic control points. In appropriate situations, plans should look at the use of non-traditional personnel such as non-essential City employees to staff barricades.

## 2.5 Perimeter Security Plan

A security plan will be developed as a part of any evacuation plan to prevent re-entry before conditions are safe and possible looting. The foremost consideration in any security plan will be personnel safety. Plans should establish access control points to limit entry into evacuated areas and, where possible, conduct periodic patrols within such areas to deter theft by those on foot. To the extent possible, the security plan should include measures to insure continued fire protection.

## 2.6 Management of High Risk Populations

Public information statements will include information targeted towards high risk groups. For example, who to call when transportation or evacuation assistance is needed (9-1-1, 3-1-1 or a specially established hotline).

Public warning notification tools have been identified that will reach high risk populations at the same time as the general population. Field incident action plans also will target high risk groups or facilities

with door-to-door notifications wherever practical. Additional information on public warning notifications for high risk and non-English speaking populations can found in Public Warning Annex the CEMP – Emergency Operations Plan.

The housing, mass care, and management of high risk populations is addressed in ESF-6 Appendix to the CEMP –Base Plan.

### *2.6.1 Considerations for ADA populations*

- Coordinate the use of school buses, transit buses, or specialty vehicles to pick up people with access and functional needs at prearranged locations (e.g., group homes, nursing homes, pick-up points).
- Coordinate with ESF-1, ESF-6, ESF-8 and ESF-9 to transport high risk people with functional and access or medical needs.
- Coordinate with ESF-8 and ESF-9 to transport high risk people with medical needs.
- Prioritize the needs of people with disabilities when loading general, public transportation to ensure that those with disabilities are properly situated for transport.

Additionally, transportation resources that can be used for the transportation of high risk populations include, but are not limited to the following:

- Paratransit vehicles.
- Ambulances.
- Portable steps and/or ramps for bus/train entry.
- Appropriate transport vehicles provided by nonprofit community partners.

### *2.6.2 Evacuation Involving Schools*

Seattle Public Schools have detailed plans on evacuation of school campuses. These plans provide for the use of school buses to transport students to other campuses. Evacuation of schools should be done in coordination with school district security and conform with these plans to the extent that time and circumstances permit. School Districts should be prepared for the arrival of parents at schools that have been either evacuated or used as a shelter for displaced students.

## **2.7 Coordination with Other Jurisdictions**

In some cases, an evacuation in the City of Seattle could require coordination with other jurisdictions based on the size and geographic location of the incident. In cases where the zone of evacuation includes other jurisdictions, communication of essential information will occur through one or both of the following methods:

- City of Seattle public safety dispatch (Police and/or Fire) to the other jurisdictions' public safety dispatch center.

- Communication from the Seattle OEM Staff Duty Officer to the designated Emergency Management Staff Duty Officer of the affected jurisdiction.

### 2.7.1 *King County OEM/King County ECC*

The Seattle EOC will coordinate with the King County OEM Duty Officer or the King County ECC on:

- Staff and resource needs in support of evacuation operations
- The establishment and use of shelter facilities outside the City of Seattle
- Establishment of (when feasible) a regional traffic plan specific to the evacuation needs. Considerations may include route identification, signage, and traffic control.
- Monitoring of traffic flows and patterns on routes leading into and out of the City.

### 2.7.2 *University of Washington*

The City of Seattle will coordinate with the University of Washington (main campus) through the following means:

- Through the University of Washington Police Dispatch Center
- University of Washington OEM Duty Officer.

## 2.8 *Re-Entry*

Following an evacuation it will eventually be necessary to repopulate evacuated areas. In most events, the reentry plan will be developed at the EOC. Evacuees will typically remain in shelters or safe areas until they receive communications that it is safe to reenter. However, evacuees will often try to return to the evacuation area as soon as possible to assess the state of their property. Since they may be unable to enter the impact area, they will require sheltering closer to the impact area.

### 2.8.1 *Reentry Task Force*

The Seattle EOC will develop a re-entry task force that will be responsible for development and implementation of procedures for managing the re-entry of business owners and residents who have a legitimate need to re-enter the evacuated area. This task force will:

- Coordinate with City leaders and those who are at the incident command post to develop criteria to determine who can re-enter the evacuation zone, under what circumstances and when.
- Established a centralized point for fielding requests from businesses and residents who need to re-enter the evacuation zone prior to the order being lifted.

The task force will be responsible for the development of the overall reentry plan.

### 2.8.2 *Authorization for Reentry*

In most cases, the authorization for reentry will be made by the Mayor supported by the Mayor's Emergency Executive Board. Subject matter experts from City departments including the lead agency

and Seattle Police may be called up to provide advice to the Mayor and/or the Emergency Executive Board.

### 2.8.3 Considerations for Allowing Re-Entry

The following considerations should be assessed before repopulation can take place including:

- Is the danger still present? (Lead agency, ESF-13, ESF-4)
- Have the necessary inspections have taken place? (Department of Planning and Development)
- Have safety and security concerns been addressed? (ESF-13, ESF-4, ESF-8)
- Is there a security plan for re-entry? (ESF-13)
- Have essential services been reestablished? (ESF-1, ESF-2, ESF-12)
- Are there resources available for managing repopulation? (ESF-7, All appropriate departments and ESF's)
- Have re-entry routes been identified? (ESF-1)
- Has appropriate messaging been developed for release? (ESF-15)
- Is there transportation for those who were evacuated, including pets? (ESF-1)
- Have arrangements been made for high risk populations including companion animals? (ESF-6)
- Has the Mayor authorized re-entry?

Once it been determined that it is safe for reentry and a plan has been implemented, evacuees may return. Some evacuees will be able to return to their homes; others may attempt to return to the impact area but their homes may have been significantly damaged or destroyed. Sheltering may still be required for those who are unable to occupy their homes.

Please see [Appendix 3](#) for guidance on development of an event specific re-entry plan.

## 2.9 Guidance for Large Scale or Spontaneous Evacuations

Certain hazards or situations may require the evacuation of large or densely populated areas of the City. These evacuations may be planned or spontaneous. The following concepts should be considered in large scale or spontaneous evacuations:

- Coordinate evacuation plan development and its implementation through the EOC.
- If possible, attempt to develop an incident specific plan. Planning concepts can include a sector based approach to the evacuation by geography and/or time of evacuation. Provide maps or diagrams to the media.
- Provide a clear message to the public. Utilize the Mayor and/or senior uniformed personnel to deliver the message.

- Consider ongoing use of “live” media broadcasts, particularly radio, from the EOC to provide the latest traffic and evacuation information
- Utilize ASL interpreters when delivering on-camera emergency and safety information.
- Clear outbound traffic routes of construction and other impediments
- Utilize live traffic control at critical intersections that can improve traffic flow.
- Notify the King County OEM (or the ECC if activated) to assist with coordination traffic management with outside communities.
- Post Tow Trucks or “push” vehicles at appropriate locations to immediately clear stalled or wrecked vehicles
- Have ESF-1 and ESF-13 collaborate on the possibility of establishing one-way traffic lanes if this will improve traffic flow

## 2.10 Guidance for Shelter In Place

Depending on the nature of the threat, it may be appropriate to direct citizens to “shelter-in-place” as opposed to evacuating. The act of sheltering-in-place consists of sealing off a room or building to protect occupants from external threats. Normally, sheltering-in-place is a short term action needed to mitigate an immediate threat. The threat could include chemical, radiological, industrial or weather related threats. Key factors for directing citizens to sheltering-in-place include:

- Is the outside environment more hazardous, or likely to be more hazardous, than the interior environment?
- Is the duration of the threat event limited to the extent that a sealed building can sustain life until the threat has abated?
- Can people be safely evacuated before onset of hazardous conditions?

Upon directing people to shelter-in-place, the “worst case scenario” should be considered when determining the size and scope of the affected area. When evaluating the options of sheltering-in-place vs. evacuation, decision makers should consider the inherent dangers of evacuation. Specific protective measures that may need to be communicated to the community include:

- Immediately move people and pets indoors
- Close and lock all exterior doors and windows
- Turn off all heat and air conditioning systems
- Close chimney flumes and all other openings into the structure
- Access disaster preparedness materials (72-hour kit, cell phone, radio etc.)
- Move to an interior room or basement (if appropriate)

- Monitor broadcasts for additional instructions

### 3. ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE

The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for revisions and updates to this annex. Revisions and updates are incorporated in to the City’s Emergency Management Strategic Plan.

