

**KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 12  
ENERGY AND UTILITIES**

**PRIMARY AGENCY:** Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Puget Sound Energy  
Seattle City Light  
Tanner Electric  
Seattle Public Utilities  
King County Department of Transportation  
King County DDES  
King County DES  
King County Sewer and Water Special Purpose Districts

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**A. Purpose:**

To maintain liaison with public utilities providing services in King County and coordinate the continued operations of public utilities necessary to provide essential services to King County citizens, businesses, and governments.

**B. Scope:**

The types of public and private utilities providing services in King County are electric, water, and sewer; telephone, television, radio, pager, and cable services.

The electric utilities, which include Puget Sound Energy, Seattle City Light, Tanner Electric, Bonneville Power, and others, are an organized collection of public and private generating and distribution facilities. They are interconnected to form the Northwest Power Pool. Relying on the power pool concept, the electric power industry has developed the capability to provide power even under the most extreme conditions.

Water supply and sewer systems within King County are both publicly and privately owned, are organized at either municipal or special purpose district level. In many cases, the water and sewer districts are interconnected.

Natural gas is provided by Puget Sound Energy Company, Williams Pipeline Company and Enumclaw Gas. Distribution of natural gas is subject to control by the federal government in response to such factors as supply and areas of excessive demand.

Telephone service is provided by US Qwest, Telephone Utilities of Washington, General Telephone Companies, U.S. Sprint and MCI.

Telegraph and other cable service is provided by Western Union Telegraph Company, TCI Cable, Viacom, Chambers, All Points, and other approved cable companies.

Miscellaneous common carriers located in Seattle provide mobile dispatch service, paging service, and radiotelephone service.

## **II. POLICIES:**

The Defense Electric Power Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy has the responsibility of working with the electric power industry to ensure maximum generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power to meet essential needs within the state of Washington, as well as other states which depend on common sources of electric power by virtue of interconnections.

The Federal Government is responsible for the direct management of the federal water supplies in the state of Washington and for the release of these supplies and of those in other states required to meet the needs in the state of Washington when possible. (Federal water flow systems are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.) In addition, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has the primary responsibility to coordinate the development of emergency plans and programs to ensure the provision of potable water supplies for community uses in an emergency.

The U.S. Department of Energy has the responsibility of working with the gas industry to ensure maximum production and for the release of natural gas in transmission systems to meet the most essential needs.

Washington State, through the State Emergency Resource Management Organization, will coordinate and control the services provided by the public utilities. The state Emergency Resource Management Plan provides for four organizations to work with public utilities in a national or local emergency: 1) Electric Power Organization, 2) Water Organization, 3) Gas Organization, and 4) Utility Organization. These organizations have overall responsibility for providing specific policies and taking those necessary actions required for the effective provision and utilization of available resources to meet essential and emergency needs. In addition, they shall be responsible for providing the state support needed for the restoration of the public utility systems and coordinate with the County appointed utility coordinator.

King County governments (County, cities, special purpose districts) provide no centralized system other than through the King County EOC, for the coordination of emergency services provided by public utilities.

## **III. SITUATION:**

### **A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards**

A significant emergency or disaster may severely damage and limit access to the utilities infrastructure as we know it today.

See King County HIVA for discussion of hazards..

### **B. Planning Assumptions**

The County's support of the response to the emergency or disaster event may be severely impacted. No guarantee of a perfect response system is expressed or implied by the King County Emergency Management Plan or this ESF. King County can only endeavor to make every reasonable effort to respond based on the situation, information, and resources available at the time of the disaster.

Specific resources may be exhausted due to impacts of disasters. Extraordinary measures may have to be taken in order to resupply County departments.

The normal forms of communication and utilities may be severely interrupted during the early phases of an emergency or disaster.

Transportation to affected areas may be cut off or delayed because of damage to roads, bridges, airports, seaports, and other transportation means.

Following an emergency or disaster, there may be a need to provide utilities, resources, goods, and services to the affected areas.

Fundamental resources such as water, food, first aid, shelter and sanitation supplies, fuels, and hand tools may be needed. King County does not have sufficient supplies and equipment on hand for long-term use.

Disaster response and recovery may be limited by the inability of the general citizenry to be self-sufficient for more than three days without additional supplies of food, water, medical and shelter resources.

There may be delays in all normal services such as police, fire, EMS, public works, transportation, and water/sewer and utilities response due to damage to facilities and equipment and shortages of personnel.

There may be shortages of critical drugs and medicines at medical facilities due to limited storage capacities.

The management and logistics of resource support is highly situational and is dependent upon the event, resource accessibility, transportation systems available, and location of vendors and suppliers.

## **IV CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

## **A. General**

When the King County EOC is activated for emergencies or disasters, it will be the focal point for the establishment of priorities for restoration of utilities across the geographical “region” of King County, and if needed, the establishment of emergency measures to curtail and ration utility services. Depending upon the utility outage, both private and public utility purveyors will be invited to work in the EOC to expedite restoration of utility services. The EOC will attempt to coordinate with utilities and provide them with situation and damage reports to facilitate the return to service of utilities as soon as possible.

Local jurisdictions (cities, special purpose districts, Ports, Indian Tribes) will officially proclaim a disaster or emergency and expend available resources (including mutual aid and private sector procurement) prior to seeking assistance through the King County EOC.

When the requirement for coordinated use and mobilization of public utility resources is necessary to County government operations and for the protection of life and property, a County Utility Coordinator will be appointed by the Manager, Office of Emergency Management.

All public utilities, whether publicly or privately owned, will be expected to manage and operate the utility within their own jurisdiction, providing emergency services based on requirements and capabilities.

Public utility resources will be used to meet immediate and essential emergency needs. If adequate resources are not available locally, request for additional resources will be made through the King County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Requests for public utility resources that cannot be filled locally will be forwarded through emergency management channels to state government.

To the maximum extent practicable, and within the limitations imposed by either the federal or state government, public utility systems will continue to provide service through their normal means. If curtailment of service is required, the systems will, comply with such curtailment.

The County Utility Coordinator will be the County liaison with public utilities not directly under the control of a city, county or state government agency, and will direct emergency utility services for the County from the County Emergency Operations Center under the supervision of the EOC Supervisor.

The County Utility Coordinator will initiate and maintain an information program through the King County Joint Information Center (JIC) to keep the public and utilities informed of utility services restrictions and requirements.

The King County Department of Transportation (DOT), through the Road Services Division, will provide manpower and equipment necessary to ensure public utilities

compliance with state statutes and local codes through inspections, review of designs, and construction management.

The King County Roads Division will issue permits for utility work on County road right of ways.

One Call Concepts Inc., through its "one call system" will provide notice to public utilities and government agencies of contractors intent to excavate anywhere in the County so that utilities can field mark their facilities before excavation (telephone 1-800-424-5555).

## **B. Organization**

The King County EOC Coordination Section (Utilities and Liaison) representatives, lead by the County Utility Coordinator, will coordinate utility issues from the EOC.

## **C. Procedures**

All King County departments, Liaison representatives in the EOC, and utility organizations will utilize their own internal procedures. King County EOC procedures will be disseminated to all representatives working within the EOC.

## **D. Mitigation Activities:**

All King County departments will reduce the effects of disasters by providing safe work environments for their staff members, to include seismic tie-downs, emergency supplies, and selected operational training as mandated by each department's procedures.

## **E. Preparedness/Response Activities**

All King County departments will ensure that appropriate staff are identified, trained, and provided appropriate support to prepare each department to respond to emergencies and disasters. Primary documents are the King County Emergency Management Plan and department plans and procedures.

## **F. Recovery Activities**

All King County departments will identify, train and provide appropriate support to selected staff in order to perform damage assessment, manage recovery projects, including documentation and costs, and return each department to normal operations

## **V. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **A. Primary Agency:**

**The Manager of the Office of Emergency Management shall:**

Select an individual to coordinate emergency services with public utilities. The Manager will appoint the County Utility Coordinator from the Department of Executive Services.

**The County Utility Coordinator shall** be the liaison with all public utilities in the County, and the State Emergency Resource Management Organization and shall be responsible for:

- Establish liaison with all public utilities providing essential services in the County.
- Organizing the utilities liaisons in the Coordination Section of the County EOC and disseminating information through them.
- Coordinating the use of those public utility resources available and upon which no restrictions have been placed by higher levels of authority.
- Ensuring compliance with state statutes, local codes, and any restrictions or limitations placed on the utilization of public utilities by the state or Federal Government.
- Coordinating public utilities requests for assistance with state government when they cannot be filled locally.
- Advise all public utilities operating in the County, of federal and state restrictions or limitations; essential utility services required for emergency operations of County government, and the health and safety of the population; and the restrictions, limitations and operating policies established by County government affecting public utility operations in the County.
- Assist public utilities by coordinating utility operations with government agencies.

**B. Support Agencies:**

**The Director, Department of Executive Services (DES) shall:**

Provide personnel to fill the role of County Utility Coordinator as needed.

**The Director, Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES), shall:**

Provide utilities assistance in ensuring compliance with state statutes and local codes through inspections, review of design, construction management and issuing required permits.

**The Director, Department of Transportation shall:**

Issue permits to utilities for construction on County road right of ways.

Provide for the review of design and construction plans for utility services to be installed on County road right of ways.

Provide for the inspection of public utility services to ensure proper implementation of permits affecting public utility service in County road right of way.

**VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

All King County departments and public and private utilities will acquire resources from normal supply sources. The King County EOC will assist in resource procurement after all normal sources have been expended.

**VII. REFERENCES**

King County EMP, Appendix 1, Direction and Control

**VIII. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

See Appendix 4, Definitions

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**Agency Approval**

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**Date**