

Emergency Support Function #6 - Mass Care, Housing and Human Services

PRIMARY AGENCIES:

King County Cities Emergency Management Organizations
King County Government:
 King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
 King County Emergency Coordination Center (King County ECC)
Private Sector Organizations in King County
Regional King County Emergency Coordination Zones

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC)
Amateur Radio Organizations
The American Red Cross Serving King and Kitsap Counties
King County Animal Services
Washington State University (WSU) King County Extension
Washington Department of Agriculture WARM Team
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Other veterinary and animal care organizations

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to facilitate a coordinated regional approach to the prioritization, establishment and maintenance of mass care, housing and human services capabilities throughout King County. Mass care services include sheltering for people and animals, emergency feeding and relief supplies, first aid, and disaster welfare information. Housing services may include provisional assistance for short and long term needs. Human services may include related recovery efforts such as counseling, benefit claims assistance, identification and postal services, financial services and associated human services that can be delivered through Disaster Assistance Service Centers, as needed. The RDP does not have an ESF 14 at this time. ESF 14 in local emergency plans should address these long term community recovery issues.

Scope

This ESF encompasses all local government agencies, special purpose districts, tribes, non-profit, and private industries in the King County region that are signatories to the Regional Disaster Plan for Public and Private Organizations in King County, Washington (hereby referred as the Regional Disaster Plan, RDP). It addresses responsibilities and priorities for mass care services that are needed by these agencies during emergencies. Specific protocols regarding human shelter setup and organization will be found in the standard operating procedures and checklists of participating jurisdictions.

Mass care in King County is a shared responsibility between county government, incorporated cities, selected special purpose districts and businesses, tribes, the King & Kitsap Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross Serving King and Kitsap Counties (hereby referred to as the Red Cross), and other non-profit agencies. This ESF also defines the parties involved and their responsibilities for providing mass care throughout King County.

In response to the National Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (H.R. 3858-PETS), animal care and pet sheltering issues are mentioned in this ESF. They are addressed in more detail in the Washington State, King County, and local jurisdictional Emergency Management Plans, ESF 11-Agriculture & Natural Resources Annex.

Policies

Participants of the Regional Disaster Plan will assist in the coordination, set-up and operations of mass care services during disasters that affect the King County region. Incorporated jurisdictions will perform emergency management functions within their jurisdictional boundaries as mandated by RCW 38.52.070. A collaborative response by public, private and nonprofit organizations will greatly benefit and facilitate mass care services throughout the King County region.

Following a disaster, mass care services within the King County region will be established based on the following criteria:

- Geographical area, population, and jurisdictions impacted by the disaster event
- Amount of mass care resources available

The Red Cross will provide staff, supplies, and shelters as disaster conditions dictate and resources allow, in accordance with the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-288, as amended by the Stafford Act of 1988).

The RDP, ESF-6 will be implemented based on the impacts of major natural or technological disaster events within the King County region. Each Emergency Coordination Zone (see Zone Coordination map in the Basic Plan) will determine its need for shelters and will activate shelters using resources within the Zones. If the disaster event impacts the entire King County Region, or emergency coordination zone or zones are short of resources, the King County Emergency Coordination Center (King County ECC) will make decisions regarding the location and activation of shelters. Such decisions will be based upon available resources, maximum shelter populations and condition of impacted areas served.

Appropriate federal, state, and local jurisdiction, voluntary agency, and private sector resources will be used as available.

Mass care shelters are temporary in nature and are designed for people displaced as a result of emergency incidents or disasters. All mass care and shelter services will attempt, but not guarantee, to meet current requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the American Red Cross standards. Services will be provided without regard to economic status or racial, religious, political, ethnic, or other affiliation.

Disaster Welfare Information is provided by the Red Cross.

Shelters for pets and livestock will be activated by King County Animal Services with help from WSU Extension, local veterinary and volunteer animal care organizations. Pets and livestock shelters may be separated from shelters for citizens. All reasonable and practical steps will be taken to ensure that shelters do not become contaminated.

The National Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (H.R. 3858-PETS) requires local and state emergency preparedness authorities include plans for pets and service animals in disaster plans, grants FEMA the authority to assist states and local communities in developing disaster plans to accommodate people with pets and service animals, authorizes federal funds to help create pet-friendly emergency shelter facilities, and allows FEMA to provide assistance for individuals with pets and service animals, and the animals themselves following a major disaster.