#### 3.1 Record Keeping

Responding departments should maintain records of Protective Actions Notifications, press releases, warning logs, and other relevant materials related to the incident. If time and resources permit, consider keeping a record of individual and neighborhood notifications.

#### 3.2 Post Incident Review

The Seattle CEMP Base Plan, Section IV. D, outlines the process to be used to ensure a proper after action review is conducted for all EOC activations and significant events. A standard template of questions is asked for all incidents. In addition to that consideration should be given to evaluating the concepts in this plan. Specific elements to consider in any post incident evaluation include:

- The use and effectiveness of transportation and route selection between the evacuation zone(s) and shelter(s).
- Assessment of public compliance with issued protective action notices.
- The coordination between transportation (ESF-1) and Incident Operations to safely evacuate residents.
- Appropriate assignment of responsibilities
- The effectiveness of collaborating with neighboring jurisdictions, schools , and businesses
- The ability to ensure that populations with access and functional needs were safely evacuated.

## 4. APPENDIX 1 – GENERAL EVACUATION/SHELTER-IN-PLACE CHECKLIST

### GENERAL EVACUATION CHECKLIST

✓	Action Item	Assigned
<b>Initial &amp; Ongoing Actions:</b>		
	Determine area(s) at risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine population of risk area(s)</li> <li>• Identify institutional facilities and populations with access and functional needs in risk area(s)</li> <li>• Approximate number of people in the evacuation zone</li> </ul>	
	Notify Mayor of situation and attain authorization of evacuation (time permitting)	
	Notify OEM Duty Officer to activate the EOC.	
	Determine evacuation center and/or human and pet shelter requirements & preferred locations.	
	Determine traffic control requirements for evacuation routes.	
	Estimate public transportation requirements & determine pickup/staging points.	
	Determine temporary shelter requirements & select preferred shelter locations.	
	Develop and disseminate any Protective Action Notice.	
	Coordinate with institutional facilities and ESF-8 regarding precautionary evacuation.	
	Ready evacuation center(s) and/or human and pet shelter(s) selected for use.	
	Ensure that appropriate communication tools have been used to alert those with access and functional needs.	
	Coordinate with transportation providers to ensure vehicles & drivers will be available when and where needed.	
	Coordinate with school districts regarding closure of schools in the evacuation zone.	
	Advise neighboring jurisdictions that may be affected of evacuation plans.	
	Advise King County ECC and State Duty Officer that evacuation recommendation or order will be issued.	
	Through the Joint Information Center (JIC) provide additional information to the public through the media. Emergency public information should address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What should be done to secure buildings being evacuated</li> <li>• What evacuees should take with them</li> <li>• Where evacuees should go &amp; how should they get there</li> <li>• Provisions for populations with access and functional needs and those without transportation</li> </ul>	
	Provide traffic control along evacuation routes & establish procedures for dealing with vehicle breakdowns on such routes.	

	Provide transportation assistance to those who require it.	
	Provide security in or control access to evacuated areas.	
<b>RETURN OF EVACUEES</b>		
	If evacuated areas have been damaged, reopen roads, eliminate significant health and safety hazards, & conduct damage assessments.	
	Determine requirements for traffic control for return of evacuees and their pets.	
	Determine requirements for & coordinate provision of transportation for return of evacuees.	
	Advise King County ECC and State Duty Officer that return of evacuees will begin.	
	Advise evacuees through the media that they can return to their homes and businesses; indicate preferred travel routes.	
	Provide traffic control for return of evacuees.	
	Coordinate temporary housing for evacuees that are unable to return to their residences.	
	Coordinate with institutional facilities regarding return of evacuees to those facilities.	
	<p>If evacuated areas have sustained damage, provide the public information that addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documenting damage &amp; making expedient repairs</li> <li>• Caution in reactivating utilities &amp; damaged appliances</li> <li>• Cleanup &amp; removal/disposal of debris</li> <li>• Recovery programs as outlined in the CEMP –Recovery Plan</li> </ul>	
	Terminate temporary shelter & mass care operations.	
	Maintain access controls for areas that cannot be safely reoccupied.	

## 5. APPENDIX 2 – PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR EVACUATION OF THE DOWNTOWN CORE

During the business day, downtown Seattle becomes the most densely populated area in the region. Along with the number of workers, a significant number of people now live downtown. It is also the seat of government for both the City of Seattle and King County. A significant disaster requiring the partial or complete evacuation of the downtown core presents a number of unique challenges that will have to be addressed.

Any call for mandatory evacuation will be made by the Mayor of the City of Seattle and be broadcast using multiple communication methods in order to reach downtown workers and building owners. A call for sheltering-in-place can also be made directly to building security personnel. Building owners or major employers may be called upon to assist in these notifications using internal (building or company) tools or by other available means of communication.

Prior to any evacuation, property managers, businesses and building owners should have established and practiced plans that cover how their facility will evacuate in case of an emergency.

### Key Assumptions

- A significant number of downtown workers rely on mass transportation to get to and from work.
- High winds may cause damage from flying debris.
- Falling ice can be a life threatening hazards during a significant winter storm.
- Workers can leave downtown quickly if an orderly phased plan can be implemented.
- A sustained power outage in the downtown core presents significant transportation and worker movement challenges.
- The Downtown area has multiple venues which regularly hold large-scale events, including during the regular work week.

### Concept of Operations

Any evacuation plan involving the downtown core should be developed in the Seattle EOC and involve input from key agencies including:

- Seattle Police
- Seattle Fire Department
- King County Metro
- King County Metro Police
- Downtown Seattle Alliance.
- Building Owners and Management Association
- Century Link/Safeco Fields; Convention Center

As a part of any downtown evacuation plan, transit corridors should be established for the:

- Movement of vehicles
- Exclusive use of mass transit (e.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue).
- Exclusive use of emergency vehicles

Any plan should identify assembly areas for those without transportation. At a minimum an assembly area should be designated:

- North of downtown for those who need to travel to points north.
- South of downtown for those traveling south of Seattle. Consideration should be given to areas that allow for embarkation of passengers onto trains (e.g. Sounder) as well as buses.
- East of downtown (east of I-5) for those working on First hill or who may not be able to get to one of the other two locations.
- King County Metro should establish shuttle transportation between the 3 assembly areas to allow for the movement of people.

Assembly areas need to allow for:

- Adequate transportation flow for buses and trolleys
- Space for embarkation of passengers onto multiple buses at the same time.
- Accessibility for people with access and functional needs.
- Pets
- Space for shelter, cots, food, and other support elements that may be needed by those waiting for transportation for prolonged periods.

## Role of City Departments

### Seattle Police

Seattle Police will lead the development of any evacuation and/or re-entry plan for the downtown core. This includes:

- Coordinate with Seattle Department of Transportation (ESF-1) on how best to manage traffic flow in and out of the downtown core
- Implement appropriate street closures and facilitate any downtown evacuation plan prior to, or during an event.
- Establish barricade perimeters and entry check points after an evacuation has been ordered.
- Establish entry policies to allow critical building owners, or tenants, access to “restricted” areas of downtown following a disaster.
- Provide resources for fulfilling requests to block off streets to effect post-event repairs.
- Provide traffic control on downtown streets where needed.
- Maintain order on downtown streets in the aftermath of an event.

### Seattle Transportation

- Lead the development of an overall transportation plan for movement into and/or out of the downtown core.
- Remove debris from downtown streets after an event.
- Facilitate replacement/repairs to traffic control equipment as needed.



## Seattle Fire

- Provide expertise to evaluate (and when necessary make recommendations about) the safety guidelines outlined in any evacuation or re-entry plans.

## King County Metro

- Coordinate with SPD and SDOT on:
  - Establishing assembly areas for picking up evacuees
  - Ensuring any identified transportation corridors meet the needs (and are compatible with the use) of buses and trolleys.
- Provide information regarding availability of Bus and Light Rail operations to/from downtown businesses.
  - Prior to event (based on early closures and dismissals)
  - Service levels, availability, and timetables after an event

## 6. APPENDIX 3 – RE-ENTRY PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The following should be considered planning guidance for the development of event specific re-entry plans following medium or large scale evacuations.

