

**KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 23
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

PRIMARY AGENCY Department of Executive Services, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

SUPPORT AGENCIES

Department of Community and Human Services
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Seattle-King County Department of Public Health
Department of Transportation
Department of Development and Environmental Services
Department of Judicial Administration
Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
King County Sheriff's Office
King County Assessor
Superior Court
District Court
Prosecuting Attorney
County Executive's Office
King County Council
K. C. Fire Chief's Association
American Red Cross
Puget Sound Energy
Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The purpose of this ESF is to establish uniform policies for King County Government to conduct rapid impact assessment and assessment of damages resulting from natural or technological disasters.

B. Scope

Disasters cause injury or death to individuals and damage to property, the environment, businesses, nonprofit entities, and to government-owned assets. Damage information is collected in three phases: 1) to drive the response process, 2) determine eligibility to federal disaster aid, and 3) verify the damage in individual sites.

To determine a priority of response efforts, Rapid Impact Assessment (RIA) must be promptly carried out to provide the EOC information on life safety threats, major problems, and the status of lifelines, essential facilities, imminent hazards, and access routes.

A more quantified damage assessment process is then conducted to determine eligibility for various forms of disaster aid; this process is called Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA).

Combined Verification includes a detailed inspection of individual sites by specialized personnel and is a procedure established by FEMA to qualify for various recovery programs.

II. POLICIES

Rapid Impact Assessment (RIA) can be activated following any event where disaster intelligence is needed. RIA involves teamwork among personnel from law enforcement, fire, public works, utilities, transit, and other agencies within and outside of King county government. Secondly, the media, volunteer organizations, businesses and industry, and private citizens can contribute to this process.

FEMA policies mandate that damage from disaster events and federal aid and assistance are organized and approved by county boundaries. Even when the effect of an incident is so profound as to be readily apparent that the county will qualify for federal disaster relief, a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) must be completed. King County OEM will distribute PDA forms to all public jurisdictions within the county, as well as providing individual citizens and businesses with “hotline telephone numbers” to report damage and register with FEMA. Once jurisdictions have completed their PDAs, they will forward them to KC OEM, who will subtotal and transmit to Washington State EMD, to assist the state in determining if a Presidential Declaration is warranted. If the PDAs ultimately lead to a Presidential Declaration of Disaster authorizing “Public Assistance,” then detailed Project Worksheets [previously titled Damage Survey Reports (DSRs)] of public sector damages will be completed by public and other qualifying agencies. Other inspectors survey damages suffered by individuals and businesses if “Individual Assistance” is authorized. These activities are coordinated through the King County Office of Emergency Management.

III. SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

See Basic Plan.

B. Planning Assumptions

An emergency or disaster has occurred, causing damage that requires an initial rapid impact assessment, which will be followed by a thorough damage assessment.

King County Government, cities and special purpose districts will support both assessment activities.

Damage assessment information for businesses and citizens will initially be reported through the King County EOC phone bank “hotline,” and later through the FEMA registration process.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

Rapid Impact Assessment (RIA) is a process that is launched to quickly capture the degree that the event has challenged the community. The goals of RIA or ‘rapid reconnaissance’ are to assess:

- 1) Boundaries of the disaster area
- 2) Social, economic and environmental impacts
- 3) Assessment of jurisdictions impacted
- 4) Status of transportation routes
- 5) Status of communication systems
- 6) Access points to the disaster
- 7) Status of operating facilities and critical facilities
- 8) Hazard specific information
- 9) Weather data
- 10) Status of key personnel
- 11) Resource shortfalls
- 12) Priorities for response
- 13) Status of upcoming activities
- 14) Historical information
- 15) Endangered Species Act impact

The RIA will steer initial response activities. As the event unfolds, the goal of damage assessment may shift toward making the case for a Presidential Disaster Declaration. To facilitate the receipt of more comprehensive damage information, a damage information hot line (phone bank) may be set up and staffed by the EOC. If it appears that the county may meet the threshold for federal disaster assistance, the King County Office of Emergency Management will complete a formal Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA), see ESF 21 Recovery.

The Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) are tools used, in part, to determine the county’s eligibility for disaster assistance. At this stage, county personnel accompany state and federal inspectors through damaged areas. Based

largely on these assessments, the King County Executive may ask that the Governor seek federal disaster assistance.

B. Organization

The King County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will shift from response activities to recovery activities including RIA and PDA. King County departments will provide information on their rapid impact assessments to the EOC.

King County Departments with operational functions will have to adapt their information management systems so they can accommodate expanded communication lines, screen and synthesize complex or incomplete information, and provide timely reports in pre-determined formats to the EOC.

C. Procedures

see appendix 1 to this ESF

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-- Department of Executive Services, OEM

Coordinate the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of damage assessment information from County departments, cities, and special purpose districts. Forward PDA information to the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD).

Coordinate the collection, evaluation and dissemination of damage assessment information from citizens and the business community. Forward that information to the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD).

B. All Support Agencies

Perform rapid impact assessment and damage assessment tasks in support of this ESF (see appendix 23A).

Evaluate staffing and operational capabilities and damage to real property and utilities and report this information to the King County EOC in a timely manner.

King County Assessor

Estimate the value of damage to real property and utilities and the tax impacts on damage to public and private property and business interruption.

King County Sheriff's Office

Deploy Search and Rescue support organizations (4x4 Rescue, etc.) and use field personnel to gather information about the event impacts.

Seattle-King Chapter of the American Red Cross

Conduct Red Cross 'windshield survey' damage assessment of residential structures in the affected area and report this information to the King County EOC.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Transportation, communication equipment, staffing, information tracking systems, and other resources as necessary.

VII. REFERENCES

Rapid Assessment Resource Guide, RG 250.7 (B), August 1995

Washington State CEMP, July 1996

Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning Guide, April 1996

The Federal Response Plan, For Public Law 93-288, April 1992

Approving Agency

Date