

**SKAGIT COUNTY  
COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**APPENDIX 1  
GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS**

**A CENTRAL COMPUTERIZED ENFORCEMENT SERVICE SYSTEM (ACCESS)** – Statewide law enforcement data network controlled and administered by the Washington State Patrol. Provides capability to send warning and notification of emergencies from state and local jurisdictions.

**AREA COMMAND (UNIFIED AREA COMMAND)** – An organization established (1) to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an Incident Command System (ICS) organization or (2) to oversee the management of large of multiple incidents to which several Incident management Teams have been assigned. Area Command has the responsibility to set overall strategy and priorities and allocate critical resources according to priorities. Area Command becomes Unified Area Command when incidents are multi-agency or multi-jurisdictional in nature. Area Command may be established at an Emergency Operations Center facility or at some location other than an Incident Command Post.

**COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NETWORK (CEMNET)** – Dedicated two-way Very High Frequency (VHF) low-band radio system. Provides direction and control capability for state and local jurisdictions for administrative use, and during an emergency or disaster. This is an emergency management radio system belonging to and managed by the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division.

**DAMAGE ASSESSMENT** – A system of collecting, reporting, and evaluating emergency and disaster situations to facilitate disaster analysis, emergency public information, local requests for State and Federal assistance, disaster declarations, and recovery efforts.

**DISASTER** – An event (expected or unexpected) in which a community's available and pertinent resources are expended, or the need for resources exceeds availability, and in which a community undergoes severe danger and/or incurs losses that disrupt the community's social or economic structure and some or all of the community's essential functions.

**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE (DFO)** – The office established in or near the designated area to support federal and state response and recovery operations. The Disaster Field Office houses the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) and the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and where possible, the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and support staff.

**EMERGENCY** – An event, expected or unexpected, which requires emergency assistance to save lives, protect public health and safety, or to avert or lessen the threat of a major disaster.

**EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM** – Established to enable the President, federal, state, and local

jurisdiction authorities to disseminate emergency information to the public via the Commercial Broadcast System. Composed of amplitude modulation (AM), frequency modulation (FM), television broadcasters, and the cable industry. Formerly known as the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS).

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – The preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, other than functions for which the military forces are primarily responsible, to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, and to aid victims suffering from injury or damage, resulting from disasters caused by all hazards, whether natural, human-caused, or technological, and to provide support for search and rescue operations for persons and property in distress.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MISSION NUMBER** – A number issued by the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division Duty Officer which covers liability incurred by registered emergency service workers for the duration of an emergency mission. These numbers are typically issued for Search and Rescue Missions, Emergency/Disaster Missions, Training Missions, and Evidence Search Missions.

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)** – A designated site from which government officials can coordinate emergency operations in support of on-scene responders.

**EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES** – Those efforts to protect life and property against anticipated and occurring effects of an emergency or disaster. These activities generally take place after disaster warning (if any) as well as throughout the incident period.

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF)** – The functional approach that groups the types of direct Federal assistance that a State is most likely to need (e.g., mass care and health and medical services), as well as the kinds of Federal operations support necessary to sustain Federal response actions (e.g., transportation and communications). ESF's are expected to support one another in carrying out their respective missions.

**ESF COORDINATOR** – The entity with management oversight for a particular ESF; the coordinator has on-going responsibilities throughout the preparedness, response, and recovery phases of the incident.

**ESF PRIMARY AGENCY** – An agency assigned primary responsibility to manage and coordinate a specific ESF. Primary agencies are designated on the basis of their having the most authority, resources, capabilities, or expertise relative to accomplishment of the specific ESF, with ESF delivery assistance from the Skagit County EOC or appropriate city/town EOC. In some cases, joint primary agencies may be assigned.

**ESF SUPPORT AGENCY** - An agency assigned to assist a specific primary agency or joint primary agencies, with available resources, capabilities, or expertise in support of ESF activities, under the coordination of the primary or joint primary, agency.

**EMERGENCY WORKER** – Any person, including but not limited to, an architect registered under Chapter 18.08 RCW or a professional engineer registered under Chapter 18.43 RCW, who is registered with a local emergency management organization or the department and holds an

identification card issued by the local emergency management director or the department for the purpose of engaging in authorized emergency management activities or is an employee of Skagit County or the city/town of Anacortes, Burlington, Concrete, Hamilton, La Conner, Lyman, Mount Vernon, or Sedro-Woolley, or any political subdivision thereof who is called upon to perform emergency management activities. Name rosters kept by government officials will be considered an authorized form of registration.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) – Agency created in 1979 to provide a single point of accountability for all federal activities related to disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. The Federal Emergency Management Agency manages the President’s Disaster Relief Fund and coordinates the disaster assistance activities of all federal agencies in the event of a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN (FRP) - Establishes a process and structure for the systematic, coordinated, and effective delivery of Federal assistance to address the consequences of any major disaster or emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) 5121, *et seq.*).

FIRST RESPONDER – An individual who is a member of a law enforcement agency, fire agency, or an emergency medical services agency and who, as a member of such agency, responds to emergency incidents within their jurisdiction or outside of their jurisdiction via an existing agreement or contract.

HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS – An assessment that is conducted to analyze the potential susceptibility of life, property, or the environment to damage based upon the hazards that exist within or near the community.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO (HEAR) – Radio frequency for communications between emergency medical responders.

HUMAN-CAUSED EMERGENCIES/DISASTERS – A variety of human-caused events including, but not limited to, downed aircraft, bomb threat or explosion, drug lab, ferry accident, hazardous materials, abandoned mines, marine oil spill, riot or unlawful assembly, search and rescue, terrorism, and urban fire.