### Tiered reentry process

Any re-entry plan should consider the use of a tiered process for the access and management of personnel and resources in controlled areas. A tiered process allows for categorizing responders, recovery personnel, businesses, and residents into groups based upon safety considerations and priority of access to disaster areas. Tiered re-entry allows for quick deployment of resources and minimizes public exposure to hazardous conditions. The three-tiered system described below can be considered a starting point for the development of an event specified tiered plan:

- **Tier 1: Incident Stabilization:** Stabilize significant health and safety hazards to allow movement inside disaster area, establish access control, deploy first responders, identify and evaluate hazardous material threats, clear roadways, conduct search and rescue.
- **Tier 2: Damage Assessment/Critical Infrastructure Restoration:** Conduct preliminary damage assessments; re-establish critical infrastructure, public safety and hospital services; begin restoring power and utilities; manage debris; restore vital services and health care facilities.
- **Tier 3: Restoration of homes and businesses:** Allow for the return of general public. Begin reopening of businesses.

### Perimeter security and access control plan

Seattle Police in conjunction with SDOT and other stakeholders will develop and implement an access control plan. Some key elements that a security access control plan should include are:

- Identification of the perimeter and whether an inner or outer perimeter is needed.
- Access or control points for entry and egress,
- Resources needed for execution of the plan including personnel, equipment, and materials,
- Which response tier is allowed in the zone or zones within the perimeter,
- The level of scrutiny that should be placed on the credentials, placards or agency identification for each responder.

### Credentialing Policies

Credential policies should address the following:

- Identify the letter of access form that may be issued to individuals who require access through a checkpoint or into a secure perimeter or building.
- Identify vehicle placard form that will be used by public safety personnel to identify vehicles who have permission to be inside secure perimeters.



- Personal Identity Verification including a list of acceptable (recognized) forms of Identification.

## **APPENDIX 6 – ALERT AND PUBLIC WARNING ANNEX**

*Begins On Next Page*

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

**ALERT & WARNING ANNEX**

**REVISED, AUGUST 2015**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose

This Annex to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) describes the means, organization, and process by which the City of Seattle will provide timely, accurate, and useful information and instructions to city employees and the general public throughout an emergency. It provides details on the organizational structure, department responsibilities, the decision making process, and methods by which protective action notices are developed, and communicated to City employees and the general public.

The City of Seattle fully utilizes the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and its concepts in all emergency and disaster related efforts. It is intended to be a living plan to be reviewed and revised on a cyclical base to maintain its efficiency.

### 1.2 Scope

The processes identified in this annex apply to all City departments, offices, staff, and elected officials.

This annex applies and should be used in all situations where a City department (or departments) needs to issue a protective action notice to an area larger than 16 square blocks.

This annex does not apply to situations where these functions can be successfully accomplished using ONLY on-scene personnel. This typically will involve small events. Examples include:

- A law enforcement event where a few houses need to be evacuated.
- An apartment building fire where door-to-door notifications can successfully do the job.

### 1.3 Situation

Situation statements that apply to all hazards can be found in the CEMP-Base Plan, Section II A. In addition to the all-hazard situation statements, the following specifically apply to the concepts of alert and notification of city departments or employees and public warning:

- The need to warn the public of impending danger could arise at any time. To reduce loss of lives, adequate and timely warnings must be provided.
- City decision makers and key department personnel must receive notification of emergencies as soon as possible in order to respond effectively to an emergency.
- City public information officers will play a central role in developing protective action notices to stakeholders and the general public.
- Prior to an emergency occurring, every reasonable action is taken to ensure that city employees and the public is informed of potential hazards and the protective measures that can be taken through a public awareness program.
- A higher authority (State of Washington and/or Federal Government) may initiate warnings through the use of the National Alert & Warning System (NAWAS) whenever a large-scale threat or emergency exists. Incidents falling into this category include, but are not limited to terrorist attacks, and biohazards or other catastrophic hazards.

- Given that the public receives and processes information in different ways, multiple systems will be used to communicate protective actions when possible.
- Events that require the issuance of a protective action notice can happen at any time.
- Infrastructure such as power outages, damage to cellular towers or phone exchanges, or cellular congestion may disrupt or prevent end users from receiving protective action notices on equipment that depend on these utilities.
- The City of Seattle does not have a fixed outdoor warning system.

## 1.4 Assumptions

A list of assumptions that apply to all hazards can be found in the CEMP-Base Plan, Section II C. In addition to the all-hazard assumptions, the following specifically applies to the concepts of alert and notification, and public warning:

- Alert and notification of city employees may be initiated by individual departments, department dispatch centers or other operating centers, or from the Office of Emergency Management.
- The amount of lead time available to provide warnings will vary from situation to situation. Some situations may occur without warning, precluding the ability to utilize some or all communication tools used to inform the public to take protective action.
- No single communication will reach all of the population of the City. A combination of systems will need to be used to reach the greatest number of people in the shortest amount of time.
- The proper use of adequate warning will save lives, reduce injuries, and protect property.
- Normal communications are not adequate to disseminate warning information to the general public and key stakeholder groups.
- Disruption and damage to the telecommunications infrastructure will likely occur in the event of a natural emergency or disaster. The type and degree of damage may impact the ability to utilize specific systems and delay the ability to disseminate protective action notices.
- Electronic news media are the primary sources of emergency information for the general public. However the public is becoming more reliant on social media sites for information.
- Large percentages of the population consider cell phone their primary means of voice communication and do not have land line phones.
- Existing media resources, if used effectively, will cooperate and facilitate dissemination of warnings and emergency public information.
- Local radio and television stations will broadcast Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages when requested by local government.
- During an emergency situation, rumors may develop, potentially causing unnecessary fear, confusion, and undesired public reactions.
- Augmentation of the Joint Information System (JIS) may be required to meet the information demand from the general public during an emergency situation.
- A variety of communication tools will be required to communicate protective action notices to special needs groups.

- Certain populations (for example non-English speaking populations) may not understand the messages, may be confused by them or may not trust them.
- 

## 1.5 Key Terms

**Protective Action Notice:** A statement which instructs people to take immediate action to protect their life due to a danger or impending danger. A protective action notice typically involves a notice to immediately leave an area, or stay sheltered in place pending further instructions.

**Evacuation:** National Incident Management System defines evacuation as an organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

**Incident Command System (ICS):** The Incident Command System organizational element responsible for overall management of the incident and consisting of the Incident Commander (either single or unified command structure) and any assigned supporting staff.

**Incident Commander (IC):** The individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and release of resources. The IC has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations and is responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.

**Incident Command Post:** The field location where the primary functions are performed. The ICP may be co-located with the Incident Base or other incident facilities.

## 1.6 Legal Authorities Specific to Public Warning

- City Municipal Code, Chapter 10.02.020 - Authority of Mayor to issue certain orders
- City Municipal Code, Chapter 10.02.070 -Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- City Municipal Code, Chapter 10.02.080 -Emergency Management Organization
- PL 110-325 - Title 42 Chapter 126 Americans with Disabilities Act -ADA (1990) as amended:  
<http://www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm>
- National Incident Management System (updated 2013): <http://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system>
- Presidential (Policy) Decision Directive 5 (2003) as amended:  
<http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nspd/hspd-5.html>
- Presidential (Policy) Decision Directive 8 (2011) as amended:  
<http://www.dhs.gov/presidential-policy-directive-8-national-preparedness>

- Title 47 CFR , Part 73, Subpart G, Emergency Alert System, as amended; the Local Area or State EAS Plan

## 2. ORGANIZATIONAL CONCEPTS

### 2.1 Agency and Positional Responsibilities

#### 2.1.1 *Mayor of the City of Seattle*

The Mayor, as the ultimate authority, approves or delegates approval of any protective action notice for the City of Seattle. The Mayor may:

- Authorize the release of any public warning information including protective action notices.
- Issue a declaration of Emergency or Civil Emergency Order when appropriate.
- Authorize activation of the City’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- Provide necessary guidance and leadership.
- Through Emergency Support Function #15 (ESF #15) External Affairs, and in conjunction with appropriate department PIO’s, coordinate the dissemination of information through the Joint Information Center located at the Seattle EOC.

#### 2.1.2 *Lead Agency or Incident Commander*

The lead agency for specific hazards as defined in the CEMP-Base Plan Section IV, C, 1 is responsible for:

- Through the lead agency’s PIO, or other designated person, coordinates the development and delivery of any protective action notice to the public.
- Initiating an Emergency Alert System (EAS) message through King County Sheriff’s Office Communication Center or their back-up, if protective actions by the public are time critical and will save lives.
- Ensuring that the OEM Staff Duty Officer is contacted as soon as possible after the initiation of an EAS message.
- Notification of the Seattle OEM Staff Duty Officer as appropriate and coordinates with the Office of Emergency Management on obtaining Mayoral approval for the release of protective action notices that do not require the initiation of an EAS message.
- Identification of specific message elements for protective action notices including defining the areas for which such notice(s) apply.
- Identification of requirements for route alerting and door-to-door warning for areas where other warning systems do not adequately reach the public.
- Coordination of the use of equipment and personnel for route alerting and door-to-door warning for scene specific notifications.

- Coordination of the development of the content of warning messages and Special News Advisories with their lead department PIO, JIC supervisor, and/or the EOC JIC as appropriate.

### 2 1.3 *Lead Agency PIO*

- Responsible for final draft of protective action notice
- Coordinates with appropriate parties (e.g. Public Safety Dispatch) to push any message out using the appropriate communication systems.
- Contacts JIC coordinator for assistance in coordinating follow up messaging.
- Coordinates with the Seattle EOC JIC when activated.

### 2 1.4 *City of Seattle OEM*

The City of Seattle OEM is responsible for:

- Sending alerts and notifications to the Emergency Executive Board, Disaster Management Committee members, and EOC Responders whenever the EOC is activated.
- Coordinating the development and update of this annex. This responsibility is assigned to the OEM Planning Coordinator unless otherwise specified by the Director of the OEM.
- Coordinates the development and dissemination of educational materials to the general public regarding the availability and use of warning systems used by the City of Seattle

### 2 1.5 *JIC Supervisor*

When contacted, leads and/or assists the lead agency PIO with:

- Dissemination of any protective action notice to the public.
- Development and dissemination of any follow up communications to the media and/or general public.
- Dissemination of any messaging over secondary communication systems.
- Establishes and manages the JIC at the EOC and ensures that the JIC can assume any public warning notification functions once it is properly staffed.
- Manages public messaging in coordination with King County JIC and other regional stakeholders, as appropriate, for timely, accurate and consistent communications.

### 2 1.6 *Public Safety Dispatch Centers (Fire & Police)*

Seattle Police and Fire each operate a 24-hour dispatch center. These centers have the following responsibilities related to public warning:

- When directed, execute the delivery of messages using the AlertSeattle system.

- Forward any protective action notices to King County Sheriff’s Dispatch Center, *or* the King County Office of Emergency Management Duty Officer for dissemination on EAS.
- Notify appropriate personnel per department procedures including the OEM Staff Duty Officer.

### 2.1.7 Department Operations Centers and Department Points of Contact

- Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle Department of Transportation have 24 hour capability and will notify appropriate department personnel per their internal protocols.
- When EOC Department Representatives receive an emergency notification from any source, they will notify appropriate personnel in their departments per their internal protocols.

## 2.2 Sources for Receiving Alert and Warning Information

The City of Seattle has the following systems from which it can receive warning information.

### 2.2.1 Federal Sources

**National Alert and Warning System (NAWAS):** The National Warning System (NAWAS) is an automated telephone system used to convey warnings to United States-based federal, state and local governments. NAWAS is operated and fully funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Today, the system consists of over 2,200 telephone party lines. The interconnecting lines provide some protection by avoiding local telephone switches. This ensures they are available even when the local system is down or overloaded. The City of Seattle OEM has a NAWAS phone located in the OEM office area.

**National Weather Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio:** The National Weather Service routinely issues weather warning messages. These messages may include instructions for citizens to immediately take measures to protect their life. Key NOAA weather messages include

- Flood/Flash flood warnings
- Severe storm or tornado warnings
- High wind warning
- Tsunami warning
- Winter storm or blizzard warnings

In addition, the weather service may issue the following warnings at the request of other agencies including (in some cases) local government:

- Civil Danger Warning
- Civil Emergency Message
- Hazardous Materials Warning
- Evacuation or Shelter-in-Place warning
- Volcano Warning

NOAA also operates the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR; also known as NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards) network. This is a network of radio stations in the United States that broadcast continuous weather information directly from a nearby Weather Forecast Office of the service's operator, National Weather Service (NWS). NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, weather observations and other hazard information 24 hours a day. It also broadcasts alerts

of non-weather emergencies such as national security, natural, environmental and public safety (such as an AMBER Alert) through the U.S. Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System.

National Weather Service Seattle also has permission to use the K7MMI repeater system throughout much of western Washington including King County. Local ham radio operators will help operate the amateur radio workstation on the K7MMI system at 147.20 MHz and 146.980 MHz.

<http://www.k7mmi.net>.

## 2.2.2 State Systems

**Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET):** CEMNET serves as the "PRIMARY" back-up communications system for direction and control of emergency operations in the State of Washington. CEMNET is a low band VHF system employing twelve (12) remote mountaintop base stations. The 12 stations are operated and controlled at the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) through the Washington State Patrol microwave radio system

Seattle is assigned to the Northwest Regional Channel (F1-45.20MHz)

**The Central Computerized Enforcement Service System (ACCESS):** ACCESS is a web-based data network supporting state and local law enforcement agencies. This network is managed by Washington State Patrol (WSP) and is supported statewide through the WSP microwave radio system and leased circuits. ACCESS is employed by the state EMD for dissemination of warning, alert, and notification information to local jurisdiction emergency managers. EMD ACCESS terminal addresses are OLYEM or OLEM2.

## 2.2.3 King County/Region 6

**Regional 800 MHz Radio Communications:** The Seattle/King County Regional 800 MHz Trunked Radio System is comprised of interconnected sub regional analog trunked radio simulcast cells and intellirepeaters owned by the City of Seattle and other regional jurisdictions. The system supports approximately 14,000 radio users throughout King County, including police, fire, EMS, general government services, school districts and utilities, with the ability of radio users to communicate with their counterparts even while "roaming" outside their home area by connecting to other sub regional simulcast cells and intellirepeaters participating in the regional system. The system includes talk groups dedicated for emergency management use which can be used to convey (or receive) warning information as well as coordinate activities within and between agencies.

**King County Flood Warning System:** This system warns residents and agencies of impending floodwaters on major rivers so they can take action and prepare themselves before serious flooding occurs. In most locations, the warning system provides at least 2 hours lead time before floodwaters reach damaging levels.

**King County Road Alert:** King County Road Alert is a service for travelers on unincorporated roads in King County. Subscribers receive emails and/or text messages notifying them of a significant road closure or hazard has impacted travel.

**Regional Public Information Network (RPIN):** The Regional Public Information & Notification (RPIN) system is a subscriber-based public alert resource for residents to stay informed about severe weather forecasts, health risks, safety advisories, and emergency situations impacting the King County region. Registration is free and alerts are sent by email, mobile text, and/or voice.

**Jurisdiction-to-jurisdiction communications:** Neighboring jurisdictions routinely share information with the City of Seattle. In cases involving public safety agencies, this information is typically shared from dispatch center to dispatch center. Information may also be shared through a system of Emergency

Management Duty Officers. The City of Seattle has a 24 hour Duty Officer number which can receive messages at any time, day or night. This process can be used to share information (including warning information) between emergency management offices and EOC's in the county. Public information coordination is a function of the Joint Information Center in support of regional messaging that is timely, accurate and consistent, as well as accessible by the diverse populations we serve.

## 2.2.4 Local Sources

**City 800 MHz Radio Communications:** The City operates its own frequencies on the County radio system. The City system has three channels that can be accessed by City departments, key local stakeholders, schools, amateur radio, and the National Weather Service. The system can be used to disseminate and receive warning information.

City Departments: In the course of their normal operations also utilize an 800Mhz radio system that can be used to provide those employees with protective action information during emergencies.

**Public Safety Dispatch & 9-1-1 Center:** Public safety dispatch and 9-1-1 centers serve as the first link between citizens and emergency services. Citizens can be the first ones to bring an event or emergency to the attention of emergency services. Additionally, Seattle Police Communications has access to the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) which can be used by State and Federal authorities to convey warning information.

**Seattle Staff Duty Officer (SDO):** The SDO serves as the 24 hour point of contact for the Office of Emergency Management. The SDO can be used for both receiving and disseminating public warning information between government agencies. The SDO is rotated among a roster of staff members from within the OEM.

## 2.3 Systems Used for Disseminating Alert and Warning Information

At the incident commander's discretion, the public may be warned by route alerting using vehicles equipped with sirens and public address systems. Warnings may also be delivered by response personnel going door-to-door. Both of these methods are effective in delivering warning, but they are labor-intensive and time-consuming and may not be feasible for large areas.

In addition to the field notification methods (door-to-door, public address system), the following communication tools are available for disseminating public warning information to the populations within the City of Seattle:

### 2.3.1 AlertSeattle

*AlertSeattle* is a notification and warning system that enables the City to send the public and employees routine and emergency information. It may be used to warn the public to take immediate life protective measures and it may also be used to mobilize emergency responders during incidents. Messages are created and can be sent as texts, e-mails or voice calls. The City uses the system to alert both the public and city employees and will work similarly for both audiences:

- Public – The notification system allows the City to issue a city-wide alert message, reaching everyone who has signed up or to target a specific community based on an area drawn on an interactive map interface. Messages will then go out by text, e-mail or voice call as specified by the recipient when they sign up for the service.

- Employees - Emergency warning messages can be sent to City employees with notifications concerning campus-wide events or targeting messages to a specific building or even a floor of the building. Messaging can be sent to a smart phone, e-mail, flash alerts to computer screens and the building's public address system.

*AlertSeattle* will eventually incorporate the ability to send Wireless Emergency Alerts which is managed by the Department of Homeland Security and is described in greater detail below.

### 2.3.2 Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The [Emergency Alert System](#) (EAS) is intended to provide a means for government to provide emergency warning and instructions to the public. The City of Seattle receives EAS messages that contain warning information broadcast by Federal, State, or local government authorities.

As a condition of licensing, all commercial radio and television stations and cable television companies must participate in EAS and use their facilities to relay warning and instructions from government to the public. Broadcasters and cable companies must carry national security warnings and messages initiated by the President of the United States; they may broadcast alerts and messages initiated by state and local governments. The Federal Communications Commission encourages licensees to broadcast state and local warning and instruction messages, but the final decision on broadcasting such messages rests with the broadcaster.

KIRO/KOMO TV are the local primary stations for EAS broadcasts. All broadcasters monitor for original or relayed EAS messages, including from NOAA Weather Radio stations. The City of Seattle accesses EAS through the King County OEM Duty Officer or King County Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) if activated.

### 2.3.3 Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

WEA, formerly known as the Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS), and prior to that as the Personal Localized Alerting Network (PLAN), is an alerting network designed to disseminate emergency alerts to mobile devices such as cell phones and pagers. WEA allows jurisdictions at all levels of government to send public warning alerts to participating wireless providers who will distribute the alerts to their customers with compatible devices via Cell Broadcast, a technology similar to Short Message Service (SMS) text messages that simultaneously delivers messages to all phones using a cell tower instead of individual recipients. There are three different kinds of alerts:

- Presidential Alerts – Alerts issued by the President or a designee;
- Imminent Threat Alerts – Alerts that include severe man-made or natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, etc., where an imminent threat to life or property exists; and
- AMBER Alerts – Alerts that meet the U.S. Department of Justice's criteria to help law enforcement search for and locate an abducted child.

Mobile users are not charged for receiving these text-like alerts and are automatically enrolled to receive them.

### *2 3.4 Commercial Radio and TV*

A significant percentage of the public still receives news from commercial radio or TV. Seattle has 10 TV and 11 major radio stations. In addition to EAS, Seattle has methods for communicating directly with news desks of most stations using normal communication channels and the internet.

### *2 3.5 Social Media/Websites*

The City utilizes a number of different social media tools for communicating with stakeholders. Seattle departments operate their own blogs and/or twitter pages. The City has policies and capabilities in place to be able to push information from a central point to all of these pages to ensure consistent messaging in an emergency. Additionally, the City home page has the capability of hosting “alert” messages which are prominently displayed on the home page. There is also a page dedicated to hosting alert messages during times of emergency.

### *2 3.6 Seattle Channel*

Seattle Channel is a government-access cable channel that is a part of the City of Seattle's Department of Information Technology. Programming decisions are based on content and are made independent of the Mayor and Seattle City Council. However, procedures are in place so that the channel can be used by the EOC's Joint Information Center during emergencies. Seattle Channel is on cable television channel 21 on Comcast (321 HD) and Wave (721 HD) to cable subscribers in Seattle. Programming is also available live on the web ([www.seattlechannel.org](http://www.seattlechannel.org)).

### *2 3.7 NOAA Weather Radio*

The [NOAA weather radio system](#) allows for transmission of emergency information on a nationwide system of transmitters that broadcast weather information 24 hours a day. A residence equipped with a NOAA weather radio can receive warning information on equipment that is not dependent on external power or user intervention.

The National Weather Service (NWS) operates the NOAA All-Hazards Network and is now used by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to send critical all-hazards alerts and warnings. The network supplements the existing alert and warning resources and serves as an additional delivery mechanism for sending life-saving information nationally, regionally, or locally.

The system also reaches persons who may be using computer software weather programs such as “Weatherbug” to receive information. The service is also monitored by State and Federal coordinating centers and provides a “backup” capability for notifying these centers of local emergencies. EAS broadcasts will also be picked up and carried over the NOAA radio network.

### *2 3.8 Dispatch Center Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)*

Both Seattle Police and Seattle Fire use CAD systems to assist in call taking and dispatching resources. These system are also capable of individual and mass notification of department employees and may be used for mobilization of resources as well as emergency notification.

### *2 3.9 City Issued Pager*

A number of employees with the City of Seattle carry alpha-numeric pagers which can be used by dispatch centers to send notices to various branches of individuals including departmental and special branch call pagers.

### *2 3.10 Email Distribution Lists*

A number of City departments and the EOC utilize distribution groups to communicate with important stakeholders and the general public. Critical distribution lists are kept at the EOC for use during emergencies. PIO's and key contacts within City departments also utilize distribution lists to forward messages to groups in times of emergency.

### *2 3.11 Variable Message Signs*

Variable Message Signs (VMS) are electronic traffic signs used on roadways that can provide motorists with important information during emergencies. They may also recommend alternate routes, limit travel speed, warn of duration and location of problem or simply provide alerts or warnings. The City of Seattle Department of Transportation has access to a number of fixed and mobile signs that can be strategically placed along roadways around the City.

### *2 3.12 Highway Advisory Radio*

Travelers Information Stations (TIS), also called Highway Advisory Radio stations (HAR) by the United States Department of Transportation, are licensed low-power AM radio stations operated by departments of transportation, local government, and other entities. The City of Seattle Department of Transportation has access to a number of fixed and mobile transmitters that can be used to distribute information during an emergency.

## **3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **3.1 Actions by Phases**

#### *3 1.1 Normal Operations*

Normal operations involve any mitigation and preparedness activities associated with employee notification or public warning. This includes activities that take before any incident or event that would necessitate emergency public information or employee notification. This phase consists of the following major tasks:

- Train city employees who have responsibilities or roles that support the execution of responsibilities outlined in this annex.
- Educate the public on the ways in which they may receive information and what they should do when they receive a protective action notice.
- Ensure that notification groups and employee information is regularly updated.
- Conduct regular testing of employee notification and public warning systems and correct deficiencies as soon as possible.
- Conduct training and exercises that include the use of notification and warning systems.
- Evaluate new communication technologies that could enhance public warning capabilities.
- Routinely assess methods by which the public receives information and assess how any changes might impact their ability to receive or process protective action notices.

- Update and/or revise the Alert and Warning Annex to the CEMP.

### 3.1.2 Response

Response begins when there is awareness that an incident or event may occur or is already in progress. This includes any pre-event activities that may be undertaken prior to the onset of conditions or the event and consists of the following major tasks:

- Gain and maintain situational awareness.
- Establish a Joint Information System.
- Activate the Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center when necessary.
- Identify and notify personnel that develop and initiate emergency public information.
- Disseminate emergency information over multiple communication systems as appropriate.
- Provide emergency information to the public in accessible formats.
- Gather, coordinate, prepare, obtain authorization and release accurate information to the public in support of all facets of emergency operations.
- Manage public inquiries and rumors.
- Demobilize and/or reassign resources that are no longer necessary for emergency public information operations.
- Capture incident costs associated with emergency public information operations.

### 3.1.3 Recovery

Recovery includes short-term and long-term efforts to rebuild and revitalize areas affected by disaster. For the purposes of this plan, recovery will include the following tasks:

- Inform the public about recovery processes and programs.
- Submit and close out reimbursement claims for operations related to emergency public information.
- Conduct after action review of regional emergency public information operations and submit After Action Review and Corrective Action/Improvement Plan.

