

**Skagit County Hospital District #304**  
**United General Hospital**  
2000 Hospital Drive  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

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**Overview**

United General Hospital participated in the initial Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Process in 2003 as part of Affiliated Health Services. Since disaffiliation in 2004, United continues to be proactive in the hazard vulnerability analysis process and plans to continue participation in the county-wide process. The Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (available through the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management) outlines the natural disasters most likely to affect the Skagit County area. This portion of that plan outlines United General Hospital's vulnerability and mitigation strategies.

**Asset Profile**

<b>Facility/Property</b>	<b>2008 Estimated Value</b>
Auto	\$20,691
Building	\$39,419,198
Fixed	\$538,911
Land	\$5,447,447
Land Improvements	\$767,376
Moveable	\$6,668,830
CIP (construction in process)	\$1,216,565

**Estimated Relative Threat**

The United General Hospital Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA), which is reviewed annually by the Facility Safety Sub-committee, rates probability, human impact, property impact, business impact, preparedness, internal response and external response to determine a score of relative risk associated with each type of disaster outlined in the assessment. It should be noted that the greatest risks have the highest scores. After review and any necessary updates, the HVA is presented to the Quality and Safety Committee for review.

As indicated in the attached HVA, United General Hospital is most vulnerable to the following natural hazards – ranked in order:

Flood

Earthquake

Severe Storm

### **Recent (5-Year) Natural Hazard Event History**

2003 Skagit River Flood Event: United General Hospital was evacuated due to major flooding potential.

2006 Skagit River Flood Event: As a precautionary measure, United General Hospital decided to evacuate during the 2006 Skagit River Flood event.

2008 Winter Storm and Flooding Events: United General Hospital incurred additional expenses during the snow event of 2008 because of snow removal costs, curb damage and overtime costs. Preliminary damage assessments have been submitted.

Other: Minor damage to roof top antennas has occurred in the past five years due to severe storms.

### **Existing Applicable Natural Hazard Mitigation Policies, Ordinances and Codes**

United General Hospital follows the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and standards as well as uniform building and electric codes. United General Hospital also follows the Joint Commission Emergency Management Standards for Critical Access Hospitals and the Washington State Department of Health recommendations specifically for hospitals in regards to disaster planning/emergency management. In doing so, United General Hospital ensures that all four phases of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery) are considered and that disaster planning is consistent, timely, all-hazard focused and organization wide.

### **Emergency Management / Disaster Planning**

The United General Hospital Disaster Plan outlines United's preparedness, response and recovery strategies. A copy of that plan is available to staff online and in hard copy throughout the hospital. United General Hospital's Quality and Safety Committee, which consists of physician representation, board representation, management representation and front line staff representation is updated on a quarterly basis by the Facility Safety Sub-committee regarding plan updates, drill and exercise after action plans, Joint Commission standards and the HVA.

United General works with local the Emergency Management Department, Public Health, the Region One Hospital Preparedness Committee, the Region One Healthcare Coalition, the Washington State Hospital Association and other agencies in regards to emergency management/disaster planning.

### **2003-2008 Completed All-Hazard Mitigation Strategies**

The following mitigation strategies outlined in 2003 have been completed. Policies are in place and they are a standard business practice.

- Equipment and furniture policy in place to keep heavy items low and/or to brace.
- Hazardous chemical storage in least likely spill locations.
- Critical supplies listing and vendor agreements are in place.
- Emergency/Disaster kits are available in each department.
- Disaster Plan is updated annually and drills/exercises focus on improving the plan.
- A portable trash pump has been purchased.
- Evacuation plans are posted in each department in a location accessible by staff and patients/customers.
- A three day food supply is kept on hand.
- Fuel supply for three days for the electrical generator is kept on hand.
- Snow removal equipment has been purchased by the hospital.
- Procedures are in place for ventilation intakes.
- Fire insurance coverage is in line with fire codes and regulations.
- Automatic sprinkler heads, smoke detectors, fire resistant walls and doors are in place.
- Annual maintenance of fire extinguishers and monthly checks are in place.
- Monthly fire drills are conducted.
- A no smoking policy is in effect. United is preparing to become tobacco free in July of 2009.
- A security contract is in place to deter arson and vandalism.
- Extension cords are prohibited.
- Air circulation is provided for copy machines and other office machines.
- Flammable liquids are stored properly.

### **2003-2008 Carry-Over Mitigation Strategies**

The following mitigation strategies were outlined for the 2003-2008 timeframe but have not been completed due to funding restraints. They remain valid measures for the 2008-2013 timeframe.

- Reinforced walls to endure water pressure, flood walls outside of the building
  - Lead department: Administration, Materials Management, Plant Operations and Clinical Services
  - Funding: Grant and budget
  - Timeline: Long Term
  - Status: Remains a valid strategy but is dependent upon receiving outside mitigation grant funding
- Installing water tight doors and permanent pumps
  - Lead department: Administration, Materials Management, Plant Operations and Clinical Services
  - Funding: Grant and budget
  - Timeline: Long Term

- Status: Remains a valid strategy but is dependent upon receiving outside mitigation grant funding

### **2008-2013 All Hazard Mitigation Strategies**

- ◆ Emergency Back-up Power Enhancements (new generator)
  - Lead Department: Plant Operations
  - Funding: Budget and/or Grant Funding
  - Timeline: Short Term
- ◆ Emergency Code and Disaster Overview for New Hires
  - Lead Department: Human Resources and Quality Resources
  - Funding: Budget
  - Timeline: In place and ongoing
- ◆ Installation of Additional Pumps
  - Lead Department: Plant Operations
  - Funding: Budget and/or Grant Funding
  - Timeline: Long Term
- ◆ Secure Equipment and Retrofit Buildings
  - Lead Department: Administration and Plant Operations
  - Funding: Grant Funding
  - Timeline: Long Term
- ◆ Establish Ongoing Upgrade and Inspection of Seismic Infrastructure
  - Lead Department: Administration and Plant Operations
  - Funding: Budget and/or Grant Funding
  - Timeline: Long Term
- ◆ Install Storm Covers for Windows and Doors
  - Lead Department: Plant Operations
  - Funding: Grant Funding
  - Timeline: Long Term