

Regional Disaster Plan for Public and Private Organizations in King County

What is the Plan?

- Elected officials from Seattle, Suburban Cities and King County, serving on the Regional Policy Committee of King County, passed a motion in October 1998 to initiate the development of a regional disaster plan for King County
- The plan provides the framework needed to inter-link the emergency response plans of a wide range of organizations
- The plan allows potentially hundreds of entities to behave in a coordinated manner following a severe disruption; “who is going to do what”
- Representatives from local government, specific emergency functions, schools, private sector, hospitals and other stakeholder groups have been involved in creating this plan
- The plan emphasizes collaborative response operations that capitalize on geographical coordination within the county that are already utilized by fire and emergency medical services
- This plan streamlines the information necessary to assess the county-wide impacts of disasters and increase the speed and efficiency of the relief effort
- It will also assist with larger scale emergencies such as large aircraft accidents or hazardous material incidents

Your Role as an Elected Official

- As an elected official, who establishes public policy for your jurisdiction or agency, you have an obligation to ensure the safety of your community and citizens
- State law (RCW 38.52) requires incorporated cities to have emergency management programs
- However, minimal guidelines exist for multi-disciplinary or multi-jurisdictional response involving municipalities, fire districts and private industry
- To ensure proper emergency response to the citizens of King County, regardless if they reside in a city, district or unincorporated area, the region needs to be prepared to work together
- Elected officials support for this regional planning is CRUCIAL to the success of these efforts

Timeline & Goals

- Some jurisdictions and agencies in the three different county zones are working on developing their collaborative response plans
- The current completed plan has been adopted and signed by close to 100 public, private and nonprofit organizations in King County

How You, as an Elected Official, Can Help

- Provide the support internally towards your organization’s emergency management efforts
- Become a signatory to the Regional Disaster Plan
- Support and participate in additional regional planning process efforts
- Interact and become involved with your neighboring jurisdictions, agencies and districts regarding emergency management endeavors