## 3.2 Warning Dissemination Strategy

The lead agency for the hazard is responsible for the development and issuance of the protective action notice. In most cases this falls to the scene incident commander unless otherwise specified. The incident commander may delegate portions of the process to their department's PIO.

Once the decision is made to issue a protective action notice, the incident commander or department lead shall:

- Coordinate with their department’s lead public information officer to ensure that the proper elements are provided, and included in any protective action notice.
- Review and approve specific message elements that will go into any protective action notice.
- Ensure the final notice is delivered to the point for dissemination using the identified system.

The Seattle EOC Joint Information Center may assume the responsibility of managing the development and issuance of any protective action notices once staff is in place. Any transfer of responsibilities will be approved by the Incident Commander and EOC Director prior to taking place.

A public information officer or other authority designated by the incident commander will be responsible for crafting of the warning message. In some cases multiple messages may need to be created in order to meet restrictions of various warning systems.

A diagram for the processing of a protective action notice can be found in [Appendix 4](#).

### *3.2.1 Authorization to Release a Protective Action Notice*

As the Chief Elected Official, the Mayor has the ultimate authority on whether or not to issue a protective action notice to the public. However there will be instances where, due to factors such as time or accessibility, it may not be possible to obtain Mayoral approval. In cases where a delay could result in unacceptable risk to the public, the authority to issue a protective action notice rests with the following individuals (in order of authority):

1. The Director or Chief whose department is the designated lead for the hazards listed in the CEMP-Base Plan Section IV, C, 1.
2. If applicable, the on-scene Incident Commander whose department is the designated lead for the hazards listed in the CEMP-Base Plan Section IV, C, 1.

In cases where the event involves a community-wide emergency or other unique incident, decisions regarding public warning and protective action notices will be made at the EOC. In these situations, the determination to take protective actions will be made by a group of ESF leads at the EOC and led by the EOC Director. At a minimum, this group will consist of the senior EOC representatives present from Seattle Police, Seattle Fire, Seattle OEM (as the EOC Director), and Seattle Transportation. Should the EOC not be activated at the time, the Seattle Staff Duty Officer will coordinate the convening of a conference call (or meeting) of the key decision makers listed above to make the recommendation to the Mayor regarding the issuing of a protective action notice.

### *3.2.2 Selection of Warning Systems*

#### Warning Areas Less Than 12 Square Blocks

The following systems will be used whenever a protective action notice is issued to an area that exceeds the capacity for field units to carry out, but involves an area less than 16 blocks (one mile):

- Alert Seattle
- Social Media (e.g. twitter)

It will be the responsibility of the lead PIO, in conjunction with the JIC Coordinator (as designated by the Mayor’s Communication Director) to assess the use of other possible communication systems that could be used to carry the message. A list of possible systems can be found in [Appendix 3](#).

### Warning Areas Greater Than 12 Square Blocks

The following systems will be used whenever a protection action notice is issued to an area in excess of 16 blocks (one mile):

- Alert Seattle
- Social Media (e.g. twitter)
- Emergency Alert System (through King County Sheriff or King County OEM Duty Officer)

It will be the responsibility of the lead PIO, in conjunction with the JIC Coordinator (as designated by the Mayor’s Communication Director) to assess the use of other possible communication systems that could be used to carry the message. A list of possible systems can be found in [Appendix 3](#).

The use of field notifications such as door-to-door and public address systems are carried out at the discretion and approval of the incident commander or unified command, if established.

### *3.2.3 Development of Warning Message Elements*

In all cases, a subject matter expert (or experts) **for the lead agency** will develop the following elements of information for warning messages:

- Describe the nature of the threat and anticipated impact to the public.
- Determine the area to be warned.
- Define the protective action to be taken (i.e. evacuate, shelter-in-place, etc.). In the case of evacuation the subject matter expert will identify the egress routes.
- Identify a “rally point” or a safe location where evacuees can assemble outside of the evacuation zone.
- Set a valid start and end time.

### *3.2.4 Guidance for Truncating Messages*

In cases where the message size must be reduced to meet the limitations of the communication system, PIOs should attempt to place the following elements in the outgoing message (in order of priority):

- Nature of the threat
- Location of the threat
- Source to get more information (e.g. tune to media for more information)

Additional elements should be included (if possible) in the following order:

- Protective action to be taken

- Geographic area to be evacuated.
- Evacuation routes
- Anticipated impacts to the public.

### 3.2.5 Final Message Approvals & Release

The PIO of the lead agency is responsible for the final message development and release of protective action notices until such time as the Joint Information Center in Seattle EOC is staffed. Once staffed, the EOC JIC assumes responsibility for managing the development of messages and their release.

The lead department will utilize existing departmental policies and procedures for ensuring that the SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT and PIO are able to conduct two way communications for the purpose of developing and issuing protective action notices. Procedures should include multiple ways for communicating. In most cases messages will be communicated to department dispatch centers that will then disseminate the messages.

## 3.3 Updating and/or Cancelling Protective Action Notices

Updates to protective action notices should always be done whenever:

- There is a change in protective actions that need to be taken.
- There is a change in the geographic impact area recommended for the protective action notice.
- The notice is extended or cancelled.

The lead PIO will contact and then coordinate with the EOC JIC supervisor to ensure that any updates or cancellations of protective action notices are communicated using the appropriate systems. The JIC Coordinator may be supported by other PIOs or a qualified Seattle Staff Duty Officer as needed.

Consideration should be given to using **all** of the same systems that were used for the initial notification.

The EOC JIC will take responsibility for updates and cancellations once the JIC is sufficiently staffed.

## 3.4 Compliance Monitoring

Several methods will be used to monitor public compliance with protective action notices. Methods used can include:

- Monitoring of traffic cameras from either Washington Department of Transportation or Seattle Department of Transportation.
- Use of spotters (e.g. ACS or CERT volunteers) located along evacuation routes to relay information
- Monitoring of media outlets and live television feeds.
- Use of air assets from King County, the State of Washington, or the Civil Air Patrol.

Compliance monitoring will be managed by the Seattle EOC.

### 3.5 Coordination with Neighboring Jurisdictions

There will be times when a warning issued by the City of Seattle will impact other jurisdiction. In the event a public warning statement extends into another jurisdiction, the issuing agency will coordinate with the Local Warning Point (LWP) of a neighboring jurisdiction or county whenever warning statement has the potential to impact the population of that neighboring jurisdiction by the following means:

1. Direct coordination with the public safety dispatch center of the effected jurisdictions.
2. Through the OEM Staff Duty Officer who will then facilitate contact and coordination with King County OEM. These agencies will, in turn coordinate directly the emergency manager of the effected jurisdiction. The Seattle EOC may assume the responsibility of coordination once it is activated and staffed.

### 3.6 Warning Considerations for Populations with Access and Functional Needs

Any protective action notice will almost certainly include individuals who have access and functional needs. These needs will vary in their degree, and a variety of communication systems will need to be used. The following are considerations that should be used when selecting additional methods for public warning events. Users should note the system disadvantages found in [Appendix 2](#) when selecting a system.

#### 3.6.1 Deaf/Hard of Hearing

The following are potential communication solutions that are specific to the hard of hearing.