INCIDENT COMMAND POST (ICP) – The field location at which the primary tactical-level command functions are executed during the response phase of an emergency or disaster event.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS) – An all-hazards on-scene functional management system that establishes common standards in organization, terminology, and procedures; provides a means for the establishment of a common set of incident objectives and strategies; must be in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER (JIC) – A facility (or area near an EOC) that may be utilized by local jurisdictions, special purpose districts, state agencies, and federal agencies to jointly coordinate the public information function during major or multi-jurisdictional emergencies and/or disasters.

**LOCAL EMERGENCY** – The duly proclaimed existence of conditions of a disaster or extreme peril to the safety or health of persons and damage to property within local jurisdictional boundaries that may be declared by a mayor or the County Commissioners and is normally issued prior to requesting State and/or Federal assistance.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT** – The governmental organization that serves a municipal or county political subdivision.

**MAJOR DISASTER** – As defined in federal law, is “.....any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, drought, fire, explosion, or other technological or human-caused catastrophe in any part of the United States which, in the determination of the President, causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance.....in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.”

**MITIGATION** – Actions taken to eliminate or reduce the degree of long-term risk to human life, property, and the environment from natural, human-caused, or technological hazards. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, building codes, disaster insurance, hazard information systems, land use management, hazard analysis, land acquisition, monitoring and inspection, public education, research, relocation, risk mapping, safety codes, statutes and ordinances, tax incentives and disincentives equipment or computer tie-downs, and stocking emergency supplies.

**NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)** – A system mandated by Homeland Security Presidential Directive #5 that provides a consistent nation-wide approach for federal, state, local, and tribal governments; the private sector, and non-governmental organizations to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. The NIMS establishes a core set of concepts, principles, and terminology to be utilized in managing domestic incidents.

**NATIONAL WARNING SYSTEM (NAWAS)** – The federal portion of the Civil Defense Warning System, used for the dissemination of warnings and other emergency information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency National or Regional Warning Centers to Warning Points in each state. Also used by State Warning Points to disseminate information to local Primary Warning Points. Provides warning information to state and local jurisdictions concerning severe weather, earthquake, flooding, and other activities that affect public safety. The State Warning Point is located in the Washington State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray. The local Primary Warning Point is located in the Skagit Emergency Communications (E 9-1-1) Center.

**NATURAL EMERGENCIES/DISASTERS** – A variety of nature-caused events including, but not limited to, hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, drought, and wildland fire.

**PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT** – The joint local, state and federal analysis of damage that has occurred during a disaster and which may result in a Presidential declaration of disaster. The Preliminary Damage Assessment is documented through surveys, photographs, and other written information.

**PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TEAM** – An ad hoc group that comes together after a disaster whose main purpose is to determine the level of disaster declaration that is warranted. The team usually consists of federal, state, and local representatives working together to verify the initial damage assessment and add new findings to the initial reports.

**PREPAREDNESS** – Actions taken in advance of an emergency to develop operational capabilities and facilitate an effective response in the event an emergency occurs. Preparedness measures include, but are not limited to, continuity of government, emergency alert systems, emergency communications, emergency operations centers, emergency operations plans, emergency public information materials, exercise of plans, mutual-aid agreements, resource management, training response personnel, and warning systems.

**PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION** – Formal declaration by the President that an Emergency or Major Disaster exists based upon the request for such declaration by the Governor and with the verification of FEMA preliminary damage assessments.

**PROJECT WORKSHEET (PW)** – A description of the disaster damage caused to property of a state or local government and estimated repair costs based upon Federal Emergency Management Agency eligibility criteria. Project Worksheets describe the scope, cost, and special considerations for each proposed project and establishes the basis of an eligible claim for a financial grant under the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Program.

**PUBLIC ASSISTANCE** – Supplementary federal assistance provided under the Stafford Act to state and local jurisdictions, special purpose districts, Native Americans, or eligible private, nonprofit organizations.

**RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICES (RACES)** – Licensed amateur radio operators who support state and local jurisdictions during emergencies or disasters.

**RECOVERY** – Activity to return vital life support systems to minimum operating standards and long-term activity designed to return life to normal or improved levels, including some form of economic viability. Recovery measures include, but are not limited to, crisis counseling, damage assessment, debris clearance, decontamination, disaster application centers, disaster insurance payments, disaster loans and grants, disaster unemployment assistance, public information, reassessment of emergency plans, reconstruction, temporary housing, and full-scale business resumption.

**RESPONSE** – Actions taken immediately before, during, or directly after an emergency occurs, to save lives, minimize damage to property and the environment, and enhances the effectiveness of recovery. Response measures include, but are not limited to, emergency plan activation, emergency alert system activation, emergency instructions to the public, emergency medical assistance, staffing the EOC, public official alerting, reception and care, shelter and evacuation, search and rescue, resource mobilization, and warning systems activation.

**SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT** – A fixed geographical area established for the purpose of collecting taxes for the delivery of a specific service to the residents of that geographical area and managed by a group of Commissioners elected by the residents of the district. Examples

are: Dike Districts, Drainage Districts, Fire Districts, Hospital Districts, Sewer Districts, Water Districts, and so forth.

**SUGGESTED OPERATING GUIDELINES (SOG's)** – A specific detailed assignment of emergency duties and responsibilities to specific positions within an organization.

**TECHNOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES/DISASTERS** – A variety of technology-caused events including, but not limited to, dam failure, communications failure, energy emergency, and hazardous materials manufacture/storage/transportation.

**TERRORISM** – According to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, activity that involves an act dangerous to human life or potentially destructive to critical infrastructure or key resources and is a violation of the criminal laws of the United State or of any state or other subdivision of the United States in which it occurs and is intended to intimidate or coerce the civilian population or influence a government or affect the conduct of government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. See Section 2 (15), Homeland Security Act of 2002.