Situation

Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

King County is vulnerable to all of the natural and technological disaster events that are detailed in the King County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis

(HIVA). Historically, disasters in King County tend to have cumulative impacts that disrupt utility, communications, medical, transportation, and food service systems at the same time. Because of those impacts, emergency response efforts can be seriously reduced. The movement of disaster supplies and service providers, emergency workers, and volunteers can be impeded. Professional emergency responders may be unable or delayed in reaching their assigned organizations due to injury, death, transportation system failures, or family problems.

There may be a requirement for shelter sites for hundreds to thousands of people that are impacted by the disaster. Many will be separated from their families due to impassible transportation routes and gridlock.

Planning Assumptions

The local and regional utilities, communications, lifelines, medical and transportation systems and networks will sustain damage. Disaster response and recovery activities will be difficult to coordinate.

Public, private and volunteer organizations and the general public will have to utilize their own resources and be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days, possibly longer.

No single agency or organization will be able to satisfy all emergency resource requests during a major emergency or disaster.

The Emergency Coordination Zones will effectively function in identifying and coordinating resources for mass care within each Zone.

A partnership approach will be needed between public, private, tribal, non-profit and volunteer agencies in order to provide sheltering and human services for large-scale disaster events in King County.

King County Parks and Recreation, a division of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, is the lead agency for coordination of emergency mass care sheltering in unincorporated King County. Cities in King County will provide their own shelters using city staff, resources, and facilities. Mutual aid resources will be utilized for small events, but unable to meet the needs of a large-scale emergency or disaster.

Shortages of emergency response personnel will exist creating a need for auxiliary fire, police, search and rescue, emergency medical, transit, public works, utilities, health, shelter management and support personnel. Private sector and voluntary organization support may be needed to augment disaster response and recovery efforts.

Animal care and pet sheltering issues are addressed in more detail in the Washington State, King County, and local jurisdictional Emergency Management Plans, ESF 11-Agriculture & Natural Resources Annex, and in individual agency operating plans.

The Washington State Departments of Agriculture (WSDA) and Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) represent animal health concerns of the state which may involve the diagnosis, prevention, and control of foreign animal diseases and diseases of public health significance, and assistance in the disposal of dead animals in accordance with Appendix B (State Animal Response Plan) of Emergency Support Function 11 of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Concept Of Operations

General

During small local disasters when the King County ECC is not activated, the Red Cross, in partnership with the affected city or King County Parks in unincorporated King County, will provide shelter and mass care services coordinated through the chapter headquarters, in accordance with their Chapter Disaster Response Plan, as appropriate to their operational capacity.

When larger-scale disasters impact and overtax individual cities, the city will request support from its Emergency Coordination Zone. Each Emergency Coordination Zone will determine its need for shelters and Disaster Assistance Service Centers, and will then activate those services as resources permit. When an Emergency Coordination Zone is short of mass care resources, it will forward a request for shelter to the King County Emergency Coordination Center. Requests for shelters and Disaster Assistance Services Centers will be coordinated through the King County ECC following a major disaster impacting King County, or when requested by an Emergency Coordination Zone. Requests will be prioritized and coordinated by the King County ECC Health and Human Services Group representatives consisting of the King County Parks and Recreation Division, the Red Cross, Public Health-Seattle & King County, and selected Zone organizations as needed.

When the King County ECC is activated, placement, coordination, operations, and support of shelters will be a cooperative effort between the King County ECC, Emergency Coordination Zones, the Red Cross and selected social service agencies. The King County Parks and Recreation Division will designate shelter coordinators to staff the King County ECC during activations, and be the primary agency in King County government for mass care.

King County Animal Services will designate and approve local volunteer animal care groups to staff the King County ECC and will be the primary King County agency for animal rescue, mass care, sheltering and logistical support. If needed, King County Animal Services may request assistance from other organizations such as the Humane Society of the US.

If needed, the Washington Animal Response Management (WARM) Team can be contacted for assistance in coordinating the response of state agencies in assisting local and volunteer organizations to provide all animals affected by natural or technological disasters with emergency medical care; evacuation; rescue; temporary confinement, shelter, food and water; and identification for return to the owner. The primary agency for the WARM Team is WSDA with direct contact for animal issues in the State Veterinarian's Office. Upon notification by the State Warning System of a potential or actual event requiring response, WSDA will notify all support agencies and organization members by telephone or through other communication facilities.

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is a support agency to the WARM Team under ESF 11, Appendix B, of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and provides expertise and response to issues impacting wildlife health, rescue, and sheltering. If the incident involves only wildlife, WDFW should be directly contacted through the WA Emergency Management Division for coordinating the response.