- Closed captions
- Television crawls that do not block the captions
- American Sign Language
- Personal warnings
- Loop technology in public address systems
- Email
- Social media such as Facebook and/or Twitter

Seattle communication systems which encompass at least one of these options are:

- Door-to-door notification
- Street-by-street public address systems
- AlertSeattle
- EAS
- Wireless emergency alerts
- Commercial radio and TV
- ADA Accessible Websites
- Email distribution lists

- NOAA Weather Radio
- Highway Advisory Radio
- Seattle Channel
- Social and online media

### 3.6.2 *Blind/low vision*

The following are effective communication solutions that are specific to those who are blind or have low vision:

- Auditory alerts
- Large print
- Braille
- Video description
- Text-to-speech
- Raised print signs
- Accessible websites (i.e. screen-reader friendly)

Seattle communication systems which encompass at least one of these options are:

- Door-to-door notification
- Street-by-street public address systems
- AlertSeattle
- EAS
- Commercial radio and TV
- ADA Accessible Websites
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Highway Advisory Radio
- Seattle Channel

### 3.6.3 *Deaf-blind*

The following are effective communication solutions that are specific to those who are deaf and blind:

- Personal warnings
- Bed shakers
- Vibrating pagers
- Rewritable braille machine

Seattle communication systems which encompass at least one of these options are:

- Door-to-door notification
- EAS
- Commercial radio and TV
- (city issued) pager
- ADA Accessible Websites

### *3 6.4 Cognitive & Developmental Disabilities*

The following are effective communication solutions that are specific to those who have intellectual or developmental disabilities:

- Plain language/instructions
- Picture boards
- Instructions for caregivers.
- Television media

Seattle communication systems which encompass at least one of these options are:

- Door-to-door notification
- Media (re)broadcasts of messages

### *3 6.5 Psychiatric Disabilities*

The following are effective communication solutions that are specific to those who have psychiatric disabilities:

- Plain language/ instructions
- Instructions treatment

Seattle communication systems which encompass at least one of these options are:

- Door-to-door notification

### *3 6.6 Limited English Proficiency*

The following are effective communication solutions that are specific to those with limited English proficiency:

- Simple language/instructions
- Picture boards
- Interpreters for people with LEP
- Translated information

Seattle communication systems which encompass at least one of these options are:

- Door-to-door notification

- Street-by-street public address systems
- AlertSeattle
- Commercial radio and TV
- ADA Accessible Websites
- Email distribution lists
- Seattle Channel

## 4. ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE

The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for revisions and updates to this annex. Revisions and updates are incorporated into the City's Emergency Management Strategic Plan.

### 4.1 Record Keeping

Responding departments should maintain records of protective action notices, press releases, warning logs, and other relevant materials related to the incident. If time and resources permit, consider keeping a record of individual and neighborhood notifications. Seattle OEM will maintain a record of all WebEOC entries and sign in sheets for the EOC operations supporting the incident.

### 4.2 Post Incident Review

The Seattle CEMP Base Plan, Section IV. D, outlines the process to be used to ensure a proper after action review is conducted for all EOC activations and significant events. A standard template of questions is asked for all incidents. In addition to that consideration should be given to evaluating the concepts in this plan. Specific elements to consider in any post incident evaluation include:

- The appropriate use and effectiveness of communication tools.
- The appropriate mix of communication tools.
- Assessment of public compliance with issued protective action notices.
- The process for assessment, development, and communication of protective action notices between the various elements in the field and off site (such as dispatch centers).
- Appropriate assignment of responsibilities.
- The effectiveness of collaborating with neighboring jurisdictions, schools, and businesses.
- The effectiveness of messaging to populations with access and functional needs.
- The process for determining and communicating reentry once the emergency had concluded.

### 4.3 Testing and Maintenance of Warning Systems

The following outlines the testing and maintenance procedures for the two primary warning methods used by the City of Seattle:

**AlertSeattle:** Specific testing for Alert Seattle is set in the AlertSeattle Use Policy and Guidelines, Section 4.2. Additional information on the process for testing can be found in specific standard operating procedures for City departments

**Emergency Alert System (EAS):** The Central Puget Sound Area Emergency Alert System Plan outlines the regular testing of EAS with area broadcasters. As the access point for the City of Seattle, King County OEM also routinely tests the ability to push messages to EAS using the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. Procedures for testing and use by King County are found in the King County Office of Emergency Management Emergency Alert System (EAS) Release Procedures document.

Other systems are used and/or tested on a regular basis by the departments that control them.

## 5. APPENDIX 1 – SAMPLE WARNING MESSAGES

### 5.1 Warning-Shelter-in-Place

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

The City of Seattle \_\_\_\_\_ (name of department ordering the evacuation) advises the public to EVACUATE In an area of (part of the City) \_\_\_\_\_ **due to a** (type of incident) \_\_\_\_\_  
**located at** (location)\_\_\_\_\_.

**The following streets border this area:**

**On the North:** \_\_\_\_\_

**On the East:** \_\_\_\_\_

**On the South:** \_\_\_\_\_

**On the West:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Due to the nature of this situation, you must act IMMEDIATELY!**

**(Shelter In Place Issues, Check All Applicable)**

If you are located in this area, do the following immediately in order to protect yourself:

- Go inside your home, workplace, or the nearest building that appears to be reasonably air tight and stay there. Take your pets with you.
- Close all doors, windows, and any fireplace dampers.
- Turn off any heating or cooling system that draws in air from the outside.
- Keep your radio on and tuned to receive emergency announcements and instructions.
- Gather items that you may need to take with you if you are advised to evacuate.
- People traveling in vehicles should seek shelter in the nearest air tight structure. If a suitable structure is not immediately available, travelers should roll up car windows, close air vents, and turn off the heater or air conditioner until they reach a suitable building.
- If shelter is not immediately available, keep a handkerchief, towel, or damp cloth snugly over your nose and mouth until you get indoors.
- Students at the following school(s) are taking shelter at their schools: \_\_\_\_\_. Parents should not attempt to pick up students at school until the hazardous situation is resolved and they are advised it is safe to do so.

If you know of any neighbors or co-workers with hearing or language problems or other communication needs, please advise them of this message.

**DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 UNLESS YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY THAT REQUIRES POLICE, FIRE, OR EMS RESPONSE.  
MONITOR THE RADIO AND TELEVISION FOR UPDATES.**

**Shelter In Place Area Map or Sketch:**

## 5.2 Warning –Evacuation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

The City of Seattle \_\_\_\_\_ (name of department ordering the evacuation) advises the public to EVACUATE In an area of (part of the City) \_\_\_\_\_ **due to a** (type of incident) \_\_\_\_\_ **located at** (location)\_\_\_\_\_.

**The following streets border this area:**

**On the North:** \_\_\_\_\_

**On the East:** \_\_\_\_\_

**On the South:** \_\_\_\_\_

**On the West:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Due to the nature of this situation, you must act** (immediately, within the next 6 hours, etc.)\_\_\_\_\_.

### **(Evacuation Issues, Check All Applicable)**

- Persons in the evacuation area should use their own transportation to immediately leave the area and seek shelter with friends or family.**
- Persons needing shelter may report to** (shelter or marshaling area name and address)\_\_\_\_\_.
- Buses will be available to pick up anyone who needs transportation to the shelter.**
- You may need to stay out of the area for as long as** (timeframe, if known) \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you need special items such as eyeglasses, prescription drugs, special medical equipment, or diapers, take them with you. Do NOT re-enter the evacuation area or delay your evacuation to get these items.**
- Persons with a disability, who cannot leave the area should call \_\_\_\_\_ to request emergency transportation. This number is only for emergency transportation requests.**
- Students at the following school(s) are being evacuated:** \_\_\_\_\_ . **Parents are advised to listen to radio or TV for information on where they may pick up their children.**

### **(Shelter-In-Place Issues, Check if Applicable)**

- Persons who are in the above area should stay inside, close all windows and doors and shut off all ventilation such as air conditioners and furnaces.**
- Bring pets inside.**

(Additional Instructions)

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**Persons in areas surrounding the evacuation zone should monitor the media for details and updates.**

**Citizens should use text messaging instead of cell phone calls whenever possible to keep lines open for emergency calls**

**DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 UNLESS YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY THAT REQUIRES POLICE, FIRE, OR EMS RESPONSE.  
MONITOR THE RADIO AND TELEVISION FOR UPDATES.**

**Evacuation Area Map or Sketch:**

### 5.3 Supplemental Evacuation Information

The City of Seattle has issued the following advisory for those who live, work, or are visiting in City of Seattle.

Due to the threat of \_\_\_\_\_, the Seattle \_\_\_\_\_ recommends that people who live, work or are visiting inside the following area should evacuate to protect their health and safety:

[Describe area boundaries.]

Use the following evacuation routes: [list evacuation routes]

You should take the following emergency supplies with you :

- clothing for your family for several days
- bedding, pillows, and towels for each family member
- prescription medicines, list of prescribing doctors and their contact number(s)
- Spare eyeglasses
- soap and toiletries
- baby food and diapers
- address book or list of important telephone numbers
- checkbook, credit cards, and cash
- driver's license and identification cards
- portable radio and flashlight, with extra batteries

Plan where you will stay until the emergency situation is resolved. Staying with relatives or friends or in a hotel or motel is a good choice. If you cannot find another place to stay, temporary public shelters will be/have been opened at:

Take your pets with you, but make sure you bring a leash, crate, or cage for them as well as pet food.

Secure your property before you depart. Shut off all appliances, except refrigerators and freezers. Lock all doors and windows.

Expect travel delays on evacuation routes. If you have a substantial distance to drive, you may want to take drinks and ready-to-eat food in your car in case you are delayed.

If you have no means of transportation or if you are physically unable to evacuate on your own, ask a neighbor to help you.

If you have neighbors or co-workers, who need help or do not have transportation, offer to assist them if you can.

If you know of any neighbors or co-workers with hearing or language problems or other communication needs, please advise them of this message.

Please do not use your telephone except to report a true emergency. Stay tuned to this station for more information and instructions from local officials. If you missed some of the information in this advisory, it will be broadcast again soon.

## APPENDIX 2 – EAS CHECKLIST

The following is a checklist for utilizing EAS. The King County Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 Dispatch Center will initiate all EAS messages on behalf of the City of Seattle.

1. Verify the emergency and ensure that it meets all of the following criteria:
  - a. Lives are in danger.
  - b. Direction provided via EAS has the potential to save lives.
  - c. Effective warning cannot be accomplished by other means.
2. Identify corresponding Event Code
3. Determine whether or not a voice message is needed
4. Following instructions specific for your location and equipment, program the EAS encoder with Source, Event Code, Location, Duration, etc.
5. Where applicable, include the following information in the voice message:
  - a. The name of the agency delivering the message
  - b. What will happen
  - c. When it will happen
  - d. Where it will happen
  - e. Geographic area affected (if multiple jurisdictions are affected, include all)
  - f. Emergency protection measures for the public
  - g. If evacuation is required, identify the hazard area and specify desirable transportation routes or direction of travel for evacuees
  - h. Reassurance that officials are addressing the incident
  - i. A statement encouraging people to avoid using telephone systems for the first few hours except for life threatening emergencies
  - j. Advise the public to listen to their local news radio station for more emergency information.
6. Verify that the Internet infrastructure is working or that the Local Relay Network radio channel is not in use and no corresponding EAS messages have been received from another agency.
7. Transmit the message.



8. Verify that the message was transmitted.
9. Keep a record of all message transmissions

## APPENDIX 3 – WARNING COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS MATRIX

Method	Home	Work	In Transit	Our Words	Our Time	Attention to Device Required	Advantages	Disadvantages	Activation Method	Message Size Limitations
<b>Door-to-Door Notification</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	<p>Confirms that public has received notification</p> <p>Verifies who is still in the evacuation zone</p> <p>Able to answer questions and clarify information</p>	<p>Time consuming</p> <p>Very staffing intensive</p> <p>Personnel may not be able to access sites (security, etc.)</p> <p>People may not be receptive or trusting of someone coming to their door.</p> <p>Potentially places personnel at risk</p> <p>Information is limited to personnel’s knowledge</p> <p>Need process to transport, track and update personnel</p> <p>Personnel may not speak language of message recipients</p>	On-site personnel	None

Method	Home	Work	In Transit	Our Words	Our Time	Attention to Device Required	Advantages	Disadvantages	Activation Method	Message Size Limitations
<b>Street-by-Street Public Address Systems</b>	Yes	Some	No	Yes	Yes	No	Reaches public that is not monitoring the media or have a phone	Staffing intensive Message may be “Garbled” or difficult to understand Message may not be heard by all Message may not be trusted	On-site personnel	None, however message length need to be short as possible due to movement of the broadcast vehicle relative to the person receiving it.
<b>Commercial Radio and TV</b>	Yes	Yes.	Yes.	No	No	Yes – TV/ radio	Source is widely used by public.	Information is at Broadcaster’s discretion. Information is heavily filtered.	City PIOs EOC	None
<b>Websites Social Media</b>	Some	Some	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes- Computer/ Internet	Can provide detailed and written information to media and public Can provide links to supporting information Quickly updated.	Public must have internet access Retweets can cause confusion with message as time goes on.	City PIOs EOC	Twitter: 140 characters Others: variable but less restrictive than twitter.

Method	Home	Work	In Transit	Our Words	Our Time	Attention to Device Required	Advantages	Disadvantages	Activation Method	Message Size Limitations
<b>Alert Seattle</b>	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes	<p>Gets our words directly to public</p> <p>Can be used in emergency and non-emergency situations</p> <p>Uses 9-1-1 database as well as registered contact devices.</p> <p>Conveys both voice and text messages that can be received by both limited sight and hearing populations.</p>	<p>Individuals must register contact device online</p> <p>Public must have working contact device</p> <p>Some communications systems require power to work (e.g VOIP)</p> <p>Simultaneous call limitations</p>	Authorized Users	<p>Phone Text: 160 characters</p> <p>Email: 1000 characters (short)</p> <p>9948 characters (long)</p> <p>Text-to-Voice: 3000 characters</p>
<b>Emergency Alerting System (EAS)<sup>1</sup></b>	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	No	Yes- Radio or TV on	<p>Broadcasts information over area broadcasters who participate.</p>	<p>Used only in emergency situations (immediate threat to lives)</p> <p>Broadcasters must agree to carry information</p> <p>Can only be accessed through King County.</p>	King County OEM	Maximum of 2 minutes

<sup>1</sup> The integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) provides the capability of simultaneously disseminating alert messages over the following systems: EAS, Wireless Emergency Alerts, and NOAA Weather Radio. Currently both King County OEM and the State of Washington DEM have IPAWS.

Method	Home	Work	In Transit	Our Words	Our Time	Attention to Device Required	Advantages	Disadvantages	Activation Method	Message Size Limitations
<b>Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)<sup>2</sup></b>	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	No	No – Must hear cell phone	<p>Doesn't require cell phone registration to receive message.</p> <p>Can designate an area smaller than a county.</p> <p>Can "punch through" cell congestion</p> <p>Text message can be received by certain limited sight and hearing populations</p>	<p>Used only in emergency situations (immediate threat to lives)</p> <p>Allows for only VERY short messages.</p> <p>Limited when there is damage to cell infrastructure.</p> <p>May not reach all cell phones</p> <p>Can only be accessed through King County (IPAWS)</p>	King County or State (via EAS)	Maximum of 90 characters
<b>NOAA Weather Radio</b>	Yes	Yes	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes- NOAA Radio	<p>Alerts individuals and businesses with an audible warning tone.</p> <p>NOAA radios can receive notifications during power outages</p>	<p>Must have NOAA radio set to alert.</p> <p>Requires power or battery</p>	<p>PIO's via NWS</p> <p>EOC via NWS</p> <p>EAS*</p>	None

<sup>2</sup> Alert Seattle will be used to send WEA messages starting no later than January 1, 2016. IPAWS through King County will become a secondary (backup) means of communication once that capability is live in Alert Seattle

Method	Home	Work	In Transit	Our Words	Our Time	Attention to Device Required	Advantages	Disadvantages	Activation Method	Message Size Limitations
<b>City Issued Pager</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes-to users	Yes-to users	Yes- Pager	Immediately notifies City employees with a pager.	Message is brief and not detailed  Reaches only those monitoring and who have a pager	???  Public Safety Dispatch Centers	240 characters
<b>Email Distribution Lists</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Conveys our messages in its entirety.  Can include maps or other images with messaging.	User must access to, and be checking email	OEM SDO  EOC  Public Health CCN	None
<b>Variable Message Signs</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Reaches vehicles in Transit  There are both fixed and portable message signs that can be deployed to specific locations  Good tool for broadcasting follow up messages.	Drivers have to see message as they are driving.  Portable message signs take time to position and setup.	SDOT	Portable Message Signs = 48 characters (including spaces)  Fixed, roadside boards = 96 characters

Method	Home	Work	In Transit	Our Words	Our Time	Attention to Device Required	Advantages	Disadvantages	Activation Method	Message Size Limitations
<b>Highway Advisory Radio</b>	Some	Some	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes – Must be tuned to radio station	Portability allows for our message to reach targeted areas in the affected areas. Effective way for pushing updates to emergencies.	Takes time to set up. Public must first be told to listen to specific radio station and have working radio.	SDoT	
<b>Seattle Channel</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes – Must have TV and Cable, internet, or mobile device	Allows for direct control of messaging and the posting of updates	Users will have to have cable and a working TV to and/or Internet connection access.	Seattle Channel Staff EOC JIC	None

# APPENDIX 4 - ISSUING OF WARNING INFORMATION – PROCESS CHART