Organization

When the King County ECC is activated, the King County ECC Health and Human Services Group will coordinate the placement, opening, and support of shelters, mass care activities and Disaster Assistance Service Centers in coordination with the Regional Coordination Zones, the Red Cross, and other selected voluntary and business organizations. If animal sheltering is needed, King County Animal Services will assist with the identification, management and logistical support of animal shelters for pets and livestock.

When disaster events impact an individual city, it will utilize its own resources for mass care in accordance with its comprehensive emergency management plan as mandated by RCW 38.52. Should the event overtax the city, it will proclaim a disaster and request support from its Regional Coordination Zone. The Zone in turn will request assistance from the King County ECC if its resources are overwhelmed.

All local jurisdictions and tribes should report the status of shelters to King County ECC and, if activated, their Zone Coordination Center. RDP Signatories should

report any shelters to their local jurisdiction or tribe where they are located. Shelter status information for humans and animals will be maintained by King County Parks.

Procedures

The Red Cross maintains procedures for the opening and management of shelters. Procedures for identifying city-owned and King County Government owned parks facilities that can be used for shelters are maintained by individual cities and the King County DNRP ECC representatives. All shelters opened and managed by cities and King County will be in accordance with the Red Cross standards. All procedures for support of shelters are maintained by the appropriate support agencies.

Mitigation/Preparedness/Response/Recovery Actions

All signatory partners should ensure to the best of their ability that their personnel and equipment are protected from the effects of disasters, and that appropriate emergency procedures and operating plans address and comply with local, state and federal response and recovery guidelines.

All response and recovery activities are detailed in jurisdictional plans and procedures, and appropriate state and federal recovery guidelines.

Responsibilities

Primary Agencies	Responsibilities
King County Cities and King County Government	King County cities and government will provide mass care in accordance with their comprehensive emergency management plans as mandated in RCW 38.52. The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Recreation Division will provide staff and resources to set up and manage shelters in unincorporated King County in partnership with the Red Cross, and in selected cities with mutual aid agreements. All shelters will be managed in accordance with nationally recognized Red Cross standards. If overwhelmed, the impacted cities will proclaim a disaster and request aid from their regional emergency coordination zone.

Regional Disaster Plan for Public and Private Organizations in King County, Washington

Regional King County Emergency Coordination Zones	Regional King County Emergency Coordination Zones will provide support to cities in their zone for mass care by identifying and coordinating public, private, and volunteer resources within the Zone. All shelters will be managed in accordance with nationally recognized Red Cross standards. If the impacted zone is overwhelmed, it will request aid through the King County ECC.
Private Sector Organizations	Private sector organizations will provide support for mass care in the cities in which they reside if resources are available.

Support Agencies

Support Agencies	Responsibilities
Public Health-Seattle & King County	Provide inspections and health services to shelters throughout the King County Region.
Amateur Radio Organizations in King County	If resources are available, provide portable communications capability between shelters and emergency coordination zones.
The Red Cross	<p>Provide representatives in the King County ECC for coordination of shelter requests as part of the Health and Human Services Team.</p> <p>Provide mass care for localized events not requiring activation of the King County ECC.</p> <p>Initial resources (staff, supplies, locations) to provide mass care shelters, feeding, and emergency first aid for shelters during large disaster events if available.</p> <p>Provide resources and staff for emergency food service supporting shelters and responders, if resources permit.</p>
King County Animal Services, WSU King County	Provide representatives in the King County ECC for coordination of animal issues, including both pets and livestock.

<p>Extension and Other Veterinary and Animal Care Organizations</p>	<p>Provide and/or designate resources, staff and volunteers for animal rescue, mass care and sheltering</p> <p>Provide for the identification, planning, logistics, operation and management of animal rescue, mass care and sheltering as defined in the WA State and the King County Emergency Management Plan, ESF 11-Agriculture & Natural Resources Annex</p>
<p>Washington Department of Agriculture WARM Team (WSDA-WARM)</p>	<p>The purpose of the Washington Animal Response Management (WARM) Team is to coordinate the response of state agencies in assisting local and volunteer organizations to provide all animals affected by natural or technological disasters with emergency medical care; evacuation; rescue; temporary confinement, shelter, food and water; and identification for return to the owner.</p>
<p>Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)</p>	<p>The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is a support agency to the WARM Team under ESF 11, Appendix B, of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and provides expertise and response to issues impacting wildlife health, rescue, and sheltering.</p>

References

- Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.52
- Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- King County Emergency Management Plan
- Local Emergency Management Plans within King County
- Chapter Disaster Response Plan for American Red Cross Serving King & Kitsap Counties
- American Red Cross Regulations 3000, 3030
- Regional Disaster Plan for Private and Public Organizations in King County, Basic Plan
- H.R. 3858 - The National Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS)